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BRINGING FISH BACK INTO SINBAD CREEK

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THERE WAS A TIME when Sinbad Creek teemed with steelhead and salmon. The creek's beauty and the great fishing it offered were among the reasons Charles H. and Carlotta S. Crocker built the original hundred or so cabins now known as the Kilkare Woods Association. The cabins were built after the Crockers improved the road now known as Kilkare Road, and were prized vacation housing. By the end of World War II, the homeowners association had been formed, a new clubhouse had been built, and year-round residents had come to Kilkare Woods.

As anyone who waits each year for the creek to fill with winter rain knows, the cabins are still here, the woods are still here, the Mills family is still here but the fish are gone. Cut off by dams and BART structures, threatened by pollution and dumping, the steelhead and salmon cannot make it to Sunol these days.

Hopefully, that soon will change through the efforts of the Alameda Creek Alliance and the many volunteers who are helping it with its creek restoration projects. The work of ACA is a boon to all who love nature and decry the loss of so many creatures and plants from our area. Every day, more species become extinct.

The Alameda Creek Alliance has been meeting the last Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Room at Sunol Glen School, but will break for the summer. ACA has a Web site, www.alamedacreek.com, but it is currently being updated. Check the site in a couple of weeks to see if it's back online; until then you can find out more about ACA activities by contacting the group's director, Jeff Miller, at P.O. Box 192, Canyon, CA 94516, by phone at 510-845-4675, or e-mail alamedacreek@hotmail.com.

In addition to creek restoration, ACA is in the process of forming a new nonprofit restoration group, aiming to re-forest Alameda Creek and the Tri-City area with native plants. The project will help make native trees available for integrating into community projects with schoolkids and for re-foresting creeks, parks, schools and open spaces. For more information about this project, contact Nelson Kirk at Swamptreenelly@aol.com.

For now, let me alert you to an upcoming event you won't want to miss. The Second Annual Fremont Steelhead Festival takes place May 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Niles Community Park at Third and G Streets in Niles. It will feature steelhead and salmon restoration information, catch-and-release fly fishing lessons, activities for kids, food, and music by Bump City Bluegrass Jam. The entry fee, which includes a color T-shirt, is \$20 by mail, postmarked by Saturday, and \$25 on race day. If you hurry and call the race committee at 510-657-6179, you might make the mail deadline and save your five bucks to spend on treats at the festival. Volunteers are needed starting at 7:30 a.m. to help with set-up, race registration, T-shirt sales and walking tours of the proposed restoration sites in the lower creek.

The event is a benefit for ACA's steelhead restoration efforts and is sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Alameda County Water District, Alameda Creek Alliance, city of Fremont, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, East Bay Regional

Park District, Math/Science Nucleus, Sierra Club Southern Alameda County Group, Tri-City Ecology Center, and the Union Sanitary District.