Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden has an Eventful Year

Thank you all for a wonderful 2014. We accomplished a lot in our first year with the Benicia State Parks Association. Our garden volunteer hours total 1,496. We welcomed new volunteers Robert Knowles, Michael Mees, Meriel Melendrez, Scott Melville, and Greg Moore. We also welcomed 22 Benicia High School students, 15 are Key Club members and 5 are ECH20 members. The Weekend Academy of the Solano Youth Probation expanded from one weekend to two weekends.

In February, Ryan Cope and his team constructed the retaining wall at the front trail entrance for his Eagle Scout service project. Also in February, the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden was awarded $2500 Discretionary Grant from the California State Parks Foundation. We used the grant award for plant signage, and plant materials for our annual Earth Day event in April. Earth Day was well attended with 54 participants.

In May, the Contra Solano District, State Parks had their staff workout at BSRA. Around 30 staff members, including Diablo Vista District Superintendent Danita Rodriquez worked at the Garden, weeding and doing general clean-up.

In June, Thermo-Fisher employees had their global volunteer day. They planted around 200 plants, weeded, weedblocked, and mulched.

We had our third annual photo contest award event in July with Erin Cockroft, Steve Goetz, and Belinda Smith winning the Grand Prize, 2nd Place, and Landscape Category, respectively.

In September, we participated in the Statewide Coastal Clean-up and our volunteers cleared our pile of weeds, tree and shrub trimmings and filled up a forty-cubic yard green bin.

In November, our volunteers attended the VIPP (Volunteers in Parks Program) training given by Ryen Goering, Contra-Solano Sector Superintendent.

And we end the year with a bountiful rain from Mother Nature. Indeed, we had a good, fun and productive year. See 2014 activities in photos at www.bsragarden.org and https://www.facebook.com/FDNPBG

Happy New Year. See you at the garden next Saturday, January 3, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Norma Deaner