



PICKLEWEED POST

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Flyway Festival 2004

The Friends had a great showing at the 2004 Flyway Festival! A fantastic booth was set up in the main area, which provided information to attendees about the Friends and the Refuge. A variety of items were for sale, such as t-shirts, stuffed animals and "wildlife" chocolates. The Friends also set up a used book sale table as another source of fundraising. Cooper Crane and Rigging, Inc provided a crane outside of the Refuge office so folks could check out one of the many pieces of equipment used for restoration projects. A great time was had by everyone!



Flyway Festival 2004

Kids Educational Program at the Refuge

In 2003 the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge faced a serious problem with their Environmental Education Program. It was determined that the building they had been using to assemble children before and after field trips was no longer safe. The Program faced reducing its number of field trips to local schools in Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. The Friends of the San Pablo Bay NWR stepped up to the plate and contacted Weston Solutions, Inc., who donated a portable classroom to the Friends for the children. DeSilva and Lennar Corporations then stepped forward and donated funds to supply electricity to the building. The classroom was the perfect solution and field trips, with approximately 150 children per week, were continued through the fall of 2004.



Environmental Education Classroom provided by Weston Solutions

Marin Islands Invasive Species Removal

The Friends, in conjunction with USFWS and Save the Bay, are working to clear non-native species from the Marin Islands in an effort to bring the islands to a more native state. Several working field trips were conducted this year to remove young non-native trees, invasive French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), downed wood and garbage/debris along the shoreline of East Island. Volunteers joined together in pulling, chopping and stacking materials during each visit. Assistance in removing downed debris from the island was generously provided by the US Army Reserve (USAR). USAR provided ~15 reservists and two 20-yard dumpsters on an Army barge for one "haul away" day. Cooper Crane and Rigging, Inc. kindly provided a barge and manpower on a second "haul away" day. The hard work done in 2004 is easily visible now on the island. Native oaks are visible in some areas after clearing out invasives. However, our work is far from over on the Marin Islands, and the Friends hope to conduct several Marin Islands clean up days in 2005. We're always looking for volunteers interested in helping the Refuge!



Friends, Army Reserves, USFWS, and Save the Bay at the Marin Islands

A Greenhouse for the Refuge

The Friends is partnering with the USFWS to establish a native plant nursery on the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the nursery will be to propagate native plants for restoration on the San Pablo Bay NWR, the Marin islands NWR, and other restoration sites throughout our region. Funds for the nursery and related equipment were acquired by the Friends and the USFWS from a variety of sources, including the San Francisco Estuary Project and the USFWS Coastal Program. Construction of the nursery will begin in Spring of 2005. Volunteers will be needed to help with construction. Once the nursery is established, volunteers will be needed for a variety of tasks including seed collection, propagation, outplanting, and general maintenance of the nursery. We are in the process of developing a nursery link from the Friends website (www.pickleweed.org). Once the link is established, you can go there to find out about upcoming volunteer opportunities. We hope to see you soon!