

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

VALLEY TIMES ▸ SAN RAMON VALLEY TIMES ▸ WEST COUNTY TIMES

Gary Bogue: Save Mount Diablo donations keep coming in

By Gary Bogue, Contra Costa Times, Posted: 12/05/2010 01:00:00 AM PST

The mountain glows with life in the morning sun.

Mount Diablo update

Even though our Save Mount Diablo fundraiser ended last weekend with \$108,985.70 (\$8,985.70 over our goal!), I thought it would be fun to give you a little update today. Why? Because donations are still coming in.

I just got this note from Julie Seelen, development director at Save Mount Diablo:

"Including Thursday's mail, we were at 1,481 people donating \$119,950.70. A volunteer helping us with all of the thank-you letters pulled out her check book and wrote a check for \$49.30 -- to make it an even \$120,000!"

How good is that?

In case you haven't guessed, they have great volunteers and staff working at Save Mount Diablo!

Mount Diablo Business

I'm catching up on printing names of businesses that donated to our mountain:

- The Hockel Dental Practice, Walnut Creek.
- Central Automotive, Walnut Creek.
- Action for Animals, Oakland.
- Preceptor Theta Xi, San Ramon.
- Therapy in Motion, Livermore.
- Robinson & Associates, Walnut Creek.
- Community Concern 4 Cats, San Ramon.
- The Colonial Barber & Style Shop, Danville.
- Animal Muse Communications, Martinez.
- DBA North Bay Vinyl Repair, Walnut Creek.
- Valley Construction Company, Castro Valley.
- Reiki, Martinez.
- HOA Accounting Services, Walnut Creek.
- Ming Quong (Radiant Light), Walnut Creek.
- ParrotNanny.com, Lafayette.
- The Trail Experience, Danville. Thank you all!

Black squirrels

Lots of responses to the Dec. 1 letter asking if black squirrels are in the Bay Area. Here are a few:

- I was working in Menlo Park and saw black squirrels. The owner of the building relayed to me that Stanford University had imported the black squirrel for some type of testing. They either escaped or were released. I tend to believe it as the majority of black squirrels I have seen have been in the Menlo Park, Palo Alto area; not many other places. (Randy Nelson, cyberspace)
- We have seen a black squirrel running in backyards in South San Francisco, Avalon Park, right off Highway 280. (B., cyberspace)
- Black squirrels haven't avoided Foster City. I've seen many. (Marvin Berkson, Foster City)
- I have two black squirrels come in my backyard every day to eat the peanuts I feed them. I do not mind the peanut shell mess since my grandsons love to watch them eat. (Erv Arndt, San Mateo)
- The first black squirrel I ever saw was when I was working in Redwood City about 10 years ago. At our home in Brisbane, we had never seen any squirrels until just about five to seven years ago. Now we also see an occasional black one. (Sue, Brisbane)
- I was surprised at your response to Jane in cyberspace, on Dec. 1, that the most common color of squirrels in the Bay Area is rusty red. In all the years I have lived in San Carlos (45) I have not seen a rusty red squirrel. What I do see is an abundance of gray and black squirrels. Our bird house was taken over by a gray squirrel 12 years ago and mother squirrel has been having babies twice a year. She has produced gray as well as black squirrels. I would love to see a rusty red one!
(Vanda, San Carlos) (You can check out the big fat red one in my Benicia backyard anytime! -- Gary)