

DIFF's Well-organized Feeding Team

In the ten-plus years DIFF has been in existence our volunteer cat feeding team has grown from a handful of founders to 51 at the end of 2021! This by far is DIFF's largest group, and on their appointed days they fan out over Dataw to take breakfast to their waiting charges.

It takes coordination to ensure that these daily rounds go smoothly, with each feeder, literally, working from the same page. The DIFF board member who created the pages for each of our feeding stations is Ingrid Schweitzer. When she stepped down from the position of executive director she still wanted to remain active on the board so she created the job of trainer for new volunteers as well as the veterans. This required a set of instructions which she prepared in detail, and it is available in the Racquet Ball Center to any feeder for reference.

Some new members contacted Diff to join, and Dataw's Carnival of Clubs in September 2021, netted an extensive list of potential volunteers. Ingrid held six-plus training sessions for new volunteers and, beginning on Jan. 1, 2021, the updated list of feeders and the schedules that she had prepared took effect. With this greater attention to detail there is no confusion on who feeds where and when, and we can be sure all our community cats are fed daily. And if a substitute feeder is needed there is a list of subs with contact information at hand. Of our total of 51 feeders, 21 are regularly scheduled and 20 are stand-by, with ten of the regular feeders also on the substitute list.

Not included in the regular feeders group are the many Dataw residents who feed one or more of our community cats at their homes. They are all very much appreciated for their care and concern and we are sure the kitties show their gratitude by keeping their adopted homes free of mice - truly a "win-win" situation!