

## **Santa Cruz River Clean-Up**

The Friends of the Santa Cruz River, the Anza Trail Coalition and members of the community gathered to clean up the Santa Cruz River near Tubac last fall. Volunteers removed 64 tires and loaded five dumpsters-enough to fill a 1600 square foot house with three feet of plastic bottles and Styrofoam.

Piles of debris and trash such as Styrofoam and plastic bottles wash down the Santa Cruz River each year and gather into large dams, dubbed bottles dams by many locals. Several of these dams accumulate along the river and community organizations work to rid the river of these each year. The piles of garbage are not only an eyesore but are harmful to aquatic life as well. This year, an unusually large amount of Styrofoam made its way down the river. Much of this was removed by pitch forking it into garbage bags, hauled up a steep bank and then transported to dumpsters. Thousands of bottles were removed as well.

The Friends of the Santa Cruz River would like to thank the following folks who came out to clean up the river: Michael and Joy Anderson, Mike Burns, Bill Kader, Rachel Martinez, Jenna Medina, Jan and John Nash, Leila Pearsall, Val Simms, Birdie Stabel, Colin and Maggie Steffer, Glenn Vierras and Pine and Kelly of the Embarcadero. The Friends also thank the Anza Trail Coalition, Brasher Real Estate Inc., Crowley Capital Partners, David Grounds of Dorn Homes, Roy Ross, Tedde Scharf, Victor Gabilondo and Santa Cruz County Public Works.

Pictured left to right: Rachel Martinez, Colin Steffer, Jenna Medina, Mike Burns, Michael Anderson, Val Simms, Joy Anderson, Stella the Dog, Abe, Jen Parks, Leila Pearsall, Maggie Steffer. Not pictured: Murray Bolesta, John and Jan Nash, Sherry Sass, Birdie Stabel, Glenn Vierras and Pine and Kelly of the Embarcadero.