

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

October 2012, Pacific Islands Area

Celebrating USDA 150th Anniversary With Earth Team Volunteers

Nearly 20 Earth Team Volunteers and the Saipan field office staff in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) celebrated the 150th anniversary of the USDA by removing unwanted weeds around trees that were planted as part of the Laolao Bay Revegetation Project and enjoying a barbeque afterward.

The Laolao Bay Revegetation Project is a component of a three year, ARRA funded coastal habitat restoration project aimed at reducing sedimentation into the Laolao Bay marine environment as well as re-establishing in the area as a forest habitat with native plants.

The majority of the Earth Team volunteers are members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Organization (ENRO) from Northern Marianas College, Saipan and Northern Islands Soil & Water Conservation District (S&NISWCD), and Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The volunteers, along with the CNMI Saipan Field Office Staff, hiked up to the planting area armed with sickles, machete, and cutters to remove grass growing around and harming the young trees in the area. Volunteers and staff enjoyed the activity regardless of the rain and muddy conditions.



Earth Team Volunteers and Saipan Field Office staff group photo. Great job team!

After the maintenance activity NRCS Saipan Field Office staff along with the volunteers and SWCD celebrated the Asian American Pacific Islander's Month by enjoying a lunch Party-Q style (small lunch bbq) hosted by NRCS Staff. The "Party-Q" lunch was held at the Laolao Beach.

Attendees were able to enjoy the different Asian and Pacific Island dishes prepared by staff and volunteers. Asian American Pacific Island dishes contributed included; fresh lumpia, different sausages, eggplant with marinated sauce, two kinds of cooked rice, local pastries, and different marinade styled BBQ.



Asian and Pacific Islands dishes were served for lunch to volunteers and office staff.

The team getting ready to work. Rain or shine, let the clean-up begin!



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit www.usda.nrcs.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.