



US Army Corps
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San Francisco District

The Eagle's Talon
Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma

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lake_sonoma/index.html](http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/lake_sonoma/index.html)

Coming Events

Steelhead Festival
February 9, 2013

Daylight Savings Time
March 10, 2013

1st Day of Spring
March 20, 2013

Easter March 31, 2013

Earth Day April 22, 2013

Bird walks
call Michael Carroll 431-4535

For more information on any
program call 707-431-4533

Join our Email list!

Save a tree and save our
lake water by receiving our
calendar via email.



If you are new to our commu-
nity or have received a print
copy and would like to switch
to email, please notify:
Linda.S.Clapp@usace.army.mil
or call the Milt Brandt Visitor
Center desk at Lake Sonoma:
(707) 431-4533

STEELHEAD FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION has grown as an
annual fund-raising event for the Friends of Lake
Sonoma. Members collect
wines from local vineyards,
package the bottles into at-
tractive baskets which go to
the highest bidder. Enter
your name on a bid list early
and often on February 9th at
Lake Sonoma Visitor Center



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Milt Brandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma
3288 Skaggs Springs Road
Geyserville, CA 95425

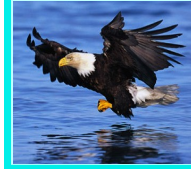
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LAKE SONOMA PARK NEWS WINTER 2013



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THE EAGLE'S TALON

STEELHEAD FESTIVAL

Saturday February 9th, 10:00 - 4:00
Milt Brandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma



The 6th annual Steelhead Festival celebrates the annual re-
turn of steelhead to the Russian River and is sponsored by the
Friends of Lake Sonoma. Past festivals have split a venue with
Healdsburg and this change allows visitors to follow the steelhead from Dry Creek
through the fish ladder and into the hatchery, where the fish are sorted into holding
tank.

This free event features activities at the Visitor Center, the lawns and the Fish
Hatchery. Visitors will enjoy over 30 educational exhibits, a trout pond for young an-
glers, a fly fishing demonstration pond with tips from the pros, live steelhead display,
art for kids to do, and a chance to try your hand at archery.

Trout Unlimited, Russian Riverkeeper, California Department of Fish and Wildlife,
Army Corps of Engineers, Sonoma County Water Agency, Stewards of the Coast and
Redwoods Gold Ridge RCD, Bird Rescue, Sonoma County Mycological Society, the
Free Bookmobile and many more will have displays and information booths

Enjoy live music from Rosetown Ramblers and available for purchase: local brews
from Bear Republic Brewery and Lagunitas Brewing Co. and fine wines from Truett-
Hurst. Food trucks will be there: Chicago Style Hot Dogs, Paella and Ultimate
Souvlaki.

The Visitor Center is located at 3288 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville: 10 minutes
west of Healdsburg on Dry Creek Road off Hwy 101.

More information about the Steelhead Festival is available at www.lakesonoma.org,
www.spn.usace.army.mil/lake_sonoma/index.html or contact Festival Director Liz
Keeley at (707) 484-6438.

LAKE SONOMA, THERE'S MORE TO DO THAN JUST BOATING AND CAMPING



NOAA UNDER SECRETARY VISITS FISH HATCHERY, HABITAT RESTORATION.

By J.D. Hardesty

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration visited Lake Sonoma and the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery at the invitation of the NOAA-Western Region Dec. 5, where she received presentations on the Coho and Steelhead Broodstock Program and the Dry Creek Fish Habitat Restoration project.

With the broodstock program, managed and operated in partnership by the Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game, helping to mitigate lost spawning habitat, and the Corps and Sonoma County Water Agency partnering to build a 6-mile fish habitat restoration project, record numbers of Coho and Steelhead are returning this year.



photo © J. D. Hardesty

This program continues to attract national attention for its collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders to address the 2008 Nation Marine Fisheries Service jeopardy biological opinion in the operation of our lake projects.

CARROLL'S CORNER Hello bird lovers! There are some beautiful birds migrating through Sonoma County this time of year and Lake Sonoma is certainly a popular resting spot for many of them. The robins have arrived for the season and the black-crowned night herons visit daily.

If you are interested in viewing some of these fine feathered visitors along with our year round resident birds, then I'd be happy to take you on a Ranger led tour. We have binoculars and a spotting scope, but feel free to bring your own. To schedule a walk, e-mail Michael.T.Carroll@usace.army.mil or call 707-431-4535.



photo © Terry Sohl

DISC GOLF AND YOU Have you walked the Warm Springs Recreation Area lately? Perhaps you've noticed the yellow metal baskets popping up in the lawn and wondered what's happening? The United Flyers of Sonoma (UFOS) have partnered with Ranger Emmons to construct an 18 hole Disc Golf course using fields on both sides of the USACE headquarters building. This course is open sunrise to sunset and is still a "Work in Progress" Course maps are available at the visitor center.



Since August, President Kevin Parkhurst with fellow club members, Steve & Liz Schroeder, James Proctor, John Child, Roger Cansler, Thaddeus Reichert and Adrian Cormier have volunteered over 157 hours building the course. The club also purchased ten baskets for a total donation of \$3,650. Club members are constructing the cement tees for each hole and use 41 bags of concrete per tee.



The UFOS were founded in 1976 on the Sonoma State University campus and is now an official Professional Disc Golf Association Affiliated Club.

A FISHY TALE The early and persistent rains help arriving fish by removing stream barriers. 281 Chinook salmon arrived between October 22 and December 17th. The last straggler swam in on January 14th. During the week of December 10, Chinook, Coho and steelhead were spotted in the fish stream. All Chinook are returned to the Russian River to spawn naturally.

While only 3 Coho returned this year, steelhead are arriving in record numbers: 1,347 fish by January 17th. In comparison, only 2203 steelies returned to the hatchery last year. Come view steelhead spawning every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. through mid-April. The hatchery is open, and it is a free event.

WINTER RAINS bring more than fish to the park. The dam face greens up and mushrooms start popping up under every tree. The wild 'shrooms pictured above were located under Oaks near the visitor center; they like shady, moist and humid environs. Remember, mushrooms can be poisonous and hazardous to your health. The Sonoma County Mycological Association will have an exhibit at the Steelhead Festival, February 9th, and will answer your questions about identity and safety.



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