



# OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION

Newsletter Issue 5

August 2008

## Coalition and Community

The theme of August's public presentation in our "Ecology and Community" series (held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Chaparral High School Auditorium) will be "Rainwater Harvesting." For this August 28 program put on by the OVGC Watershed Committee, **we'll welcome rainwater catchment expert and bestselling author Brad Lancaster of the dry state of Arizona**, who will talk from his own

expertise about turning water scarcity into water abundance. Since 1993, Brad has operated a successful Permaculture consulting, design, and education business, focused on integrated and sustainable approaches to landscape design, planning, and living.

At this same presentation, **Ventura County building official Jim MacDonald will bring us up to date on the County's new graywater code** and what it means. For further information, please visit the Coalition website. ▲

## Last Call for Sponsors

For the last couple of months, Coalition members have been working diligently to offer businesses the opportunity to sponsor two great projects. The first is our fall fundraiser/educational event, the Green Home & Building Tour, which will culminate in an evening reception at the renowned Ojai Foundation. Tour attendees will be looking for ways to make their homes and businesses more sustainable through local resources, so this event, planned for October 4, is a great way to let the community know about the green products or services you offer--especially those related to the building industry. Visit the Coalition website or contact [coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com) for more information and a sponsor form.

The Coalition's other sponsorship project is a reusable shopping bag to be unveiled at our November 22 event, "A Day without a (Plastic) Bag." Sponsors will have their logos printed on 3,000 bags to be distributed at various locations

*Continued on page 4 Sponsor*

## In & Around the Valley

August 2, 9 am-3 pm, E-waste event Fitzgerald Plaza. 423 E. Ojai Ave.

August 2, 11 am-1 pm, Trees are Tremendous. See [ojaievents.com](http://ojaievents.com).

August 13, 3 pm, VCREA Conference Room, Ventura: Energy Efficiency Plan Review. Info at [www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

August 23, HHW Collection Day: Call (805) 658-4323 for an appt.

August 25, 6 pm, USGB C4 presents Green Financing, Rebates, and Energy Efficient Mortgages, Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura.

August 28, 7 pm, "Rainwater Harvesting" Coalition presentation Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Ave

## Save the Date

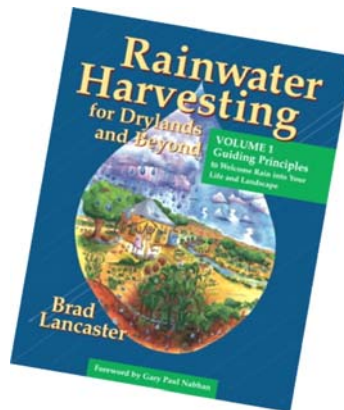
September 20: Ojai Waterway Clean-up Day

September 25: *Car of the Future* film at monthly presentation

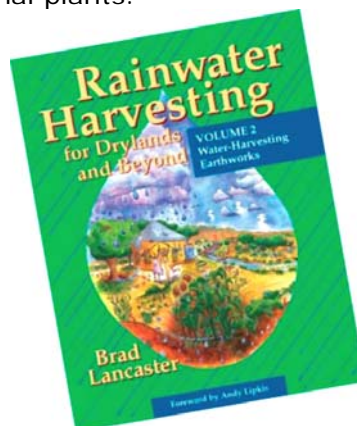
October 4: Green Home & Building Tour and Reception

October 18 Ojai Day: Visit the Coalition booth and attend evening showing at Ojai Theater – Air The Search for One Clean Breath

[www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org](http://www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org)



He'll explain to us how to bring a site to life; reduce the cost of living; endow ourselves and our community with skills of self-reliance and cooperation; and turn harvested water into "living air conditioners" of abundant gardens, food-bearing shade trees, and a thriving landscape incorporating beauty, wildlife habitat, and edible and medicinal plants.



## E-Energy and E-Waste

**August 2 E-Waste Collection Day for Ojai Residents.** The non-profit environmental group Village Green will be hosting a free e-waste collection event for the Ojai Valley on Saturday, August 2, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Fitzgerald Plaza in downtown Ojai (423 E. Ojai Avenue). They'll be collecting such items as TVs, computers, monitors, printers, and other electronic appliances that, as hazardous waste, must be properly disposed of. For further information, please contact Vito Adamo with Village Green at (805) 813-2214.

### Are you computer-energy savvy? Here's some information to help you get there.

- The average laptop consumes *one-fifth* the energy of a desktop PC. So, if you're going to own only one computer, seriously consider a laptop. If that won't work for you, do you really need the biggest desktop you can afford or might you get by with what's known as a small-form-factor PC? These are designed to take up less space on your desktop, with the added advantage of drawing less power.
- Screensavers were never designed to save energy; only to prevent "phosphor burn in" on CRT screens (and, these days, on plasma screens). Nowadays they function primarily as a form of entertainment on PCs. Setting your display to blank out after a period of inactivity can make an energy difference, but it's best to forego the pretty pictures.
- Each generation of microprocessors is speedier than the previous one, and smart engineering means they often also use less energy at the same time. For example, Intel's Core 2 Duo desktop processor is up to 40 percent faster & more than 40 percent more energy-efficient than its single-core predecessor.
- Energy Star criteria for computers were updated by the EPA in 2007 to consider power-consumption requirements when a machine is idle *and* when it is fully powered on. These more-stringent rules mean that far fewer computer models can qualify as Energy Star-compliant. Visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) to find out which PC models currently make the grade.
- Not only does manufacturing a PC use a lot of energy, it also usually requires ten times the PC's weight in fossil fuels and chemicals—most of which are toxic. So, even though you might be tempted to get a new PC every three years (as the average person does), the longer you can keep your current PC in service, the better for the environment.
- Although some major computer makers such as Dell, Apple, and HP are stepping up to the plate with much-improved recycling programs, 90 percent of PCs and CRT monitors are still discarded curbside. It's up to us all, as consumers, to take more responsibility.
- The surge of power that a PC uses to boot up is far less than the energy it uses when left on for more than three minutes. If practical, shut down your PC when you're not using it.
- It's worth learning how to configure the energy-saving settings on your computer. Windows XP users can click the Start menu, chose Control Panel from Settings, and then click Power Options (if you have Windows Vista, which offers even better control of power settings, you should be able to access the power settings directly from the Start menu). Mac OS X users can find the Energy Saver settings under System Preferences.
- Computer gamers having PCs that work best for playing games use more energy then non-gamers. The powerful high-end graphics cards that render those mind-blowing 3D graphics can easily exceed 100 watts, and a dual-card setup will double that wattage. If you have a souped-up PC in your household that's primarily used for gaming (you know who you are!), do shut it down when you're not playing.



≈≈ *Many Thanks to Our Donors and Sponsors* ≈≈

#### July Donors:

OVGC Board Member Scott Eicher CEO Chamber of Commerce  
 OVGC Board Member Ken Wright, eco-entrepreneur – a monthly gift  
 OVGC Board Member Katherine Hope, spiritual leader – a monthly gift  
 Members Marcia Doty, Celeste Matesevack and Gerald Kaplan  
 Rainbow Bridge

#### Green Home & Building Tour Sponsors:

Ojai Foundation ~ Ventura County Contractors Association ~ Ojai Community Bank  
 Allen & Associates ~ MakeOjaiBetter.com ~ T & T Kitchen ~ Casa Barranca  
 Ojai Valley Insurance ~ Reel Screens ~ E.F. Moore & Co. ~ Ecologic Life

"Good-bye from the world's biggest polluter!" --George W. Bush, joking about United States environmental policy at the end of a private meeting, as he left the G-8 summit in Rusutsu, Japan.



## Coalition Action Committees

"Knowledge is Power, When Put into Action"

**Building & Construction – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 7pm, Chaparral High School, Room 6.** The committee would like to provide a green building checklist and list of incentives to the City of Ojai's Planning Department. Committee members will bring samples from chosen municipalities to the next meeting. Reggie: Boulder, Colorado; Wayne: Santa Barbara; Diane: Santa Monica; Deborah: Ventura City and County; Catherine: Berkeley and Alameda County; Jon: San Jose.

**Communication & Publicity – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs., 6:30pm, 202 W. Aliso St.** Kit Willis at the Ojai Public Library has agreed to make videos of OVGC events available to the public. Committee will edit and proof other committees' publications. Chairpersons will use their committee's mission statement as a guide for suitability.

**Events – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Mon., 5:30pm, 221 E. Matilija St., Suite J.** Call 646-7229 for confirmation. Chairperson Kale Starbird is looking on Craigslist for a larger screen (9' X 12') for the Coalition's monthly committee presentations at Chaparral High School. They cost between \$500 and \$600. The committee will begin planning the next "Ojai Reads" project: *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* by Thom Hartmann.

**Energy – Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs., 7pm, Chaparral High School, Room 6.** The committee is focusing on light pollution, finding samples of light ordinances from other cities. They are reviewing the City's "Roadmap to a Sustainable Ojai," and will also help Casitas Water District with considerations regarding solar panel acquisitions. Committee members are looking into new ways for individuals to finance solar panels for their homes.

**Environmental Health – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 6:30pm, Rainbow Bridge.** Committee chair Marleen Luckman has written an article about air quality inside automobiles that has been submitted to the press. Call Marleen at (805) 279-2101 to participate on this committee.

**Food & Agriculture – Meeting places vary; some are held in backyard gardens. Call 646-7229 for date and location.** A "Victory Garden & Grow Food Party Crew" community event is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 27. Author Rose Hayden-Smith will speak about the Victory Gardens concept. Gatherings similar to barn-raising are being planned to help create productive gardens for those who desire them, and these events will be filmed for videos or future OVGC presentations.

**Resource – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon., 6pm, 414 E. Ojai Ave. in Tim Baird's office.** The Green Home & Building Tour scheduled for Oct. 4 has received a number of sponsorships to help offset costs. The committee is also considering a fundraising event at the home of Jerry Kaplan next spring.

**Transportation – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tues., 7:30pm, 308 Drown Ave.** *Car of the Future* will be screened for the September event of the "Ecology and Community" series at Chaparral Auditorium, and transportation options in Ojai will also be highlighted that evening. The committee will explore van or bus options for October's Green Home & Building Tour.

**Waste Management – Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs., 7pm, Oak Grove School Main House.** Call Deborah Pendrey at 649-8631. An interest form for Ojai merchants has been created to determine their level of involvement in "Day without a (Plastic) Bag," scheduled for November 22. The committee is also planning for the "Waterway Cleanup Day in Ojai" scheduled for September 20. They would like to work with the City of Ojai to help improve the diversion of commercial solid waste. Their presentation last month at Chaparral Auditorium was well received.

**Watershed – Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs., 7pm, Chaparral Auditorium.** No committee meeting was scheduled in July. Call Paul Jenkin at 648-4005 for information on the next meeting. ▲

## Ojai Reads Again!

READING PERIOD:

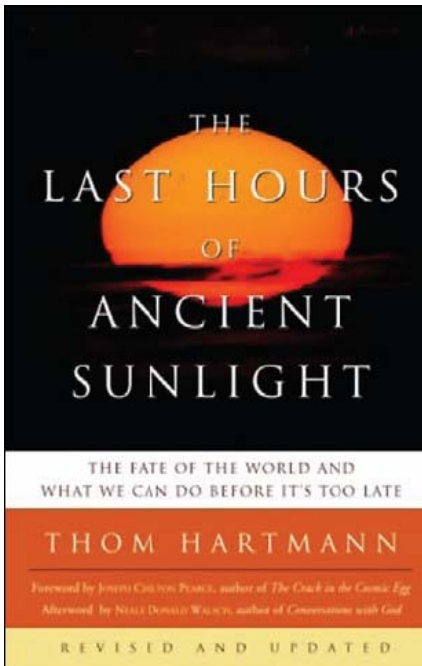
August 1 – November 3

*The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight: Waking Up to Personal and Global Transformation*

By Thom Hartmann

“Our minds and our cultures created our situation. There’s great insight in understanding this, and power in realizing how much of a role we can play in redefining the future of the planet for ourselves and our children.”

—*Thom Hartmann*



**Read the book, then  
join us for a discussion:**

**November 3, 2008  
Ojai Library • 7 p.m.**

This reading event is sponsored by the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation, and the Ojai Library.

## Sign Up for Our New Wiki

As the Ojai Valley Green Coalition continues to work cooperatively with the City of Ojai with the mutual goal of implementing the city's "Roadmap to a Sustainable Ojai," we've set up a wiki at [ovgc.pbwiki.com](http://ovgc.pbwiki.com) as a knowledge base that will help us identify (1) what parts of the plan might be improved, (2) where the policy opportunities are, and (3) what technologies exist that can be implemented. If you're familiar with *Wikipedia.org*, the OVGC Wiki applies the same concept of collective knowledge, starting with Title 10 of the City of Ojai Municipal Code, which addresses Planning and Zoning. Watch the OVGC website for further word on the new wiki and its topics. ▲

## Ventura County's First Alternative Fuel Depot Opens

July 19 saw the inception of the county's new biodiesel fueling station. The Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative, founded by Christopher Blunt and Paul Jenkin, sponsored the ribbon-cutting event, for which Ojai Mayor Sue Horgan, Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett, and actor Larry Hagman (a founding sponsor of the fuel outlet) were all on hand.

The cooperative is an organization of diesel owners for whom, until now, the nearest source of "green" diesel fuel was in Santa Barbara. As co-op co-founder Paul Jenkin says, "Biodiesel is not the answer, but it's an interim solution that will lead us to a final answer." Visit [www.vcbiodiesel.org](http://www.vcbiodiesel.org) for more information. ▲

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tim Baird, President
- Scott Eicher, Vice President
- Dale Hanson, Secretary
- Vivian Browne, Treasurer
- Katherine Hope, Director
- Todd Metlen, Director
- Tyler Suchman, Director
- Ken Wright, Director

## NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- City of Ojai
- County of Ventura, District 1 office
- Ojai Unified School District
- Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Ojai Valley Youth Foundation
- Oak Grove School
- The Ojai Foundation
- Design + Vision, Inc.
- The Pure Body Institute
- The Ojai Post
- Ojai Trees
- Symphony of Life Spiritual Center

**323 E. Matilija Street  
Suite 110-114**

**Ojai, CA 93023**

**(805) 653-8445**

**Online Donations Accepted**

*Sponsor continued from page 1*  
on the day of the event and throughout 2009. Support our efforts to reduce the use of plastic bags in the Valley and see your name on the arms of many community members! Contact Deborah [coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](mailto:coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com) for a sponsor form and further details. ▲