



## We could sure use more volunteers!

by Radley Reep

We could sure use more volunteers for all of April. We are spending most our time right now keeping the day-use area free of litter, but in the near future, we will be numbering picnic table pads, filling in squirrel holes, completing work on the information kiosks, removing non-native weeds and touching up the entrance fee booth once again.

If you are unable to volunteer on these days, just let us know and we will make arrangements to suit your needs.

**Event schedule:** We are now gathering very good information about the types of litter left by park visitors. Not only will this information enable to us to develop a litter prevention program, it will also form the basis for measuring the increase in litter that could result from vendors operating in the park.

- Sat April 7
- Sun April 8
- Mon April 9
- Sat April 14
- Sat April 21
- Sat April 28

Here is a bit of information about last week's litter cleanup. In 2 hours, volunteers removed 26 pounds of litter from the day-use area, including 371 cigarette butts, 194 plastic or metal bottle caps, 22 wads of fishing line, 6

items of clothing, \$1.05 in change and a few things a little too disgusting to mention here. This litter had accumulated over a week's time.

In other news, a university student is preparing a map of the park for us. This modern-day computer marvel should be finished by the first week in May. Then it will be possible to use handheld GPS devices to map the location of park amenities and things that need attention.

A plant species inventory is well underway, and a few biology students are now studying some of the invertebrates – insects, spiders, crustaceans, and so on – that call the park home.

Please select a day to help out and email us. Don't be shy. Thank you, Radley Reep, Coalition Coordinator, Friends of Lost Lake Park, [LostLakePark@gmail.com](mailto:LostLakePark@gmail.com)

**Vendors in County Parks:** March 27, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved a pilot program to test whether the county could make money by permitting vendors to sell a variety of goods and services in county parks. For Lost Lake Park, this will mean up to 4 vendors possibly selling food and fishing supplies or providing canoe/bike rentals or offering other types of fun activities.

We know very little about where these vendors will be permitted to set up or what constraints will be put on their operations. Of course, we do have some concern about increased litter.

## Storm Water Basins and Wildlife

submitted by Marian Orvis

The 154 storm water basins operated by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District throughout Fresno and Clovis serve primarily to protect people and their property from rain season flooding. Storm water basins are also used to replenish the community's groundwater supply through recharge, and some sites have been developed into parks and open space.

To keep basins functioning at their best for flood control and groundwater recharge, they are maintained approximately every three to five years. Water is temporarily drained to dry the basin floor and soil. Then silts are removed typically from the top inch or less. Maintenance removes the fine layers of sediment that accumulate. Sediments accumulate undesirable chemicals and slow the rate at which water soaks into the ground to replenish the groundwater aquifer. Sediment removal also makes more room for water during storms.

The presence of water in basins attracts water fowl and other wildlife. The combination of water, food and protection from predators has produced a very secure (albeit accidental) and inviting habitat. Mallard ducks, Canada

geese, egrets, night herons, coots, foxes, and occasional coyotes in rural areas can be found. Birds are the most mobile of the visiting wildlife and can travel between basins. They travel to nearby basins during maintenance and return once water flow resumes. During maintenance work, the District provides a temporary alternate water source for birds unable to leave.

You can help keep the basin-dwelling wildlife healthy by not feeding them. Human food is unhealthy, nutritionally incomplete and is discouraged by the California Department of Fish and Game. It causes birds to become dependent on the artificial food source, less able to forage on their own and can interfere with natural migration patterns. Poor nutrition can cause wing deformity in goslings, hindering their ability to fly. Feeding wildlife can also lead to population increases in basins. Artificial population increases leading to overcrowding, put birds at risk of diseases, such as botulism and cholera, and can put more animals at risk during necessary maintenance work. To improve the chances of survival for waterfowl and other wildlife, please don't feed them. [Source: *Flood Line* V18:2 a newsletter of The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District]