

Eel River Recovery Project Celebrates Five Years on November 6 in Fortuna

The Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) is celebrating five years of accomplishments and the public is invited to a party at the Monday Club in Fortuna on Sunday evening, November 6. This is a chance for people to learn about the Eel River in a fun and relaxed way, enjoy an organic fish dinner and listen to some music. ERRP operated as a sponsored group of the Trees Foundation in Garberville until becoming its own 501c3 non-profit corporation this year, and has set a goal of 500 members by New Years 2017.

Doors will open at 4:30 PM and music by Ken and Maria Jorgensen and friends will follow shortly thereafter. Dinner will be served at 6 PM and will include wild caught fish from Pacific Choice Seafoods, smoked salmon from the Noyo Fish Company, shrimp from Caito Fisheries, and side dishes made from organic ingredients donated by Eureka Natural Foods. Organic beer from the Eel River Brewing Company and wine donated by GeoLake Wines will also be available.



ERRP Board of Directors and members at Board meeting and salmon BBQ in August 2016.

ERRP was formed in 2011 due to community concern about decreasing flows, water quality and toxic algae, dwindling recreational opportunities, and the status of native fish populations. Activities include monitoring, education and outreach, Wilderness protection and expansion, and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities.

Presentations after dinner will highlight some of the many accomplishments of ERRP. Fun underwater video of Eel River fish life will convey the resilience that ERRP has discovered in five years of watershed explorations. The 2016-2017 fall Chinook salmon assessment is currently underway and there will be a brief report on the early signs of the size of this year's run. ERRP and Friends of the Van Duzen River are completing the 2016 More Kids in the Woods grant funded by the U.S. Forest Service that involved students from four elementary schools in Van Duzen River studies. A video commissioned to commemorate the project will be shown.

Over its five years of existence, ERRP has cultivated partnerships and special working relationships with agencies, other non-profit groups and Tribes and some of these entities will be recognized during the course of the evening. The success of ERRP projects is also founded on thousands of hours donated by people throughout the watershed and some dedicated volunteers will be awarded.

There is no charge for admission but those in attendance will be urged to become ERRP members. Those unable to attend can become members by sending \$25 for an individual membership or \$35 for a family to ERRP, P.O. Box 214, Loleta, CA 95551. Also, join on-line at: www.EelRiverRecovery.org. You can also follow ERRP on Face Book or call (707) 223-7200 for more information about the event.



Hydesville Elementary School students visit the Van Duzen River in August 2016 as part of More Kids in the Woods project.