

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center For Urban Runoff And Watershed Research

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VOLUNTEER LETTER



Physics lesson: Its heavier out of water !

ST. PAUL'S 6TH GRADE CONTINUES COMMUNITY SERVICE: It seems nothing in the Lake is too big for the 6th grade class. When they saw this 8 foot long, 4x6 chunk of wood, they jumped right in (with hip boots) and heaved it out. Heavy? Yes! They also got a metal trash can out of the water near the Nature Center, as well as lots of trash.

This class comes out every Thursday afternoon, hikes over to a particular trashy spot and goes to work. Often dividing up into two crews of 12 or more, they are accompanied by two teachers, two teacher aides and dedicated parent volunteers.

HUGE STRIPED BASS SUCCUMBS TO LAKE: At first it looked like just another plastic bag. But closer inspection revealed this 41 inched long striped bass, the monster that pedestrians had been telling us about. It barely fit into our net as we pulled it out.



Mouth and gills wide open, it probably died due to low oxygen conditions that often occur in Lake Merritt, and have been especially bad during the last several months. At Lake center, bottom levels were measured below 3 parts per million for three recent weeks. In the Glen Echo arm levels below 1 ppm were observed during two weeks. The guideline for healthy water is 5 ppm.

When you clean Lake Merritt, you never know what you are going to find!

SUMMARY: 8.84 inches of rain; 7,360 pounds of trash; 214 people; 239 bags of trash and a whole lot of duckweed. Thanks guys.

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To contribute to the Institute, contact us at 510-238-2290 or 568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.