

Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

A Publication of Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

Summer 2012



Carol Thompson

Eager students from Salesian High School do required service work at the Native Plant Garden at the Pinole Library, under supervision of FOPCW.

certificates to local retailers Jamba Juice and Subway, both teen favorites.

Dr. Coscia was generous in her praise of the service day, and had these kind words for our creek group: "Thank you so much for enriching the lives of our students. The experience combined education, work and recognition for their efforts, which instilled the kids with a wonderful sense of local environmental awareness and pride. You have allowed them to see, by modeling, how they can make a difference in their community."

Dr. Joe Mariotti, cofounder of FOPCW is proud of the efforts of the group to outreach to students. "We've got to educate the kids — it's their future, not ours," is his mandate.

If you have a group of eager workers, please contact Carol Thompson at (510) 741-8242 to arrange a work day. The garden could always use some tending. ■

(Article written by Carol Thompson)



Next FOPCW Meeting:

Tuesday, June 5 at 7 P.M., Kaiser Medical Center, 1301 Pinole Valley Road, Pinole Conference Room 1A

Please join us for an inspiring presentation by Brian Murphy on the successful Walnut Creek urban wood duck program. ■

Did you know?

Celebrate our Summer Solstice on June 20, 2012.

To report spills in the creek call: (510) 724-9010 or (800) NO DUMPING.

To report graffiti in the Pinole Creek area, contact the City of Pinole Public Works at (510) 724-9010.

Visit us online at www.pinolecreek.org

Native Plant Garden Gets Help from Salesian High Volunteers

Our own Native Plant Garden was transformed as 15 students from Salesian High School in Richmond prepared to work "Hunger Games" style.

The group of 9th – 12th grade students, led by advisor Dr. Elizabeth Coscia, learned about California natives and the Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed (FOPCW) during their community service day this spring

Board Member Carol Thompson presented a bit of history about FOPCW, reviewed data about local watersheds and the importance of native plants. Then the "games" began. Students were divided into groups (or "districts") and were given boxes with assorted tools, work gloves and supplies. Students were tasked with identifying and removing invasive plants, picking up trash, and spreading mulch. Lucky for the

students and the garden — spring rains had saturated the soil and weed removal was easy.

As most removed weeds, others captured (and later released) insects for identification, and others researched native plants from books borrowed from the Pinole Library, adjacent to the work site. A tree identification game was provided by Bill Voigt, another FOPCW board member.

The students earned valuable gifts and plenty of snack food, thanks to the generosity of "sponsors": the FOPCW board and environmentalist/scientist/biologist Jeffrey Beeman. All garden helpers received some kind of gastronomical recognition for their work, and others earned prizes: gift

FOPCW News

Friends photograph 2012 “King” Tide

Thirteen FOPCW members braved a cold windy morning on January 21, 2012 to observe and photograph the 7.1 ft seasonal high tide (or king tide) as it reached our shoreline and the mouth of Pinole Creek. They were rewarded with dramatic scenes of whitecaps on the San Pablo Bay crowned by a rainbow. These photos will be kept as a record to help document the changes to our shoreline and a glimpse of what our daily tides may look like in the future as a result of sea level rise. ■

(Photos taken by Ann and Kent Moriarty)



A community member (above) watches the white caps on San Pablo Bay at the height of the “king” tide on January 21. Below, the freight cars on the Union Pacific tracks appear to be floating on Pinole Creek.

Web site enthusiast needed!

Do you like website design and maintenance? If you do and have a desire to donate your time and expertise, please e-mail Carol at c2arnold@aol.com. ■

Make 2012 Your Year to Volunteer

We need volunteers to work at the FOPCW native plant garden at the Pinole Library, organize events, and help with fund raising. To be added to the FOPCW e-mail list, please e-mail Carol at c2arnold@aol.com. ■



We thank the Salesian students and hope they will be back at the garden for their next service day!

