

# SPECIAL FRUIT TREE PLANTING EDITION

September 2011

Photos By: Brian Olson



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**Boy Scout Troop 6,**  
Sponsored by the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department

- John Plant, Scoutmaster
- Donna Stoneman, Assistant Scoutmaster
- Skylar Stoneman, Senior Leader
- Jeren Stoneman, Assistant Scoutmaster
- Jason Newman
- Justin Renner
- Nathan Martin

**Rio Dell Play Group**  
Ages 0-5 with parent  
Free, with Snack  
Fridays~ 10:00-Noon  
95 Center Street  
Call 764-5239

Kathy Frye of the Rio Dell Play Group provided daycare while parents volunteered for the work day.

On Sunday, July 24th, over 50 Humboldt County residents came together to help plant a fruit tree orchard in Rio Dell, in support of their local food pantry. The orchard was provided by the Dreyer's Fruit Bars and the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation's (FTPF) nationwide program, *Communities Take Root*. The program is an online competition that gives away 20 orchards to the communities with the highest votes. The competition was stiff, with 125 non profits competing for these 20 orchards.

Redwood Memorial Hospital's Rio Dell Community Garden, a program of the Rio Dell Community Resource Center, applied for this opportunity, after learning about it from Food For People's gleaner, Jason Whitley. Rio Dell is one of 6 locations in the state of California that was approved to participate in this competition, that began on May 15th. With four voting periods, the program awards fruit tree orchards to the top 5 highest voted communities in each period. In the 2nd voting period, which ended July 1st, the Rio Dell Community Garden came in 5th place (10th overall), with 26,366 votes!

"We were competing against much larger cities with higher populations, but our successful campaign brought in the necessary votes to win our fruit tree orchard," says Brian Olson, coordinator of the community garden. The community garden is a collaborative effort, involving the Rio Dell Baptist Church, which provides the land, the Chamber of Chamber of Commerce, which helps to offset the insurance costs, the City of Rio Dell, which provides the free water spigot and Redwood Memorial Hospital's Rio Dell Community Resource Center, which coordinates the use and management of the garden.

Volunteers began arriving at 11:30 a.m. on July 24th, to enjoy a hot dog barbecue before the work would begin. At noon, a tree auger provided and operated by Allen Terry, began to prepare holes for 19 trees. Shortly after, Lauren de la Parra of Dreyer's, Brian Olson, Resource Coordinator for St. Joseph Health System - Humboldt County, and the FTFP's arborist, Rico Montenegro spoke to the volunteers about the *Communities Take Root* program, the vision for the community garden and orchard and informing the volunteers on how the day would proceed.

Brian Olson was joined by Jason Whitley of Food For People, Clif Clendenen, District Supervisor and Julie Woodall, Rio Dell's Mayor, in a tree planting ceremony, which kicked off the day's work. All volunteers got a chance to get their hands dirty, by beginning to plant the trees and then adding mulch and amendments, which were provided by David Byrnes, local arborist and owner of *That Tree Guy*. Afterwards, several crews of volunteers worked on installing deer fencing, planting vegetable starts and laying out the irrigation for the newly planted orchard.

Volunteers enjoyed a day of sunshine, food, drink, Dreyer's fruit bars and knowing that they were part of addressing food security issues here on the North Coast, and at the same time, meeting their dear neighbors. Most these people not only helped to put these trees in the ground, but also voted online daily for Rio Dell to win the fruit tree orchard through the *Communities Take Root* program.

The work day concluded with a horticulture workshop provided by the FTFP's arborist. Mr. Montenegro spoke of the importance of pruning and watering over the next few years, when we should see the new orchard produce its first harvest. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation's website [www.ftpf.org](http://www.ftpf.org) has many free informational resources to help see this and other orchards flourish. In addition, Mr. Montenegro plans to visit again to help provide volunteers the tools and knowledge needed to help insure this orchard is a benefit to the community for many generations to come.

We hope you enjoy this special insert for the September issue of the Rio Dell Scotia News. We wanted to share these photos of the event, and give thanks to everyone who voted and helped plant our orchard! Together, we are working on creating healthiest communities here on the North Coast!



Daniel and Nick of Belak Construction transported the trees and berry bushes down to Rio Dell from Mad River Gardens in Arcata



Left to right: Lonney Bones, Colby Bones, and a California Conservation Corps member work together to lay out the irrigation line that will be used to water the entire orchard

**What Did We Plant?**

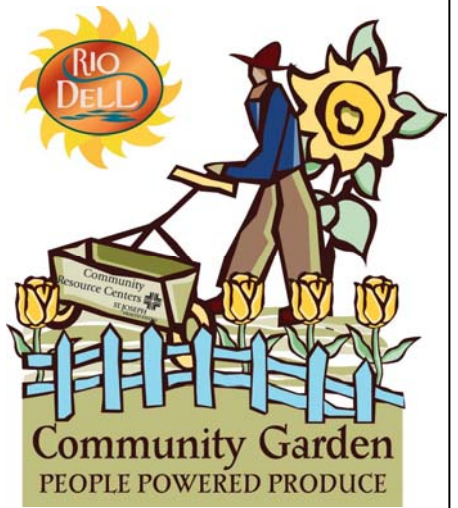
The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation and Dreyer's Fruit Bars provided us with:

**19 Fruit Trees:**

- Peach:** Frost, Q-I-8; **Cherry:** Craig's Crimson, Compact Stella;
- Plums:** Beauty, Bavays Green Gauge; **Figs:** Osborne Prolific, Brown Turkey Improved;
- Apple:** Gala, Einshemer, Honeycrisp, Mutsu, Winter Banana;
- Apricot:** Puget Gold; **Persimmon:** Hachya, Izu;
- Pear:** Warren, Blake's Pride, and a 3 in 1 Asian Shinseiki/Hosui/20th Century.

**12 Berry Plants:**

- Thonless Boysenberry (2), Blueberry (2), Huckleberry (2), Amity Raspberry (2)
- Triple Crown (2), Tayberry (2)





Over 50 volunteers helped to plant 19 fruit trees, 12 berry bushes, vegetable starts and install an irrigation system and deer fencing

### Tree Planting Ceremony



From left to right: Brian Olson (Community Garden Coordinator), Lauren de la Parra (Dreyer's), Jason Whitley (Food For People), Julie Woodall (Rio Dell Mayor) and Clif Clendenen (District Supervisor)



Roger Golec of the Humboldt County Office of Education acts as barbecue master to help feed the day's volunteers, before he himself put on the gloves



Resource Coordinator, Brian Olson, enjoys the sunshine and accomplishment of helping to bring fruit trees to Rio Dell



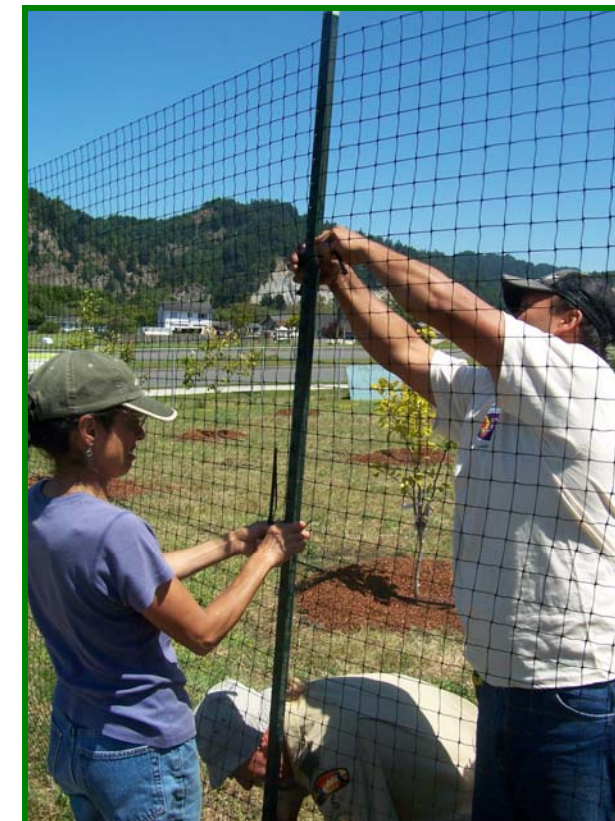
19 fruit trees now located below the community garden



Clif Clendenen (left) pictured with the FTFP's arborist, Rico Montenegro



Allen Terry provided and operated the 20'' auger that prepared the holes for our trees to be planted in



Dorina Espinoza helps with installing a fence barrier to keep deer out of the fruit tree orchard



A generous donation of vegetable starts from Pierson Building Center gave reason to play in the garden as well



Left to right: Janette Garrison, Margarita Lopez and Jorge Matias from St. Joseph Health System assist with the planting



David and Kristy Byrnes of "That Tree Guy" arranged for a yard of mulch, Happy Frog (organic amendments) and the auger