



February 4, 2011

***Celebrating 25 Years!!***



*Mark Espinosa US NAVY, pictured aboard the U.S. Ronald Reagan*

***1. When did you participate in the Corps and for how long?***

I was with the Corps from 2004 to 2007. I participated in the Young Adult Corps program (at the East LA Hammel Center) and later supervised a work crew. I enjoyed doing construction work so my favorite work projects were the playgrounds that we built for First 5 L.A.

***2. Please tell us about your life now, both professionally and personally.***

Right now, I'm in the Navy so my life has just been deployment after deployment. I work as a Military Police officer on the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan, so my days are spent doing law-enforcement type work: making arrests, filing reports, things along those lines. I joined because I wanted to serve my country and do my part, and I've been in the service for almost four years now.

I spend my personal time playing cards, watching t.v. and working out, since that is pretty much all that you can do in the middle of the ocean.

***3. How did the Corps influence who you are and what you are doing currently?***

The way that the Corps most helped me was in allowing me to work on my people skills and practice communicating with people as a supervisor or authority figure. It was great practice for my current position.

***4. Is there anything particularly memorable about the Corps that you would like to share?***

I would say that I really appreciated the support of Carlos Campero and Alex Lopez, those staff members that have been there for a really long time.

This morning, LA Conservation Corps Executive Director, Bruce Saito, participated in the panel discussion "*Greening of the Planet – from Vision to Action*" at the Los Angeles Fulbright Enrichment Seminar held at the Omni Hotel downtown. This year's seminar, "*Greening of the Planet: Global Challenges, Local Solutions,*" was attended by 140 first-year Fulbright students from 84 countries outside the U.S. The three-day conference included keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, fieldtrips and community service projects with local agencies. The focus of the panel was to highlight how efforts driven by community outreach, business acumen and social responsibility are helping to green the planet. The panel was moderated by Paul Bunje of UCLA's Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and included Jason Aramburu, Founder of re:char; Alina Bokde, Executive Director of LA Neighborhood Land Trust; and Mary Luevano, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs for Global Green USA.



*Bruce Saito speaking at the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar*

### **Young Adult Corps**

Work on the Elysian Valley Bike Path is nearly done! Corpsmembers completed installation of 500 1 and 5 gallon California native plants as well as 14 24" box Toyon Trees. In addition corpsmembers installed 96 new spray heads and two 1 ½ valves. Corpsmembers laid over 600 feet of pipe in order to get water to these precious plants. Crews worked extremely hard to remove over a ton of debris which mostly consisted of pieces of rock, mortar, asphalt, and old fence footings. Crews still need to spread 50 cubic yards of mulch and tidy up a bit, but this project has turned out to be a fantastic training opportunity for our young people. Corpsmembers have learned irrigation principles, landscape design principles, as well as the skills of irrigation installation, proper planting techniques, site grading and leveling, concrete mixing, concrete pouring and concrete form building.



*Coordinator Carlos Campero trains Corps members on how to flush irrigation lines.*



*Corpsmembers used river rocks to create a rip rap for storm water run off*

The Corps teamed up with Fox Entertainment Group on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> to plant trees in Limekiln Canyon near Tampa. Carlos Campero and his crew worked with about 75 volunteers from Fox Entertainment Group to plant 50 trees as a follow up to the trees the Corps planted last spring. The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council ran an article about the tree planting. [Read the full article here.](#)



*Corpsmembers and Fox volunteers at Limekiln Canyon*

### **SEA Lab**

On a recent sunny Saturday (1/22), a dozen Starbucks volunteers joined SEA Lab corpsmembers at Dockweiler State Beach to help restore the coastal habitat by removing invasive vegetation and planting natives from the nursery on the dunes. Volunteers from Starbucks have assisted in building a community garden in Lincoln Heights and are planning to help with a tree planting in Bell Gardens later this month. Thanks to all our Starbucks friends for your great enthusiasm!



*Starbucks volunteers receive instructions on planting natives from SEA Lab staff*

### **Clean & Green**

On Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, Clean & Green member Gabriel Flores, from Foshay High School, attended the Los Angeles swearing-in ceremony of Congresswoman Karen Bass.



*Gabriel Flores with Congresswoman, Nancy Pelosi*

On Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> Clean & Green members took part in a Financial Literacy workshop. Senior Account Manager, Halima Reddick from Operation Hope conducted the workshop.



*Clean & Green members participating in the Financial Literacy Workshop*

Highlights:

- This Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Clean & Green crews will be working the Chinese New Year festivities taking place in Chinatown.
- Also, on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Clean & Green crews will be supporting Councilmember, Ed P. Reyes' "Pedestrian and Beautification Community Clean Up". The clean up will take place around the Arroyo Seco community.