



# PICKLEWEED POST

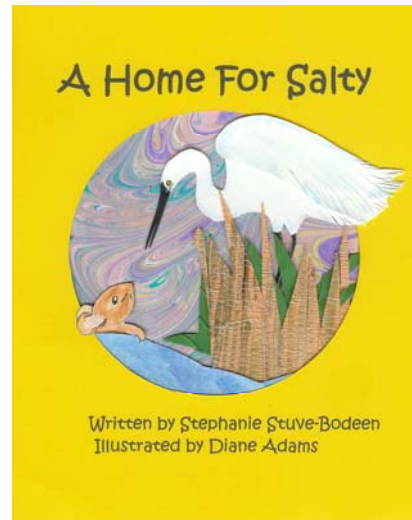
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## San Pablo Refuge Headquarters Relocates

Thanks to the Sonoma Land Trust, the Refuge headquarters is now located at 2100 Hwy 37 (also known as the old dairy), between Lakeville Hwy and Infineon Raceway. With the handy work of Friends and many other volunteers, the Refuge turned an old building into office space for the Refuge staff.

## “A Home For Salty” Book

The Friends look forward to assisting the Refuge in getting a new educational book published in 2006. The book will help teach kids about the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse which is found in the San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge, as well as elsewhere along San Francisco Bay.



Construction of the greenhouse.

## Greenhouse Becomes a Reality

Thanks to funding from the San Francisco Estuary Project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and lots of hard work by Friends Board member Lowell Sykes, the 18 by 24 foot greenhouse will soon be ready to start growing plants for Refuge habitat restoration projects. The Friends are supporting plans by Giselle Block, Refuge biologist, to grow native plants for installation in the transition zone between high marsh and upland, where weeds often grow. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities to out-plant the greenhouse plants.

## Marin Islands Update

The Friends, along with Save the Bay, continue to assist the Refuge in clearing invasive species from Marin Islands. Friends members joined a cleanup crew in 2005 clearing invasive french broom. The Friends welcome anyone interested in coming out to lend a hand on the Marin Islands.

In September 2005, the Friends President, Jerry Karr, captained a voyage to the smaller west Marin Island. The mission of the trip was to evaluate the health of existing buckeye trees and to determine if buckeye recruitment was negatively affected by the heron rookery located on the island. The Refuge was very happy to find a number of buckeye recruits, all within the rookery area!

In addition, the Friends provided some funding for a project the Refuge is conducting, examining the predatory behavior of ravens on the heron rookery on Marin Island. Results are being analyzed by USFWS and Audubon Canyon Ranch, a partner on the project.



Looking through a buckeye tree at a heron's nest.

## Join Us For a Bird Walk

Come join the Friends for a walk along the Refuge to see some local birds! The next walk is a Tolay Creek/Tubbs Island walk, scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 9 a.m. in the Tolay Trail parking lot on Route 37. Be sure to check in at our website for updates on other walks and activities the Friends plan!

For more information, please contact us at: [friendsofspbwr@netscape.net](mailto:friendsofspbwr@netscape.net), or check out what's going on at: [www.pickleweed.org](http://www.pickleweed.org)