



## PACIFICA BEACH COALITION PACIFICA - EARTH DAY 2008



## 2008 Earth Day Stories

### Sunset Ridge cleans up entire school yard

What could be more fun than an Easter Egg hunt? To the students of Sunset Ridge Elementary school, a litter pickup in April for Earth Day was the answer. At least it appeared that way on Wednesday, April 9th when the entire school participated in the Pacifica Beach Coalition's Earth Day '08 event by dividing the school yard into sections for each grade level to work on. For many of the classes it looked like a PE exercise with the students running back and forth to find the litter and place it in the bag. Smiles, pride, and excitement were on all of the faces. Every student and teacher seemed up for the task and within 15-20 minutes the hunt for litter became more difficult. By the end of the day over 450 pounds of litter and recycles including a dumped computer monitor, hub cap, fireplace grate, plastic bits, wrappers, and styrofoam was collected. Over 550 happy students and teachers walked through a litter free school yard proudly knowing they made it that way. "Students and visitors will keep the campus clean, if it is clean. A clean campus tells our students, we respect and are proud of our surroundings," said Principal Laurel Trask. The Pacifica Beach Coalition President, Lynn Adams was on hand to talk with the students about the harms of litter and how it flows from their school yard and homes into the ocean via the storm drains. Some 5th Grade students found a storm drain and rescued litter waiting for a rain event to wash into the sea from its opening. Who said learning wasn't fun???

### Ocean Shore School

250 students and 25 adults celebrated the greenhouse opening on Monday, April 7th at Ocean Shore School with an Earth Day activity day. All the kids got a slice of organic apple and a chance to tour the garden - worm bin, compost bins, raised beds with vegetables, greenhouse with seedlings and warm-weather plants, herb garden, butterfly garden and orchard. The kids had a chance to trowel dirt into a new raised bed and amend the soil with worm compost. The adults participated in a celebration to recognize the value of the greenhouse to the students, the school and the community, as well as to thank RecycleWorks for their generous greenhouse grant.

On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 25 parents and students worked in the school yard to remove 125 pounds of litter. They also weeded, mowed grass, and beautified the garden and school grounds for Earth Day. Ocean Shore parents and students have planted all native plants in the school ground to reduce water usage, enhance native habitat, and to show students and parents a more sustainable way to live

harmoniously with nature. The school ground gardens are a pride for all of Pacifica and a model to the school district and community on how to utilize nature and reduce costs for garden maintenance.

### **GGNRA Parks Conservancy - Milagra Ridge Habitat Restoration by Christina Crooker**

Thirteen people removed 500 Monterey pine saplings that were invading mission blue butterfly habitat at Milagra Ridge, part of the GGNRA. They then went on an interpretive walk about the mission blue and wildflowers native to Milagra Ridge and then joined the Celebration event at Sharp Park.

### **Pacifica and Belmont 4-H Clubs**

Despite 45mph winds and cold temps, 30 volunteers join to clean Mussel Rock area and the adjoining bluff collecting an estimated 600 pounds of litter and recycles

### **Public Works and Waste Water Treatment plant staff donate time to clean up Ian's Secret waterfall near Mussel Rock.**

According to Public Works staff member, Aron Clark, "the more miserable, the more memorable" and the 45mph winds and high surf on Saturday, April 19th made for a very memorable Day of Action in Pacifica for Earth Day. Seven volunteers from Pacifica's Public Works and Waste Water Treatment Plant belayed down the cliff to the "Secret Waterfall" just south of Mussel Rock. Once there, they cut rebar that had been sticking out of the dumped concrete, scooped out hundreds of cigarette butts from an eddy, and collected 100 pounds of litter at the base of the waterfall. Because the high surf blocked access from the beach, all debris was pulled up the cliff by ropes and hauled away.

### **Safeway trees trimmed by resident**

According to one Pacifica resident, "I have been walking by the trees along the Safeway parking lot for a few months and wanted to help shape them for appearance and also to keep people from throwing garbage there. Earth day gave me that opportunity. A gentleman who helped me works at the recycle van at that parking lot and two other persons, waiting for the bus helped me drag some of the branches to the pile. Thanks for organizing this Earth Day".

By Jim Poket

It was cold and blustery when 11 members of the Coastside Masonic Lodge and the Career Development Council Advisory Board met at the Esplanade Bluffs to fill out waivers and collect supplies. We were assembled to give back to the Earth by taking back the refuse that inconsiderate humans had deposited on the dunes overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Spirits were lifted and bodies warmed as the combined Team traversed from South to North removing everything from cigarette butts and toilet paper to discarded table legs. After the dunes had been returned to their natural state, the western curb of Esplanade received the same treatment. The Team regrouped and headed off to Manor 7-11 to clean the area from Ocean Shore School's southern edge to Manor Drive. The staff at 7-11 were so appreciative of the Team's efforts that they treated each member to a hot drink. After collecting 22 bags of garbage the Team traveled to Sharp Park Beach to attend the celebratory event and were fed a delicious lunch of organic salad, warm macaroni and cheese and sandwiches while listening to Ian Butler and numerous dignitaries. After receiving certificates, which will hang proudly at the Coastside Masonic Lodge and PeninsulaWorks in Daly City, we left Sharp Park Beach knowing we had made a difference. Vows were made to return next year, along with silent dreams that it would be warmer when we again met to show our appreciation to the Earth.

## **Cabrillo School - by Lauri Vreeland**

Cabrillo School celebrated their first ever Earth Day event with a school wide cleanup and organic seedling sale. Although many Cabrillo students and parents were participating in other Earth Day cleanups, such as the "Yes on 'N'", they still had 25 participants! In addition to cleaning up the school, the Cabrillo School Organic Seedling sell was a success! Approximately 80 seedlings were sold... imagine how many would have sold had the wind died down?!

### **55 Businesses including 5 shopping centers Join Cleanup Efforts**

**Taco Bell in Manor and Linda Mar had staff cleanup all around their business.**

**Vista Mar Residents** join together to prune and maintain their median strip, trimming about 600 pounds of green waste and collecting 5 bags of recycles and litter. Site organizer Sandy Parry reports that there was much less litter this year than last when they collected 8 bags of trash.

**The Livability Project and San Mateo Master Composters teamed up to have a garden dig and compost building** activity at the new Pacifica Garden behind Linda Mar School. Approximately 25 volunteers joined in the work tilling the soil, sheet composting, and starting a compost and worm bin. The Master Composters then helped collect all of the compostables from the no-waste Celebration event.

### **Earth Day Pacifica goes down the coast.**

After hearing about the work of the Pacifica Beach Coalition for Earth Day, Mavericks Surf Venture joined in and organized a cleanup at Mavericks beach, parking lot, and adjoining wetlands. Surfrider Foundation took on Poplar Beach in Half Moon Bay and a NDNU student organized a cleanup at her university.