

Holiday clean-up at Mussel Rock brings out an amazing team

By Helen Nicely | Special to the Pacifica Tribune

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What fun we had in a little more than an hour at Mussel Rock for our Pacifica Beach Coalition monthly cleanup! Saturday was the loveliest of days of the year with no wind, rain or fog. Furthermore, not expecting more than a small group due to the holidays, it was a wonderful surprise to count 18 volunteers, including two new to Mussel Rock, and two out-of-towners. What are the odds of that?



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Photo by Helen Nicely Joe Recto, on left, Myrna Faulds, and Jeff Christner... (Helen Nicely)

Another funny thing occurred -- someone, every December, removes most of the wheelie bins from the parking lot. Well, Allied Waste came to our rescue and supported our cleanup efforts by delivering two brand new gray bins as replacements just in time for our cleanup. Special thanks to Julie Walters and Myrna Faulds for helping pick up trash dropped when the bin was wheeled over the cliff. Thanks to Sandra Sun for picking up metal with the magnet. We also painted out the new graffiti. During the month, Julie Walters has been reporting dumped objects to Daly City via iHelp. You, too, can do this with an app downloaded on your phone.

Ian Butler joined us with his grand nephews from Illinois. They cleaned the Secret Waterfall, picking up at least 30 pounds of trash from storm drains after the big storm and other rain run-off.

Collectively we picked up 221 pounds of trash, plus 20 pounds of recycling, keeping all of this from flowing to the ocean. About 300 cigarette butts (less than usual) were collected, as well.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the volunteers from this cleanup and throughout the year! As a team this year at Mussel Rock alone, we logged more than 400 hours of volunteer time and removed 1,689 pounds of trash, 239 pounds of recycles and we removed more than 3,500 cigarette butts, although the number of cigarette butts collected is surely much higher because most people don't count this tiny toxic piece of litter.

Mark your calendars for our next Mussel Rock cleanup of this beautiful spot for January 24, 9 a.m. at the end of Westline Drive. If interested, the night before -- on January 23 -- there will be a showing of the "Vanishing of the Bees" and a speaker about bees at the Sharp Park Library at 7 p.m.; come and join us. Check www.pacificabeachcoalition.org for more details of our Earth Day preparations and honoring of the bee as our Earth Hero.

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