



Ojai Valley Green Coalition

Monthly E-News

June 2009

Next in the “Ecology and Community” Series:

WATERSHED REVOLUTION

At this month’s community presentation, at 7 p.m on Wednesday evening, June 24, the documentary *Watershed Revolution* by Planet Earth Films and Coalition member Rich Reid will have its public premiere at Ojai’s Chaparral High School Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue.

With rare images captured in beautiful cinematography, the thirty-minute film profiles our Ventura River watershed and the organizations and community members that are working hard to protect and restore it. It highlights the unique challenges faced by a river that is our community’s main source of water, and emphasizes the need for floodplain protection, sustainable agriculture, and greater community awareness of the limitations of local water resources.


The film will be followed by a discussion and question-and-answer period featuring local watershed activists Paul Jenkin of the Surfrider Foundation; Steve Svete of the



Ventura Hillside Conservancy; Rick Bisaccia, Preserve Manager for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy; organic farmer Steve Sprinkel of Rio Gozo Farm; “Once Upon a Wetland” educator Sara Benjamin; Shawn Kelly of the State Coastal Conservancy Wetlands Recovery Project; and Ben Pitterle, who is with the Ventura Stream Team of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper.

Rich Reid, a world-class outdoor photographer, local resident, and photography instructor at the Brooks Institute whose photos have been featured by such clients as National Geographic Books, *Backroads*, the *New York Times*, *The Territory Ahead*, and the Trust for Public Land, is the

documentary’s cinematographer and coproducer.

Watershed Revolution will forever change your definition of a watershed. To see a preview, go to watershedrevolution.com/trailer.html. 

Two Green Thumbs Up!

For many years now, the Ojai Valley Athletic Club has been mailing a monthly newsletter to its hundreds of members. A few months ago, a sign appeared at the front desk, requesting members' email addresses. And, in April, OVAC manager Nancy Prather sent out the club's very first electronic newsletter.

Not only is the club's newsletter now in full color, but it contains even more information than the original paper version. Doing the math, the original newsletter was printed on two sheets of 8-1/2 by 14 paper and mailed out twelve times a year, for a total of twenty-four pieces of paper per family. Thumbs up to the Ojai Valley Athletic Club for saving trees and reducing their carbon footprint!



Spotlight on the Food and Ag Committee

In case you're not clear on what this committee is all about, a big part of its mission is to develop greater valley-wide awareness of the environmental impact of our food choices. To that end, the Food and Agriculture Committee emphasizes buying locally produced food products and growing your own food at home, and it does this through two great subcommittees: the Grow Food Party Crew (GFPC) and the Culinary Club.

Local documentary filmmaker Dulanie Ellis-La Barre volunteers her time as the Food and Ag chair, and Dulanie admits that she verges on giving the committee as much time and attention as she does her production company, [Walk Your Talk Productions](#).

The GFPC idea was started in Ventura, and Devin Slavin, one of the group's cofounders, helped the Food and Agriculture Committee get an Ojai version going. The concept is like an old-fashioned barn raising, in which family members, friends, and neighbors (many starting out as strangers) help someone get a garden started.

For most of us, no doubt the hardest part of gardening is getting started. It often includes digging up a lot of grass, preparing the soil, and configuring the garden space. Then there's figuring out what to grow and learning how to grow it. Gardening is not a slam dunk. To keep the gardening fun, a GFPC installation usually includes music and a potluck.

If you'd like to get on the list to be a crewmember and/or have a garden installed, you can email Julia Pfeifer at growfoodpartycrew@yahoo.com. Julia is the GFPC chair, and she's giving a tremendous amount of time and knowledge to creating Ojai Valley food security . . . one garden at a time.

The Culinary Club, led by "food concierge" Noel Douglas, is all about learning to harvest, prepare, and preserve the fresh produce we grow and buy locally. The club members will be sharing this knowledge through events, classes, and presentations, and this Food and Agriculture subcommittee will be kicking off these happenings with a free tasting social and recipe swap on June 6. (Visit our website calendar and click on June 6 for details.) To RSVP, email ojaiculinaryclub@gmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ellen Hall, Interim President
- Dale Hanson, Secretary
- Caryn Bosson, Treasurer
- Tim Baird, Director
- Sue Broidy, Director
- Vivian Browne, Director
- Jaimie Jenks, Director
- Tyler Suchman, Director
- Ken Wright, Director

NONVOTING MEMBERS:

- Cindy Cattle, 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 and Publicity Committee



Thinking in Green



Change Is Good

“Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

--John F. Kennedy

As many of you know by now, the Coalition’s cofounder and Board President, Dr. Tim Baird, is making changes that will require him to leave the Ojai Valley. His leadership has helped bring the Coalition into the community’s awareness, and he has shepherded our organization well in its process of becoming an incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit—no small feat in itself.

Dr. Baird has also been serving as Superintendent for the Ojai Unified School District, and the informal partnership between the Coalition and the district has helped both entities move forward in their shared mission to initiate a new “green” dialogue: for us, bringing environmentalism to the forefront of the community conversation; for OUSD, bringing it to the forefront of the district’s agenda.

It’s with deep gratitude and a real sense of loss that we say good-bye to Tim, and we wish him and Laurie all the best in their new adventure and home in Encinitas!

As we close one chapter in the Coalition’s journey, we open a new one, with new leadership. Board member Ellen Hall has generously consented to act as Interim President, and will—we hope—accept the presidency position in the near future. Ellen comes to the Coalition with a wealth of nonprofit management experience, including as a founding member and past Executive Director of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, past Executive Director

of Oak Grove School, former Ojai City Council member and Mayor, and past Director of the Ojai Valley Museum. Ellen has already jumped in with both feet to help the Coalition become more internally “sustainable.”

The departure of a core member like Tim makes one realize the necessity for an organization to be bigger than the sum of its parts. In the next month, the Coalition will be transitioning to a membership dues organization and establishing more volunteer/in-kind donation opportunities. Please join Ellen Hall and our Board of Directors in helping the Coalition take itself to the next level as a force for positive environmental change in the Ojai Valley.

--Deborah Pendrey
OVGC Executive Director



You might like to download this Eco Font, a brand new typeface made up of many tiny little holes.

The font uses 20 percent less ink by simply removing as much of each letter as possible. Using Eco Font is a great way to reduce ink cartridge waste! It’s available for download at www.ecofont.eu.

And remember that the OVGC raises funds by collecting used ink/toner cartridges, so please bring yours to our monthly presentations, take them to Ojai Valley Electronics, or sponsor a recycle box at work.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

This school year, the Oak View Women’s Club sponsored a valley-wide student writing contest. The following was the winning entry for 4th to 6th graders:

Recycle! Recycle! Extra on recycling!
Come hurry and look at the land filling! There’s landfills, garbage, and even wasting! Don’t wait for a moment, come get one of these!

Come learn how to reuse and please don’t refuse, because reuse is maybe the one you will choose. You can reuse clothes, furniture, and backpacks, too, so reuse! Reuse! You have nothing to lose!

Reduce! Reduce! Eat more produce! But when you are done make sure you reduce. Use less of the items you use, so reduce! Reduce! Hurry! Don’t refuse!

Come get your paper, don’t wait until later. For if you reduce, reuse, and recycle, it can teach you great things. So don’t wait, come reduce, reuse, and recycle and you will be amazed!

By Taylor Koester
6th Grade
Summit School
Ojai Unified School District

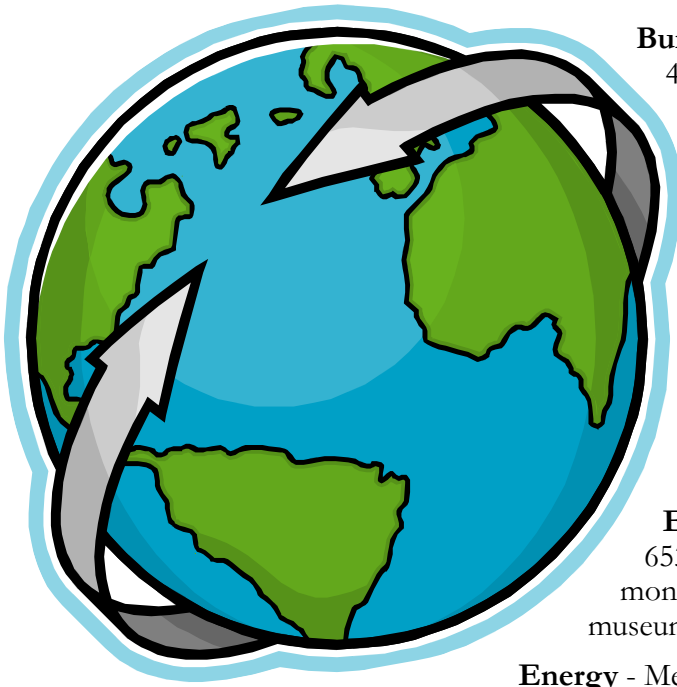
Spotlight

Continued from page 2

And here’s a sneak preview. Next month we’ll be telling you about an unusual opportunity the Food and Agriculture Committee has received: They’re going to provide a community project (involving twelve lucky families) for a financial company that will be coming to Ojai for its annual retreat. 🍏

What's Going on in the Coalition Committees

“Knowledge, Put into Action, Is Power”



Building and Construction - Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. The committee is working on a residential efficiency evaluation program, and they hope to work with youth in initiating the program and to focus on low-income families with the service.

Communications and Publicity - Meets 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m., 202 W. Aliso Street. The press release and calendar notices for the *Watershed Revolution* presentation on June 24 have been completed. Other ongoing projects include website maintenance and the creating and editing of flyers, emails, display ads, radio interviews, this monthly e-newsletter, and columns or letters to the editor for the *Ojai Valley News*, plus a national media campaign being spearheaded by Ellen Johnson and preparations for the OVGC's winter exhibit at the Ojai Valley Museum.

Event Planning - Meets 1st Monday, 5 p.m., 221 E. Matilija Street, Suite J. Call 653-8445 for confirmation. The committee is working on details for the next monthly presentation on June 24 and giving thought to the Coalition's forthcoming museum exhibit.

Energy - Meets 3rd Thurs. 7 p.m., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. The committee has submitted to the board for review an outline for a business and residential sustainability award program that would start with PV electricity. The members have also submitted for the board's approval a meeting agenda template that would be used to meet with businesses that “overlight” property at night. The purpose is to educate companies on light pollution and energy waste while providing tools and resources.

Environmental Health - The regularly scheduled meetings have been temporarily suspended, as the chairperson has been working with the Green School Committee in connection with a Food for Thought grant. Call Marleen Luckman at (805) 279-2101 for more information.

Executive Committee - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. Committee chairs and board members sit on the Executive Committee. Box.Net, an online site for the OVGC, now has important Coalition documents including minutes from most committee meetings.

Food and Agriculture - Meeting dates and locations vary. Email Dulanie Ellis-La Barre at dulanie@sbcglobal.net for information. The committee and its Grow Food Party Crew and Culinary Club subcommittees are staying busy preparing for a July community presentation on urban chickens, among many other projects. (See page 2.)

Resources - Meets 2nd Monday, 5 p.m., Ojai Unified School District, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. The committee is planning a house party fundraiser for June and is continuing its work on draft grant guidelines for the Coalition, plus preparing a proposal for the Board on organization of the new membership base.

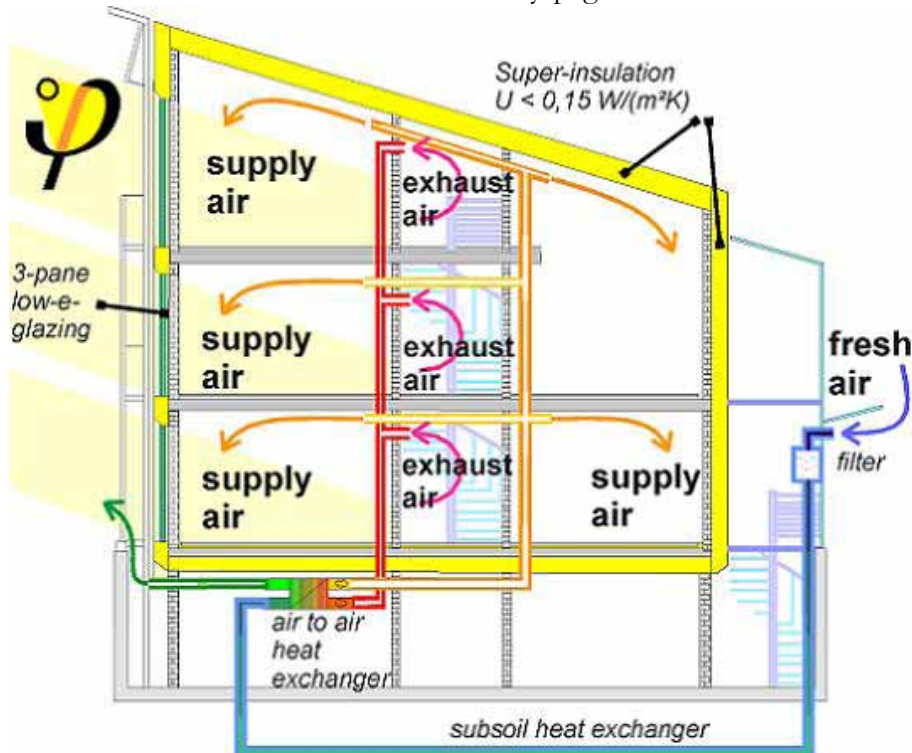
Transportation - Meeting time open. There is no committee business at this time, as a new committee chairperson is needed. Call the Coalition's Executive Director, Deborah Pendrey, at (805) 653-8445 for more information.

Waste Management - Next meeting: Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. The committee is focusing on incentives and educational awareness to help change individual behavior regarding the use of disposable plastic shopping bags. This may be a subject for a grant application.

Watershed - Meets 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Avenue, conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg. Email Brian at brian@biorc.com. The committee has submitted a grant to the Community Wetland Restoration Grant program to secure initial funding for a creek restoration project, and proposes to eradicate non-native invasive plants and restore the riparian ecosystem of the Ojai Creek riparian corridor within Libbey Park. Also, the members provided comment on the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Water & Environmental Resources Division's new horse owner BMP mailer, which addresses water-quality issues.

Passive Design Presentation Sparks Great Interest

It was obvious that the 50 or so attendees at our May “Ecology and Community” presentation were very much into the subject, asking lots of technical questions. Presenter Wayne Pendrey, an energy-efficiency/green-building convert with years of contracting experience, was able to answer most of the queries.



An Internet search for passive design will bring up thousands of websites. As the name implies, this kind of design uses mostly nonmechanical building techniques to create warmth and cooling, for comfortable living and working conditions as well as indoor circulation of fresh air. These designs are already the building code norm in Europe, and they can bring a building to near-zero energy consumption with little effort—and can even make it an energy producer.

The main components are super-thick insulation, windows of triple-pane glass, and underground piping that draws in fresh exterior air as well as

warmth or cooling from the earth. Other building techniques of passive design are extending insulation to fill all corners and points of potential air leakage and the use of vapor barriers and radiant barriers. Passive design achieves an efficiency 85 percent higher than that of current California Title 24, and 20 percent above the LEED Platinum rating.

The PowerPoint presentation, developed by Dr. Jack Gosnell and shared by Wayne with permission, is available for viewing on the video library page of the Coalition website at

www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org/video.shtml. Since first hearing Dr. Gosnell discuss these concepts a year ago, Wayne has given the presentation several times, and he hopes that those who hear the information will remember it for their own new construction or remodeling, share it with friends and neighbors who might be building or remodeling, and especially talk up passive design with building officials. The next challenge is to get more American engineers, architects, and builders on board to work with passive design and support the growing consumer demand for this smart way of building. 🌱

In and Around the Valley

June 10, Current State of Biofuels presentation, 6 p.m. at Cabrillo Arts Pavilion, 1118 E. Cabrillo Boulevard in Santa Barbara

June 11-14, at the 63rd Ojai Music Festival, OVGC will again coordinate the green booth and green team. P.S.: Congratulations to Ellen Hall, who won the raffle for the pair of lawn tickets!

June 14, A Local Food Co-op?

Discussion and brainstorming, 4 p.m. at 345 West Center Street in Ventura

June 15, OVMAC Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Drive, Oak View

June 20, Composting workshop, 10 a.m. at the City of Ojai Community Demonstration Garden, 401 S. Ventura Street

June 22, WAV project update presentation, 6 p.m., USGBC C4 at Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara Street in Ventura

June 24, Watershed Revolution film, 7 p.m. in the Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue

June 27, HHW and E-Waste Collection Day: Call (805) 658-4323 to make an appointment.

June 27, “How to Make Veggie Fuel” workshop. Call Lynne, (805) 338-2576, or email artbarn805@sbcglobal.net.

Save the Date

July 22, a community presentation on “**Chickens Amongst Us!**” will answer all your questions about keeping backyard chickens.

How One Man Avoids Creating Trash

The following list of good practices, reprinted here by permission, was posted by Colin Beavan, aka [No Impact Man](#). To read more of Colin's suggestions, click on the link to his blog, above.

1. No soda in cans (which means we're probably less likely to get cancer from aspartame).
2. No water in plastic bottles (which means we get to keep our endocrines undisrupted).
3. No coffee in disposable cups (which means we don't suffer from the morning sluggishness that comes from overnight caffeine withdrawal).
4. No throwaway plastic razors and blade cartridges (I'm staging the straightedge razor comeback).
5. Using nondisposable feminine-hygiene products that aren't bad for women and are good for the planet.
6. No Indian food in throwaway takeout tubs.
7. No Italian food in plastic throwaway tubs.
8. No Chinese food in plastic throwaway tubs.
9. Taking our own reusable containers to takeout joints (except that now we're eating local so this tip is out for us).
10. Admitting that we sometimes miss Indian, Italian, and Chinese takeout.
11. Hopping on the scale and celebrating the loss of my 20-pound spare tire since I stopped eating buckets full of Indian, Italian, and Chinese takeout.
12. Buying milk in returnable, reusable glass bottles.
13. Shopping for honey and pickled veggies and other goods in jars only from merchants who will take back the jars and reuse them.
14. Returning egg and berry cartons to the vendors at the farmers' market for reuse.
15. Using neither paper nor plastic bags and bringing our own reusable bags when grocery shopping.
16. Canceling our magazine and newspaper subscriptions and reading online.
17. Putting an end to the junk mail tree killing.
18. Carrying my ultra-cool reusable cup and water bottle (which is a glass jar I diverted from the landfill and got for free).
19. Carrying reusable cloths for everything from blowing my nose to drying my hands to wrapping up a purchased bagel.
20. Wiping my hands on my pants instead of using a paper towel when I forget my cloth.
21. Politely asking restaurant servers to take away paper and plastic napkins, placemats, straws, cups, and single-serving containers.
22. Explaining to servers with a big smile that I am on a make-no-garbage kick.
23. Leaving servers a big tip for dealing with my obsessive-compulsive, make-no-garbage nonsense, since they can't take the big smile to the bank.
24. Pretending McDonalds and Burger King and all their paper and plastic wrappers just don't exist.
25. Buying no candy bars, gum, lollipops or ice cream (not even Ben and Jerry's peanut butter cup) that is individually packaged.
26. Making my own household cleaners to avoid all the throwaway plastic bottles.
27. Using baking soda from a recyclable container to brush my teeth.
28. Using baking soda for a deodorant to avoid the plastic containers that deodorant typically comes in (cheap and works well).
29. Using baking soda for shampoo to avoid plastic shampoo bottles.
30. Using the plastic bags that other people's newspapers are delivered in to pick up Frankie the dog's poop.
31. Keeping a worm bin to compost our food scraps into nourishment that can be returned to the earth instead of toxins that seep from the landfills.
32. Switching to real--meaning cloth--diapers which Isabella, before she was potty-trained, liked much better.
33. Not buying anything disposable.
34. Not buying anything in packaging (and count the money we save because that means pretty much buy nothing unless it's secondhand).
35. Shopping for food only from the bulk bins and from the local farmers' market where food is unpackaged and fresh.
36. Forgetting about prepackaged, processed food of any description.
37. Being happy that the result is that we get to eat food instead of chemicals.
38. Giving our secondhand clothes away to Housing Works or other charities.
39. Offering products we no longer need on Freecycle instead of throwing them away.
40. Collecting used paper from other people's trash and using the other side.
41. Using old clothes for rags around the apartment instead of paper towels.
42. Talking with humor about what we're doing because making a little less trash is a concrete first step everyone can take that leads to more and more environmental consciousness. 🍏