

**AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**March 19, 2009**

The March meeting of the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) was called to order by Shelley Mathews, Interim Watershed Coordinator at 10:10 a.m. at the Auburn Recreation District Canyon View Community Center located at 471 Maidu Drive, Auburn, California.

**Present:** Shelley Mathews, American River Watershed Group (ARWG), Interim Watershed Coordinator; Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (PCRCO); Dr. Richard Harris, UC Berkeley; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire District.

**A. Dr. Richard Harris- Upcoming Forest Stewardship Workshops:** A flyer was passed out announcing the June 2009 Forest Stewardship in the Rural Residential Wildland Interface Workshops will be held in Placer, Nevada and El Dorado Counties. The cost will be \$15.00 per person and the registration flyer will be out soon. In addition to Dr. Harris as the primary contact, local contacts are Lesa Osterholm for Nevada County, Karen Calvert for Alta and Mark Egbert for El Dorado County. Dr. Harris will also be hosting a panel of experts at all events including those involved in Placer County Bio-Mass projects. He is hoping to host representatives from PCWA, PG & E and NID to provide information to the public.

On May 2, 2009, SARSAS (Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead) will present a workshop in which Dr. Harris will participate at the Lincoln Community Center. The workshop will be in the morning with a field trip in the afternoon. The topic will be "Living with Fish in Urban Areas." For more information on this event refer to: [www.sarsas.org](http://www.sarsas.org)

**B. Update on Available Grants/Funding- Shelley Mathews:** Shelley passed out the Draft Guidelines for a California Department of Conservation Statewide Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. We may decide to submit a grant for this group. The RFP will be out in April or May 2009.

**C. Education Subcommittee Update- Ryan Bellanca:** Ryan reported the RCD will be having two ROP students join them in April. They will be working on projects in the field including forestry projects in Foresthill and Colfax. They will down a tree, use a portable sawmill, and then make bird boxes with the processed wood. Ryan noted that the RCD has agreed to contribute \$10K aid-in-kind to the Placer Land Trust to support the start of a project in the Stagecoach area off Foresthill Avenue in Auburn. This 4 acre piece of property is in need clearing. The ROP students will also work on this project.

The group would still like to continue to find funding to finance the "Signage Tour" Ryan presented at our last meeting. He will be involved in presentations at the Placer County Fair in May or June and at Earth Day in April.

An upcoming educational event is to be held on May 2, sponsored by the Hi Sierra RC & D at the Allen Edwards Family Ranch in the Weimar area. They have 500 acres of small sustainable farming.

**D. Roundtable:** Shelley noted other upcoming events: The Placer Land Trust (PLT) is putting on four "Treasured Landscapes Series" tours from March through July. For more information, e-mail Kelsey Stavseth : [Kelsey@placerlandtrust.org](mailto:Kelsey@placerlandtrust.org) or call 530-887-9222. Flyers were passed out for the event. Shelley also shared minutes from recent Upper American River Foundation meetings.

A survey designed to gather information from those interested in helping to establish a Multi-Agency Placer Nature Center/Visitor Center in Placer County, was passed out. For more information on this project, contact Leslie Warren at the Placer Nature Center at 530-878-6053, [www.placernaturecenter.org](http://www.placernaturecenter.org).

Ryan has submitted grant requests for working on a fuel break, chipper projects and the Bark Beetle Project. One grant was submitted to CALFIRE and the other two to the Fire Safe Clearinghouse.

Karina reported their organization has received a grant for "Smoke Management." issues in the Sierra. The grant is focused on air quality management, particularly in the forests. Ultimately, burning is a good thing for the forests and will result in minimizing the issues of air quality. Karina's group will be creating a fire wise video of 5-7 minutes in length about fire wise practices. It will be out in May or June and Karina will give us a preview of the video at the June meeting.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

The next meeting will not be held on April 16, 2009 at the same location in Auburn from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.