

Longtime Pacifcan seizes the opportunity to restore

By Jean Bartlett Features Correspondent

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Pacifcan Susan Miller wears a lot of hats. A registered nurse, Miller has worked in the health field for 30 years. As a nurse her specialties include: hospice, urology, home care and mental health nursing. Currently she is a certified Feldenkrais teacher with a private practice in Pacifica and Moss Beach. She additionally volunteers with Pacifica Gardens, AAUW (American Association of University Women), Master Gardeners of San Francisco and San Mateo County, and Women in Black. She has also volunteered with the Pacifica Beach Coalition (PBC) for the past five years but prior to that, she did habitat restoration work with the GGNRA (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) for many years. Some of that work included Mori Point trail and plant restoration. Her husband, Wesley Schulze, who is also involved in habitat restoration work, drilled holes to plant many of the native plants that now thrive on the Mori Point trail.

Also a mom (Justin and Jeremy Miller Schulze), Miller was a site captain for this year's 11th annual PBC Earth Day event on April 18. She and her 9-member team, with one canine contributor, worked at the Vallemar entrance to the Quarry Trail.

"We cleared, sheet mulched and planted the area in front of the chain link fence in the parking lot," Miller said. "We removed 400 pounds of green waste, weeds, etc., and then planted drought tolerant succulents, Junipers Beard, Watsonia, Twinberry and Salvia."

A Pacifica resident since 1985, Miller is also involved in other PBC projects. She cleans the trail in front of the Moonraker Restaurant at Rockaway Beach weekly. She participates in the restoration effort on the switchbacks on the Rockaway Beach trail. She helps at the "Give Back Patch" at Linda Mar Beach and works at the Pedro Point Headlands monthly restoration days. (Her husband participates in the latter two as well.) In addition, she enjoys doing yearly planting at Linda Mar Beach on the MLK (Martin Luther King, Jr.) Day of Service.

"I love restoration work and am totally committed to improving the marine environment as well as Pacifica's general environment," Miller said. "This is what keeps me volunteering--working towards an improvement in the condition of our 'little green acre' and the planet as a whole. Most important to my continuing the work is Lynn Adams (president of the PBC) and her contagious energy of keeping Pacifica sustainably beautiful, which creates a grand environment for living, whether as a resident or a visitor."

Miller is very inspired by being a part of the whole.

"I work so much better in groups and this (the PBC) is a great group," Miller noted. "Plant restoration is a lot of fun, you meet terrific folks, and I feel good about our contribution to the continued health of the environment."

"To work with people on a project for the greater good, I love this," Miller continued. "You can invest two hours a month, or two hours a week, or more and all your work is appreciated and needed. Who does not have two hours a month?"

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