

Earth Day Pacifica -- cleaning up, weeding, planting and celebrating bees

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Updated: 04/21/2015 05:01:17 PM PDT

MercuryNews.com

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More than 7,000 volunteers fanned out all over Pacifica Saturday to celebrate Earth Day by making valuable contributions to clean up for a couple hours.

Lynn Adams, Earth Day coordinator and president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition, spent the months leading up to the big day visiting businesses and schools and engaging all to be a part of helping to clean up Pacifica. Her hard work paid off. Linda Mar State Beach had more than 100 volunteers, another 30 as a habitat restoration team. A team from the Pacifica Tribune joined Starbucks to clean up the Linda Mar Park and Ride. Susan Miller led a team of eight who sheet mulched and planted the Vallemar entrance to the quarry, much to the delight of Mike Mooney.

The Pacifica Garden Club had a team of eight, as well, who completed weeding the planter boxes there.

The Pedro Point Shopping Center team crowned 31 earth heroes which included families and students from Westmoor High School, Terra Nova High School and South San Francisco High School, who all collected more than 50 pounds of waste. Dig It's Dave Martinez had five volunteers help him clean up Roberts Road.

More than 40 volunteers cleaned the Rockaway Beach switch backs and the top of the hill and removed more than 1,000 pounds of weeds. Five volunteers cleaned Esplanade Beach and the hillside. Pacifica Playschool enlisted their preschool children and families to remove all of the grass from two huge playground areas. Sharp Park had more than 100 volunteers including the Ingrid B. Lacy students who cleaned up all of the streets in West Sharp Park. Rockaway Beach had more than 60 volunteers who cleaned up both beaches and the whole west Rockaway District.

Mussel Rock had more than 30 volunteers including the Pacifica 4-H and Boy Scout Troop 74. The Boy Scout troop started their day setting up the Eco Fest site and ended their day breaking down the Eco Fest site. Cub Scout Pack 256 mulched and planted the Ocean Shore School traffic circle.

Corporations helped out, too -- Groupon, Nest and Google joined Stanford University students to help remove 350 pounds of trash and 1,300 cigarette butts from Pillar Point Harbor.

Eight cleaned up Pacifica's dirtiest street -- Waterford Avenue by the car wash.

In the schools, Adams coordinated assemblies with bee experts so the students could learn more about how they could save bees, which are losing habitat. Bee expert John Hafernik addressed the audience at the Eco Fest that followed the clean ups, to tell them what he had learned about bees and why some are being adversely affected by a fly that is causing them to exhibit zombielike behavior.

At the Eco-Fest, local non profits set up booths to bring awareness to their causes. New this year was a prostate cancer awareness group offering lifestyle changing information about ways to keep the disease at bay without surgery. And Pacific Coast Television had a booth this year for the first time, offering visitors video photo opportunities.

Local officials welcomed the group at Eco-Fest, among them Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and

representatives from Assembly Member Kevin Mullin's office and State Senator Jerry Hill's office who presented the Star of the Sea awards to deserving individuals and organizations.

They are --

Pacifica Beach Coalition -- For raising awareness, engaging the community, and leading the way by organizing volunteer opportunities to clean Pacifica's beaches, streets, parking lots and open spaces and improve native habitats at Linda Mar beach since 1998.

Jeff Christner -- While exploring Mussel Rock, Christner always finds the most amazing things. He was instrumental in researching and identifying the Japanese tsunami boat that washed ashore last year north of Mussel Rock.

Celine Gerakin -- Gerakin has broadened the Pacifica Beach Coalition's reach south through Half Moon Bay and offered immeasurable contributions through her work as webmaster, site captain and volunteer trainer.

David Dye -- For his leadership and contributions from Cub Scout, to Boy Scout, and now an Eagle Scout who has participated in cleanups, habitat restoration projects and service since 2006. For adopting Hickey Boulevard and keeping it clean for more than six months while attending school and for being a role model to youth who we all hope follow in his footsteps.

Greg Cochran -- For his continued commitment, collaborative spirit and extraordinary support of the Pacifica Beach Coalition.

Susan Senning -- For her passionate service, dedication, and leadership within the Pacifica Beach Coalition serving key roles as grant writer, project coordinator, and special assignments and bringing exceptional skill and immeasurable contributions as a consultant to make the Pacifica Beach Coalition better.

Tom Webber -- For becoming the PBC's 2015 Unsung Cedric Collet Earth Hero Award recipient because of his long-standing devotion to leading and guiding the youth of the 4-H Million Trees project since its inception in 2008. Also, for tirelessly coaching the youth to write grants, make presentations, promote the planting of trees worldwide, and achieving the planting of the one millionth tree in August of 2014.

Rugger Ardizoia -- At 95, this volunteer is still asking for more work. He is also famous for being the "oldest living former New York Yankee."

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