



Earth Day 2010 Stories

Pacifica 4-H Club – by Leilani Hanaike

The **Pacifica 4-H Club** and a few other citizens cleaned up **Mussel Rock**. The 4-H Group found a few hundred empty cans of cat food, two couches, a chair, bowling ball, rice cooker and much more. They brought in an estimated amount of around 400 pounds all together. They worked very hard.

By Georgette – I was site captain for **Mussel Rock** and we had about 20 people, collected about 270 lbs of trash, then 400 lbs more came in. The following week I went back and someone had dumped more stuff, a refrigerator and more debris to the tune of about 150 pounds. A nice man came and helped me take it over to the garbage can in the parking lot. Someone thought we were dumping the refrigerator when we were actually putting it in front of the can and they called the cops! We had to call the cops and let them know what was up! That really challenged my Greek temper!

Milagra Ridge – by Price Sheppy

Great Earthday! I turned in our **Mori Point** sign in sheet at the volunteer event, but the **Milagra Ridge** volunteer day was still going on, so here it is in pdf for you. There were 15 people that came out that day. The group pulled about 1000 scotch broom and cleared an area of 50 square meters. I will send pictures along shortly.

Roberts Road – by Dave

Thanks for all you do for Pacifica. I sent you a few pictures of the crew on **Roberts Road**. It was awesome to see what a few years of cleaning can do and that there was no big trash. I found the next best thing to throw away, and I always hated seeing the concrete and bricks that people would leave on the side of the road so I chucked that in the truck and now I don't have to see it anymore. I bet you had more people helping this year and less trash. We're winning!

Surfer's Beach – by Jenna Kinghorn

Our Earth Day cleanup at **Surfer's beach** yesterday went very well. We had fabulous weather. The tide was pretty high at the start, but our volunteers started in the meadow or **Mirada Surf** and worked on the highway margins and the parking lots along there, then moved on to the sea wall and the beach itself as the tide receded.

Thanks to two big groups – **The Love Awakening** and **University of Michigan alumni** – we had about 48 adults and 9 kids involved in the cleanup and another half-dozen working our registration and information tables.

We introduced two new things this time: We loaned bright orange and yellow safety vests with our logo on them to adults willing to work the margins of the highway, which people seemed to like. We loaned out all 36 of our new EZReacher pickup sticks, and when I surveyed people bringing them back, they really liked using them. Said it cut down on bending over, let them cover more territory, and they were able to pick up even very tiny things with them. I think we'll be purchasing another dozen or so before our next cleanup so every volunteer can get one!

Our volunteers picked up 300 lbs. of trash and 100 lbs. of recycling. I took some photos and will send them to you when I've got them uploaded and edited some time later this week.

Thanks for all your support! We in **Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve** are impressed with the work you do and look forward to more partnering with Pacifica Beach Coalition in the future!

Wild Flower Walk on Milagra Ridge in Rockaway – by Ron Maykel

Thank you for tenaciously facilitating the PBC event. Unfortunately I did not make the celebration due to a RSVP wildflower walk at **Milagra Ridge**. The leaders were young aspiring botanist/naturalists from the conservancy. The event was a reminder of the magnificent and benevolent bounty of nature.

My favorite plant was our aristocratic native cobweb thistle with sterling silver foliage and baseball size globular magenta blooms.

Several unique elements of the Rockaway mitigation endeavor were...

1. Someone found a 16 giga-bite I-phone.
2. Not far from the collection site, a live star fish was dropped by a seagull nearly striking a pedestrian. The starfish was cast back into the surf with the intent that it may live to see another PBC event. Further thought of the falling star fish episode invokes 'coincidence' considering the "Star of the Sea Awards"? Destiny? I think

From Oceana between Clarendon and Paloma by Jessica Long, Ocean Yoga

Pauline deserves the prize. She climbed over the fence and threw trash back over for me to pick up. We found hub caps, Styrofoam, cans of all kinds. I need to call Recology and let them know there's an X-mas tree on the side of Oceana now. I need to do more clean-ups throughout the year... One of our yoga students whom I roped in at the last minute said, "Thank you for getting me out there. I had no idea people still threw so many cigarette butts out the window. That's mostly what I picked up. That was an eye opening experience. Cynthia also talked about Pauline cleaning up the bus stop and getting 4 bags of trash from there. Other people were up planting at **Oceana School** Volunteers came as far as Fremont.

Drop Off Site at **Cabrillo –by Dave Calabrese**

Thanks for the opportunity to share your celebration and Earth Day clean-up. What a wonderful event you all have put together. I was really impressed with the scope of your efforts and how well everything was coordinated.

You should be really proud of all that you have accomplished. The city of Pacifica and attached coastal cities should be truly thankful for all of your efforts. **DHL** and I were honored to be a part of it.

By Dierdre Finnegan – The **Cabrillo** site had many amazing helpers. People went up to the "paint ball" area and got tons of old furniture, pieces of wood, carpet, and disgusting litter. Michael, August, many good strong helpers assisted in weighing it and transferring it to the dumpster. People came from all over

and were so proud about what they picked up. One person was moving what looked like a part of a house. I asked them is that a house? And they were like yes, it was just dumped alongside the road. People were so proud. “Look at this? Can you believe this?” “We got so much!” Just before noon it got really slow and we thought we were done. Then all of these trucks pulled up with loads of trash. Everyone helped though. My oldest volunteer was 90 years old. He was so sharp and wrote everything down. I couldn’t have done this without him.

By Michael Ayala – I helped set up for the celebration and then I helped at the **Cabrillo** site and then I helped clear down the stage and celebration site.

Terra Nova – by Jeanne Matysiak

Wild strawberries! It was so cool to find beautiful wild strawberries growing at **Terra Nova**. I was getting pretty disgusted after picking up a hundred of cigarette butts. Then, there in the ice plant, not just weeds and garbage, but lovely red strawberries on the hill between the parking lot and the little theatre

Community Center et al by Dina Ayala and August

We had an awesome turnout! August co-hosted with me and we had 48 volunteers!! They cleaned the **Community Center** area, the parking lots, the skate park, along Hwy 1 to Linda Mar Blvd and along Crespi Drive to Roberts Road! They even cleaned the swamp area and Neil Sofia had a pitch fork that he was grabbing stuff out of the swamp that he couldn’t reach. People really went the extra mile and worked hard. Conor bought about 8 of his friends and even the city manager, Chris Rhodes showed up. People also said it was a lot cleaner than before. That’s great news!

Pacifica Gardens – by Loretta O’Brien

Approximately 100 people came to the garden today, to visit, volunteer and /or shop! We sheet mulched 1,200 sq. ft., dug 600 sq. ft. of vegetable beds, planted 300 sq. ft. of sunflowers for the Great Sunflower Project, had compost and vermiculture demonstrations and a spring veggie start sale.

Sanchez Creek – by Ian Butler

Today I got rained out at work and on the way home stopped at **Sanchez Creek** (the one that flows through the golf course), to pick up one more load of trash. The spot had been overlooked on Earth Day, and there was quite a bit there, mostly plastic bags, so I kneeled down and started plucking them out of the creek. Six inches from my hand, shimmering in the current was a folded \$100. bill! I shook my head, picked it up and whispered, “You’re welcome!”

Westlake School – by April

The kids were so excited and sent me thank you cards for letting them help clean up.

Sunset Ridge – by Cynthia

There was LOTS of trash at Sunset Ridge. This was the first school to participate in Earth Day and they have participated for 3 years. (Six schools conducted schoolwide cleanups this year with every student involved!)

Rockaway Planting - by Shelley

Participated in planting trees and weeded. Another team picked up about 600 cigarette butts.

Mori Point – by Jessica

I recruited my Pacifica friends and then I got sick. They helped with restoration and picked up trash. Not too much trash to report. They went to the celebration too and then were so excited and loved it so much they called and talked to me for half an hour.

San Pedro Creek – by Paul Hurley

We had about 30 people, including the boyscouts. Parents came, they got 20 lbs of plastic out of the water. He was happy when one kid said, “Why do we do this?” Sherry also worked at San Pedro Creek with Paul and said her family went, including her 3 year old son.

Pedro Point Headlands – by Cedric Collett

We mostly removed non-native plants, mostly French broom and Pampas Grass. A team of us planted 100 natives. Another team put up 9 signs showing the trails and to keep hikers off the eroding slopes. Mike Vasey used his truck to carry the tools to the distant trail. He had to go thru the bushes to get there. “I’ll never forget Mike Vasey’s driving!”

Cabrillo Debris Team – AKA Dumpster fillers – By Deirdre Finnegan

I want to send a special thanks to each and every one of you for rolling up your sleeves on Saturday. After collecting thousands of pounds of trash and recycling, you went above and beyond to help weigh, sort, dump and tally our findings. Preliminary results are coming in at over 7thousand pounds of garbage/recycling. I think it could be over 10thousand!!

All thanks to you, the drop off went smoother than ever! I personally appreciated each and every one of you for being there, working hard, sticking around and caring enough to give of your time.

Hats off to you all and I thank you for making this day extra special!

DHL Gang - please send this to the folks I have missed and let your children know how much they were appreciated. My day-after supply sorting was so much easier because of their help! Thank you thank you thank you!

DHL Team – By Dave Calabrese

Thanks for the opportunity to share your celebration and Earth Day clean-up. What a wonderful event you all have put together. I was really impressed with the scope of your efforts and how well everything was coordinated.

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Honestly, it was an honor to be part of the event. My kids especially took a lot of pride in being part of the event. I’m looking forward to this event growing until it includes my current residence, Novato.

With a little advanced notice, I’m certain we can provide much more support next year. You are very lucky to have Deirdre on your team, she had everything well under control. There’s something magical about the coast. Your efforts made Pacifica shine...

Oceana High School – By Cindy Abbott

What a FABULOUS DAY! Congratulations on another significant achievement for the Earth, the oceans and Pacifica. Oceana High School cleaned and gardened including high school girls part of the International Students exchange program. A group of three guys came over from Fremont and cleaned up here in Pacifica!

Linda Mar Habitat Restoration – By Bill Collins

Incredible work today, I can't believe how much we pulled up and hauled off. We had a group of young students from Cabrillo School. Boy could they pull iceplant. We had another group from Genentech and seriously I think we pulled more iceplant on this one day than in the previous 6 work parties.

By Ortega School - Earth Day newsletter – Can one person make a difference? YOU BET!

Thursday, April 22nd is Earth Day. Did you know that Earth day is celebrated in 190 countries? That's right; Earth day is a world-wide event to celebrate the earth and make your community and the world cleaner and more sustainable. Together we can make a difference – one school, one town, one country at a time!

Can one person make a difference? Yes you CAN! We will be having an aluminum can drive all week, so bring in your aluminum cans and help make a difference to the earth by recycling.

On Tuesday, April 20th Ortega students will participate in a school-wide cleanup program at our school. Each Class will be participating at one time during the day. Projects will include recycling, garbage pick up and gardening.

Other Perspectives

Tim – I was on set up crew for the Earth Day Celebration. It was really hard to wrangle that stage but the highlight for the day was the mom and daughter belly dancing team.

Karen – I was liaison to the schools, worked with school clean ups. We gave them Earth Day Hero badges and bookmarks that they really liked. My daughter presented Jackie Speier with 4 Earth Hero badges to give to the Obama family. I also work for Genentech and they have a group called, Greenjeans that joined the Earth Day activities at the Linda Mar Beach Habitat Restoration.

Margo – I was the liaison to Ortega School. I was having a hard time getting the principal to commit to ED schedule of events until Lynn came in and convinced the principal to have a school wide cleanup because otherwise some kids would never get the experience. There was a big banner for all the kids to sign and decorate – that was a big hit!

Karin – On Earth Day I helped put up tents for the celebration and gathering. I coordinated all of the booths at the celebration and worked with Lizzy from the city for parking, booths, etc.,. Behind the scenes I put in lots of hours. I put together the volunteer spot website and helped coordinate the clean up teams.

Ian – I set up the stage, picked it up from Oceana HS, I cleaned the Secret Water fall the day before, on Tuesday after ED I cleaned the creek that runs thru the golf course...see above for the \$100 story.