



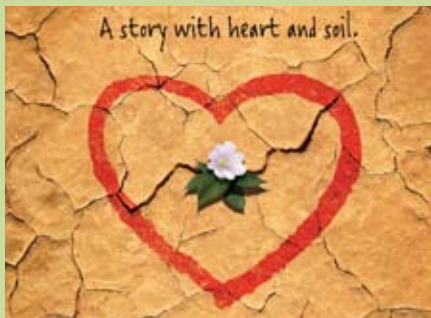
# Ojai Valley Green Coalition

Monthly E-News

June 2010

## This Month's Community Presentation: *Dirt! The Movie*

*Dirt! The Movie* takes a humorous look into the history and current state of the living organic matter that we come from and will later return to. The Coalition will be showing the film at 4:30 P.M. on



Saturday, June 26, at the Ojai Theatre. Making a special appearance at the screening will be Andy Lipkis, the founder of TreePeople.


Did you know that one teaspoon of dirt contains a billion organisms working in remarkable balance to maintain and sustain a series of complex, thriving communities that impact our daily lives? Come learn more than you ever knew about dirt, its history, and its current need for healing remediation. You won't be bored! In addition to real-life scenes, the movie uses animated sequences to illuminate the topic in an engaging, multilayered fashion.

"This film is not about environmental disasters. It's about environmental potential," says director Bill Benenson. "There are a variety of solutions to the problems we face. There's a lot of hope for the future, if we come back into balance with dirt. More than twenty-five renowned global visionaries in countries around the world are discovering new ways of thinking as they come together to repair this natural resource with practical, viable solutions."

The movie escorts viewers to more than twenty locations throughout the world, including vineyards in Northern California; a fish-composting center in Maine; Instituto Terra in southern Brazil; the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; the Land Institute in Kansas; the town of Chimayo, New Mexico; New York's

Rikers Island prison system; rural France and its dry August heat; rural India, where (in a world that tourists rarely see) farmers are trapped in a loan economy; and Los Angeles for an interview with TreePeople founder Andy Lipkis.

This OVGC event is being sponsored by Agromin, the local organic recycler and soil-amendment purveyor, and a \$10 suggested donation at the door will include entry in a drawing to win eight 25-pound bags of Agromin vegetable/garden soil amendment mix.

For more information, contact Deborah Pendrey at (805) 669-8445 or via email at [coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com). 



*Photo of some beautiful Ojai dirt courtesy of Bruce Ditchfield, © 2010.*

## Welcome to the New Chair of the Building Committee – A Perfect Fit for the Job!

Kerry Miller reminds us of Ed Begley, Jr.—having been green way before it was even called “being green.” For Kerry, though, it’s been all about *building* green. For ten years he’s been designing and building houses, additions, and remodels in the Ojai Valley with a careful eye to the environment. Previously, he spent twenty years in Corrales, New Mexico, where he built with adobe, stone, ICF (insulated concrete forms), standing dead spruce, and many other products that we now call green, using energy-efficient products, passive solar energy, and the natural terrain of the land.



*Kerry Miller*

Those products and designs, along with many of the new green products and designs, are now incorporated into Kerry’s Ojai Valley work. With a bachelor’s degree in sculpture from the University of New Mexico, Kerry instills his artistry into every project he works on, creating functional art. Kerry has the perfect résumé for heading up our Building Committee, whose mission is to transform the way buildings in the Ojai Valley are designed, built, and operated by educating the public and policymakers about the benefits of green building and by supporting the adoption of green building codes. That fits right in with Kerry’s vision “to provide insight, education, and resources of green building practices and materials to the Ojai Valley, which in turn will help lead Ojai in the direction of becoming a model green community.”

Kerry has also been a community activist on many fronts, with a focus on youth. He lives in Ojai, and can be reached at [kerry@kerrymillerdesigns.com](mailto:kerry@kerrymillerdesigns.com). 🌱

## Another Coalition Social Coming Up

A coalition brings together various groups and individuals for a common aim, and the Ojai Valley Green Coalition does just that. At the events and meetings I have attended, I’ve met farmers, building contractors, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and community leaders and interested citizens of all ages who show up to educate themselves about sustainability issues.

Some get more involved and join with others to promote sustainable policies and practices, or do hands-on things like planting trees, cleaning up trash, and helping people start their own vegetable gardens. Every time I help with a project or attend a presentation, it helps me feel more a part of the community, and gives me a good feeling to have done something positive for it.

There’s going to be a Coalition “social” at Libbey Park on Sunday, June 6, from 3:00 to 4:30. You can bring a snack and a lawn chair if you like, and come play and visit. It’s a great way to learn about the Coalition’s current goings on and meet some of the active members without having to attend a formal meeting. Or just come to have fun and meet some friendly local residents. What we all have in common is a love of the Ojai Valley, a desire to care for it, and a willingness to learn.

Ruth Cooper, Ojai

### 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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323 E. Matilija Street, #110-114  
Ojai, CA 93023  
(805) 669-8445  
[ojaivalleygreencoalition.org](http://ojaivalleygreencoalition.org)

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

### CALIFORNIA CASH FOR APPLIANCES

*Hurry—rebate program extended while funds are still available!*

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](http://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 green thumbs up to members of the Ojai City Council for making the tough decision to cover the shortfall in transportation funds from other governmental agencies and voting to continue the trolley service with funds from the City’s general budget. This provides another transportation option for the people of the Ojai Valley who want to try going car-less, either occasionally or all of the time.

And two more thumbs up to PC Pros at 423 E. Ojai Avenue, which is now all set up as an e-waste collection site. They can accept all electronics except for appliances. And now, if your iPhone isn’t working, instead of your having to buy a new one, PC Pros can fix your broken screen or repair water damage. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.



# Thinking in Green

Deborah Pendrey  
OVGC Executive Director



## The State of the Planet Leaves Mulch to Be Desired

If I were asked to state my vision for the Ojai Valley in twenty years, it would be that every square inch of it would be mulched.

I'm not kidding; of all the issues and challenges we face, the need for mulch upon the land is one of the top items that comes to mind for me. Mulch protects our topsoil, which we're losing all over the world at an alarming rate, from wind and erosion. It retains precious moisture in the soil. It prevents weeds, which in turn prevents the need for herbicides, and it creates perfect conditions and a place for beneficial critters of all sizes and purposes.

Even the word *mulch* is cool. It rolls off the tongue effortlessly, and is said to come from the Middle English word *melch*, meaning "soft and mild." We in the Coalition love mulch and are going to be playing around with a lot of it on June 19, spreading it around in Libbey Park's Ojai Creek area to protect all the weeding and planting done so far. See the volunteer notice on this page, and please plan on joining us. What could be more gratifying and fun?

Mulch also ties in well with our June presentation, the film screening of *Dirt! The Movie*. The word *Dirt* in the title is not being used as a metaphor; it really is a movie about dirt. And, as I've mentioned above, mulch protects our dirt. Check out page 1 again, if you will, and mark your calendar to attend. You could win a whole bunch of super-charged dirt, compliments of Agromin.

This reminds me of one of my other very most favorite multitasking, multi-beneficial life forms on this planet: trees. Andy Lipkis, the founder of TreePeople, who is interviewed in *Dirt! The Movie*, will be making a guest appearance at our screening. This rare appearance by Mr. Lipkis comes

to us because Board Member Caryn Bosson works for Mr. Lipkis and pulled some strings on our behalf, so let's do Caryn proud and fill the theatre!

Now, if I've piqued your interest with all this talk about mulch and trees, and you'd like to chat more about it, I can be found this Sunday at 3 P.M. at Libbey Park, holding court on these topics. Other Board Members and Committee Chairs will also be there to talk about their passions. We'd really like to hear about yours.

### Mulch Madness on June 19

The Watershed Committee really, really needs your help, and is willing to bribe you with free garden soil. Show up on Saturday, June 19, 9:30 A.M. at the Libbey Park bandstand, and you'll be entered to win a few bags of Agromin garden soil for helping to weed and mulch. (Agromin is sponsoring our June 26 film event; see page 1.)

The non-natives they've been furiously pulling out since November are coming back quickly in Ojai Creek, before they've had a chance to lay down mulch. On June 19 they'll do some fast non-native clearing

and then start spreading the mulch. This will stop the growth of the weeds and retain water—critical, since the committee opted not to irrigate new plantings. If you can join them, bringing your own gloves, shovel, rake and/or wheelbarrow will be a great help, but not necessary.

Please help keep our creek-restoration work out of the weeds!

### A Big Thank-You to Our Most Recent Contributors

All are welcome as community members, but it's our supporting members who give us the financial means to do our work. To all our new contributors: THANK YOU!

- Bonnie Bartling
- Cindy & Peter Cantele
- Jennifer Jesu-Anter
- Lisa & William Snider
- John & Helene Vachet
- Carol B. Vesecky

Can you join us? And please consider gift memberships for family members and friends. 🌱

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**ZERO PAY**

**LOTS OF GOOD KARMA**

**NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

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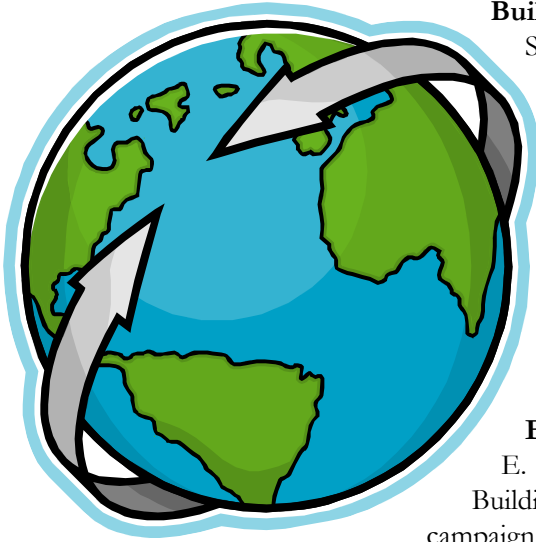
**WRITERS – PRESS RELEASES, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALENDAR NOTICES**  
1-2 HRS PER MONTH.

**OCTOBER 2 GREEN HOME & BUILDING TOUR AND HOME SHOW COORDINATORS**  
– ASSIST DIRECTOR WITH BOOTH VENDORS FOR HOME SHOW OR BE A SITE COORDINATOR  
AND WORK WITH A TOUR STOP HOMEOWNER 3-4 HRS PER MONTH (THROUGH EVENT DATE)

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# What's Going on in the Coalition Committees

## “Knowledge, Put into Action, Is Power”



**Building and Construction** - Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. This committee will be hosting our July film, *Coal Country*, and is developing a campaign to reduce energy usage in our valley by 10 percent. Contact the Committee Chair, Shawn Jacobson, at [sjacobson@recsolar.com](mailto:sjacobson@recsolar.com).

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. in Ojai. The committee is still busily planning gleaning and team-gardening projects. Email Committee Chair Dulanie Ellis-La Barre at [dulanie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dulanie@sbcglobal.net) for meeting venue information or more information on this committee or its Grow Food Party Crew and Culinary Club subcommittees.

**Government Liaison Work Group** - This new group, with its purpose defined as advocacy support for the Action Committees, meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 P.M., 202 W. Aliso Street and is currently working on an advocacy policy for the Coalition. Contact Committee Chair Renee Roth at [rraeroth@roadrunner.com](mailto:rraeroth@roadrunner.com) for further information.

**Resources** - Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 been conducting a spring membership drive. Besides fundraising, its responsibilities include obtaining grants and keeping tabs on the Coalition's budget.

**Transportation** - Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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, including a potential bike lane on Grand Avenue. Contact Committee Chair Suza Francina at [SFrancina@aol.com](mailto:SFrancina@aol.com) for more information.

**Waste Management** - Meetings are temporarily suspended; contact Co-Chair Deborah Pendrey at (805) 669-8445 for information on this committee's upcoming plans and projects.

**Watershed** - Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:brian@biorc.com) for more information on the committee, which will host "Mulch Madness," a volunteer workday in Libbey Park on June 19 (see page 3), and is initiating plans for further creek-restoration work under a new grant it has received from the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife.

# Irrigate Using Laundry Water with Do-It-Yourself System

By Kathleen Wilson, published Thursday, April 22, 2010

Homeowners can learn how to legally irrigate their yards with used laundry water through a do-it-yourself system being introduced around Ventura County. The system allows homeowners to discharge so-called graywater from washing machines onto yards and plants, saving up to 8,000 gallons of fresh drinking water per year, building officials said.

“A person who is skilled with their hands, following our guidelines, could install this system without too much difficulty,” said county Building Official Jim MacDonald. He said savings depending on the type of machine and usage. A top-loading machine uses 20-25 gallons of water per wash, while new front-loading machines use 10, MacDonald estimated.

The Ventura County Building and Safety Division will introduce a mock-up of the system and explain how to produce it at workshops in Ventura over the next couple months.

Previously, state building authorities required homeowners to get permits to dispose of laundry water through such a system. But the Building Standards Commission relaxed the rules in January for water disposed from washers at single-family homes.

Building officials from around Ventura County got together to design a plan and make a model to guide local residents. “It’s acceptable for use in every city in the county,” MacDonald said.

He estimated the cost of construction materials at \$140 to \$150. Once installed, the system should not require much maintenance, but homeowners should use biodegradable soap intended for graywater systems.

The system is untested, but operates on the same principle as a septic system. The water is pumped out from the washing machine through pipes in the wall to perforated pipes buried below the surface in the yard. Then it seeps into the ground. “As long as gravity continues to work, this system will continue to work,” the building official said.

Detailed plans and information are available [here](#), or by calling (805) 654-2771.

Adapted, with permission, from an article in the *Ventura County Star*.

## An Environmental Studies Summer Camp

This summer, from June 20 to July 17, the Upper Campus of Ojai Valley School will offer an Environmental Studies Summer Camp focused around five local ecosystems that students will explore through classroom study, hands-on fieldwork, service, and wilderness expeditions.

Classroom study is only one aspect of this program in which students will deepen their understanding through first-hand experience, learning to identify characteristics and relationships of local plants, animals, topography, geology, and more. Immersed in the workings of intertidal, chaparral, wetland, riparian, and oak woodland systems, students will discover, analyze, and create. Field journaling exercises and instruction will document their growing command of natural history while inspiring confidence and precision in their ability. They’ll learn broader concepts of conservation, watershed and fire ecology, and native culture and land use, as well as evolving cultural attitudes toward the environment permeate classroom and field study.

As well as visiting local restoration sites, students will help protect a milkweed/monarch habitat and participate in an oak woodland restoration on campus. Campers will gain the tools to conceive, initiate, and execute their own projects. (More information about the OVS oak woodland can be found online at [www.ovs.org](http://www.ovs.org).)

Included in the camp are two multi-day expeditions—one to the local backcountry and one to Channel Islands National Park. All applicants to the program should expect to participate in these trips. Living in the outdoors is a great way to truly understand the importance of conserving the environment, both for its own sake and for its potential to inform and elevate.

Find more information about this summer program at [www.ovs.org](http://www.ovs.org). Please email any questions to Tracy Wilson in admissions at [twilson@ovs.org](mailto:twilson@ovs.org) or Crystal Davis, Director of Outdoor Education, at [cdavis@ovs.org](mailto:cdavis@ovs.org). 🌍

## In and Around the Valley

**June 5, Saturday**, Kid’s Bike Safety Rodeo, 9 A.M., VUSD, 255 W. Stanley Avenue, [vccool.org](http://vccool.org)

**June 5, Saturday**, Composting Workshop, 10 A.M., Ojai Community Garden, [ojaigarden.com](http://ojaigarden.com)

**June 6, Sunday**, Coalition Social, Libbey Park, 3 P.M.; see page 2

**June 19, Saturday**, “Mulch Madness”: a volunteer workday, 9:30 A.M., Libbey Park bandstand; see page 3

**June 26, *Dirt! The Movie***, 4:30 P.M., Ojai Theatre; see page 1

**June 26, Saturday**, Oak View Community Beautification Event, 8:30 A.M., [oakviewca.org/Activities.htm](http://oakviewca.org/Activities.htm)

**June 26, Saturday**, Household Waste and E-Waste Collection Day; call (805) 658-4323 for an appointment

**June 28, Monday**, a talk on energy use by Dave Inger of VCREA, 5:30 P.M., USGBC C4 at Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, [usgbcc4.org](http://usgbcc4.org)

Click below to follow the Ojai Valley Green Coalition on Facebook and Twitter!

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# November Ballot Initiative Would Overturn AB 32

Horrified and saddened by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, more Americans than ever realize that we need to redouble our commitment to clean sources of energy. Yet a group of oil companies, including two giants based in Texas—Valero and Tesoro—are spending millions to push a ballot proposition for this November’s election that seeks to overturn California’s landmark, job-creating, clean-energy law: AB 32. This law, passed four years ago, has made our state a leader in clean tech businesses. It holds polluters accountable and requires them to reduce air pollution that threatens our health and contributes to global climate change.

The new ballot initiative would eliminate clean energy and clean air standards, which would result in more air pollution and health-related issues, would slow development of renewable energy, and would extinguish competition and jobs from clean energy businesses. Leading groups who oppose the ballot initiative include the AARP, the American Lung Association in California, and the League of Women Voters of California.

The initiative’s wording says it would repeal AB 32 until unemployment reached 5.5 percent for a full year—a market condition that has only occurred three times in the last thirty years. Economists are unclear when—if ever—California’s unemployment would reach

these levels again. Suspension would create chaos in the marketplace, making it impossible for businesses to plan, and would chill billions of dollars in venture capital investments in clean technology.

Ironically, the initiative would cost California hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs that have been created because of our clean energy and clean air laws. In fact, according to a recent report by California’s Economic Development Department, California has more than half a million “green” jobs, due largely to policies like AB 32.

According to Stephen Levy, Director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, “It is likely that the first beneficiaries of green job growth will be workers who are currently unemployed.” Green jobs have grown ten times faster than the statewide average.

Those seeking to repeal AB 32 cite two studies by a Sacramento State professor. Yet the Legislative Analyst’s Office evaluated these studies and said they contain “serious shortcomings” that render its estimates “useless.” Economists from Stanford, UCLA, and Tufts have also dismissed the research as “unsound and unreliable,” “highly biased,” and “deeply flawed.”

Click [here](#) for more information on the measure and its implications.

By OVGC Board Member Caryn Bosson

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 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](http://www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org)*

**Phone: (805) 669-8445 • Email: [membership@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:membership@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com)**

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 T-shirt