



Photo Courtesy of Debbie Neddenriep

# The Flow

Winter 2012

## Andy Aldax, It's Been a Great Run!

By Debbie Neddenriep

### Inside this issue:

Andy Aldax—It's been a great run!	1
Great Snapshot of the Carson River	2
Markleeville Creek Day a Huge Success	3
Conserve Carson River Workdays	3
Clear Creek Watershed Council: Student Volunteerism in Action	4
Carson River Video Contest	5
Upcoming Events	6

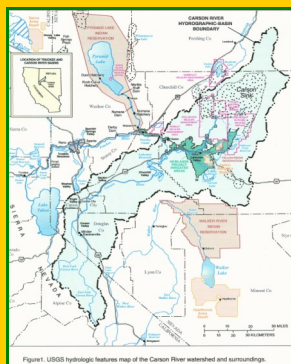


**1st CWSD Board of Directors  
c. 1959**

front row (l-r): Leonard Anker, Ed Sarmon, Terry Katser, Arthur Settlemeyer  
back row: Blake Darling, Pat Kimmerling, Andy Aldax, George McAllister  
not in photo: Fred Dressler

Everyone at Carson Water Subconservancy District is sad to see Andy Aldax retire after 53 years. He is CWSD's longest standing director – serving on the board since its inception. Andy grew up in Carson Valley and, as a dairy farmer, has been a tireless agricultural advocate for his community, the entire watershed, and the State of Nevada. He has also served with the following groups:

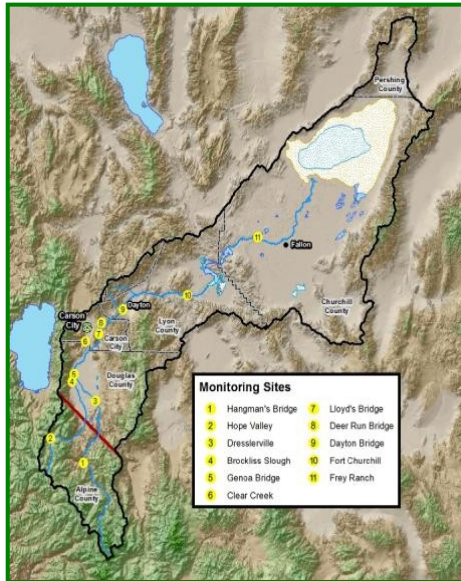
- ◆ Farm Bureau: Long-time member of this grassroots organization
- ◆ Agricultural Adjustment Act (Predecessor to Farm Service Agency): Board member
- ◆ Farm Service Agency: Various committees
- ◆ Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District: Director since 1981
- ◆ Alpine Land and Reservoir: Board Member (~1959-2008)
- ◆ Carson Valley Conservation District: Board member in the 1960's
- ◆ Farmer's Home Administration Board
- ◆ Western Nevada Resources Conservation & Development: 30-year board member
- ◆ 4-H youth program: Involvement promoting agriculture through the years



(Continued on page 5)

# Watershed Education, Water Quality Monitoring & Stewardship takes a Great Snapshot of the Carson River

By Mary Kay Wagner, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection



In the fall when the irrigation valve turns off for the Carson River, students converge on the Carson River to engage in a unique experience beyond the walls of their classroom. This field encounter, known as Carson River Snapshot Day, offers students, parents, and educators the chance to experience the river first-hand and interact with the resource professionals who care for this lifeline of Nevada's high desert.

October 19, 2012, marked the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Snapshot Day event. Schools from the Alpine County, CA headwaters to the Churchill County, NV terminus sent 254 students ranging from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school to participate in the event. The students conducted field studies at eleven pre-selected monitoring sites with guidance from their team leaders. Each team assessed the water quality and riparian habitat of their assigned site and collected debris, trash and clutter.

The primary purpose of Snapshot Day is to document and study riparian habitat, measure water quality, and increase understanding within the community about issues facing our watershed. Information is gathered from each site at the same time on the same day, documenting an annual "snapshot" of the river. Field tests are conducted for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH and temperature, and other water "grab" samples are collected for laboratory analysis of nutrients, turbidity and bacteria. The students completed habitat assessments of their sites, which included subjective visual observations and photo documentation of vegetation and stream conditions.

It's remarkable how spending a morning by the river enjoying fall can instill a desire to learn about our natural environment. These young stewards are tomorrow's decision-makers. They are curious and enthusiastic to gain the skills needed to protect their watershed. Another valued outcome of this annual event is the opportunity for students to learn and



work alongside natural resource professionals. This job shadow experience exposes students to exciting potential career opportunities and transfers ecological stewardship principles to a new batch of field recruits.

THANK YOU to our intrepid resource professionals for their time and expertise, the students for their interest and enthusiasm, and the fabulous teachers who make it possible for students to participate in this unique educational adventure.



# Markleeville Creek Day A Huge Success !

By Sarah Green, Alpine Watershed Group

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Markleeville Creek Day was held on September 15. A total of 52 volunteers participated in seven different cleanup and restoration projects throughout the Upper Carson River watershed. Work completed that day include the following:

- 500 yards of stream bank planted with native willow cuttings,
- 210 pounds of invasive weeds removed,
- 300 pounds of garbage removed from five streamside locations,
- 400 pounds of recycled scrap metal recovered,
- 15 storm drains stenciled, and



Willow Planting in Hope Valley, AWG

(Continued on page 5)

## 2012 Conserve Carson River Workdays



*Photos &  
Captions  
provided by  
Linda Conlin*



**Tom Minor welcomes local students to the family ranch in Dayton, Nevada.**

**Explore Your Watershed -**  
students use watershed map to learn more about the Carson River.

Stay tuned for Linda Conlin's article in the next edition of **The FLOW!**



**Getting the work done!**  
Students dig trenches for willow bundles with Dayton Valley Conservation District employees.

## A "Snapshot" of Clear Creek: Student Volunteerism in Action

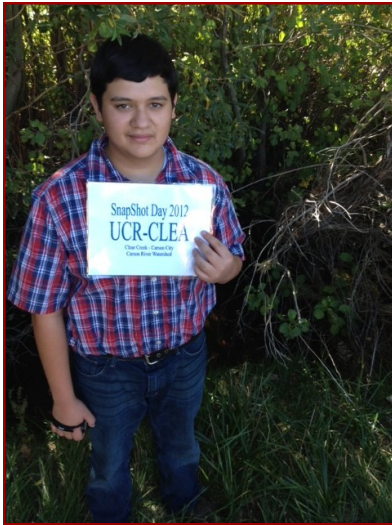
By Nikki Florio



# Clear Creek Watershed Council

On October 19, 2012, citizen volunteers collected water quality and riparian habitat data for Snapshot Day along Clear Creek in Fuji Park. Robb Fellows, Carson City Stormwater Manager, and Nikki Florio, Clear Creek Watershed

Coordinator, led seven students from Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School in Gardnerville on an educational field excursion along Clear Creek. The students learned about the *function and importance of healthy* watersheds



especially as they relate to non-point source (NPS) pollution, or polluted water run-off.

These motivated kids quickly jumped in, literally, and got their feet wet learning about Clear Creek and the importance of this unique watershed in the eastern Sierra. Through this interactive field study, the students received "hands-on" lessons about NPS pollution, data col-

lection protocols, and taking accurate field notes. The students *conducted and documented* this site's water quality tests, including pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, rate of flow, and more. They also took pictures to document



on-site conditions to assess changes over time. During a brief walking tour students collected habitat assessment data and along the way they learned about invasive weed species, biodiversity related to riparian zones, and human impacts on Clear Creek and the watershed. Most importantly, they learned what actions they can take to keep our watershed healthy.

We would love for Clear Creek watershed residents to get more involved! Please contact Nikki Florio, [clearcreek@cwdsd.org](mailto:clearcreek@cwdsd.org).

**Clear Creek Watershed Council's mission is to protect, conserve, and restore the unique and valuable resource of Clear Creek and its watershed through collaboration, education, planning, and project implementation.**





2013

## KEEP STREAMSIDES GREENER, KEEP WATER CLEANER

VIDEO CONTEST

**ELIGIBLE ENTRANTS:**  
Residents of the Carson River Watershed (NV or CA)

**ENTRIES:**  
30 or 60-second-long Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that urge viewers to take actions to keep water clean.

**CONTEST INFO:**  
<http://tiny.cc/carsonriver>

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to be taken to the contest website:



**ENTRIES DUE BY  
FEBRUARY 16, 2013!  
WIN A RAFT TRIP  
ON THE  
CARSON RIVER!**

**CONTEST SPONSORS:**





(Continued from page 3)

- Coyan Park renovations— installing new stairs, painting picnic tables, reducing wildfire fuels, and building and mounting a new sign.

Many thanks go out to all of the volunteers who participated and to the local partners that led projects and activities for the event - Alpine/ Upper Carson Weed Management Association, Friends of Hope Valley and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. We appreciate all of the community support and involvement which helped make Markleeville Creek Day 2012 a huge success!

Markleeville Creek Day was made possible with funding from the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, California Department of Conservation, Carson Water Subconservancy District, and Frontier Communications.

(Continued from page 1)

Over the years Andy has also devoted time to many local community causes. He has served as a school board member, as an advisory board member for Douglas County branch of Western Nevada Community College, and as an active member at St. Galls Catholic Church. Andy is still serving as Chairman on the Allerman / Virginia Ditch Company's Board in Carson Valley to ensure water is transported efficiently through the system. He's done all this service while being, as his wife Carol states, "such a wonderful loving, caring, and thoughtful husband, father and grandfather" to their sons Mark (Alison) and Gary, their daughter Julie (Scott), and their grandchildren Lindsey, Rachel, Seth, and Lewis.

Andy's extensive knowledge of the water delivery systems in the Carson Valley have been and are still invaluable. He's not totally off the hook, we may still call him whenever a question arises! We appreciate that Andy has done all these things, yet also has infused CWSD meetings with his wry humor, courtesy, and thoughtfulness. Thank you, Andy, for your many years of faithful service – it's been a great run on our board!

**Andy Aldax's years of service will be recognized at the Douglas County Commissioner's Meeting on February 7th, 2013, with a cake reception to follow. Join the Celebration!**

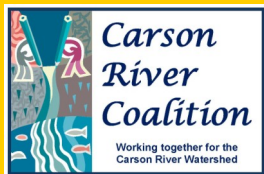


Andy Aldax, c. 2012



Editor: Brenda Hunt  
Thanks to these  
Contributors!  
Linda Conlin  
Nikki Florio  
Sarah Green  
Debbie Neddenriep  
Mary Kay Wagner

FOR  
INFORMATION  
ON REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED  
MEETINGS VISIT  
[www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org)



This newsletter has been developed in part with Clean Water Act 319 (h) funds from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.



## Upcoming Events

### **Bird Identification Class:**

December 19, 2012, 6:00 pm at TNC's Whit Hall Interpretive Center, Genoa Lane, Genoa. For more information contact Jim Woods at 720-7009 or [jim.woods@charter.net](mailto:jim.woods@charter.net)

### **Star Party:**

December 28, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, TNC's Whit Hall Interpretive Center, Genoa Lane, Genoa. Held on 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month. For more information contact Chris Johnson at 775-461-6135 or [chris@ckjinfo.com](mailto:chris@ckjinfo.com).

### **Environmental Education**

**Roundtable:** February 6, 2013, Capital Building, Carson City, NV. For more information contact Brenda Hunt at 775-887-9005 or [brenda@cwsd.org](mailto:brenda@cwsd.org)

### **2013 NWRA Annual Conference:**

January 29—31, 2013, Peppermill Resort and Casino, Reno, NV. For more information and to register, visit

their website at <http://www.nvwra.org/annual-conference/>

### **Andy Aldax recognition and cake**

**reception:** February 7, 2013, Time: TBA, Douglas County Commission Chambers, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, NV.

**Eagles and Agriculture:** February 22-24, 2013, For more information and to register, visit the Carson Valley website at <http://carsonvalley.com/>

### **CVTA Annual Meeting & Social:**

February 25, 2013 at the Genoa Town Hall. For more information and to register, visit the Carson Valley Trails Association website at <http://www.carsonvalleytrails.org/>

**Carson River Film Festival:** March 22, 2013, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Carson City Sheriff's Office, Ormsby Room, 911 Musser Street. Visit the UNCE website to learn more: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/nemo/videocontest/>

## CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT

777 E. Williams St., #110A  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Save A  
Tree...**

by receiving a digital copy of newsletter!  
Email [kathi@cwsd.org](mailto:kathi@cwsd.org) to switch. Thanks!

