

## THE JOHN WEST FORK

At the bottom of the Five Brooks grade Creek, at mile post 22.67, a tributary to Olema Creek formerly called Blue Line crosses under Hwy 1. The creek has long had a special attraction for local fish watchers because of the numbers of salmon and steelhead that return there some years. With a little luck a person might see salmon and steelhead going through their mating rituals and might even watch female salmon laying their eggs. This is also a good stream to follow the early life of young fish during the summer months watching as they change and prepare themselves for the ocean.

This Olema Creek tributary and its fish were always of special interest to John West. It was often a fish watching starting place for him, for if the fish were running it was an easy walk and the stream had many places where the fish could hold. It also cleared up faster than most of the main stem of Olema Creek after a big storm.

Those of us who have helped on Olema Creek restoration projects felt that the name Blue Line Creek was just not the right name for the stream. TBA successfully proposed that permanent name be officially changed to the John West Fork of Olema Creek, as a small tribute to John's selfless contribution to a special little stream and watershed.

John West provided many of the ideas and much of the effort leading to the on-going study and restoration work taking place in Olema Creek and its tributaries. He planned and organized the first fish count on Olema Creek, and worked to get fences and the planting of willows and oaks to improve fishery habitat. John was closely involved in all the projects that brought attention to the needs of the salmon and steelhead in Olema creek. He was the first to see the need for an improved fish jump at the culvert at MP 22.67.

A little over ten years ago TBA and the Park Service, through a grant from the "embrace a stream" conservation fund of Trout Unlimited, reworked the Hiway One culvert under which the John West Fork flows so that the fish can more easily scale its entrance.

Shortly after that, Dan McCormick approached us with his idea to utilize "sculptures" as a means to catch sediment, improve fish habitat, and engage school children in ongoing restoration efforts. This project has been most successful and TBA is committed to continuing funding for this effort.

But, we need your help, because we rely primarily on our membership to keep our small ship up and running. Please contribute to the Tomales Bay Association in order to keep these John and Anne West Fund projects viable. You can make fully tax deductible contributions to the "Tomales Bay Association" and send to P.O. Box 369, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Thank you!



Kenneth J. Fox, President