

Mill Valley Beautification Day

The cloudy skies did not dampen the spirits of over a hundred community volunteers as they picked up litter and removed invasive plants last Saturday – all in an effort to beautify and enhance Mill Valley in honor of Elizabeth Terwilliger (“Mrs. T.”) and Earth Day. On Saturday, April 21st, groups such as Rotary, Bloomathon, Scouts, StreamKeepers, and Little League spread out among the parks and streets of Mill Valley to collect litter and protect important local habitat.

StreamKeeper volunteers in hip waders patrolled Corte Madera Creek for trash and found the entire front fender of a car. The Girl Scouts and environmental artist Jeff Hvid pulled bikes, balls, tires, and over 300 pounds of glass bottles from Goodman’s Marsh.



Tamalpais High School student Julianne Latino and two friends patrolled a stretch from Tam High School towards Reed.

The worst spot, according to Latino, was “definitely around KFC – we got tons of trash from there.”

The Cub Scouts patrolled the banks of the creek at Boyle Park, discovering litter as well as interesting items such as a woman’s bracelet and a pair of corduroy pants. In the afternoon rain, a group of third graders from Old Mill School made their way down Throckmorton. They enthusiastically counted every cigarette butt they picked up on their way – a total of 235 found on the ½ mile stretch from their school to the plaza.

At the Terwilliger Marsh, Bloomathon volunteers with trowels in hand weeded invasive species from the marsh and planted natives in the moist soil.

“I like seeing all the young ‘Mrs. T.’s,” said Dede Sabaag of the youth volunteers, “they are picking up trash and making our community more beautiful than they found it.”

Another group of Bloomathon volunteers walked Miller Avenue and rid the median of debris. Out along Highway 101, bright orange vested volunteers from the Rotary Club picked up over ten bags of trash from the freeway and frontage road.

“It is a great coming together of community, family and friends,” said Rotarian Ed Marshall of what organizers hope to become an annual event. “This is a chance to openly share Mill Valley values,” he said.

At the plaza, volunteers set up an Earth Day table with information for the public on how to make their homes more environmentally friendly. Despite the chill in the air, several people took fifteen minutes out of their day to grab a trash bag and a glove and patrol the downtown for litter.

Cleanups also occurred in Tam and Homestead Valley, around the little league fields, and at the elementary and middle school on the day of, and in the week preceding the event. Neighbors of Mill Valley’s historic Steps, Lanes and Paths also pitched in by clearing ivy, blackberry and dead branches from the Wildomar Steps and Miller Lane.



This event was supported by the City of Mill Valley, Mill Valley Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. It was sponsored by Carrie Sherriff Real Estate, Sloat Garden Supply, La Coppa, Charles McGlashan, the Marin Services Program, and Paul Hickman of Cal Land Title in San Rafael. Thanks to Stuart Moody of the Green Sangha, MCSTOPPP, and all the volunteers that participated.

The businesses and residents of Mill Valley continue to be in the forefront of environmental awareness in Marin County. To find out how you can be involved in similar community events call Linn Walsh at the City of Mill Valley at: lwalsh@cityofmillvalley.org or call 388-4033. If you are interested in working with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a Green Business Alliance in Southern Marin contact Kathy Severson, CEO, at: 388-9700