

ARROYO SECO HIGHLIGHTS—2019



Treat Hahamongna and the Arroyo Seco Like a River - *Not a Maintenance Yard*

Fighting to Save Hahamongna

This year ASF and Pasadena Audubon won a second lawsuit challenging LA County's Big Dig. Now we are in settlement discussions with the Flood Control District to further reduce the negative impacts of their sediment mining and trucking operation and to ensure that the long-term damage will be minimized when they leave the basin in four years. We urge those who love Hahamongna to not forget its importance and to redouble your efforts to help restore it for future generations.

Berkshire Creek Restored

There is a quiet little canyon in the southwest corner of Hahamongna Watershed Park that has been degraded over the years by flooding and erosion. ASF is working with Pasadena on an urban stream restoration program. The project, now nearing completion, is upgrading habitat, improving public safety and restoring a more natural hydrology to Berkshire Creek. ASF is helping with the planning, permitting, plant propagation and public involvement to make Berkshire Creek a positive model for the future of Hahamongna and the Arroyo. Come on by and see!



Growing Native

ASF's Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery is a real treasure, providing low-cost native plants for restoration, conservation, park uses and landscaping. Volunteers grow thousands of plants representing more than one hundred native species each year. Native plants are best adapted to deal with the variability of local climate as well as the challenges of climate change. It is now imperative that Southern Californians focus on transforming the landscaping of our homes, parks and businesses to foster biodiversity and to meet the challenges of drought and climate change. Native plants are a uniquely appropriate solution. We invite you to visit and volunteer at Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery.

The Stream Team

The stream is the heart of the Arroyo Seco and an invaluable resource for nature, wildlife and local residents. A deep stewardship instinct resides in most people. ASF's Stream Team cultivates that by involving people in interesting, rewarding activities. After training, Stream Team members can participate in projects such as mapping habitat, exotic pest plants and other stream conditions, cleanups of trash, debris and invasive plants, working in our native plant nursery, and water quality sampling. Just last month 150 students from Maranatha High School eradicated invasive species from the Arroyo Seco stream for two days to improve water quality and habitat.



Like to See More Projects Like This in 2020? Please Support Our Annual Appeal

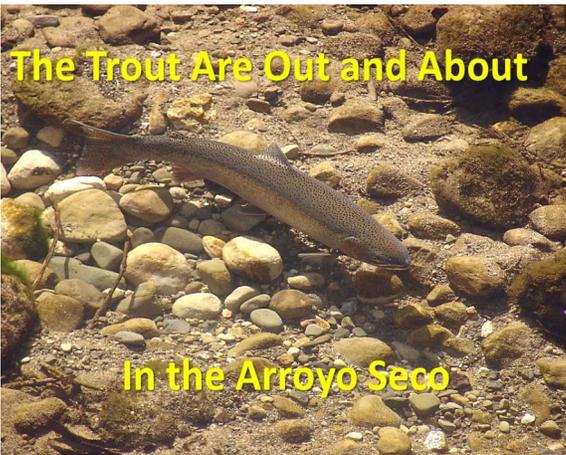


Climate Change Is Here

As a rare environmental zone, the Arroyo Seco is heavily impacted by the impacts of Climate Change and antiquated attempts to deal with it. This year the voices of students and young people has been profoundly moving. ASF invited students to our quarterly meeting at the Pasadena Public Library to voice their concerns and raise a call to action. Btw, the ASF Quarterly Meetings are a great source of information about the latest developments in the Arroyo and plans for the future.

Resources for Arroyo Restoration

Over the last three decades, ASF has brought more than \$25 million in projects into the Arroyo Seco. Recently our efforts to secure resources for the restoration and revitalization of the Arroyo Seco have been greatly assisted by State Senator Anthony Portantino, and we're very grateful. Last year he introduced legislation to ensure that the Arroyo Seco would be included in the Upper Los Angeles Rivers and Tributaries Working Group and future LA River planning. This year he secured \$3.5 million for stream restoration and recycling in the Pasadena and South Pasadena stretch of the Arroyo. ASF is working with both cities now to ensure an outstanding, collaborative project



Bringing Back Native Fish

Can we bring native fish back to the Arroyo? There are still native trout in the mountains just north of us, and ASF is working on restoring conditions for those fish and other species along Arroyo Seco canyon. Historically this was a prime steelhead stream and its restoration is key to recovery of southern California Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and other native fish on the Los Angeles River system. Funding has recently been approved for a study to explore methods to restore conditions for native fish in the main stem of the Los Angeles River in the stretch from the Arroyo Seco Confluence for two miles south through downtown. ASF is a key partner in this study because the fish would come from the Arroyo Seco .

Partnering With PCC

An eager group of Pasadena City College students came to Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery each week this past semester to acquire hands on experience in plant propagation and nursery operations. The Environmental Horticulture class, taught by Erika Catanese, collected seeds and cuttings to grow plants for stream restoration programs like the Berkshire Creek project.

