

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

(Lake Trash Removal, Fountains, Education, Lake Expertise)

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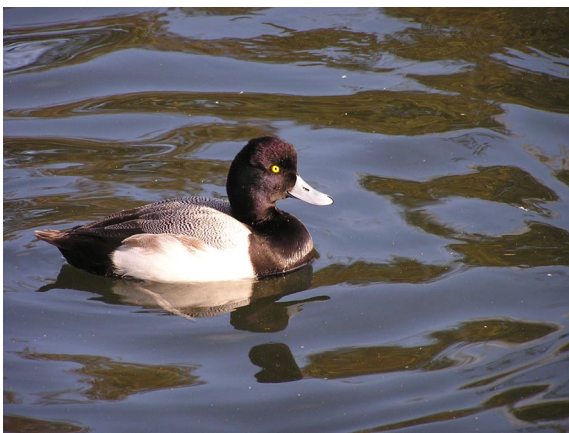
www.lakemerrittinstitute.org

January, 2005

VOLUNTEER LETTER

DECEMBER TRASH TALK: Rainfall / Trash Levels: Along with the deluge (7.34 inches of rain) came the trash, including **9,200 pounds** that we removed from the Lake. Thanks to the **129 people** who participated in filling **238 bags** on **20 of 31 days**.

For 2004, we broke our seven year record with 51,900 pounds of trash, but this is not a cause for celebration. Removing trash after it is already in the Lake is like closing the barn door after the horse is out. Ideally, trash would not ever reach Lake Merritt. This will happen when people stop littering and / or storm drain filters catch it before it reaches public waters.



One more reason to help keep Lake Merritt clean.

This Greater Scaup, along with hundreds more of its kind, is visiting from the north. It depends on us for clean water and a healthy environment.

Visit the Scaup as you carry your net around the Lake.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WATERSHEDS: This conference will be held from January 13 – 16 at Merritt College. For \$25 (\$15 for students) you get 0.5 units of college credit and get to hear experts on stream buffers; citizen restoration; volunteer management and policy; land acquisition, land trust and land use planning; organizational development for creek groups; re-vegetation; monitoring and culture & education. A poster session will be included and Sunday will be devoted to field trips and a workshop on shaping an effective watershed council.

Space is limited and you must pre-register to guarantee a seat. Payment is only by cash or check at the conference, but you can register by calling 510-434-3840, or sending an Email to ecomerritt@sbcglobal.net.

Sessions will begin at 12:45 on Thursday and continue until after 8 pm, including a free dinner at 6:30. Fridays talks will start at 9 and continue through 5:30, and Saturday's topics will run from 9 am – 3:15. For more details, go to www.mountaincurrent.net/ebwc/.

AND THE TRASH JUST KEEPS ON FLOWING IN: As shown here, our work is not done. Continuing rains are bringing more of this stuff from streets and sidewalks, down the storm drains and into the Lake. Meet us every Tuesday at 10:30 or Saturday at 10, or use the "U-Clean-It" boxes anytime.



The Lake Merritt Institute is supported and sponsored by the Oakland Public Works Agency and people like you.