

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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## VOLUNTEER LETTER

**LAKEKEEPER PULLS NBC REPORTER FROM LAKE:** I've got something really big said the Lakekeeper as he tugged at something below the dock. As he pulled it in there emerged Bob Redell, a feature reporter for NBC (Channel 11) news. "Do you mind?" said Bob before re-submerging into the water.

That was the scene shown on "NBC 11 News: The Bay Area Today" last month. It also featured Bob riding in the Gondola with Angelino Sandri at the tiller, talking about gondolas, storm drains, trash, and little known details of the treasures (?) that volunteers often find in the Lake. Bob even tried to return the football trophy that we found to its owner, but the owner wasn't interested. As for the water, Bob says come on in; it's salty but fine (most of the time).

**TRASH TALK:** Trash was collected on **11 of 30 days**, by **108 people**. David and I brought **2,740 pounds** to the Davis Street Transfer Station, including **93 bags** and other items too large to fit into a bag. Rain (**0.92 inches** – about double the June average) brought most of this into the Lake via our 62 storm drains. The rest was hand thrown and wind blown.

Catches Of The Day included: Eight candle bottles, a bag of ashes, a car seat cover and a baby stroller. All in all, it was a pretty light month.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:** We're glad that school is out, because now Eric Wilson can (and does) volunteer a lot more. Last month he personally removed dozens of bottles, a whole lot of trash, a cell phone and a wrist watch (yes you can claim them but no they don't work!). Eric has been a regular but can't make our weekly Tuesday and Saturday events when college classes get in the way. One does have to put work over pleasure sometimes. Lately however you can see him prowling around the Lake, net in hand, looking the latest litter lout's leavings. Congratulations and thanks Eric!



*Volunteers become expert at locating trash underwater.*

*Although trash covered with sediment is hard to find, just look for straight lines. Natural objects do not grow in straight lines underwater.*

**LESS TRASH AND NO WIDGEON GRASS:** Those of you that have been around the Lake lately probably have noticed less trash despite the fact that we are cleaning up less. This allows us to conserve budget for the rainy season, and you know what happens then. But you have not noticed the masses of widgeon grass that typically grow in June. That's because there hasn't been any this year. The City harvester boat has been out there daily, but brings back mainly algae. No one knows why this year has been a widgeon grass bust, but in its absence, plankton has been blooming, including red tides and bright green patches.

**Not a member? Join the Institute and support your Lake!**

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