



# CEDARS BRANCHES

THE CEDARS OF MARIN

Fall 2005

## Partnering with Marin Conservation Corps – A Win-Win!

A cluttered storage area in the weavers' barn was cleared to make space for furniture painting. The barnyard grazing area at The Cedars' Textile Arts Center is now enclosed with a brand new fence. These improvements were made by two youth crews this summer from Project ReGeneration of the Marin Conservation Corps. The only question was who benefited more, TAC clients or the students!

Middle and high school students compete to participate in Project ReGeneration 5 days a week during the summer months. Time is spent in a combination of outdoor education, community service, and recreational activities throughout Marin County. Participating kids, aged 11-17, earn a stipend, learn about the environment,

learning about organic gardening, animal husbandry, and weaving. Youth crews come to understand an ethic of service by helping both the environment and our population.

Anthony Capioli of the Marin Conservation Corps coordinated Project ReGeneration's engagements with The Cedars this summer and he said it was one of the most successful collaborations that he's seen. "I watched a group of our students sit down with Cedars clients to get to know them better. Their comfort level was impressive." Capioli spoke about the great job that the kids did digging post-holes and putting up the new fencing. "The project was more technically challenging than many of our projects, and the staff and clientele at the Textile Arts Center was incredibly hospitable, accommodating, and



develop new skills and work ethics, cooperate and befriend those from diverse backgrounds, and gain self-confidence. Work projects are at public recreation areas as well as with local non-profit agencies.

The Cedars is a particularly good partner for Project ReGeneration because the young people benefit from exposure to adults with developmental disabilities as well as

appreciative."

When asked if this was a one-time partnership, Capioli said that he hopes to be back at the Textile Arts Center with youth work crews next summer. The Cedars' application was selected from amongst numerous qualified proposals and, rest assured, there will be more work to be done next year!