***FRIENDS OF THE CALAVERAS UPDATES***

***01.17.22***

***Jim Marsh***

1. ***Weekly monitoring of the UOP Native Grass Restoration site continues.***

The winter photo survey of The 3 Acres was completed on 12.26.21 and the winter Daubenmire vegetation survey—“weed count”—on 01.03 and 01.05.22. Attached is a copy of my notes regarding these seasonal observations.

Year 9 of my weekly strolls will wind up in mid-February of this year. I had set a goal of walking and documenting the site for at least a full ten years. This objective resulted from a conversation with restoration biologists whose view is that seven to tens years is a reasonable timeline to allow for any significant and sustainable change in an actively restored landscape to be observed. Final processing of all the Daubenmire data combined with all of my anecdotal observations will help interpret the degree of success of the plantings and invasives removals started in December of 2012.

1. ***Outreach and Education***

On Friday 11.19.21 I met with two classes of students from Kohl School (grades 4-8) to do the first field experience I’ve had with Des Forsberg and a colleague’s students in almost two years. It was fun getting back out with them and sharing Jack Law’s classic “I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds Me Of” activity. The students—as always—uncovered a trove of discoveries and had a lively de-briefing discussion. Hats off to Des and all the Kohl teachers who continue to make study of the Calaveras a priority at their campus. The more you look, the more you see.

1. ***Invasive Species Symposium***

Also in November I joined a Zoom conference sponsored by the Department of Water Resources focused on invasive species. Second only to habitat loss invasives are a major cause of native species declines and extinction and so biologists spend considerable time and effort studying the issues around this challenge. This was a wide-ranging series of speakers, panels and discussion that included specialists from around the country and thoroughly covered both helpful background and basics and specific efforts in particular locations. Recording is available. Contact me if you are interested in the link.

1. ***Next Calaveras Fish Group Meeting will be ??***

Not sure what’s up with the CFG. I have not had a meeting update since late fall.