



Ojai Valley Green Coalition

Monthly E-News

October 2009

This Month's Community Presentation: Come Celebrate the Coalition's Third Birthday!

The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is now three years old, and you're invited to help us celebrate on Wednesday, October 28, from 7 to 8:30 P.M. at Chaparral High School Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue in Ojai. In addition to toasting (with sparkling cider,) the start of our fourth year, we'll all be enjoying delicious organic cupcakes.

Bring along with you any questions that you may have regarding our local environment, and also bring your visions for Ojai's most sustainable future.

The evening will feature the unveiling of the Coalition's draft strategic plan and vision statement. You'll also meet the Board of Directors and get to hear a few

words from each of the Committee Chairs. They'll share with you where Ojai and the Coalition have been, and invite you to make plans with them for where valley residents want to go next in the progress toward a green and sustainable Ojai.

A new word, "glocalization," describes the notion of thinking globally and acting locally. Attendees at the celebration will see a continuous display of PowerPoint slides showing scenes from

various and typical "glocal" Coalition events, including the annual Coastal Clean-up Day, the 2008 Green Home Tour, and this year's *Mad City Chickens* documentary.

An open-mic session and a suggestion box are included in the plans, to give all of the evening's attendees an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.

Executive Director Deborah Pendrey comments, "We've come a long way in

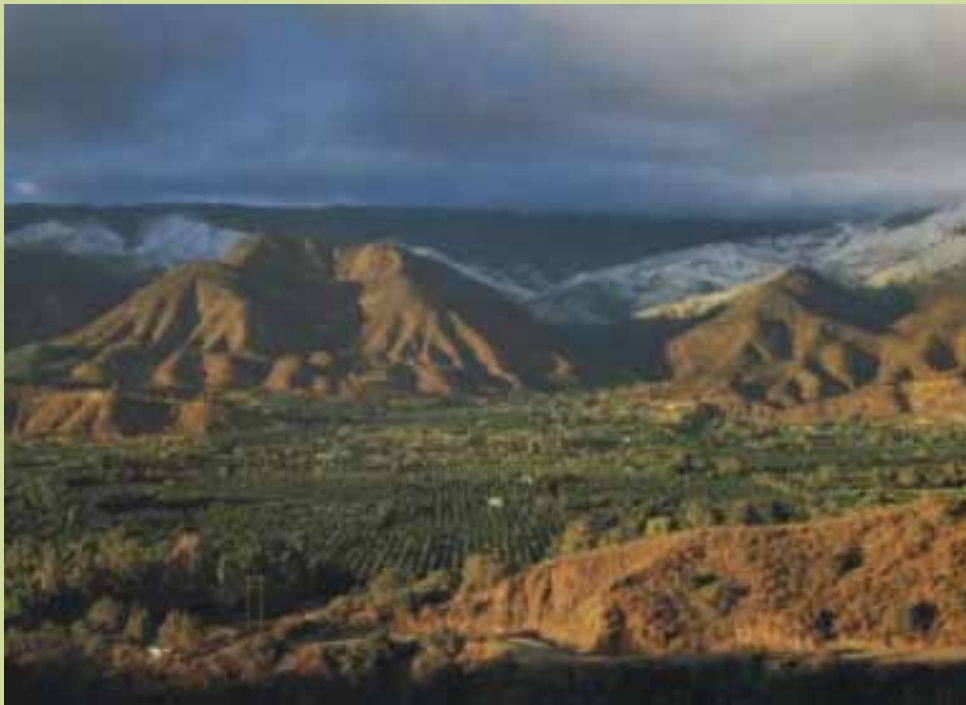


Photo of the Ojai Valley by Bruce Ditchfield, © 2001

our three short years, but we still have a long way to go.

"Come be a part of the solution. Join us as we celebrate, take stock, and move forward toward greater sustainability here in the Ojai Valley!" 🌍

Two Green Thumbs Up!

Hurrah for the [Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center](#) for promoting the use of cloth diapers! This not only reduces a baby's exposure to chemicals but, according to *Consumer Reports*, eliminates 4,000 to 6,000 disposable diapers (per baby) in the landfill, resulting in a savings of \$1,500 to \$2,000 for each baby. The Nan Tolbert Center also encourages breastfeeding, which definitely helps to reduce society's collective carbon footprint.

And two more thumbs up to the [Ojai Trolley Service!](#) The next time you see a trolley drive by, check out the front grill. The City's Public Works Department has installed bike racks on all trolleys. Cyclists can now ride their bikes from home to the trolley stop, transfer to the Gold Coast bus at the Y, and then continue on to Ventura and points beyond.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ellen Hall, President
- Dale Hanson, Secretary
- Caryn Bosson, Treasurer
- Deborah Pendrey, Executive Director
- Sue Broidy, Director
- Tyler Suchman, Director
- Ken Wright, Director

NONVOTING MEMBERS:

- Cindy Cante, Representative of Supervisor Steve Bennett's Office
- Steve Olson, Representative of the City of Ojai

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(805) 653-8445
ojaivalleygreencoalition.org

This e-newsletter is produced by the Communications and Publicity Committee



The Oak Creek Restoration in Libbey Park: An October Update from the Watershed Committee



The Watershed Committee is now seeking volunteers from the community for this riparian restoration project, to remove non-natives and replace them with new plantings.

Brian Holly, Chair of the OVGWC Watershed Committee, reports that a schedule has been set and October will be dedicated to community outreach and education. Ruth Cooper of the Communications and Publicity Committee is helping to spearhead these efforts, along with Deborah Pendrey and the other members of the Watershed Committee. Schools and youth organizations will be formally invited to participate, regular updates will be posted in the *Ojai Valley News* and internal Coalition communications, and information will be developed to promote the project at community events, starting with Ojai Day.

Save your November Saturdays for this important community project! The specifics

will be detailed in our November *E-News*, but here's a preview: November 7, volunteer training, an opening ceremony, and the first removals of non-native plants; November 14 and 21, further non-native removal; and replanting will begin in January.

If you're not on the Watershed Committee list and want to participate in the project planning and/or the removal and new plantings in Oak Creek, please send your contact information to coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com.

This project is made possible with funding from the Earth Island Institute and support from the California Coastal Conservancy and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. 🌱



Thinking in Green

Deborah Pendrey
OVGC Executive Director



A Follow-up on Ojai's Participation in the 2009 Cleanup Day

On Saturday morning, September 19, about 50 adults and young people met to clean up litter at various locations in our community, coordinated by the Ojai Valley Green Coalition. That's more than a twofold increase from last year's volunteer turnout, when 20 of us cleaned up at and around Matilija Canyon Road.

The Coalition Comes of Age

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

—Barack Obama

Membership: the state of being a member. Member: one of the persons who compose a social group (especially individuals who have joined and participate in a group organization).

Both of these words are classified as nouns, but I prefer to think of them as verbs, because ideally a member of any organization is actively engaged in supporting that organization with time, energy, money, and other resources. And that's the kind of membership that the Ojai Valley Green Coalition is now calling you to: action-verb membership!

As it enters its fourth year, the Coalition is officially becoming a dues-based organization. This will keep the monthly presentations and other educational events coming, allow us to develop long-term, sustainable projects like the Oak Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration Project now starting, and support us in lobbying for policy changes that will make a positive difference in our lives and the lives of generations to come. Also, quite frankly, a few of us volunteers give the Coalition more hours than we give our main, paying jobs; those efforts, too, need to be supported so that they can be sustained.

I hope the mission and dedication of the Coalition volunteers means something to you, and that you won't hesitate to go to our website, www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org/donors.shtml, and upgrade yourself

from a community member who receives our communications and volunteers time when you can, to a monthly sustaining or annual supporting member who receives our communications and continues to volunteer time when you can.

The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is at a crossroads. From here, we either continue to grow and keep moving up the path of community sustainability and resilience or we just keep sitting here at the fork. We haven't presented ourselves as a membership dues-based organization till now, and I'll be honest: this really shows in the donations we receive.

Well, we're a dues-based organization now. So please join with us as an Ojai Valley Green Coalition contributing member. Let's set this example for our children, as we preserve and ecologically enhance the Ojai Valley . . . our valley . . . for future generations.

Have you marked your calendar to attend our Go Green, Ojai! museum exhibit reception on December 13? When the exhibit opens on December 10, countless volunteer hours will have been donated, especially from our president, Ellen Hall. She is acting as the exhibit coordinator and with her museum director experience, we know this will be a first class exhibit. Please come out to support the Coalition and the Ojai Valley Museum. We'll have more details in November and December. 🌿

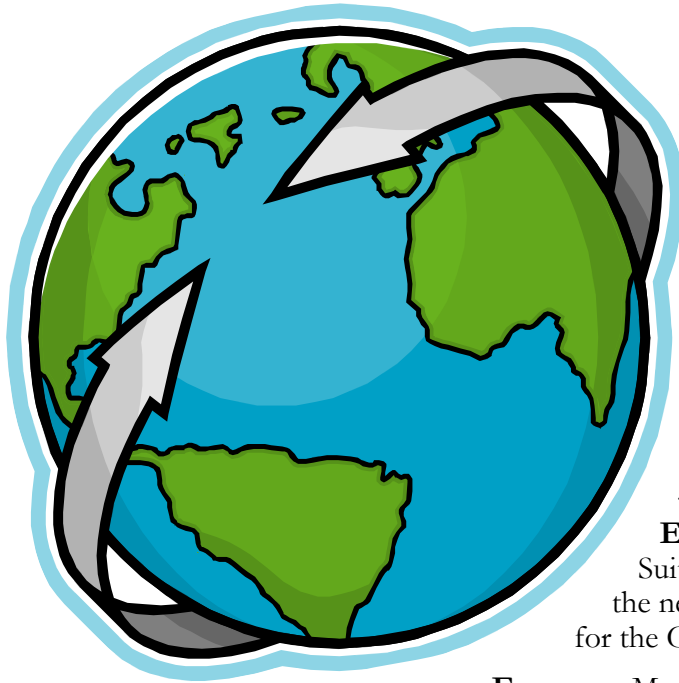


The information we turned in for the California Coastal Commission's statewide press release for this year's Coastal Cleanup Day included our having collected 715 pounds of trash, 65 pounds of recyclables, and 20 pounds of hazardous waste. We thought the beanbag chair we picked up was the most unusual item, and the most unusual occurrence was a baptismal service happening at the popular swimming hole across from the rock quarry on Highway 33.

A special thank-you to Harrison Industries, who again supplied dumpsters and hauling services, and to the City of Ojai, the Ojai Unified School District, and Caltrans, for working with us! 🌿

What's Going on in the Coalition Committees

“Knowledge, Put into Action, Is Power”



Building and Construction - Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. The committee is partnering with the Energy Committee on a residential efficiency-evaluation program, and also helping to design and build a cutaway green home display for the Coalition's forthcoming Ojai Valley Museum exhibit.

Communications and Publicity - Meets on the 1st Thursday at 6:30 P.M., 202 W. Aliso Street. The committee's ongoing projects include website maintenance and the creating and editing of flyers, emails, display ads, radio interviews, this monthly e-newsletter, and letters to the editor for the *Ojai Valley News*, plus a national media campaign being spearheaded by Ellen Johnson and preparations for this winter's exhibit at the Ojai Valley Museum.

Event Planning - Meets on the 1st Monday at 5:00 P.M., 221 E. Matilija Street, in Suite J. Call 653-8445 for confirmation. The committee is working on details for the next monthly community presentation on October 28, and is continuing to plan for the Coalition's forthcoming museum exhibit.

Energy - Meets on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. Among other projects, the committee members are partnering with the Building and Construction Committee to start a home energy-efficiency evaluation program.

Environmental Health - Meetings have been temporarily suspended, as the Committee Chair is presently working with the OUSD school district's Green Team (see page 6 of this issue). Call Marleen Luckman at (805) 279-2101 for more information.

Executive Committee - Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. Board Members and Committee Chairs make up this committee, which has been working on a strategic plan for the Coalition.

Food and Agriculture - Meeting dates and locations vary. Email Dulanie Ellis-La Barre at dulanie@sbcglobal.net for information on this committee or on its Grow Food Party Crew and Culinary Club subcommittees.

Resources - Meets on the 2nd Monday at 5:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. The committee has proposed an alternative holiday gift: "Buy a Coalition membership for a friend" and is creating a unified calendar for every income-generating event. Besides fundraising, its ongoing responsibilities include obtaining grants and keeping tabs on the Coalition's budget.

Transportation - Meetings have been suspended and there is no committee business at this time, as a new Committee Chair is needed. If this is an area of interest to you, please leave a message for the Coalition's Executive Director, Deborah Pendrey, at (805) 653-8445 for more information.




Waste Management - There will be no October meeting. The committee meets on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building, and will meet next on November 12 to coordinate the recycling of old lights from the holiday light exchange happening in late November and the e-waste event scheduled for January 9. The next Day Without a Bag event has been postponed until the spring of 2010 for lack of sufficient sponsors.

Watershed - Meets on the 1st Wednesday at 7:00 P.M., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. Email Brian Holly at brian@biorc.com for further information. The committee has been awarded a grant by the Community Wetland Restoration Grant program for a creek-restoration project that will eradicate invasive non-native plants and restore the ecosystem of the Oak Creek riparian corridor within Libbey Park (see page 2).



You are invited to attend an Introduction to:
HOME-SCALE PERMACULTURE
 in Downtown Ojai with **David R. White PhD**

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

-  *Zones, Guilds*
-  *On-site resources*
-  *Stacking functions*
-  *Compost*
-  *Mulching and grey water use*

Saturday October 24th,
9am to 2pm
 includes lunch

Limited to 20 participants.
 \$40 per person

SPONSORED BY



growfoodpartycrew@yahoo.com

OR CALL (805) 646-0477



On Ojai Day, Ride Your Bicycle to the Bike Valet Service

Saturday, October 17
 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
 Ojai Library parking lot

Hosted by the
 Ojai Valley Green Coalition

In and Around the Valley

October 10, Landscaping with Native Plants, 1:30 P.M., Ojai Community Garden, ojaigarden.com

October 10, Native Seeds of the Ventura River, 9 A.M., Ventura River Preserve – Oso trailhead, ovlc.org

October 17, Ojai Day bike valet service at the library parking lot and booth in the new “Going Green” area

October 24, An Introduction to Home-Scale Permaculture with David White. See further information at left.

October 24, Fall Native Plant Sale, 10 A.M. at the Ojai Valley Museum, ojaivalleymuseum.org

October 24, Household Waste and E-Waste Collection Day. Call (805) 658-4323 for an appointment.

October 26, Sustainable Nurseries Case Study by Houweling Nurseries, 5:30 P.M., USGBC C4 at Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara Street in Ventura

October 28, The Coalition’s three-year birthday party, 7 P.M., at Chaparral High School Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue. See article on page 1.

Coming Up

November: A Holiday Light Exchange, Sunday Farmers Market

November: Ojai Creek Restoration work begins; see page 2.

The Ojai Unified School District's Green Committee

The Ojai Unified Green Committee is funded by a two-year grant, awarded to Food for Thought in collaboration with the Ojai Unified School District. The committee is made up of staff, administrators, parents, and specialists working together to “green” the eight schools in the district through researching, evaluating, and recommending changes that could result in cost-effectiveness while improving learning and work environments. Many teachers in the district have participated in environmental projects with their students.

During the first year of the grant, the district was able to make significant electricity savings through the installation of PowerSave features on a large number of computers programmed to automatically shut down each evening. Energy and water audits have been done, and a SMART water system installed that monitors the weather and adjusts the amount of water used in irrigation as temperature and rainfall vary. Vacancy sensors have been put in rooms wherever possible, and timers have been installed on heating and air conditioning systems. Also, the installation of solar panels is being explored.

The Food Services Department has switched to recyclable containers, reviewed menus and the way that food is served, and made efforts to incorporate meals that are more like home-cooked. Waste stream audits were done at five elementary schools, in the fall and again in the spring, showing a 30 percent reduction in lunch trash over the course of the year. (The OUSD waste stream project is profiled on the Green School Initiative's website greenschools.net.) At Matilija Junior High, 100 students participated in school-wide education efforts, and the money raised from recycling was donated to charities.

An Integrated Pest Management Plan, modeled after Santa Barbara and Ventura Unified School Districts' plans, is in process. The OUSD Green Team is fortunate to have a local landscape architect on the team who is a licensed pesticide advisor. The proposed IPM Plan will outline nontoxic and mechanical approaches to be considered

before using the least toxic pesticide, and will include suggested procedures for specific invasive species. The Green Team members have been researching a variety of ground squirrel/gopher control options that include repellents applied with irrigation in conjunction with trapping.

Whenever possible, the paper purchased by the district is of at least 30 percent recycled content. Narrower margins have been set in default mode on computers, double-sided copying is being done whenever possible, and ink cartridges are being purchased with recycled content and are recycled after use. A new system for recycling household batteries is also in place.

During the second year of the grant, the Green Committee is working on Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policies for the School Board to review and hopefully adopt within this school year. The Waste stream curriculum will be presented at the elementary level. Teacher training is planned for October to design new environmental projects for this year and share curriculum ideas, and one school will be selected as a pilot for a green cleaning project. Maintenance staff will be trained in the use of new line of Green Seal certified products and in the use of effective methods using dilution control and micro-fiber cloths. Grant proposals for CNG buses and safe routes to schools have been submitted, and an anti-idling policy is in the process of being instituted District-wide. The Green Committee hopes to expand its influence this year to a broader audience involving more teachers, providing more learning projects to students and sharing information and resources for parents and the community.

Marleen Luckman
Green Operations Coordinator
The Green Committee of the
Ojai Unified School District

“Leave Your Mark,” September's Community Presentation

September was Energy Efficiency (EE) Month, and the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation was wrapping up a summer-long EE educational grant program, so the Coalition hosted an OVYF ceremony on September 19. The program's participating youths quizzed the audience on its EE awareness and dressed a constructed tree with the more than 900 leaf-shaped pledges for which they had gathered signatures from valley residents over the summer. To help further our knowledge, the OVGC Building and Construction Committee Chair, Tim Broderick, gave a presentation on energy efficiency, as Tim is an Energy Star Partner, a California Certified HERS Rater, and a Thermal Imaging Technician. Tim presented the easiest changes for home dwellers to make, at low cost or no cost, to conserve energy and save money:

1. Install EE lighting.
2. Install low-flow plumbing.
3. Adjust thermostats.
4. Turn off lights and appliances when they're not in use.
5. Clean heating and air-conditioning systems and change filters.
6. Use windows and fans to move air.
7. Run dishwashers and clothes washers only with full loads.
8. Run large appliances on off-peak hours when electricity is cheaper.
9. Use window shades to block the sun.
10. Lower the temperature on water heaters.
11. Insulate water heaters.
12. Close fireplace dampers where carbon monoxide build-up is not an issue.
13. Weatherize (small leaks are like having a three-foot hole letting energy out).

Then Tim moved on to steps for those who want to progress to more ambitious projects:

1. Install Energy Star appliances.
2. Get an energy evaluation.
3. Seal the building envelope.
4. Seal duct leakage.
5. Add insulation.
6. Maintain all the building's systems.

One important step we can take, said Tim, is to understand and manage our utility bills.

Resources to help us with all these steps are: energystar.gov, fypower.org, sce.com, and socalgas.com. 🌱