

Southern California Habitat Stewards On the Go (at home and abroad)

Habitat Stewards were active during summer 2005. On the home front, Alan Pollack, a member of the first LA area Habitat Steward training workshop transitioned from a mild mannered retiree to become “super Steward”. Since his certification as an NWF Habitat Steward, Alan has offered his to help any and all interested persons to garden for wildlife.

The Earth Systems Science, Inc. Thailand Summer 2005 project was a major activity. The REEEPP (Rural Environmental Education Enhancement Pilot Project) was launched in summer 2004 and included the introduction of Green School, Habitat, and the NASA CERES S’COOL programs. These were continued in summer 2005 with more training---for teachers, students, and the host families of the ESSI volunteers. Among the volunteers were 2 NWF Habitat Hosts (Connie Beck-Crusha, San Diego; Greg Lee, Los Angeles) and 3 Habitat Stewards (Saifon Lee, Erika Rodriguez, and Dominic Varona).

Alan Pollack is a mild mannered retiree turned “super” NWF Habitat Steward from the first ESSI training session of Spring 2004.

Alan got trained and hit the ground with both feet running. He worked over his yard, got it certified, and shared his knowledge freely with friends, neighbors, and any other folks needing help to create a habitat in their yard. He is featured in an LA Daily news article “Back yard is ecologically correct sanctuary” By Joshua Siskin. You can see it at

http://www2.dailynews.com/joshuasiskin/ci_2995733



Connie Beck-Crusha, NWF Habitat Host (San Diego) conducting compost training at Ban Na Fa Elementary School during the Summer 2005 Thailand Volunteer trip as part of the REEEPP (Rural Environmental Education Pilot Project) organized by ESSI (Earth Systems Science, Inc.). The training included teachers and students as well as the host families for the ESSI volunteers.

Saifon Lee, NWF Habitat Steward and ESSI Director of Programs, reviews the Sheet Composting lesson she lead for the Na Fa Elementary School students, teachers, and ESSI volunteer host families during the Summer 2005 REEEPP effort. She went to school here as a child. REEEPP was created in an effort to “give back” to her community.



Greg Lee, NWF Habitat Host (Los Angeles) and ESSI CEO/co-founder, conducts the non-toxic pest control segment during the Summer 2005 Thailand volunteer REEEPP effort. He spent 5 summer trips (1993-1998) studying the conditions in northern Thailand before launching his first community-based environmental education project in 1999 - 2002 through the LA Geographical Society which evolved to the current REEEPP effort.

Erika Rodriguez, ESSI Sr. Team Leader and NWF Habitat Steward received a gift from Na Fa Elementary School in appreciation for her volunteer training in the Green School and Habitat programs. She took the lead in training teachers and students in the ESSI Geographic Systems Model game as well as assisted in all aspects of REEEPP. Erika is also a



former Geography student of Greg Lee and was in the first Habitat Steward training group in Los Angeles.



Dominic Varona, NWF Habitat Steward and ESSI Volunteer, trained Na Fa Elementary School students and teachers the “Recycling Game” as part of the Green School Program under REEEPP. He was enrolled in Greg Lee’s geography class and took part in the first Habitat Steward training workshop held in the Los Angeles area.

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