

SEPTEMBER 2006

THE LATEST NEWS FROM TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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Greetings from the Executive Director

As I write to you this month, I am finishing a journey throughout Alaska, meeting with some of Take Pride's most far away, yet heavily involved, partners. My trip began in Fairbanks where I met Dick Farris who showed me community gardens, both in Fairbanks and Nenana. While I was in Fairbanks, I also met with Mayor Steve Thompson to invite him to join the growing number of Take Pride Cities popping up across the country.

Next, Denali National Park Superintendent Paul Anderson and Kris Fister met with me to discuss volunteerism at the park. Kris took me to meet a couple who has greatly enjoyed their time volunteering as campground hosts in the park for the summer. Two Student Conservation Association volunteers at the park, Kristin Knight and Ian Healy, led a dog sled demonstration and have been working in the kennels



Dick Farris shared community gardens in the Fairbanks area with Michelle Cangelosi.

this summer training the dogs. Ian plans to continue volunteering at Denali and is considering a career with the NPS. Kristin, a photo-journalism major in college, will return to Montana with many beautiful photos and memories.



SCA volunteers led a dog sled demonstration for park visitors at Denali National Park.

Next, in Anchorage, I visited with a previous National Award Winner, Jeff Brune, who works at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center introducing volunteers to a variety of experiences. Laura Steigers was at the center when I was there. She moved to Anchorage in June and was delighted to help with the garden at the

center. Later, we met with a representative of the city parks department to discuss their vast array of volunteer projects as a Take Pride City. We also visited a recreation site established by volunteers. Finally, my visit with Lynn Wibbernmeyer, the Alaska state coordinator for Take Pride helped generate some new ideas to grow the program across the state.



Staff at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center meet with Michelle to discuss future Take Pride projects.

Overall, I had a great trip and I look forward to more events, volunteer opportunities and many more volunteers taking pride in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cangelosi

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2006
Take Pride in America
National Awards
<http://www.takepride.gov/awards/national.cfm>

September 16, 2006
International Coastal
Cleanup Day
<http://www.coastalcleanup.org/welcome.cfm>

September 30, 2006
National Public Lands Day
<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

October 18, 2006
World Water Monitoring Day
<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>

October 28, 2006
Make A Difference Day
www.usaweekend.com/diffday

CITY SPOTLIGHT

Clifton, NJ Sets Example with Clean Communities Program

For nearly 20 years, residents, children and city leaders in Clifton, New Jersey have worked with the Clean Communities program to maintain and beautify their community. The Clean Communities program encourages the city's 88,000 residents to be environmentally conscious and to help clean up and beautify the common areas of their city. Through environmental education, beautification projects, recycling programs and litter cleanups, residents demonstrate that active citizenship yields results.

The Clean Communities program provides supplies such as rakes, garbage bags, gloves and brooms, for groups who want to plan a cleanup project. The program also has a relationship with all 17 schools within Clifton and provides mini-grants for them to engage students in environmental activities. Whether the grants sponsor ecological science studies or

beautification projects on school grounds, students learn early on that contributing to their community is a way of life in Clifton. Another part of Clean Communities is a program which is similar to the statewide Adopt-A-Highway program. The Adopt-A-Spot program gives local landscaping companies an opportunity to maintain an area along a county or state road that is often in need of maintenance. In return, the company is recognized with a small business sign at the site to promote their services.

Mayor James Anzaldi designated the city of Clifton a Take Pride City earlier this year. Al DuBois, the Take Pride coordinator, is also the city recycling coordinator. Al goes above and beyond coordinating recycling. He spends some days teaching students about composting as a recycling option, taking adults on supermarket tours to show them how to shop more environmentally conscious, and



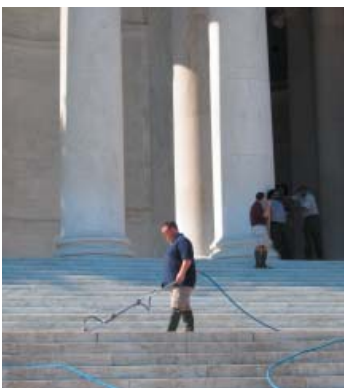
Students from School #3 help grow the Take Pride program in Clifton by planting trees on Earth Day.

helping to coordinate community-wide events for Arbor Day and Earth Day. Al was recently recognized by the New Jersey Clean Communities Council with the Excellence in Education Award—20 Year Commitment for his environmental outreach into his hometown.

Congratulations to the city of Clifton and all its residents who continue to Take Pride in America and make the Clean Communities program a successful example of partnership and active citizenship.

Clean Across America Helps Keep National Treasures Tidy

On August 21 and 22, power wash contractors from all over America met in Washington, DC to help maintain some of our Nation's most cherished monuments. As part of the Power Washers of North America's 'Clean Across America' campaign, a team of sixteen power washers donated their time and equipment to clean sections of the Thomas Jefferson



and Lincoln memorials to remove years of dirt, grime and pollution.

In order to accomplish this monumental project, the participants had to overcome several obstacles including

The process and the cleaning agents for power washing the monuments took careful consideration.

identifying environmentally compliant cleaning materials and methods, meeting strict security standards, securing access to water for the machines, and achieving safety standards for the



Volunteer powerwashers show the difference their work makes at the Lincoln Memorial.

thousands of park visitors who will be visiting the monuments during the process. Lastly, and most importantly, the workers had to protect the integrity and safety of these historical memorials. The Power Washers of North America's Clean Across America campaign began years ago when members donated their services to local communities, parks, public aid programs and charity organizations.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

CB Greer Elementary School Student Council Leads the Way

When it comes to lending a hand, the members of the student council at CB Greer Elementary School in Brunswick, Georgia know how to lead the way. Participating in the Take Pride Schools program since 2005, the students completed two volunteer projects on public lands this past year.

First, the 30 members of the student council planned a beach sweep on Jekyll Island. During this annual



project, they collected bags of trash and debris along the shoreline and par-

Student Council Members collect trash off the coast of Jekyll Island, Georgia.

ticipated in an educational tour of Tidelands Nature Center on Jekyll Island. Both of these were great activities for the students to learn about their local environment and how to help take care of it.

Next, the students participated in an event at the school. They selected an area of that needed improvement and worked to “dress it up”. The school recently added educational cottages (trailers) and the students decided to make flower beds to go outside each door to the cottages. On a Saturday morning, students gathered with parent volunteers and they tilled the ground, removed rocks and debris, arranged the flowers and bushes and planted them. In addition to the flower bed planting, students picked up trash from the school grounds, driveway and bus loop.

Upcoming Event: International Coastal Cleanup



Each year, The Ocean Conservancy brings together people from around the world to step forward and do something for their marine environment by participating in the International Coastal Cleanup. And each year, the Cleanup grows, reaching more states, countries, and people. Last year, more than 448,000 volunteers removed 8.2 million pounds of debris from 18,000 miles of shoreline and inland waterways, representing 74 different nations.

For more information on how you can get involved in the Cleanup, please visit www.coastalcleanup.org.

Mark your calendars for the 21st International Coastal Cleanup held Saturday, September 16!

Welcome New Congressional Partners!

U.S. Senator Ken Salazar
Colorado

Congressman Ed Pastor
District 5 of Arizona

Congressman Curt Weldon
District 7 of Pennsylvania

Register NOW for National Public Lands Day, September 30

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is just two months away, and the time to register your public lands site is NOW! All public lands, including local, state and Federal lands, are eligible to participate in the largest day of volunteering on public lands

across America. Take Pride is proud to partner with NPLD for the third consecutive year and offer all sites Take Pride event materials including

banners, brochures and bumper stickers.

Additionally, all registered sites will receive the NPLD 2006 commemorative

poster, as well as promotional posters and brochures to promote their local event.

Visit www.publiclandsday.org to register with NPLD and visit www.TakePride.gov to register your site to receive Take Pride event materials.



Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of “In Touch With Take Pride.” Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.