

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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October, 2005

## VOLUNTEER LETTER

### TRASH TALK FROM SEPTEMBER:

**Catches Of The Day:** Lots of pampas grass type stalks, a bottle of perfume (very strong) a 20 foot long piece of rebar, wallet cards and a sleeping bag. The totals: clean ups on **12 of 30 days**, by **148 people**, who collected **540 pounds** (not counting Creek to Bay Day) in **72 bags**.



*Paint flowing into Lake Merritt from a storm drain outfall.*

*Such pollution seriously interferes with things trying to live in the Lake.*

*This is the painting season. But if you see anyone dumping paint into a storm drain or on the street, call 911, take photographs and get a water sample. If you can get the dumpers arrested the Institute will give you a \$100 reward!*

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH = Creek to Bay Day Volunteers:** They came, they saw, and they conquered the trash. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, more than 45 volunteers turned out (along with tens of thousands more around the world as part of Coastal Clean Up Day) to fight the rising tide of litter. They also signed the forms, got gloves and followed instructions to the four “U-Clean-It” boxes where equipment awaited them. As usual, plastic was the trash of the day. Later, after 40 some bags of trash had been removed from the Lake, they munched on pizza and watched videos like “After the Storm” and “Keepers of the Coast.”

You don't have to wait until next September to have the same experience. Just show up on any Saturday at 10 or Tuesday at 10:30. We promise there will be trash.

**NEEDED: Volunteers with GIS Experience:** The Institute is beginning the long journey (it will take about a year) to create a Geographic Information System of the Glen Echo Creek Watershed. Using ArcInfo software, the system will store, manage, analyze and display geographic and associated data on creek flows, storm drains, water quality, land use, areas of impervious (and porous) surfaces, flood levels, vegetation, elevation, rainfall and more. We expect to use it for integration of all types of spatial information and answer such questions as how much would it cost to reduce runoff by x, y and z percent using various water management practices. The system will also allow to highlight and share land based sources of storm drain flows and pollutants for educational and other purposes.

If you have experience with Geographic Information Systems, especially ArcInfo, and are willing to help, please contact us. *If our fund raising is successful, we will have funding for interns too.*

This edition of the Volunteer Letter was published entirely with private funding donated to the Lake Merritt Institute.  
Not a member? Join the Institute and support your Lake!