

Fitch Mountain Association
Member Meeting Notes
Villa Chanticleer/Healdsburg
July 3rd, 2005

Officers Present: Mike Cobb, Cheryl Cobb.

Trustees present: John Murray, Al Pucci, Joe Taylor.

Elections

John Murray retired as Trustee. Donita Proctor was nominated and elected Trustee.

Mike Cobb retired as president. Charlie Jurecek was nominated and elected President.

Cheryl Cobb retired as Secretary. Bruce Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary.

Presentation

Lily Verdone, SSU Masters Candidate, gave a presentation about her research on invasive species in the Laguna De Santa Rosa, specifically Ludwigia Hexapetala.

This is a species of water plant from Uruguay which is rapidly spreading in The Laguna, the Russian River, and flood control channels. The Laguna was originally a lake which was drained and channeled for agriculture. Ludwigia grows thickly in the water, blocking light and decreasing oxygen content in the water. one small shred of Ludwigia can form a new plant that spreads rapidly. It creates a mosquito breeding area that is hard to reach with insecticides. With West Nile Virus spreading in this area, this has developed into a public health issue. They have researched various eradication methods; and, found that application of an herbicide followed by mechanical removal, with composting above the high water line, is the best approach. This will be done this summer.

This is a cooperative effort with a number of agencies, Fish and Game, etc.

One take home point is that any work in the river requires a permit. This is because more damage than good can come if native species are accidentally removed, or habitat for threatened and endangered species is disturbed.

Good information and help in developing a plan may be available from Circuit Riders, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District and Fish and Game (who issues permits).

Respectfully Submitted
Bruce Johnson, Secretary