



## News from Watsonville Wetlands Watch

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## Docent Training Starts THIS MONTH!



Docent Denise Murphy leads students on a birding adventure.

### Training starts January 17, 2018.

There is still time to sign-up for docent training. While there are a variety of ways to volunteer with us here at the Wetlands Watch, becoming a docent is a great way to make a lasting and meaningful contribution to the wetlands, youth, and community! It is a fun and interesting way to learn about the natural and cultural history of the wetlands from experts. Docent trainees are treated to an inside look at the Pajaro Valley and its wide network of wetlands. Local experts share the ecology, history, and restoration of the wetlands during the 7-week program.

The interactive sessions include Wednesday evening presentations and Saturday morning field trips, visiting sites not normally seen by the public. Join our dedicated team of trained docent volunteers who help with field trips, lead wetland tours, participate in special events, work in the greenhouse and native plant demonstration garden and a whole host of other things. No previous teaching or wetland experience is necessary - beginners are welcome.

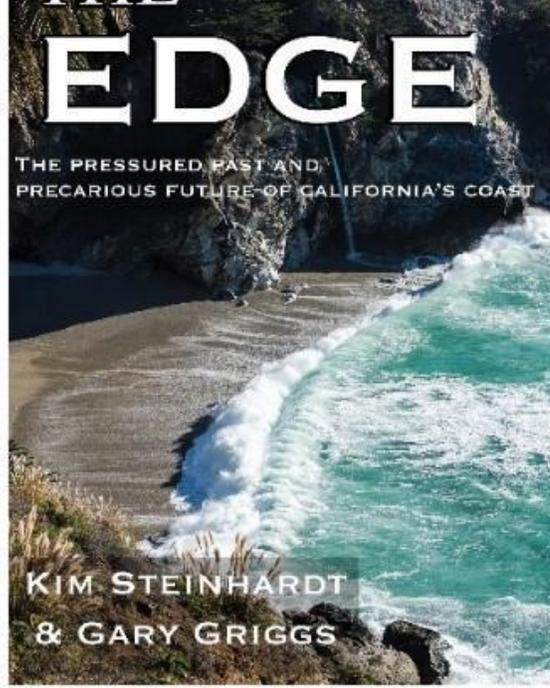
### Come join us - the wetlands are calling!

For more information, contact Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Ria Mukerji at 909-680-9872 or email at [ria@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org](mailto:ria@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org).

## Speakers Series: Living on the Edge



Please join us on **Wednesday, March 14, 2018**, for an evening with **Kim Steinhart** who will present his dramatic photo journey exploring the California coast's past, present, and probable future. Kim will share some legal, environmental,



historical, and colorful personal insights, including an update on the sea otter survival story. He will discuss the issues in his new book: *The Edge: The Pressured Past and Precarious Future of California's Coast*, co-authored with noted local coastal science expert Gary Griggs.

Kim is a former Administrative Law Judge, now marine wildlife photographer and writer who is currently working with National Geographic Books for release next year of a collection of his sea otter photographs and coastal storytelling.

*"The Edge is an important reminder that life in nature can only survive if we accept our responsibility to be good stewards."* - Leon Panetta, former Congressman

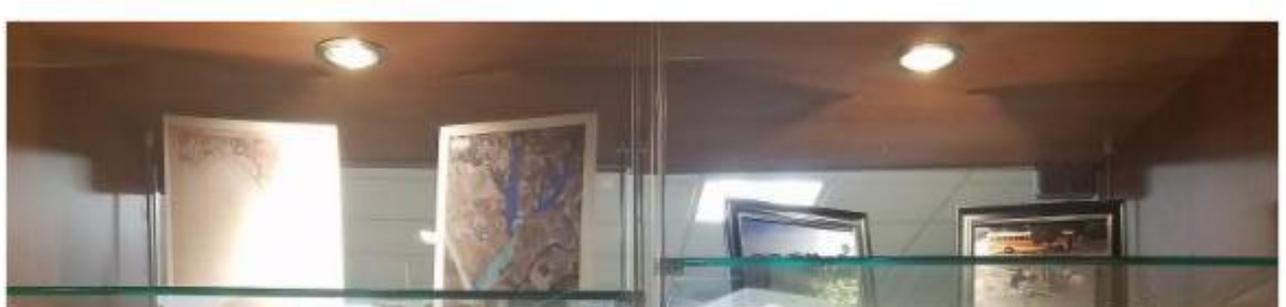
This talk is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center [Click for](#)

[map/directions.](#)

Admission is free but you must reserve a seat online by [clicking here.](#)

For more information email [ria@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org](mailto:ria@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org).

## A New Climate Change Display at the Watsonville Library





Come see our new display at the Watsonville Public Library! The display, located on the second floor next to the agricultural history room, focuses on climate change impacts in the Watsonville wetlands and the City of Watsonville and our recently completed Watsonville Wetlands Climate Change Adaptation Project.

The library display is the culmination of the past two years of our work to pilot and develop new strategies to support the Watsonville wetlands in adapting to changing weather patterns and projected climate change impacts. This work was funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society in 2016 with a \$162,000 grant designated to support over 2.5 acres of new habitat restored along a 3,500 foot wildlife corridor, the piloting of new and innovative approaches to habitat and wetland restoration, and public engagement and participation. Work was conducted in partnership with the City of Watsonville along the Upper Struve Slough trail and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Watsonville Sloughs Ecological Reserve. Over the past

two years of work on this project, over 600 students participated, volunteers contributed over 3,300 hours of their time, and 5,300 native plants were planted resulting in improved water quality, greater and more resilient wetland habitat for rare, threatened and endangered wildlife, increased carbon sequestration, improved public spaces, and an increased understanding of climate change adaptation practices in the Watsonville wetlands and coastal wetlands throughout California.

The Watsonville Public Library Main Branch is located at 275 Main Street, Suite 100, Watsonville, CA 95076. For hours of operation or further information visit the [library website](#) or call 831-768-3400.

# Launching the Watsonville Urban Forest Revitalization Project



A Box elder, *Acer negundo* flower

We recently received notice that we've been awarded a grant through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban and Community Forestry Climate Investment Grant Program, which comes from the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

This exciting project represents a collaboration with the City of Watsonville to plant new large trees in parks and streets throughout the western side of Watsonville. As a part of this we'll be hosting many public planting days and opportunities for the community to play an instrumental role in the urban forest revitalization effort.

It's these types of collaborative and dynamic projects that demonstrate how the City and our community are advancing strong environmental leadership in our region. We'll be sharing more details soon, but we wanted to give you a sneak peek at this exciting new project that will have tremendous benefits for the Watsonville community, environment, and our climate.

## Community Volunteer Opportunities



Join us on **Saturday, January 27th**, for our monthly community restoration day. You don't have to be a scientist or field biologist to help! We will work from 9:30 a.m. to noon (with breaks for birding!). We supply the gloves, tools, and a snack. Meet at our the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center.

[\(map/directions\)](#)

Additionally, we would like to announce that this year's **World Wetlands Day celebration** will take place on **February 4th, 2018 at Ramsay Park**. Join us for a morning of planting trees and celebrating the beautiful Watsonville wetlands! The festivities begin at 10 AM with tree planting, followed by kids games at 11 AM. Free

snacks and prizes for a photo contest (details TBA) will follow. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Ria Mukerji with any questions at [ria@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org](mailto:ria@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org) or (909) 680-9872.

## Staff Changes and Board of Directors Officer Updates



Hugo Ceja

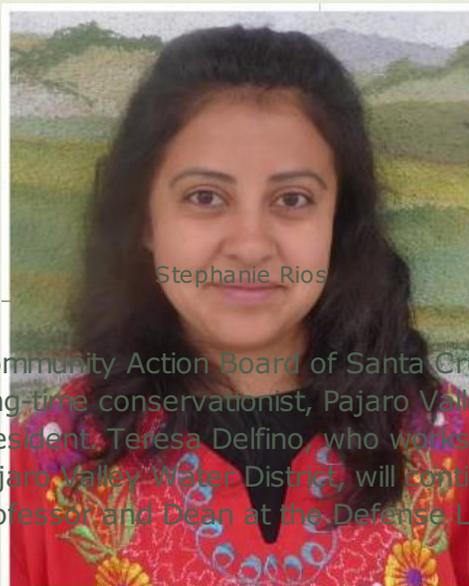
We have some changes to announce here at the Watsonville Wetlands Watch. **January 12th will be Hugo Ceja's last day with us.** Hugo is moving on to international travel, visiting family abroad and doing some birding before settling back into pursuing jobs and further education in bird research and conservation. He hopes to bring his two passions of environmental education and conservation research together in some new and exciting ways.

**We will miss Hugo dearly, but are truly excited for his future endeavors!**

With Hugo's departure, **Stephanie Rios will step into the role of the Environmental Education Specialist.** She is excited about her new role and hopes to learn more and expand on the knowledge she has gained thus far in her time here.

*"It has been such a pleasure working side-by-side with the staff, docents, and our high school mentors here at Watsonville Wetlands Watch. I am honored to join this team full-time and am looking forward to the many growth opportunities in*

*working with our local youth and encouraging them to become stewards in the community." - Stephanie Rios*



Stephanie Rios

With the new year comes new officer terms for our Board of Directors as well. Chris Johnson Lyons, one of the founders of the organization and who has decades of experience in non-profit administration and as the former Executive Director of the

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, will serve as our President. Jerry Thomas, a long-time conservationist, Pajaro Valley farmer and educator, will continue to serve as our Vice-President. Teresa Delfino, who works as the Finance and Administrative Services Manager at Pajaro Valley Water District, will continue to serve as our Treasurer, and Mica Hall, who is a Professor and Dean at the Defense Language Institute, will continue as Board Secretary.

## Super Supporters



We are very grateful for the incredible generosity of our supporters during the 2017 year-end appeal campaign! We'll have the final results for you in next month's newsletter so stay tuned for that good news.

In the meantime, we thought you might like to learn how to become a Super Supporter. We have two levels of Super Supporters: **Northern Harrier** and **Leadership Circle**. You can become a Northern Harrier by giving \$250 or more in contributions each year or become a Leadership Circle supporter by giving \$1,000 or more in contributions each year.

Fulfill your commitment by making gifts monthly, quarterly, or annually. Choose your preferred option on our [Donation page](#), and tell us in the Comment box that you are joining the Northern Harriers or Leadership Circle.

**Northern Harriers** and **Leadership Circle** supporters receive benefits such as insider updates, special invitations to events and tours, and discounts on whale watching and Wetlands Watch items. By providing a steady flow of resources, Northern Harriers and Leadership Circle members become ongoing partners in our work; restoring and protecting the wetlands and providing environmental education for students and community members. We look forward to welcoming you to this special group of donors!

***Thank you!***

Watsonville Wetlands Watch advocates for wetland issues, educates elementary, middle, and high school students, restores degraded habitats, preserves what remains whole, and teaches appreciation for the unique beauty and life of the Pajaro Valley wetlands. In cooperation with numerous other agencies, we support studies of and planning for these sites.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, federal tax i.d. #77-0519882.