



September 2, 2011

Celebrating 25 Years!



Jerry Velasquez with Bruce Saito

When were you in the Corps and for how long?

I joined the Corps in 1999 and was there for about 2 and a half years until February of 2002. I was in the Young Adult Corps and did a lot. I got my diploma, did a little tree planting, cut concrete, completed LEAP, and did a lot of block cleanups. I also participated in our gardening work – we went into schools and taught kids about the benefits of gardens and how good it is to grow your own food.

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

Professionally, I work for the Korean Youth and Community Center. My life consists of hard work. The Corps gave me the work ethic and the character for what I'm doing now and showed me how to show up on time ready to work. I love my job because it actually beautifies the community. It's also great because we get a lot of one-on-one feedback from people who enjoy our services.

Personally, I'm married and mainly stay at home with my 10 year old son. My hobbies are making music, paintballing and just taking care of life. I'm trying to live life to the fullest, as they say.

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

Everything I participated in helped me tremendously. It built up my character and built up my work experience and ethic – with what I'm doing now especially. Now I'm a supervisor of tree-planting so I'm in charge of inventory, making sure the trees are planted properly, and working hand-in-hand with our city partners.

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

I just remember all the staff that was there when I was there – some who are still there and some have moved on. Actually meeting all the staff and having conversations with the supervisors, coordinators and directors stands out just because of the time that they took to talk to you. Even if they were busy they took the time to say hello to everyone or, at least say, "I'll get right back to you."

Paddle the Los Angeles River

The Paddle the LA River tours will continue through September 26th. The turnout has been great and everyone has really enjoyed the program so far! Noaki Schwartz of the Associated Press wrote a [great story](#) about the Paddle the LA River Pilot Program. This news story was picked up by 19,000 different media outlets across the country and around the world. For more info, you can visit the Paddle the Los Angeles River [website](#).



Kayakers on the Los Angeles River

L.A. Remembers 9/11

The LA Conservation Corps is a member of the L.A. Remembers Coalition, a group of nonprofits, academic institutions, foundations and governmental agencies that will be paying tribute to the 10th anniversary of 9/11 with volunteer events, interfaith activities and memorial gatherings throughout next weekend. For information about events that are taking place across the city, please go to www.911day.org. Clean & Green will be participating in the Mayor's Remembrance Ceremony next Friday, September 9th at 12pm on the South Lawn of City Hall to commemorate the day.

Young Adult Corps

East LA corpsmembers joined forces with Deputy Mayor of Energy and Environment, Romel Pascual, Million Trees LA, Home Depot, Scotts, and various community volunteers to plant 22 24" box trees along the Home Depot store in Panorama City. In preparation for the planting, East LA work crews removed a total of 440 square feet of asphalt and concrete to create 22 new tree wells along Armintha Street. A total of 70 volunteers participated.



Corpsmembers with Deputy Mayor, Romel Pascual as he kicks off the day's event at Home Depot



Corpsmembers Emerson Castillo and Antonio Saucedo work with Home Depot volunteers to plant a Sweet Shade Tree.

At approximately 3:15pm on Monday, August 29th, a grass fire consumed 6.7 acres of park land located at the north end of Alizia Canyon in Calabasas, part of the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve. The fire was caused by a welding company using a grinder which caused sparks to fly into the cleared grass slope. MRCA Units and the Wildland Recovery Team immediately responded to the ULV Ranch House at the top of the Canyon for structure protection. The Wildland Recovery Team staffed MRCA engines and assisted in the containment of the fire and holding in the Backcountry of MRCA property (ULV). The fire was extinguished by 5:30pm.



On Wednesday, August 31st, members from the Wildland Recovery Team had the opportunity to present the R.O.P. Fire Science program that the MRCA, LA County School District and Monrovia School District all offer. Members presented this program at two different schools with a Type 3 Fire Engine and a Type 6 Patrol. The Wildland Recovery Team set up a display of their various hand tools, chainsaws and gear. Members gave interested students the opportunity to spray water from the hose and try on their gear to get a feel of the training they will undergo if they choose to participate in the R.O.P. Program. Along with their display of equipment, WRT Members were able interact with the students by handing out flyers, describing what they do every day and providing a thorough explanation of what the R.O.P. Fire Science program and their jobs are all about.



Jon Griffin showing student how to spray hose from the patrol

Recycling Across Los Angeles

- This weekend one crew will be recycling at STAPLES Center after the Jenni Rivera concert.
- RACLA with the support of corpsmembers from our South LA, East LA and Northeast LA sites, will be recycling during the first USC football game of this season at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Saturday! Fight on, Trojans!