

watershed

Ten Years, 30,000 Students and Lots of Learning Save The Bay's Canoes In Sloughs Reaches a Decade of Teaching Students About the Bay... on the Bay

This year marks a decade since Save The Bay launched its on-the-water education program for local middle and high school students, Canoes In Sloughs. Since that time, 30,000 students have learned about the Bay's history and ecology and the impacts of urbanization and pollution while paddling through the Bay sloughs.

Last fall, Save The Bay hosted a program for sixth graders from Mill Valley Middle School. On that sunny day, the students explored Bothin Marsh (which sits behind their school) by canoe. They learned about wetland habitat, identified birds and plants and measured the water's salinity. They even ate their lunches while floating on the Bay.

Many students, like Sander, had their first experience in a canoe. "It's really cool being so close to the water!" he exclaimed

while eating his sandwich. His canoe-mate Claire was more impressed by what she learned. "I liked learning about how this marsh is connected to San Francisco Bay," she said.

Save The Bay is committed to serving students throughout the entire Bay Area, regardless of socio-economic background, and partners with schools from Petaluma to San Jose to offer the program. In fact, forty percent of Canoes In Sloughs participants come from low-income communities. Save The Bay is able to provide scholarships and subsidies to all students because of donations from individuals, businesses and foundations.

As a result of generous funding from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Save The Bay offers Canoes In Sloughs to every

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Visit our Web site saveSFbay.org

- Become a Save The Bay member
- Join the Bay Savers Email Action Network
- Sign up to volunteer with us and for exciting Discover The Bay outings



Oracle Helps Celebrate, Protect and Restore San Francisco Bay

Last fall, Oracle employees joined Save The Bay to explore the Bay and help save it, all in one trip. After a morning of canoeing through Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland's Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline—with curious egrets and peli-

cans soaring overhead—the volunteers spent the afternoon sowing seeds in Save The Bay's native plant nursery.*

On that particular day, 20 Oracle

volunteers transplanted 1,300 native marsh seedlings into bigger pots to ensure they grew big enough to be planted in the ground. Now planted along the Bay shoreline, these plants are providing critical habitat for endangered species like the California clapper rail.

Oracle is one of Save The Bay's longest-standing corporate partners and supporters. Many Oracle employees have volunteered with Save The Bay on multiple occasions. "We love the opportunity to commune with nature," said one volunteer. "The canoe trips are so much fun, plus it's nice to get outside with co-workers and work as a team to help preserve San Francisco Bay—a national and local treasure."

Oracle employees have volunteered with Save The Bay since 2004, and since that time, more than 150 employees have

helped restore habitat along the Bay shoreline. In addition to the native seedlings they transplanted last fall, Oracle volunteers have removed over 400 pounds of trash from the shoreline, collected 600 native marsh seeds for future planting and removed nearly 2,000 pounds of invasive ice plant.

The company also generously provides Community Impact Grants to help fund Save The Bay's education program, Canoes In Sloughs, which educates thousands of students about the Bay every year. Oracle has funded Save The Bay programs since 1998.

"Oracle's generous support of our programs through volunteerism and grants has a direct impact on the health of the Bay and the quality of life in the Bay Area," said Andrea Geurts, Save The Bay's Deputy Director for Community Engagement. "This corporate partnership provides a model where companies can give back and support the local environment where employees work and live."

"Oracle is committed to protecting the environment and enriching the life of the community," said Rosalie Gann, Oracle's Director of Global Corporate Citizenship. "Oracle and its employees, through grants and volunteer support, have been able to

work with Save The Bay to truly make an impact in preserving a vital part of our natural habitat. Additionally, our partnership with Save The Bay and sup-

port of their Canoes In Sloughs program allows us to help educate students on the value of protecting the environment for future generations to enjoy."

—By Nancy Norstad and Jessica Castelli

* Save The Bay partners with the East Bay Regional Park District at this nursery.



Photo courtesy of Oracle



Photo courtesy of Oracle

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Restoring Habitat in Every Estuary

Hurricane Katrina’s devastation is still astonishing to see, more than 15 months after it ripped through the Gulf Coast. City Park, near New Orleans’ lake front, sustained major damage. Like many of the 400 hundred volunteers from across the U.S. and seven countries who were there as part of Restore America’s Estuaries National Conference, I wondered how our group could make a difference with such an enormous restoration task.

However, in just three hours, we installed thousands of plants to halt lakeshore erosion, cleared acres of downed trees, and brought back luster to an urban park as important to the Big Easy as Golden Gate Park is to San Francisco. Because New Orleans is so strapped for funds only volunteers could have accomplished the task—and our hosts were grateful.

Save The Bay helped form a national network of “Bay” organizations more than ten years ago, and our leadership has helped Restore America’s Estuaries become a strong advocacy presence in Washington, DC. Its third National Conference

brought 1,400 people to New Orleans to share best practices and set an ambitious agenda that is already helping improve coastal habitat from Seattle to Tampa.

Here at home, we have built an impressive volunteer capacity to restore our own shoreline habitat. Our goal this winter and spring is to plant 40,000 native seedlings around the Bay. This year, 5,000 volunteers from schools, businesses and community groups will donate 20,000 hours of their time improving 100 acres of marshland.

Doing this work together doesn’t just make the Bay healthier—our collaboration builds a healthier Bay Area community and direct personal investment in our Bay.

I hope you will continue to help us restore the Bay, with your own hands and with your membership support (visit our Web site to learn more: www.saveSFbay.org). Together, our individual contributions really do make an enormous impact.

David Lewis



Photo: Russ Juskalian

▲ David Lewis,
Executive Director

Canoes In Sloughs

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sixth grader in the Ravenswood school district in East Palo Alto.

“This wonderful program gives students the opportunity to be outside and learn about the environment near where they live and see it from a different perspective,” said Amy Groom, a teacher at Willow Oaks school in East Palo Alto. “The students had so much fun that they didn’t want to leave when the program was over!”

Canoes In Sloughs meets California state content standards for science, history and language arts. To find out how your school can get involved, call Alicia Moore at 510-452-9261 x125. To donate funds to support Canoes In Sloughs, visit www.saveSFbay.org.

Save The Bay will continue to grow the Canoes In Sloughs program to reach more students—especially those who live in urban areas and may not have a chance to get out on the Bay.

“With Canoes In Sloughs, we are building the next generation of Bay Savers. We engage students with the Bay, teach them about the life it sustains and inspire them to take action to protect it,” said Alicia Moore, Save The Bay’s School Programs Coordinator.

—By Jessica Castelli

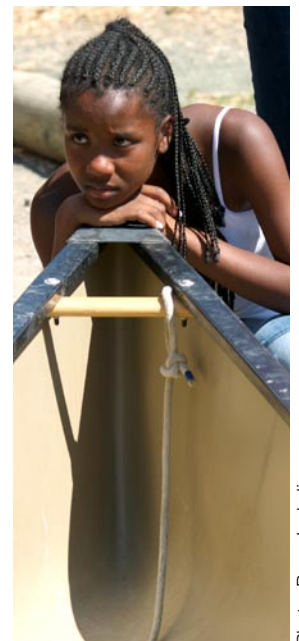


Photo: Russ Juskalian

NEWSLETTER INSIDE

To register for one of our Earth Day month cleanup events, call 510.452.9261 x109.

To find more outings and sign up online, visit saveSFbay.org



Photo: Russ Juskalian

- **April 4 and April 11—Nursery Work Days** at MLK Jr. Shoreline Park in Oakland (4/4) and Palo Alto Baylands (4/11). Help transplant, water and maintain native wetland plants.
- **April 7—Cleanup and Weeding Projects** at MLK Jr. Shoreline Park in Oakland and Palo Alto Baylands. It's spring cleaning time, and we need your help removing non-native plants and cleaning up the shoreline at these two sites.
- **April 14—Kayak and Restoration** at the Marin Islands near San Rafael. Kayak in the Bay and help restore it all, in one trip! Paddle out to the Marin Islands (normally off-limits) and help remove non-native plants. All equipment included. Cost: \$55 Save The Bay members, \$65 non-members.
- **April 14—Cleanup Day** at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Hayward/Union City. Help remove trash and non-native plants.

bay events

Help Save The Bay All Year Long by Becoming a Bay Sustainer!

By becoming a Bay Sustainer, you'll join a special circle of friends who show their unwavering commitment to Save The Bay by providing continuous support. This program allows donors to make monthly contributions directly and securely through a credit card. Tax deductible donations are made automatically each month, an arrangement that makes donating easy for you and allows

Save The Bay to keep processing costs down. Your monthly gift will help Save The Bay meet this year's goals to reduce Bay pollution, halt Bay fill, educate 10,000 students and adults on the Bay and plant 40,000 native seedlings. **To become a Bay Sustainer, contact Adrien Andre at 510-452-9261 x124, or sign up online at www.saveSFbay.org/baysustainer.**