



# Ojai Valley Green Coalition

Monthly E-News

September 2010

## Coming Next Month: Our Green Home and Building Tour and Show, with a Fundraiser Reception

On Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you'll have an opportunity to view five local green-built homes and commercial sites. Back by popular demand following its inception in 2008, the Ojai Valley Green Home and Building Tour will provide patrons with self-guided tours of homes with clearly identified eco-friendly features.

Learn how lime plaster walls (versus the typical stucco) will greatly reduce the carbon footprint of a residence. Enjoy the beauty of sun-dappled recycled glass countertops and the appeal of all-natural, toxin-free Marmoleum flooring. You can check out the homes and businesses at your own pace.

And don't miss the garden areas! One site creates biodynamic compost; another uses native plants and harvested rainwater. The designers and contractors will be on hand to answer your questions.

New this year and running concurrently with the tour will be a Green Home Show at the former Ford dealership building on Ojai Avenue. This show, which will provide a display of sustainable-living merchandise and information, will be free and open to the public.

The Coalition, whose mission is to help the Ojai Valley become a model green, sustainable community, will kick off the tour with an evening reception on Friday, October 1, from 5:30 to 7:30

p.m. The reception will feature live music, Casa Barranca organic wine, and organic vegetarian hors d'oeuvres. A short program will include Ventura City Manager Rick Cole, called "one of Southern California's most visionary planning thinkers" by the *Los Angeles Times*. Joining Cole to present the owners of the tour sites with

plaques in appreciation of their leadership by example will be County Supervisor Steve Bennett, cofounder of Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR).

Tickets for the tour can be purchased online at [www.OjaiValleyGreenTour.com](http://www.OjaiValleyGreenTour.com) for \$10; the evening reception will be \$25 (\$20 for those with current paid Ojai Valley Green Coalition memberships). For further information, call (805) 669-0445 or visit [www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org](http://www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org).

A big thank-you to our sponsors. We couldn't do

these events without them! They are: the Ventura County Contractors Association, the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, the *Ojai Valley News*, REC Solar, Shaklee Distributor Brad Hudson, Reel Screens, Studio Landscape, Modular Lifestyles, SolHaus, Ojai Printing and Publishing, Casa Barranca, Kerry Miller Designs, Frontier Paint, the Magic of Weaving, and USGBC Central Coast Chapter. 🌍



*Dianne McCourtney's cozy house on Fox Street will be among the sites on the tour.*

*Photo courtesy of Attasalina Photography, Ojai.*

## In October, Join Mothers Guild and Baby Belle Bottoms to Recycle Baby Goods!

On Saturday, October 2, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., at the [Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center](#) at 555 Mahoney Avenue in Oak View, parents will be able to sell or exchange their gently used baby goods with folks from other families.

[Mothers Guild](#) is a Ventura company that's passionately committed to empowering expectant and new families. Their mission is to share evidence-based knowledge and unconditional support with high-quality and competitively priced products.

They state on their website: "We believe that the very start of life is a most vulnerable and powerful time in the family's unfolding. Research demonstrates that the

way a woman is cared for in pregnancy, birth, and postpartum directly influences her mothering style, bonding, and capacity to respond to and care for her baby. To that end, we provide a safe and nurturing space for parents and their babies to address breastfeeding concerns and explore their new role as parents."



*Baby Belle Bottoms owner Monica Marshall*

Bottoms wants to do its part "to help change the culture of baby poop."

The company helps families choose and use cloth diapers through education, product support, and providing timely delivery of high-quality cloth diapering products. 🌱

The cohosts at Ojai's [Baby Belle Bottoms](#), a small, family business, love cloth diapering! They believe it's essential to health and to living a more sustainable life. As they say, the first "lasting legacy" of 95 percent of babies born in the United States is 3,000 to 6,000 disposable diapers!

## Government of the People, by the People, and for the People

If legislative advocacy is what fires you up, we suggest that you join one of two Ojai Planning Commission subcommittees.

The Complete Streets Subcommittee will hold a series of meetings to update the City of Ojai's Complete Street Plan, formerly called the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Meetings will be held the first and third Wednesday of every month from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., starting this month on September 15.

The Landscape Ordinance Subcommittee will hold a series of meetings to update the city of Ojai Landscape Ordinance to comply with California's Model Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Meetings will be held every other Tuesday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The first meeting took place this month on September 7, and the next meeting will be on September 21.

Both meetings will be held in the conference room of Ojai City Hall, at 401 S. Ventura Street in Ojai. Any interested citizen may attend these working sessions.

For information, call the Community Development Department at (805) 646-5581, ext. 112. 🌱

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rae Amey
- Caryn Bosson
- Ellen Hall
- Dale Hanson
- Deborah Pendrey
- Tyler Suchman
- Sabrina Venskus
- David White
- Ken Wright

### NONVOTING MEMBERS:

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

Ojai Valley Green Coalition  
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

## Two Green Thumbs Up!

Got an overabundance of what you've been harvesting in your backyard? Now there's an opportunity to trade your surplus fruits and vegetables for other produce. Two green thumbs up to Vicki's Pink Thrift for providing a centralized place to exchange all that extra Ojai bounty. Give Vicki a call at 646-1769 or just bring your produce to the shop at 922 E. Ojai Avenue, next to the former location of Theater 150.

Two more green thumbs up go to Ojai Community Bank for providing a bike rack for their customers. Now you can pedal to the Ojai Avenue bank and have a safe place to lock up your bike while you're inside the lobby doing your banking.

In providing the bike rack, the bank has taken a leadership role that we hope other local businesses will emulate to make Ojai more bicycle-friendly!

### 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.



# September Community Presentation to Feature Rooftop Innovations



*Our speaker, Orry Nottingham, is a state-registered engineer with more than 45 years of green experience.*

The roof over your head can do much more than protect you from the elements. Rooftops can collect rainwater, hold solar panels, or be planted to create roof gardens. On Wednesday, September 22, at 7 p.m., the Ojai Valley Green Coalition will present “Your Roof is a Resource” with guest speaker Orry Nottingham. Nottingham is a LEED-certified engineer who, with more than 45 years’ experience as a designer and construction manager, has in-depth knowledge of green project planning and design development.

Typically, roofs serve limited functions, providing shelter and a surface for vents, exhaust fans, and satellite dishes, or perhaps supporting solar panels. Nottingham will cover the many possible further uses of roofs, including the collection and storage of rainwater for irrigation and the growing of insulating vegetation. Roofs can also house thermal storage and heat exchangers, heat chimneys for natural ventilation, skylights for day lighting, and photovoltaic and power systems.

A green roof is one that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium over a waterproofing membrane. Such roofs are springing up in major cities across the United States,

including Portland, New York, Chicago, and Atlanta. When used as a catchment for rainwater, a green roof can retain up to 75 percent of rainfall, gradually releasing it back into the atmosphere while acting as a purification system that will filter out heavy metals and contaminants. Green rooftops also provide significant benefits in retaining heat in the winter and reducing cooling costs in the summer, and they can exceed the lifespan of an ordinary roof.

Orry Nottingham has done energy studies for 175 State of California buildings. His intensive experience also includes the Los Angeles Unified School District modernization, as well as providing design and construction phase LEED

commissioning for more than 30 industrial and commercial buildings, including the new 10-floor, \$437-million Los Angeles Police Administration Building.



*Green rooftops can serve a variety of functions, from insulation to water catchment to harvesting the sun's energy. Some, like this one, even accommodate grazing goats!*

“Your Roof Is a Resource” will take place at Chaparral High School Auditorium at 414 East Ojai Avenue, for a suggested \$2 donation. For more information, contact Deborah Pendrey at (805) 669-8445, or via email at [coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com).



**ZERO PAY  
LOTS OF GOOD KARMA  
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

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

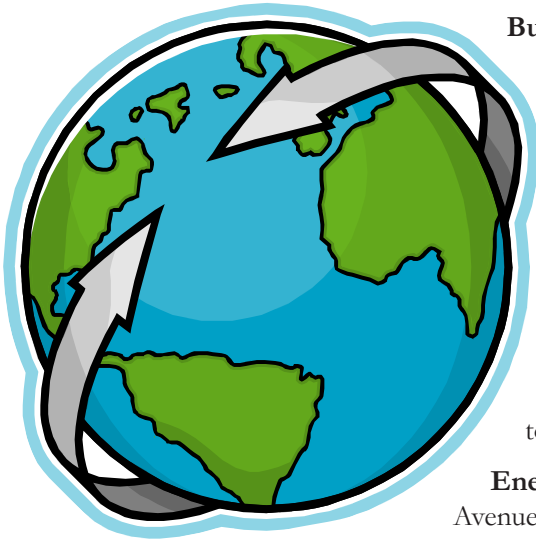
**OCTOBER 2 GREEN HOME & BUILDING TOUR** - 9AM - 1PM AND 1PM - 5PM SHIFTS

**ADVOCACY ENTHUSIAST** - THIS AT-HOME PROJECT IS TO DEVELOP A MASTER CONTACT LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICIALS FROM LOCAL TO FEDERAL FOR WEBSITE

**GRANT RESEARCH AND MAINTENANCE** - IF YOU HAVE A COMPUTER. THIS CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE, ANY TIME. HELP US DEVELOP FUNDER PROFILES AND TRACK DEADLINES.

# 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 5:30 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, assisting in plans for this year's Green Home & Building Tour and Trade Show, and developing a green building newsletter for its committee members.

**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 is developing a campaign to reduce energy usage in our valley by 10 percent and is near to getting a new light ordinance approved by the city of Ojai. Contact the Committee Chair, Shawn Jacobson, at [sjacobson@recsolar.com](mailto:sjacobson@recsolar.com).

**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** - 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 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 is planning a membership drive and helped enlist sponsors for the Green Home & Building Tour and Trade Show. 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 at 4:00 P.M. The committee has been gathering input for the City Planning Commission's Complete Streets Subcommittee (formerly the Ojai Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan), including the new bike sharrows 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 Bill O'Brien at [ojaiojb@gmail.com](mailto:ojaiojb@gmail.com) for more information. The committee is continuing its plans for creek-restoration work, assisting with this month's Creek Clean-Up Day, and looking into a Creek Watershed Sign project.

# Coalition to Sponsor Another Creek Cleanup Day

In partnership with the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, the Ojai Valley Green Coalition will spearhead a cleanup event for local creeks on Saturday, September 25. Youth and adult volunteers will meet at Libbey Park at 9:00 a.m. and then head out in smaller groups to creek areas in need of trash pickup, returning before noon to turn in the collected trash and recyclables. Harrison Industries will support the cleanup event by providing the trash and recycling bins as well as the hauling, as they have done in past years.


In 2007, this annual project saw more than sixty thousand volunteers working together throughout the state to collect an amount that exceeded nine hundred thousand pounds of trash and recyclables from California lakes, beaches, and waterways.

Since the program started in 1985, more than eight hundred thousand Californians have removed more than 12 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast. This is the Ojai Valley Green Coalition's fourth year of participating in the statewide event.



Coalition member Ruth Cooper volunteered at the event in 2009, and found it so satisfying that she decided to help coordinate the Ojai cleanup this year. According to Ruth, "The time goes by fast—it's amazing how much trash we can gather from the creeks in just a couple of hours. It's definitely a feel-good event. All that junk would otherwise be heading out to the Ventura River and the Pacific Ocean once the rains come. Plus, I think it helps raise awareness of the importance of not littering."

So that the event itself doesn't produce trash, volunteers are being asked to provide their own reusable gloves and water bottles (water will be made available for refills). Ruth Cooper recommends that volunteers dress for hiking because a lot of the terrain is rocky, uneven, and brushy.

For further information about the event, you can leave a message for OVGC Executive Director Deborah Pendrey at (805) 669-8445, go to [www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org](http://www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org), or send Deborah an email at [coordinator@ojavalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojavalleygreencoalition.com). 

## In and Around the Valley

**September 11**, Saturday, Native Landscaping Workshop series begins at Cluff Vista Park, [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org)

**September 18**, Saturday, Oaks and Gardens Workshop, 10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M., Ojai Community Garden, [www.ojaigarden.com](http://www.ojaigarden.com)

**September 18**, Saturday, Fire-Safe Landscaping Workshop, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., Little House Multipurpose Center, [www.ucanr.org/safeventura](http://www.ucanr.org/safeventura). Registration required.

**September 22**, Wednesday, "Your Roof Is a Resource" presentation, 7 P.M., Chaparral Auditorium. See page 3.

**September 25**, Saturday, Creek Clean-Up Day, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M. Meet at Libbey Park lower tennis court parking lot. See page 5.

**September 25**, Saturday, Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection Day: Call (805) 658-4323 for an appointment.

**September 25**, Saturday, Lawless Landscaping, 9:30 - 11:00 A.M., 4221 E. Main Street, Ventura. Free but reservation required. [www.nopalitonursery.com/events](http://www.nopalitonursery.com/events)

**September 27**, Monday, Sustainable Waste Solutions, 5:30 P.M., USGBC C4 at Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, [usgbcc4.org](http://usgbcc4.org)

**October 1**, Friday, Green Home and Building Tour Reception, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. Tickets on sale at [www.OjaiValleyGreenTour.com](http://www.OjaiValleyGreenTour.com). See page 1.

**October 2**, Saturday, Green Home & Building Tour and Home Show. Tour 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. and Show 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. See page 1.

Click below to follow the Coalition on Facebook and Twitter!

facebook

twitter

## 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!

Roger Conrad and Ruth Marks

Randy and Robin Graham

Dianne McCourtney

Pat and Julie McPherson

Kathy Nolan

Deana Sherry

## And Deep Gratitude to Our Ongoing Sustaining Members

Tim and Laurie Baird

Caryn and Charlie Bosson

Katherine Hope

Kenley Neufeld and Leslie Davis

Sonia Nordenson

Angela and Anthony Ocone

Deborah and Wayne Pendrey

Tyler Suchman of Tribal Core

If you haven't already done so, please join us—and consider gift memberships for your friends and family members!

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.**  
 \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     What have you got? \_\_\_\_\_

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](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-newsletter, action/event notices, and acknowledgment in the e-news
- 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 organic OVGC T-shirt

*Mail to:*  
Ojai Valley Green Coalition  
323 E. Matilija Street, #110-114  
Ojai, CA 93023