

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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Gary Bogue: We met our goal! You raised \$108,985.70 for Mt. Diablo!

By Gary Bogue, Contra Costa Times, Posted: 11/30/2010 01:00:00 AM PST

winter's coldest day
squirrels and birds all atwitter
enjoying the sun
-- by Nona Mock Wyman, haikuyun, Walnut Creek

WE DID IT!

Was there ever any doubt that we'd raise \$100,000 for Save Mount Diablo? Of course not!
I just got this GREAT letter for you from Save Mount Diablo:

Dear Gary:

Results are in: 1,362 of your readers, all caring deeply about protecting the majestic landscapes of Mount Diablo, responded to your request. They sent in their gifts along with many wonderful notes.

And together they did it! We raised \$108,985.70 -- more than the \$100,000 Save Mount Diablo needed to preserve Viera—North Peak forever and keep our land preservation work moving forward.

Wow! We all had at least one more thing to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

For the past several weeks, our staff and volunteers have been reading the notes that supporters sent in with their checks and we are encouraged and inspired by their kind words.

One of them quoted John Denver:

"You do the thing that you can do that is an expression of who you are, and an expression of your sense of relationship to nature, to the environment. You do the thing that you can do, I'll do the thing that I can do, and we'll try to get these people to do what they can do, and together we can save ourselves." In this case you did your thing, people responded and together we can save a mountain!

More good news: Since you started the fundraiser several weeks ago, we have been able to sign two more purchase agreements to preserve another 60 acres of beautiful trees, shrubs and creek and home to all kinds of critters.

Next year, Save Mount Diablo will be celebrating its 40th anniversary and we are energized by the outpouring of support from the community.

We will continue to preserve land through acquisition, defend Mount Diablo and its foothills from threats of development, clean up and restore the natural habitat for the great variety of wildlife so that all of us can continue to enjoy the mountain we all call "home."

Thanks again to you and your readers for making a difference by supporting Save Mount Diablo and its work to protect the mountain now and for the future.

Ron Brown, Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo

Dear Ron:

Didn't I tell you that my readers are the greatest?

There aren't enough words in the dictionary to tell you how much all my readers mean to me. They care about the mountain, the environment, open space, wildlife, pets, and all the other things it's important to care about, including each other.

That's why writing this column is so much fun. It makes my day, every day.

Thank you, dear readers, for being there.

I'll finish printing the names of "Business for Mount Diablo" members who donated to our cause in my other columns this week. And I'm sure more donations will keep trickling in for a bit so I'll have a quick little update in Sunday's column.

Again, my thanks to all!