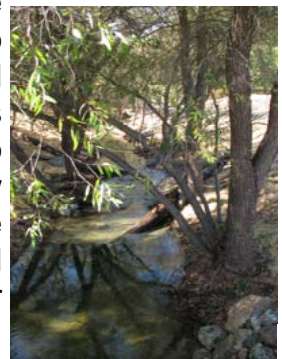




The Eagle's Talon

If I were a steelhead -

I would be very happy with my new stream. This past summer, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Friends of Lake Sonoma, California Department of Fish and Game, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District and a contractor improved the habitat for migrating steelhead in the stream bed that connects the fish ladder with the hatchery. A habitat is defined as an ideal place with ideal conditions for an animal, like the steelhead, to live, eat and reproduce. We encourage you to come visit and follow the improved path from the hatchery to the fish ladder. You will then see the exciting changes made to this formerly overgrown streambed. As you walk along the path and learn about the changes we have made, we want to encourage local property owners and visitors to think about how they can improve their own local stream habitat for steelhead.



Welcome to Lake Sonoma! We hope your visit is the experience of a lifetime. Whatever your interest—hiking, kayaking, bicycling, birding, camping, equestrian, archery, boating, nature study, astronomy or photography—you will find Lake Sonoma a place like no other.

The goal of the Eagle's Talon is to inform our visitors and neighbors about the many recreational, interpretive and volunteer opportunities here at the park and make known any news worthy item. We hope you enjoy the inaugural issue of the park newsletter!

Merle Griffin,
Park Manager



Lake Sonoma, Vol. 1, Issue 1, Fall 2009

Visitor Center

New Hours!

Starting January 3rd
7 days a week
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Visitor Center Closed

December 25, 2009 Christmas
January 1, 2010 New Year's
Featured Volunteer:
Marty Wockenfuss

Coming Events

New Year's Hike 1/2
Hatchery tours 1/3
First Spawning 1/7
Birding Hike 1/10 & 1/17
Reading with a Ranger
1/19 & 1/26 (see article page 3)

For program times call 707-431-4533



US Army Corps
of Engineers
San Francisco District

The Eagle's Talon

Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma

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707-431-4590 Park Office

Website www.sfn.usace.army.mil/lake_sonoma/index.html



The Staff, Volunteers and Friends of Lake Sonoma would like to wish you and your families the happiest of holidays and the best wishes for a prosperous and healthy new year.

Join our Email list!

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



If you are new to our community 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 at Lake Sonoma:



US Army Corps
of Engineers
San Francisco District

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

Lake Sonoma, There's More To Do Than Just Boating and Camping



A Full Calendar

Many think that when Summer is over, water skis and wake boards are put away and that Lake Sonoma hibernates. Not so! The park hums with activity throughout Fall and Winter seasons.

September rocked. *Waves to Wine* featured 2000 bicyclists ending their 2 day peddle from San Francisco through the wine country and raising money for Multiple Sclerosis. *Zintopia* featured Dry Creek wines and local food vendors. *National Public Lands Day* is the yearly volunteer "Clean-up" day for the lake.

October's *Boo Shoot* is a family archery event sponsored by Sonoma County Bowman. Children participated in costume and Halloween treats were hidden along the trail. *Halloween Prowl* drew families in to experience owls, bats, craft projects and a creepy nature walk. 1800 runners started at Francis Ford Coppola Winery for the *Healdsburg Wine Country Half-Marathon*; winner Sergio Reyes of Palmdale, CA ran the scenic, winding 13.1 mile course in 1:06:46 to set a new course record.

November is hunt time in the park. Department of Fish and Game sponsors draw hunts for both turkey and deer, with separate weekends for junior and senior hunters. Registration started for *Archery pig hunting* November 4th. Hunting started November 28th with 4 pigs taken that first weekend.



Friends Of Lake Sonoma (FOLS) - News

The FOLS are the official non-profit partner for Lake Sonoma. They are a 501(c)3 and have been a huge supporter of the park. In 2009, over \$17,000 was donated to construct a granite Bar-B-Q at the Warm Springs Recreation Area site #2. The FOLS also donated \$5,000 to the stream restoration project (see front page article) and many, many other projects this year. New Board members include Greg Carter and Donna Meier who joined the Friends this fall. Greg volunteers with trail maintenance while Donna is a member of Back Country Horsemen, a very involved volunteer park partner. The FOLS are always looking for new members. For more information call 431-4533 or go online at lakesonoma.org.



Mark Your Calendar

Wild Steelhead Festival February 6 & 7, 2010. Stop by the Healdsburg Plaza on Saturday and see our booths sponsored by the Friends of Lake Sonoma (FOLS). Be sure to check out the Department of Fish and Game - Steelhead Demo Tank. Sunday, take the beautiful drive up Dry Creek Road to Lake Sonoma; enjoy free family-friendly activities from 10 till 3, including: hatchery sortings at 10, 11:30, 1:30 and 3, a fish maze, Gytaku Fish Painting, bird and reptile demonstrations and Ranger led tours.

Library Dates Inaugurating Lake Sonoma's Reading with a Ranger program, Rachel Mack will read *Sammy Salmon's Big Adventure*, a saga of the local Anadromous fish. Like our hatchery Steelhead, Anadromous fish are species that are hatched in freshwater, migrate to and mature in saltwater and return to freshwater to spawn. Join her Jan. 19th 10:30am at the Healdsburg Library and Jan. 26th 10:30am at the Cloverdale Library.

Book Nook New to our book nook is "*Plants of the Lake Sonoma Area*" by Theresa Wistrom. This full color book covers the smallest to the largest plants in our park and is an excellent companion to "*Wildflowers of Northern California*" by Reny Parker.

Volunteer Corner



This volunteer started at the Visitor Center in 1994. He served in the Navy during WWII, Korean Conflict and Vietnam. He's a wiz with knots and has shared this

skill with both Rangers and Sonoma County Sheriffs He is our go-to person for construction and maintenance assistance. He has built everything from a castle and settler's cabin to wood duck boxes and bat houses. Who is this volunteer? (Answer found on back page)

Do You Have The Right Stuff—

to be a volunteer at Lake Sonoma? If you love working with people, you may want to lead nature hikes, hatchery tours or do trail work. The possibilities are endless. Call Ranger Michael Carroll at 431-4535 to sign up. Apply online at <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/volunteer/signup.htm>

