

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center For Urban Runoff And Watershed Research
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VOLUNTEER LETTER



100 VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT HERE FOR EARTH DAY: Were you here? Many of your friends were, and they cleaned the entire shoreline in 3 hours. Others like this family and mayoral candidate Ignacio De la Fuente, helped scrape, power wash and paint two of our aeration fountains. There was coffee, free T-shirts (courtesy of the City) pizza (courtesy of the Lake Merritt Institute) and of course, trash to pick up.

Starbucks sent a group. The Cantonese Speaking Academy alumni came. There were students, city workers and council members. Even the fire department came!

RAIN BARREL PROJECT BEGINS: We have our first three rain barrels. Two are on display in the window at the Grand – Lake Neighborhood Center and a third is off being decorated with natural objects. Currently shown are a small (20 gallon) barrel decorated with colorful koi goldfish on a blue background and a 55 gallon, flat backed, dark green barrel with white egrets shown in a wetland setting.

For apartment dwellers, the smaller barrels double as works of art and for emergency water storage when the big earthquake hits and faucets don't run. They can be used as supports for a coffee table or... (use your imagination).

For those living in houses with yards, the larger barrels store water for emergencies, watering small gardens or pets, and also provide decorative, unusual components to the landscape.

For art lovers, you can have the barrel decorated any way you want. Some look like horses; some like little houses. Can't decide? If the barrel project goes forward, we hope to have dozens of decorated barrels from which to choose at an auction. The egret barrel is already sold.

Still needed is a project manager for this effort: Someone who can write an educational brochure about how rain barrels reduce runoff and improve the watershed. Someone who can coordinate ordering the barrels, coordinate the artists, plan for storage etc. A free rain barrel will be provided to the project manager. If you are interested, contact the Institute.

SUMMARY: 5.12 inches of rain; 4,940 pounds of trash (not including Earth Day); 324 people; 204 bags of trash, which is a lot for April! Clean ups were conducted on 25 out of 30 days. That's a great job done by volunteers.



Goslings keeping warm.

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