

December 9, 2011

The Corps Network 2011 Award Winners!

This week, the Corps Network announced the 2011 winners for Project of the Year and Corps Legacy Achievement Awards. The LA Conservation Corps' **Paddle the River** project was selected as one of the **Projects of the Year** for being an innovative program that makes an impact on both Corpsmembers and Communities. Also, Bruce Saito received the **Legacy Achievement Award** for having made significant contributions to the Corps movement over the past 20 years. Congratulations to Bruce and our entire Paddle the River staff for their achievements!



Bruce Saito speaking at the launch of Paddle the River

LA Conservation Corps Secures a Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The LA Conservation Corps is pleased to announce that it will be part of a new collaboration between the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The new program will emphasize creating job opportunities between the LA Conservation Corps and federal resource agencies. Nancy Sutley, Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality for the White House will be in Los Angeles on December 16th to announce this award & collaboration.

Global Giving Campaign – Only 22 Days Left!

The LA Corps is approaching 25% of our \$4,000 fundraising goal and is close to 50% of the required 50 donors in the Global Giving Winter Open Challenge, which lasts until December 31st! There is another Bonus Day on Thursday, **December 14th** starting at midnight where Global Giving will match 15% of our donations until matching funds run out, so make your pledge early! The campaign is also being featured on the Warner Bros IMPACT page which you can see [here!](#)



Corpsmembers working at the East LA Garden

Please help us get the word out to friends, family and our partners - only **12 people** have shared our page on FaceBook – we know there are more Fbers out there! If you don't know what to get your Auntie for Christmas, send her an e-card

announcing your donation in her name to the East LA Community Garden and Urban Farm! (You can even text **GIVE 9213** to **80088** to make a \$10 donation.) It's the perfect holiday gift!

For more information, visit our [page](#).

Young Adult Corps

East LA Corpsmembers, Cristian Gonzalez and Johnny Mendez, are featured in the picture below working on asphalt removal along the future site of the Willowbrook walking path next to Compton Creek. Compton Creek is a little known major tributary of the Los Angeles River. The walking path will harbor a very large bio-swale intended to not only beautify the neighborhood, but also improve water quality by capturing surface runoff and enhance wildlife through native plantings. We look forward to watching this project progress.



Corpsmembers working on asphalt removal at Compton Creek

The East LA Crew, lead by Jeff Davis, began the demolition phase of the future site of the Cresenta Valley Dog Park. This project consists of an approximately 1.5 acre dog park in the northwest corner of the 35 acre La Cresenta Valley Park. The Dog Park includes small and large dog play areas, native landscaping, and permeable decomposed granite surfaces instead of the traditional water thirsty grass surfaces typically installed in dog parks.



East LA corpsmembers working on the Cresenta Valley Dog Park

This week Water Efficiency Crew 6 started their introduction to water efficiency training with the Worker Education Resource Center (WERC). The crew learned about where our water in Los Angeles comes from and why it is important to conserve water here. They visited the LA Corps' SEA Lab site and learned about marine life and desalinization. On Wednesday, they took a trip to LA River to test the quality of the water with River Expert, Miguel Luna. The participants are now excited to work on water efficient landscaping projects where they can make a difference in our communities.



Corpsmembers learning about desalinization; Corpsmember Jaime Llamas gathering a sample for a water quality test from the LA River

During the last two weeks corpsmembers have been restoring the Rose Hills Loop Trail on the west side of the Ernest Debs Park. Corpsmembers have restored about 1/2 a mile of this trail to a condition worthy of hikes. This trail winds up to an overlook of eastern LA County, on a clear day in the Santa Ana Mountains. Corps members cleared away Tecolote weeds and cleaned up a trail that has been closed to the public due to poor conditions. This week, corpsmembers responded to fallen trees in the park and the Rose Hills Loop trail. The severe winds damaged large and small trees in numerous areas of the park as well as inhibiting trail use. Corpsmembers have spent much of the week cutting down fallen limbs as well as bucking a huge pine tree that collapsed on one of the trail entrances.



Rose Hills Loop - before & after; Corpsmembers Jorge Sanchez, Lee Vallejo, and Ruben Munoz sawing a pine tree

On Monday, December 5th, the LA Conservation Corps joined the Hollywood/LA Beautification Team (HBT), the Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC), and Northeast Trees (NET) to host a school tree planting which celebrated the multiple job creation and community health benefits that have been realized through projects completed by the four non-profit groups that are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). KABC TV was on hand to chronicle the event which took place at the Foshay Learning Center, located at Western Ave and Exposition Blvd.



Program Director, Robert Skillman speaking about how ARRA has benefitted the Corps

Below are pictures of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) crew utilizing a crane to install a 2.5 ton condenser on a two story condo.



The Lost Hills Fire Crew is currently working in what is called "virgin brush" at the Bundy Trail up in Mandeville Canyon. Bundy Trail is a brand new 5-mile trail that the crew is putting in with hand tools and some machinery such as a Swaeco and chainsaws. The trail works up and down steep slopes through heavy brush and stream crossings, which will soon have a bridge crossing it built by the crew. Bundy Trail is approximately half-way complete and is expected to be 100% by March 2012, if not sooner.



Wildland Recovery Team working on Bundy Trail

Recycling Across Los Angeles

A RACLA crew will be recycling at STAPLES Center during LA Kings vs. Dallas Stars hockey game on Saturday and at the Jay-Z & Kanye West Concert on Sunday.