

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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VOLUNTEER LETTER

JANUARY TRASH TALK: Rainfall / Trash Levels: Rainfall and trash levels were both less than in December. Rainfall dropped from 7.34 inches in December to 5.15 inches in January and trash levels dropped from 9,200 pounds to **6,740 pounds**. Thanks to the **128 people** who participated in filling **196 bags** on **24 of 31 days**.

Unusual items removed included: An auto wheel with tire, a child's basketball hoop, two soft shelled turtles (alive!) a six foot tall fake tree (we planted it in the Garden Center) and a kazoo.



Sites like these greet those who clean the Lake.

We almost got the pot of gold, but it sank.

Its still out there!

LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS TO RECEIVE PINS: Bill Bardeen, John Mayer and Tom Job will receive their 5 year lapel pins this month, while Hillary Powers will be awarded a 3 year pin. Together they have contributed over a thousand hours of volunteer time to keep our Lake clean. Thanks guys!

Fifty students of the St. Paul's School 6th grade will receive "You've Made A Whale of A Difference" pins at the completion of their community service in June. They also learned a lot and had fun.

In addition, Board members Stana Hearne, Andy Young, John Bowers, and Pamela Addison and Board Secretary Dean Galloway will receive 10 year pins for their service. Board members Susan Porter, Elizabeth Borowiec and John Ryzanych will be awarded 5 year pins. Such commitment allows the Institute to continue its work.

CITY TRASH BOXES STILL A PROBLEM: As shown in this photo sent in to the Splash Pads Neighborhood Forum website, City cardboard trash boxes in the Lake are still a problem. People throw them in. They blow in. Trash that was thrown away drifts around the Lake. The solution is not to use them within 50 feet of the Lake, but that is a very hard concept to implement.



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