



PICKLEWEED POST

(VOLUME 4, FEBRUARY 2008)

BBQs Aren't Just For Summertime!

We are going to kick off spring a little early this year and have a barbeque on February 27th beginning at 4 pm here at the Sears Point Refuge HQ site (7715 Lakeville Hwy, between Lakeville Hwy and Hwy 121)! We have had quite a few new things come up this year and we want to celebrate! We will bring you up to speed on all the wonderful things that have been happening in the north bay refuges, as well as talk about the activities planned for the coming year. As usual we will provide some hamburgers and grilled chicken along with some drinks and a few other things - please bring your favorite dish to share with us - be prepared to give up some recipes!



S. Miller, Times Herald

Friends Board of Directors President, Fran Demgen, had a full crowd for the walk she led at Cullinan Ranch during the Flyway Festival this month.

Repopulating With Native Plants

The greenhouse was filled with activity throughout 2007, culminating in over 4,000 plants that were planted on the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge during planting events with the help of LOTS of volunteers.

In June, Refuge staff and Refuge volunteers joined together for a planting at Tubbs Setback. 15 people planted over 600 plants in a single day!

During November, The Bay Institute, with their Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed Program (STRAW), assisted at three planting events - bringing along over 40 volunteers for each event, made up mostly of 4th and 5th grade students. Each student planted nearly 400 plants each! Refuge volunteers Jim Millholland, Jim O'Neill, Lowell Sykes, and Tish Adams were also very helpful during the STRAW planting events.

Save the Bay had 3 events at upper Tolay where a variety of volunteer groups came and planted hundreds of plants.

And no plant was left behind; Friends Board Member Lowell Sykes took the remaining plants that were available after completing the Refuge plantings and placed them at nearby Audubon properties.

A GREAT BIG round of applause for all those who lent a hand bringing native species back to the Refuge. Volunteers rock!



C. Smith, SPBNWR

The author (Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen) and illustrator (Diane Adams, shown above) of "A Home for Salty" attended the Flyway Festival for Salty's premier book signing.

Is "SALTY" In Your Home?

That's right, "A Home For Salty", the first children's book to feature an endangered Bay Area species, is now available. Salty premiered at the Flyway Festival this month to rave reviews! The author, Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, and the Illustrator, Diane Adams, joined us at the Flyway Festival for this exciting event and signed all books purchased at the Festival. Salty follows a salt marsh harvest mouse along her journey to find a home. Pick up a copy today and learn about Salty's adventures today.

Currently, Salty is available at the following locations (check our website for more locations as they are added):

- Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (DENWR) Visitor Center, Fremont
- DENWR Environmental Center in Alviso
- Point Reyes National Seashore Bear Valley Visitor Center in Point Reyes
- Crab Cove Visitor Center in Alameda
- Bookshop Benicia in Benicia
- Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek
- Sonoma Bookends Bookstore in Sonoma

Volunteer Opportunities

Greenhouse: Do you enjoy gardening? Would you like to learn more about plants? The Refuge is always looking for helping hands at the greenhouse. For more information, contact at Refuge Biologist Giselle Block at 707-769-4200.

Nature Walks: Do you love nature? Are you interested in sharing your knowledge of bay area plants, animals, habitats, or birding? The Friends and the Refuge are looking for volunteers to lead walks at Tubbs Island and other Refuge locations. For more information on leading nature walks, please contact Refuge Manager Christy Smith at 707-769-4200.

For more information, please contact us at: friendsofspbnwr@gmail.com, or check out what's going on at: www.pickleweed.org