



Ojai Valley Green Coalition

Monthly E-News

May 2010

This Month's Community Presentation: Thinking Like a Watershed

After April's great presentation about the Ojai Creek project, we'll be continuing the watershed theme on Wednesday, May 26—gathering again at the Chaparral Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Avenue at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Brock Dolman of the WATER Institute at the [Occidental Arts and Ecology Center](#) in Occidental, California. His theme will be "Thinking Like a Watershed," based on our speaker's popular booklet *Basins of Relations: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting and Restoring Our Watersheds*.

Brock will interpret a series of slide images about water, watersheds, patterns of human development, and restoration ideas known to support regenerative ecological integrity. He'll discuss rainwater harvesting as a strategy of water conservation, from rooftops to the broader landscape, and will expand on the ideas of conservation hydrology and low-impact development, emphasizing the need for human-development designs to move from drainage to retainage.

Instead of land-use practices designed to capture excess stormwater and convey this often-degraded resource offsite, Brock will discuss ideas for how landowners can spread, slow, and sink stormwater on their site. He'll explain how moving away from runoff to run-on land uses can result in multiple watershed

benefits such as reduced flooding, improved water quality, enhanced late-season baseflows, increased groundwater recharge for local supply, benefits to stream structure and function, enhanced instream and upland wildlife habitat, short-term and long-term economic benefits, and improved localized aesthetics.

The evening will open with the Surfrider Foundation's new short film *The Cycle of Insanity: The Real Story of Water*. This film, narrated by actress Zuleikha Robinson from the television series *Lost*, dives into the controversial problems and solutions related to water management.

The Cycle of Insanity can serve as a practical outline for those citizens who are curious about water issues. It connects the impacts of our current water-management system to coastal issues as it offers commonsense solutions that illustrate how we can move toward sustainability in water and wastewater management.

We'll be asking for a \$5 entry donation to support the work of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition and the WATER Institute, and everyone who attends will receive a copy of the Brock Dolman booklet *Basins of Relations: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting and Restoring Our Watersheds*.

For those who would like a resource for great information on our local Ventura watershed, we recommend this [EPA website](#). 



Photo of Lake Casitas courtesy of Bruce Ditchfield, © 2010.

Mind Your Rs As We Welcome These New Leaders to the Coalition!

No, not reduce, reuse, and recycle—not this time. The Coalition proudly announces its new board member, Rae Amey, and Government Liaison Work Group Chair, Renee Roth.

Rae migrated to Ojai from Los Angeles in 2008 to smell the citrus blossoms, walk the trails, and once again breathe oxygen. Upon her arrival, she recognized OVGC's critical role in co-creating vital and resilient community for the future, so she became a corporate sponsor for events. As president of Rae Amey Enterprises, Inc., Rae would like to use her expertise in grant writing, strategic and sustainability planning, and project development and management to help charter paths through Ojai's more onerous challenges

and exhilarating opportunities. She offers more than thirty years' experience working with educational and pro-social projects for a major market PBS station, an urban K-12 school district, a community college district, local and regional government agencies, educational entrepreneurs, charter schools, business clients, and organizations working on cross-cultural relations and youth development.

Rae is a cofounder of Transition Ojai, which is part of a worldwide movement to



Rae Amey

engage citizens to address the challenges of peak oil, climate change, and economic reorganization. She is also a board member for Civil Society, a 501(c)(3) organization that uses community dialogue and cultural

exchange to promote a civil society ethic.

Renee joins the OVGC with extensive experience in the public sector, providing financial systems and consulting services to government agencies. Most recently, she worked for the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and Ventura County as a project manager on financial system selection and implementation.

Prior to that, Renee helped municipalities implement financial systems for the City of Salinas and the City of Chicago, along with developing training and documentation materials on purchasing, fixed assets, and inventory control software developed by American Management Systems. She also has experience at the state government level, working with State of Oregon agencies and local governments to develop the budget and financial information needed to enter the municipal bond market to fund



Renee Roth

capital improvement projects. She formerly worked as a consultant for the City of Pasadena, assisting with the implementation of a utility billing system.

A graduate of the University of Oregon with a B.S. in Public

Policy and Government, Renee brings to the Coalition an understanding of public policies and issues, along with an ability to drive new concepts through design, planning, documentation, and ultimate implementation. As a volunteer, she has also served on the Ojai Green Schools Committee and Food for Thought, and has coordinated Art Trek volunteers at San Antonio School. 🌱

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ellen Hall, President
- Dale Hanson, Secretary
- Ken Wright, Treasurer
- Deborah Pendrey, Executive Director
- Rae Amey, Director
- Caryn Bosson, Director
- Michael Rubalcava, Director
- Tyler Suchman, Director
- Sabrina Venskus, Director
- David White, Director

NONVOTING MEMBERS:

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

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

CALIFORNIA CASH FOR APPLIANCES

Hurry—rebate program ends on May 23, 2010!

Trade in your old refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioners for **new energy-efficient models**

For more information, visit the
California Cash for Appliances website at cash4appliances.org.

Consumers can receive only one rebate on each type of appliance, on a first-come first-served basis until the funds are depleted.

Two Green Thumbs Up!

Two thumbs up to Help of Ojai for eliminating some needless trash by using ceramic plates and real coffee cups and drinking glasses for the Senior Nutrition Program at Little House. In the dish-collection efforts, some of the Little House volunteers were recruited to bring extra cups and glasses from home. The reusable dishes have reduced both the amount of waste going to the landfill and the energy needed to manufacture disposable items.

Annelle Beebe and her company Ojai International also earn two green thumbs up, for creating a clothing line that uses renewable and environmentally friendly resources. Eco-friendly fabrics such as bamboo, linen, organic cotton, and recycled polyester and tencel make up the company's two lines of thirty garment styles per year. Annelle creates multiple-purpose clothing that can be worn to work, to dinner, or to run errands, so that the wearer gets much more use out of just one garment.



Thinking in Green

Deborah Pendrey
OVGC Executive Director



If You're in a Positive Mood, Better Not Read This!

I'm madder than a wet hen, so this is not the best time for me to be writing my bit for the newsletter, but my deadline is looming.

On most weekends I spend three to four hours reading the action alerts and e-newsletters that have collected in my inbox that week, trying to understand or at least keep abreast of just a tiny fraction of the global environmental issues and challenges. I'm an emotional wreck when I get done, and—yes—usually angry.

This week, as usual, Monsanto has got my goat, along with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who stated: "It makes it more difficult for them (farmers not planting Monsanto's GMO alfalfa) to have a field of 100 percent non-genetically engineered (alfalfa), but that's not the end of the world."

Does Lee Iacocca's infamous line—"We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?"—come to mind for anyone? What is wrong with these guys!? I'm rendered almost speechless, but not quite, because there's more.

The Texas-based oil company Valero is one of the primary funders to an initiative campaign to block California AB 32 from regulating limits on CO₂, a greenhouse gas that causes climate change. The CEO of Valero is quoted as recently saying: "We are not willing to ruin our economy, our business, your lifestyle, and our country over AB-32." What a great prelude to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster, now happening right after the 40th anniversary of Earth Day! And according to what I read, the spill at its current leak rate of 200,000 gallons of oil a day will soon surpass the size of the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, and with no end in sight.

But no worries . . . there are 250 more of us born each minute on the planet, and according to the international journal *Conservation Biologist*, across the planet nearly

17,000 of the 45,000 assessed species on Earth are threatened with extinction. That should, in time, take care of everything.

Until then, I've resigned myself to trying to positively affect the unknown outcome of the human species, maintaining my sense of humor as often as possible. To that end, anyone who wants one of the 100 "Millions Against Monsanto" bumper stickers I have on order, or a two-pack of condoms with endangered species imprinted on them that I already have in my possession, give me a holler at coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com.

I'm going to go get a sip of bottled water now and cool down. (Just kidding, folks!) 🍏

A Call to Action: Get Behind the New Light Ordinance for the City of Ojai

In February and March of 2009, through the work of Energy Committee member Gail Topping, Coalition representatives attended City Council meetings and proposed a new Ojai light ordinance. The proposed ordinance can be read here: <http://www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org/Proposed%20Ojai%20light%20ordinance.pdf>.

We had expected a response from the city within six months, but staff cuts and other priorities kept it on the back burner. However, it's been a year now and it's time, we feel, to get a move on. During the last year, the need to diminish our environmental impact and increase money-saving policies at the local government level has only intensified.

As Gail so aptly put it in a recent *Ojai Valley News* guest editorial:

"It's simply about using the right amount of light, and only when and where it's needed. The ordinance has no mandatory retrofitting clause, no compliance orders, and no penalties. It can be used as a blueprint for voluntary changes to lower energy costs. It will provide a structure for the future, so that the City of Ojai and the entire valley can continue to develop with darker night skies in mind.

"Please add your support by calling or writing to our city representatives with a request for Ojai to be more light responsible . . . for the skies, for the plants and animals, for money and energy savings, and for a smaller carbon footprint."

We encourage Coalition members and all who love dark night skies to read the proposed light ordinance and then please make that call or write that letter. Contact information for City Council Members and Planning Commissioners can be found at <http://ci.ojai.ca.us>.

Plant an Oak in Ojai!



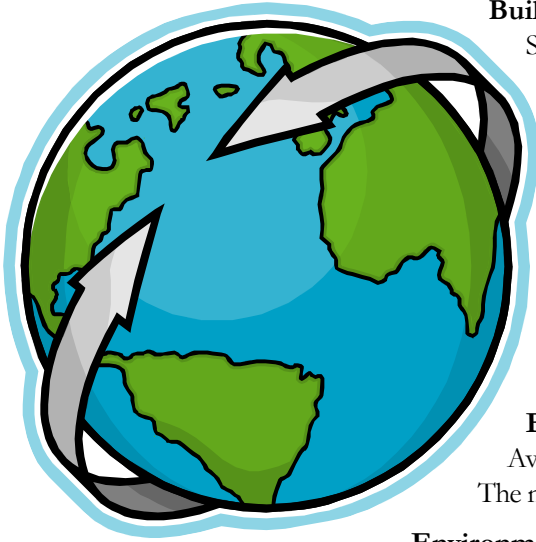
Free Potted Seedlings
Grown from Ojai Acorns

Call Angelo at (805) 500-5378



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 collaborating with Community Action of Ventura County to educate local residents about the weatherization and energy-efficiency programs now available, and continuing plans to assist in this year's Green Home & Building Tour and Trade Show.

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, and press releases, plus radio interviews, this monthly e-newsletter, and the editing of Coalition members' letters to the editor submitted to the *Ojai Valley News*.

Energy - Meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. at Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, in the conference room off the breezeway next to the Administration Building. The new Committee Chair is Shawn Jacobson.

Environmental Health - Meetings are temporarily suspended, as the Committee Chair is presently working with the OUSD school district's Green Team. Call Marleen Luckman at (805) 279-2101 for more information.

Event Planning - Meets on the 1st Monday at 5:00 P.M., 221 East Matilija Street, in Suite J. Call 669-8445 for confirmation. The committee is always working on details for the next monthly community presentation, and is currently also preparing for the reception for October's Green Home & Building Tour and Trade Show.

Food and Agriculture - Meets on the 4th Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. at Full of Beans Coffee House & Bakery, 11534 N. Ventura Avenue in Ojai. The committee is busily planning gleaned and team-gardening projects. Email Dulanie Ellis-La Barre at dulanie@sbcglobal.net for information on the Food & Ag Committee or its Grow Food Party Crew and Culinary Club subcommittees.

Government Liaison Work Group - This new startup meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 P.M., 202 W. Aliso Street, under the leadership of its new Chair, Renee Roth (see page 2).

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 is conducting a spring membership drive. Besides fundraising, its ongoing responsibilities include obtaining grants and keeping tabs on the Coalition's budget.

Transportation - This spring the Transportation Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Papa Lennon's (in the outside courtyard area), 515 W. El Roblar in Meiners Oaks, across the street from the Project Ride bike shop, at 4:00 P.M. The committee has been gathering input for the public comment period regarding the Ojai Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. Contact Committee Chair Suza Francina at SFrancina@aol.com for more information.

Waste Management - The committee usually 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, but check with Deborah Pendrey at (805) 669-8445 to verify. The committee created a composting display for last month's EarthPlay on the Meadow. The members are also designing and printing sets of recycling signs for other organizations to borrow for use at their events.

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 Committee Chair Brian Holly at brian@biorc.com for further information. Last month the committee gave a successful community presentation on its award-winning Ojai Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration (see pages 5 and 6).

Coalition Recognized Twice in the 2nd Annual Climate Change Action Awards

The Climate Change Action Awards program, sponsored by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, seeks to recognize individuals, businesses, and groups, both inside and outside of government in Ventura County, that are making significant contributions to improve our environment by altering their carbon footprint and combating climate change.

Nominations could include, but were not limited to: scientists, teachers, journalists, citizen activists, students, organizations, businesses and their representatives, public officials, and others committed to protecting public health and preserving our natural surroundings.

When a select panel had reviewed all of the applications and chosen this year's finalists, the Coalition was included twice. The Ojai Creek Riparian Habitat Project was deemed a finalist under the planning or research project category, and in the public outreach/education category the "Go Green, Ojai!" museum exhibit was also recognized as a finalist.

The winners were announced and presented with their awards at a ceremony at the Ventura County Government Center on April 20. The Ojai Creek project received top honors in the planning or research project category and a plaque. In the public outreach/education category, the Coalition received a certificate of recognition while the top award went to a great project by the United Way's Young Leaders Society.

The Ojai Creek Riparian Habitat Project's winning nomination application can be viewed [here](#).

The Greener Gables of Ojai

Last month, on April 15, our OVGC Executive Director, Deborah Pendrey, was invited to the retirement community [The Gables of Ojai](#) to speak to residents on waste reduction. Deborah showed the video *The Story of Stuff* and then chatted with eight lovely ladies who all remembered nothing going to waste in the earlier part of the 1900s.

The Coalition's invitation was part of a wider attempt to reduce waste at the Gables through a weeklong awareness-raising exercise. The project, spearheaded by Gables staff member Carole Sullivan, was promoted in the residents' newsletter as follows:

I personally invite all of you to take a stand with me against junk mail. Each day a HUGE amount of unwanted mail is delivered here.

Make a difference. Save every piece of unwanted mail for one week, April 15 to Earth Day, April 22. I will come to each apartment and gather it up. I believe the quantity will amaze us!

Marlene, Roxye, and I will work to remove your name for these unwanted subscriptions/mailings.

*Thank you for caring about our precious Earth,
Carole*

Click below to follow the Coalition on Facebook and Twitter!

facebook

twitter

In and Around the Valley

May 8, "What to Do With the Lawn," 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Calvary Fellowship Church, 4221 E. Main Street, Ventura. Info at nopalitonursery.com.

May 15, Ojai Trees tree planting day. Volunteer at ojaitrees.org

May 15, Tour du Green, an educational bike tour, Malibu to Santa Barbara. venturavelo.org.

May 22, Healthy Benefits of Culinary Herbs, 10 a.m., [Ojai Community Garden](#).

May 24, Greening Your Building With Wood, 5:30 p.m., USGBC C4 at Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura, usgbcc4.org.

May 26, the short film *Cycle of Insanity: The Real Story of Water* and a presentation by Brock Dolman of the WATER Institute: Basins of Relations, 7 p.m., Chaparral Auditorium. (See page 1.)

Did You Know? A Spring Cleaning Tip

Natural cleaners are highly effective in the kitchen and bathroom, even when it comes to food-borne bacteria like E. coli. Susan Sumner, head of the Food Sciences and Technology program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, has found that all you need to wipe out Salmonella, Shigella, and E. coli bacteria is a combination of household hydrogen peroxide and undiluted white or apple cider vinegar.

Put the two liquids in separate spray bottles and spray one immediately after the other, in either order. You can spray it directly on fruits and vegetables, as well as on such surfaces as cutting boards and countertops, for an effective, nontoxic disinfectant that can be wiped right off. Household vinegar can also take care of mold in the bathroom, killing off 82 percent of mold strains. For tougher mold problems, mix two teaspoons of tea tree oil and two cups of water, spray on, and then scrub off after thirty minutes.

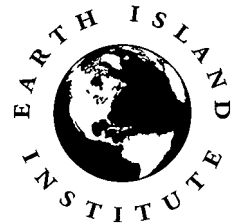
A Report on Our April Community Presentation

Why were all those volunteers needed to help restore the creek that flows through Libbey Park? How did the new native plantings fare during the most recent storms? Are any other parts of the Ojai watershed in need of restoration? And did you know that the Ojai Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration project has received a Ventura County 2010 Climate Change Award? (See the previous page.) Our community learned about all this and more on April 28 at the Coalition's monthly community presentation.

Watershed Committee Chair and conservation biologist Brian Holly reported on the progress of the creek restoration project that began in November of last year. At Libbey Park's Ojai Creek, habitat-assessment investigations are monitoring the improvement of the hydrologic capacity of the stream. And Brian uses a handheld GPS to plot each native tree and plant, developing baseline conditions that will enable the restoration team to track progress. As he explained, the southern steelhead trout population and groundwater basin are both being positively affected by the recent creek restoration efforts.

The Ojai Creek or East Barranca riparian corridor restoration project is the result of collaboration between the Coalition's Watershed Committee, the City of Ojai, The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, Ojai Trees, the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, and the Ojai-based non-profit The C.R.E.W. Funding was made possible by Earth Island Institute.

The donation funds collected at the door will be used to purchase mulch, which will provide cuttings and seeds with protection against invasive species and help eliminate the need for irrigation in the restoration area. 🌱



YES! I want to join the Ojai Valley Green Coalition.

I want to be a monthly sustainer for the Coalition to count on, plus save time, fees and paper:
 \$50/month \$35/month \$25/month \$10/month Other _____

A one-time annual membership payment is better for me:

\$25 Your donation of \$25 or more entitles you to membership benefits.

What have you got? _____ \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

Please print clearly, and note that email is the means by which we send newsletters, action alerts, and event notices. Thank you!

I am paying by: Check (payable to OVGC) Credit Card

(information will be securely processed through PayPal with Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover)

Card # _____ Expires _____

Name on Card _____ Security code _____

To join online, please go to www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org

or you may mail this form to 323 E. Matilija Street, 110-114, Ojai, CA 93023

OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION MEMBERS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- Helping move the Ojai Valley forward as a green and sustainable community focusing on energy, water, food and agriculture, waste reduction and our watershed
- Monthly e-news, action/event notices, and acknowledgement in the e-newsletter
- Member Reward Coupons
- Coalition event discounts as noted with specific event publicity
- With a \$25 per month contribution and above, or a one-time equivalent, receive an OVGC organic cotton T-shirt