

My annual backpacking trip took me back to Emigrant Wilderness with my sister, a geologist, and an engineer. The weather was perfect for our six night adventure. Because of low snowfall this year the wildflowers were not as abundant but the total number of species was high.

The backcountry was surprisingly clean as few people hike in that far. Not counting the packers, we saw only a dozen people in the high elevation.

The trash that we picked up was mostly plastic or foil plus a few lost metal items including horse shoes from the packers.

Last spring I listened to the book "The Reluctant Mr Darwin" and as I hiked the book gave me some perspective on evolution. As we get nearer to Coastal Cleanup Day and see news reports of the spinning garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean,

I realized that evolution has not had time to deal with plastic. The stomach acids of birds and fish who ingest plastic (thinking that it is food) have not had time to evolve to dissolve this material. And this plastic does not pass through their systems, but instead clogs internal passages causing a slow death.

That is why we promote and participate in the annual Coastal Cleanup event as well as year-round Adopt-A-Street programs.

The 25th Annual California Cleanup will take place at more than 750 locations around the state on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The Cleanup annually brings tens of thousands of volunteers to the state's beaches and inland areas to remove the debris that has accumulated over the course of the year.

Solano County has participated in Coastal Cleanup since the 1990's. Cleanups will take place in every city in Solano County, as well as at Lake Solano Park, Sandy Beach Park, and Yolo County. Last year, volunteers covered 101 miles picking up just over 50,000 pounds of trash and recyclables at more than 50 sites. Approximately 2,350 people worked only three hours to clean up County watersheds.

Vallejo's 439 volunteers collected 24,500 pounds of trash, 85 tires, 100 pounds of recyclable glass and plastic, and 380 pounds of metal along 21 miles of our waterways.

To get more information or to pre-register to go to www.recycle-guide.com for a direct email link or call one of the numbers below.

Dixon: Martha Jensen at (707) 678-7051 ext. 105

Vacaville: Doug DeFabio at (707) 469-6670

Vallejo: Jackie Giffin at (707) 645-8258

Benicia: Sue Alfeld at (707) 980-1895

Fairfield and Suisun City: Kevin Cullen at (707) 428-9191

Rio Vista: Jessica Becerra at (916) 776-2290

Lake Solano Park: Sean Mcdowell (530) 795-2990

Sandy Beach Park: Chris Drake at (707) 374-2097

Lake Berryessa: Carol Kunze at (707) 966-5211

Yolo County: Libby Earthman at (530) 795-3006

Additional September green events.

Free E-Waste Recycling at Solano Middle School (1025 Corcoran Ave. Vallejo), Saturday, September 12, and Sunday, September 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Confidential Paper Shredding: Saturday, September 19, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at VALCORE Recycling, 38 Sheridan Street. The cost is \$5 for each 20 pounds to a total of 100 pounds.

Free E-waste Recycling at Benicia High School (1101 Military West), Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

E N D