



# Lodi Recreation and Parks Department

125 N. Stockton Street, Lodi, CA 95240

333-6742 or 333-6744 Field/Facility Conditions

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathy Grant or Steve Dutra

**FOR RELEASE ON:**

IMMEDIATE



### LODI LAKE NATURE AREA DOCENTS TURN TWENTY! *New Docent Training scheduled for February 20 - 22, 2007*

The City of Lodi's Parks Department is pleased to announce the 20th birthday of the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docent Council. The Lodi Lake Nature Area Docents' volunteer naturalist program has been serving the City of Lodi since January 1986. The Lodi Lake Nature Area, deeded to the City in 1977, borders on the Lower Mokelumne River at Lodi Lake Park and features a 58-acre riparian forest area with marked nature trails. Over the years, Lodi Lake Nature Area Docents have provided interpretive nature tours to more than 20,000 school children.

Docents who received recognition from the City of Lodi for 20 years of consecutive service included charter members Kathleen and Jay Bell, Arilee Pollard, and Dale Prohaska. Also honored were Bill Bjorquist - 19 years, Kathy Grant - 19 years, Colleen Molfino - 13 years, Janet Graham - 7 years, Grover Bethards - 7 years, Norm and Toni Walker - 7 years, Mary Fuhs - 5 years, Virginia Moore - 4 years, Dr. Bob Stahmer - 3 years. Newest recruits, Thomas Goad, Sr. and Kellie Macki, joined the group in 2006.

The program began as a partnership between the City of Lodi Parks Department and the Lodi Unified School District Science Curriculum Department, who through grant monies developed a nature trail, interpretive maps, and a docent training manual. The partnership continues today with LUSD Science Curriculum staff providing docent training, while the City of Lodi Parks Department provides program implementation. Classroom teachers schedule tours for their classes through the City of Lodi. Docents then escort students on interpreted tours along the nature trails. These field study tours compliment classroom science

instruction. Recent involvement of City of Lodi Public Works has added watershed education to support the City of Lodi's street stormwater permit.

Qualifications for volunteers to join the docents include the ability to walk the 1 ½ mile loop, a love for children and the outdoors, and also must be able to pass a fingerprinting and background check. Docents lead an average of four tours per month between the hours of 9:00 AM- Noon. No previous training in science is required.

Regular docent meetings occur on the second Monday of each month from 7:00-8:45 PM at the Lodi Public Library. Continued training and guest speakers are the focus of these meetings. The public is always welcome.

New docent recruitment and training has also been scheduled for February 20, 21, and 22, 2007, from 4:00-6:30 PM at the Parks Office located at 111 N. Stockton St. The public is welcome to attend.

For more information about the docents, docent training or to schedule a tour, please call 209.368.1012.

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