



## The Treasures You Find During The Earth Day Trash Bash



Employees of Riverhead Resources spent the afternoon of April 19<sup>th</sup> cleaning up the wooded areas directly behind our corporate offices north and east of Copper Creek Lake. The City of Pleasant Hill provided the group with garbage bags, buckets, gloves and grippers. Nobody is exactly sure how much trash and garbage we collected, but suffice it to say it was A LOT!

Pictured are Dawn Ver Steeg, Accounting & Payroll Specialist, holding an almost new gas can. Cal Halstead, Sales Director, riding shotgun in the retro-fitted convertible pickup. And our beloved leader, Bob Riley, looking out the pickup door window – beer can in hand.

“I’m always surprised by what we find during our annual Earth Day Trash Bash,” Bob said. “My father used to bring a trash bag with him on his daily walks and bring it back full. He taught me well. My dream, as I follow in his footsteps, is to bring it back empty. I am grateful to all of the staff members that pitched in to help clean up the area.”

Earth Day, founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was first organized in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water, and soil pollution. It is usually celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, but some prefer to celebrate Earth Day on March 21<sup>st</sup>, during the spring equinox.

Senator Nelson was moved to action in 1969, after he witnessed damage done by a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. He announced the idea for a “national teach-in on the environment” to the national media.

On April 22, 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment.

Earth Day 1970 achieved support from Republicans and Democrats, as well as every socio-economic background imaginable. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. “It was a gamble,” Gaylord recalled, “but it worked.”



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