



The Eagle's Talon
Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma

Editor
Linda Clapp, Park Ranger

Contributors
Michael Carroll, Park Ranger

Comments? Email to:
Senior Park Ranger
Susan.Wilson@usace.army.mil

Phone
707-431-4533 Visitor Center
707-431-4590 Park Office

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

Riddle answer ****MISTLETOE****

Coming Events

OPEN New Years 1/1/11

*1st Steelhead Spawn
January 6, 2011*

*Wild Steelhead Festival
February 12 & 13, 2011*

*Daylight Savings Time
March 13, 2011*

*Earth Day April 22, 2011
Celebrating at the lake April 17*

*Bird walk
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 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: (707) 431-4533

VISITOR CENTER HOURS
8:30 am to 5:30 pm daily
FISH HATCHERY HOURS
8:30 am to 3:45 pm Daily

Milt Brandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma
3288 Skaggs Springs Road
Geyserville, CA 95425
US Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District

Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma, Volume 2, Issue 1, Winter 2010/11

LAKE SONOMA PARK NEWS WINTER 2010



THE EAGLE'S TALON

HAPPY NEW YEAR -

FROM LAKE SONOMA!

T. S. Eliot once said, "For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning."

2011 will be an exciting year for Lake Sonoma. We will begin or complete several important construction projects including the rehab of the Visitor Center and Water Purification Plant at Liberty Glen Campground.

The winter season is not only the rainy time but some of our busiest, with all of the fish returning to spawn and the many school children that come to see them. 75% of our school field trips are reserved; if you or your child's school would like to arrange a tour, call us soon at 707-431-4533. Be sure to visit the improved streambed habitat down by the fish ladder and see our fish spawn naturally! Steelhead sorting is daily at 10:30; spawning occurs Thursdays for 16 weeks at 10:30 starting January 6th. The highlight of the Season is our Annual Steelhead Festival on February 13th from 10-3 with food, wine, music, tours, kids activities and more! Don't miss it and have a great 2011!

Merle Griffin, Park Manager

Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma, Volume 2, Issue 1, Winter 2010/11

"Winter is the time for comfort - it is the time for home." Edith Sitwell.

SWIMMINGLY SUPER NEWS - CHINOOK NUMBERS UP

Heavy autumn rains have given us a gift of fish. The Chinook returners have reached record numbers in the Russian River and here at the hatchery. The first Chinook arrived October 27th. More than 40 arrived and were returned to the Russian to spawn naturally.

COHO IN DRY CREEK

10,000 Coho smolts (one year old) were planted in Dry Creek in 2008 with the first returner arriving December 6th. While most Coho swim into the hatchery, a pair spawned in the improved streambed. Catch the video by Elliott Doss, DFG Fish Habitat Specialist, posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQtwSmYGEB0>. Ben White, Coho Recovery Program supervisory biologist and staff released more than 160,000 offspring from the 2009-2010 spawning season, continuing efforts to restore a self-sustaining wild population.

STEELHEAD MAKE EARLY RETURN

First Steely arrived December 4, (one of the earliest ever). Personnel have hopes this will be a banner year. 1st spawn, 1/6/2011.

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



Pictured above-Male Coho (red) and Female Coho (silver) taken at Mill Creek fish trap by Mariska Obedzinski, Russian River Coho Salmon Monitoring Coordinator

→ Seen through the lens of a game camera near Oak Knoll Trail!

PERSONNEL UPDATES - Charlie Fenwick, Visitor Center manager, was recently promoted to District Ranger and the District's Natural Resource Program Manager. He will be based at Lake Sonoma and will serve Lake Sonoma, Lake Mendocino and the Bay Model. Congratulations!

Dennis Griffin, construction representative, has returned from a year-long service deployment in Afghanistan and will soon be promoted to GS-9 at Folsom Lake. Welcome Home, and Congratulations, Dennis!



EARTH DAY 2011 - Henry David Thoreau tells us, "I see the coming drought. Because someday, so much of this abundance shall be gone...and by our own doing." At Lake Sonoma, we recognize that human activity has directly contributed to climate change, species extinction and other environmental concerns. Join us for a day long celebration of Earth Day on April 17th, 2011, from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center

CALLING ALL PIGGIES - Archery-only pig hunting season is in full swing and continues until March 25th. To date, 600 hunters have registered for a walk in the woods. Hunters are encouraged to stop at the Visitor Center with their take (23 reported); rangers will snap a photo and add to the bulletin board display.



FRIENDS OF LAKE SONOMA (FOLS) - Members are working with graphic artists to create a new logo to be used by both the Friends and Lake Sonoma in promoting the park; soon to be seen on caps, mugs, publications and banners. Members will host four tables at the Steelhead Festival in Healdsburg, February 12th and will again set out a silent auction of gift baskets. Last year's winning bidder received a dinner for 12 served by park rangers. The group is also raising funds to purchase the 5' leaping steelhead statue featured in last year's festival. For more information about the Friends go to www.lakesonoma.org.



VOLUNTEER UPDATES

New faces at the front counter include: Steve Sox, escaping from Arizona to spend the winter in our campground and Jim Burns, a local bloke from Santa Rosa. Steve is an experienced program director with Nation Public Radio stations across the country and now serves as a station consultant. Jim's history is with logistics and is himself a world-wide traveler; favorite location-London! Both are now learning about local flora and fauna.

David Feaster will be back in January to assist with hatchery school tours.

Marty W. was out with eye surgery and is back seeing better than ever.

Suzanne Tolksdorf has moved to Sacramento to teach 10th grade biology at Hiram W Johnson High School.

BOOK NOOK To celebrate the *Save the Redwoods League* members donation of 40 acres of redwood forest, the newest merchandise includes; two-year old redwoods from Josteen Trees in Humboldt County, "Tree in a Can" for those with green thumbs; children's books about big trees, frogs and butterflies; frog building blocks and several new mobiles. Please, consider doing your shopping locally.

CARROLL'S CORNER

Hello birdwatchers! There are some interesting birds migrating through Sonoma County this time of year and Lake Sonoma is certainly a popular resting spot for many of them. As I grabbed my binoculars and walked outside today, I found American Coots, American Widgeons and Eurasian Widgeons just out behind the visitor center.

I also glimpsed two Black-Crowned Night Herons quietly perching in Willow Trees. Herons are particularly nice to view with our newly acquired spotting scope purchased by our very own Friends of Lake Sonoma.

If you have time and you're interested in viewing some of these fine feathered visitors along with our year round resident birds, then I'd be happy to lead you on a Ranger led tour. Of course our foot bridge is being deconstructed, but we can certainly work around that.

To schedule a walk, call my office number at 707-431-4535 or e-mail at Michael.T.Carroll@usace.army.mil.

I'm spread by birds, what's my name?

Photo Courtesy of STOCK.XCHNG

Answer on back page

