

San Diego

# Earth Times

Special Earth Day Issue

April 2011

## EarthFair in Balboa Park

*Sunday, April 17 - "Take It Back"  
Volunteer for Earth Day*

## Crazy Weather

*How it's linked to climate change*

## Coastal dead zones

*Trouble in San Diego Bay and  
Tijuana Estuary*



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# How Democracy Dies

by Carolyn Chase

While we're supposed to know that power corrupts, doing something about it is something else again isn't it? I never thought I'd see the current levels of propaganda being accepted in America today – not just accepted, but promoted by power brokers as if their actions have no consequences for others, including the environment upon which we all depend.



What is this cowardly new world where thoughtlessness trumps all and truth is ignored as if it doesn't matter? What can be done? Activism works. If enough of us don't "do politics" then we deserve what we get.

This is not an age to be on the sidelines. So many of us hate politics, but this is just another feature of the game. Despite what anyone says, politics is *designed* to discourage participation, so that power is kept by those who already have it. The answer: don't try and do politics alone. It's a group game. Join with others and give to groups that do politics. Locally, I recommend the Sierra Club. Founded in 1892 by John Muir, only the Sierra Club uses the full array of advocacy techniques available to the public in our American democracy: grassroots organizing, education, litigation (when necessary) and lobbying (see their ad on page 9).

Attacks on basic science and public efforts to protect our environment are gaining ground. Everyone who cares about nature and the environment must do more. Earth Day is a great place to start getting connected, and then get active – every other earth day.

## Take it Back, We're Takin' it Back in honor of Earth Day

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Take back our rivers     | Take back the straws     |
| Take back our air        | Take back the bags       |
| Take back our food       | Take back your landfills |
| Take back our seas       | Take back your waste     |
| Take back our climate    | You're takin' it back!   |
| Take back our land       | for nature's sake        |
| Take back our water      | You're takin' it back!   |
| Take back our trees      | for our sake             |
| We're takin' it back     | You're takin' it back!   |
| for nature's sake        | for future's sake        |
| We're takin' it back     | You're takin' it back!   |
| for our sake             | for earth's sake         |
| We're takin' it back     | Take back our cities     |
| for future's sake        | Take back our farms      |
| We're takin' it back     | Take back our beaches    |
| for earth's sake         | Take back our parks      |
| Take back your pollution | Take back democracy      |
| Take back your trash     | Take back the truth      |
| Take back your plastics  | Take back our politics   |
| Take back your ash       | Take back our government |

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Cover photo by Carolyn Chase: *The Mer de Glace (sea of ice) is the second largest glacier in the Alps, near Chamonix, France. It is estimated to contain approximately 4,000 million cubic metres of frozen water. During the 20th century, all alpine glaciers receded. The Mer de Glace receded 7.5 meters every year on average.*

## San Diego Earth Times

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## Nature – awesome, affordable, and accessible!

by Anne S. Fege, Chair, San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative

**N**ature is as close as your backyard or neighborhood canyon. And spending time in nature is the best gift you can give a child. In April, get your kids outside for Family Nature Days throughout the San Diego region. Find out where to go and what to do, on the new website for the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative at [www.sdchildrenandnature.org](http://www.sdchildrenandnature.org).

### What's so awesome about children and nature?

Research shows that nature is essential for child development.

- **Children are happier.** Nature play increases self esteem, improves psychological health, and reduces stress. Children learn self-discipline and are more cooperative.
- **Children are healthier.** Nature play improves physical conditioning and reduces obesity. Children develop lifelong habits of fitness and recreation.

### April Family Nature Days

Family Nature Days events are family-centered nature activities that engage children's sense of curiosity, exploration and creativity. Locate them on the new website, [www.sdchildrenandnature.org](http://www.sdchildrenandnature.org).

- Exploration and discovery activities encourage children to use their senses – seeing, hearing, touching, and smelling – to discover the wonders of wildlife and habitat.
- Knowledge and observation activities help children learn to use tools in nature – maps, field guides, magnifying glasses and binoculars – to get to know the local wildlife and plants.
- Stewardship activities encourage families to take care of nature and include service projects such as habitat restoration, wildlife observations, trail clean-ups, and planting.

- **Children are smarter.** Nature play stimulates creativity, imagination, and problem solving. Students learn to care for nature, get a sense of their place in the world, and better understand how they impact the environment.

### What happened to outdoor play?

A few decades ago, children spent hours each day playing outdoors. Now free time is taken up by scheduled sports and activities, and electronic media. A 2010 study by The Kaiser Family Foundation reported children ages 8 to 18 spend more than 7 hours daily in front of a screen or on a cell phone. This leads to a range of physical and social ills that award-winning author Richard Louv called “nature deficit disorder” in his 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.

### What's affordable about nature?

Nature is in your yard or nearby canyon. You can walk, take a short drive to a natural area, or explore nature in other parts of San Diego County. Your time together can be meaningful, simple, and fun.



### Be part of something BIG together

Choose more nature activities for the children in your life. When children connect with nature, they connect with each other, families and community. They become part of something BIG!

### Build memories together

Take a walk around the block or in your nearby park or canyon. Listen for songbirds and look for hawks circling in the sky. Spend time in the yard pulling weeds together, looking for insects, or sitting in the dark.

(Continued on page 7)



PHOTO BY ANNE FEGE



**Sometimes, actions speak louder than words.**

At Cox, working to preserve our environment and striving to be your friend in the digital age go hand in hand. Cox is taking steps to build a better world. Steps like using low emission vehicles, installing solar power and low-emission fuel cells, and recycling cable wiring. All part of our Cox Conserves initiative. Our planet's future depends on what we do today and we believe we can make a difference. Thanks for being a part of it. [www.coxconserves.com](http://www.coxconserves.com).



# Nature

(cont. from page 5)

## Learn together

Nature is an outdoor classroom in which students experience science, math, language and group learning by observing, touching, listening, smelling, telling and doing. Take one child, or take a whole class! Walk with the class to a nearby canyon or park. Create a Schoolyard Habitat with native plants that attract birds and butterflies.

## Get outdoors together

Playing outdoors in nature is a high-touch alternative to a technology-saturated lifestyle. Go outside to play for a “green hour” each day. Ask that nature walks be part of your child’s pre-school or after-school program. Volunteer for a nature-based community service activity as a family.

## March together in the Children’s Parade...

at EarthFair on April 17 to celebrate the variety of life on earth and demonstrate a commitment to a clean, healthy environment.

## Where is this accessible nature?

Families can search for places to go and family-centered events to participate in, on the new website just launched at [www.sdchildrenandnature.org](http://www.sdchildrenandnature.org). The website is hosted by the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative, and profiles dozens of organi-

zations that offer nature education programs.

To highlight local events that are posted on the website, the Collaborative worked with partners to schedule Family Nature Days during the month of April. They are designed to engage children’s sense of curiosity, exploration and creativity, for ages that range from toddlers to teenagers. Look on the website for information about these events, as well as family-centered nature activities throughout the year. Thanks to the Sempra Energy Foundation for supporting the coordination and promotion of these events in April.

## Who cares about children and nature?

San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative was founded in 2009 by individuals and educational, environmental and community groups with shared concerns that today’s children have less and less opportunity to experience nature. Over 50 organizations and corporations are collaborating to promote access for San Diego’s children to learn in nature and play outdoors. The Collaborative is building on a national movement and network of programs in more than 60 cities, states, and countries called the Children and Nature Network, inspired by Richard Louv’s book *Last Child in the Woods*. Their

website [www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org) offers a wealth of information for families, educators, and communities. **ET**

*Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., has been an advocate for nature throughout her career and a leader in environmental education, urban forestry, and wilderness management. She served as Forest Supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest from 1991-2004, Fege is Adjunct Professor in the San Diego State University Department of Biology, a co-founder of the San Diego Partners for Biodiversity and San Diego Fire Recovery Network, a lifelong Girl Scout, a quilter, and an avid bicyclist.*



PHOTO BY SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY STAFF.

## Plan Ahead for Good, Safe Fun

- Bring a camera to take pictures of nature and create an album.
- Start a nature journal: draw and write about your experiences in nature.
- Take water, snacks and a simple first aid kit.
- Remind children about safety rules.
- Wear sunscreen, a hat and sturdy shoes.
- Be flexible – follow your child’s natural sense of curiosity, wonder and awe.
- Bring a magnifying glass, bug jar, binoculars and field guides.
- Invite friends or another family to join you.



PHOTO BY RICK HALSEY

# New Urban Forestry program in San Diego

TREES AND LANDSCAPING REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES WHILE CONSERVING WATER AND ENERGY.

*provided by California Center for Sustainable Energy*

The California Center for Sustainable Energy has launched an innovative program in urban forestry in San Diego that will promote the many benefits of trees and landscaping as means for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving water and energy resources in the region.

Funded by a \$400,000 grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), CCSE's urban forestry program will offer advice and technical assistance for individuals, businesses and municipalities. The program will also conduct workshops and community outreach events exploring the relationship between landscaping and sustainability issues.

To improve understanding of the importance of plants and trees in developed areas, the Advice and Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) for Urban Forestry has been established. ATAC's main goal is to enable and facilitate a wide range of urban forestry projects in the San Diego region. ATAC is the central meeting place for people to learn

both the how-to and best practices in urban landscaping. Through education, outreach and technical assistance, ATAC provides metrics for use by decision-makers and citizens alike when reaching to meet pressing water conservation and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals under Assembly Bill 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The ATAC also offers public workshops, community events and a lending library.

"Our goal is to instill a sense of urgency about planting more urban trees in San Diego by providing the latest information and resources for best landscaping practices," said Robin Rivet, CCSE's urban forester for ATAC, an ISA certified arborist and UCCE master gardener. "Urban forestry is America's frontline defense in the fight against climate change."

Further information about CCSE's new Cal Fire Urban Forestry Advice and Techni-

cal Assistance Center can be found online at [www.energycenter.org/ATAC](http://www.energycenter.org/ATAC) or call 858-244-1177.

## Upcoming program schedules

### Tips from a Pro: Sustainable Landscape Practices – Low Cost/High Impact

April 14, 2011: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Lynlee Austell Slaytor, a UC Davis-trained sustainable landscape expert and UCCE master gardener, introduces three simple tiers of strategies to manage landscapes more sustainably. She will surprise you with energy-saving best management practices that range from no-cost procedural changes to complete landscape makeovers.

### Make Sustainable Tree Choices to Increase Property Value

May 16, 2011: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Robin Rivet will offer advice on choosing and locating the best species and specimens for your home, school or business.

(Continued on the right)



2050  
Regional  
Transportation  
Plan

Our Region.  
Our Future.

The Draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy are available for public review and comment.

Check out our plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving sensitive lands, and connecting transit, highways, bike lanes, new system technologies, land uses, and more.

Tell us what you think.

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Call us toll free: 1 (877) 277-5736




This presentation will offer advice about why trees enhance property value, how to purchase the best and healthiest trees and which trees appreciate in value the most over time.

### **Sustainable Fruit Trees: Best Practices for Home and Schools**

June 2, 2011: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Tom Del Hotal is an ISA certified arborist, Southwestern College adjunct faculty member and chairman of the California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego chapter. He will provide an overview of which fruit trees do best in our region and some tips on getting the best results from your choices.

These workshops take place at CCSE 8690 Balboa Ave., Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123; phone (858) 244-1177; toll free 866-SDENERGY Register online at [EnergyCenter.org/ATAC](http://EnergyCenter.org/ATAC) 

*CCSE is a nonprofit organization that helps individuals, businesses, municipalities and others to adopt greener practices and save energy and money through rebates, technical assistance and education. For more information on CCSE programs, rebates and services, please visit [www.energycenter.org](http://www.energycenter.org).*

## **No California dream: all the leaves are brown, and the oaks are dying**

*provided by Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California*

**R**ecord numbers of oaks are dying in San Diego and Riverside Counties, killed by a suite of new pests and pathogens. Most can be transported in firewood and other raw wood products, which means that any oak woodland in southern California can become the next point of outbreak.

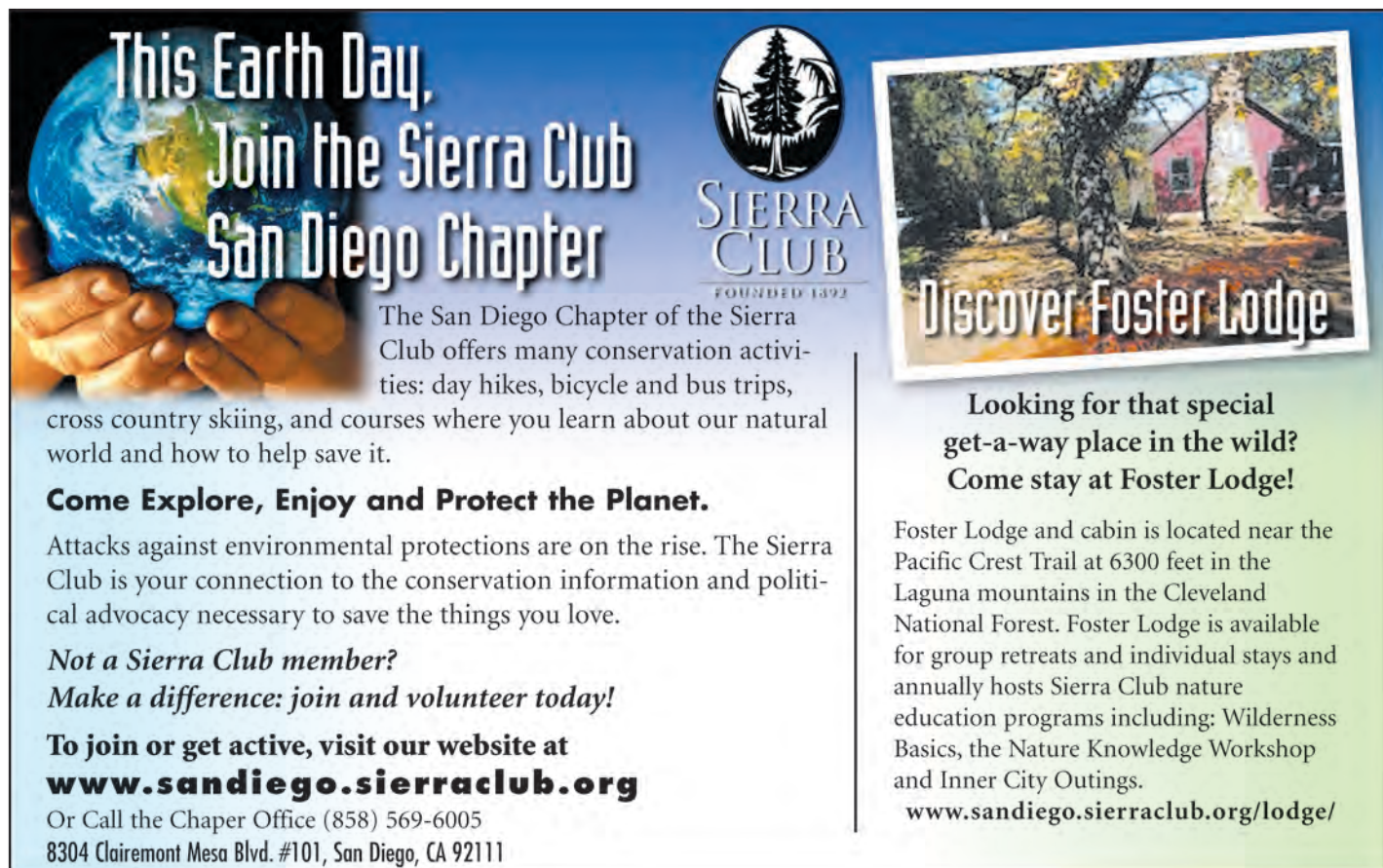
The Goldspotted oak borer beetle has killed or irreparably damaged more than 95% of oaks in several woodlands in less than 10 years. Brown, dead landscapes have become all too familiar in the rural communities of Alpine, Descanso, Campo, Crest, Cuyamaca, Guatay, Jamul, Julian, Laguna, Lake Henshaw, Pine Valley, Santa Ysabel, and Ramona since 2002.

The culprit of oak decline and mortality is an exotic beetle, the Goldspotted oak borer (GSOB; *Agrilus coxalis*), first found in 2004, and later linked to oak damage in 2008. To date, it is responsible for tens of thousands of oak mortalities in San Diego County. GSOB is native to Arizona, Mexico, and Guatemala,



*Goldspotted oak borer beetle – be on the lookout.*

and was most likely brought here in the mid 1990's in firewood. The adult beetle is about 1/2-inch long, with gold spots on its dark green iridescent back. It is known to attack mature coast live oak, canyon live oak, and California black oak. During late summer, beetle larvae emerge from eggs laid in bark crevices and begin boring into the wood. Larvae feed between the sapwood and phloem under the bark, essentially starving the tree of nutrients and killing it within 1-3 years. Evidence of GSOB injury include D-shaped exit holes, twig die-back, crown thinning, (Continued on page 30)



**This Earth Day, Join the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter**

The San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club offers many conservation activities: day hikes, bicycle and bus trips, cross country skiing, and courses where you learn about our natural world and how to help save it.

**Come Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.**

Attacks against environmental protections are on the rise. The Sierra Club is your connection to the conservation information and political advocacy necessary to save the things you love.

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[www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/lodge/](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/lodge/)

## Sick transit gloriously mundane

LESS AFFLUENT SOCIETIES THAN OURS HAVE HIGH-SPEED TRANSIT THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME – IF YOU EVEN OWN ONE. WHY ARE FREEWAY GRIDLOCK OR GLACIAL TRANSIT SCHEDULES OUR ONLY CHOICES?

by Elyse Lowe

The San Diego region is at a crossroads. Our population and economy are growing. But will our transportation system keep up? Or will we become a region with a second-rate transportation system: perpetually caught in traffic, always late, constantly apologizing to our visitors, employees, friends, and potential residents about how hard it is to get around without a car?

Transportation is a resource that can enable one place to be successful while another “hits the wall” and becomes unlivable.

San Diego might become another Bangkok, a beloved city choking on its own traffic, with only a symbolic transit system that can never keep up. Or maybe a miniature Los Angeles, built on dreams but living a daily grind of stop-and-go freeways, clogged onramps, and smog.

There are more hopeful models. We could be more like Singapore and Sydney: thriving world economic powers with an outstanding quality of life built on effective transportation.

To date, our region has prioritized moving cars over moving people. Making local transit better has *not* been a priority.

### A matter of priorities

Is there anything that can be done about it? Senator Christine Kehoe thinks so. She recently introduced SB 468 that would require transit improvements be made *before* freeways are widened in coastal communities (see story on page 12). By improving the coastal rail corridor (aka “double tracking”), and increasing rail frequency, she hopes to offer viable transportation alternatives for commuters that are less polluting and more sustainable.

Ironically, just as L.A. is making huge investments to catch up on its transit system, San Diego seems to be living in the past. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the agency responsible for regional transportation planning. The current

draft of SANDAG’s new forty-year transportation plan (2010-2050) calls for an overall increase in transit investments. However, the majority of the transit improvements are freeway related, and don’t happen until around 2035, after the agency has fully built out its highway network.

Pushing transit investment until the distant future won’t stop population growth; it

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*San Diegans spend more time in traffic - 50 hours per year more - than New Yorkers, whose extensive transit system keeps their roads moving.*

---

will simply put us all into a gigantic traffic jam, ever-deepening our dependence on imported oil, and making our region an ever more unattractive as a place to live and work.

San Diegans spend more time in traffic – 50 hours per year more – than New Yorkers, whose extensive transit system keeps their roads moving. Studies show that building more freeway lanes relieves short term congestion, but provides *only* short-term relief. Transit improvements provide more long-term benefits and cost-effectiveness. Transit also provides many additional benefits, including road and parking cost savings, consumer cost savings, crash reductions, improved mobility for non-drivers, energy conservation, emission reductions, and support for strategic land use.

The Senator’s bill may compel SANDAG to prioritize transit funding in a way that will allow more people to give up their car for a more “carbon free” lifestyle. To do so, SANDAG needs to focus on making transit trip times the same as driving (or better!). Only faster transit services will attract new riders and impact transportation-related climate emissions.

### Faster and cleaner

Taking transit is not the first thought of most San Diegans. Unless you are taking a

short trip (that happens to be in an area with decent transit service), it takes a lot more time than driving (often 2-3 times as long). San Diego needs to design transit so that getting around without a car for most workers is as easy and convenient as stepping onto a train, flex-trolley, or modern bus – that actually goes from where you live to where you work, study, or play. That’s how it is in much of the developed world, and there is no reason it can’t be that way here.

Transportation emissions account for 46% of San Diego’s region’s greenhouse gasses. That is more than any other region in the nation! By reducing the amount that we drive, we can do our part to protect the environment from climate change. In fact, by taking transit or biking just one day per week instead of driving saves more energy in a year than switching out all of our light bulbs, windows and appliances.

### Move San Diego to the future

Move San Diego (MSD) is a San Diego-based non-profit organization whose mission is to prioritize, fund, and implement sustainable, healthy, convenient transportation and related land use solutions that get people and goods wherever they are going, on time, throughout the San Diego region.

MSD sees a San Diego where employers want to build, where young elite professionals want to be, and where people who could live anywhere want to stay. A San Diego where housing is available because transportation links to every area are plentiful, rapid, convenient, and cost-effective.

MSD sees a San Diego where the freeways are uncrowded and the air unpolluted, because many commuters don’t have to take their cars at all. The vision for changing transportation in the region is simple – though

(Continued on page 19)



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## I-5 from San Diego to Sacramento

by Senator Christine Kehoe

San Diego County.

Let's ask ourselves: did voters think that I-5 would be a 40-year construction zone that didn't offer viable transit options like bus rapid transit, the extension of light rail and more use of the Coaster and Amtrak? SB 468 says that transit options should be in place so commuters have real options during freeway construction.



SB 468 would also require Caltrans to assess what would happen when up to 14 lanes of traffic exit onto local streets, and to pay for improvements so that we don't just move the congestion from the freeway to local roads.

The legislation will also help California reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as required under AB 32, its landmark global warming law. Automobile and light trucks account for 50 percent of California's air pollution and 70 percent of the state's petroleum use. By expanding trolley service north of the University of California San Diego/University City area, double-tracking to accommodate increased ridership on the Coaster and Amtrak, implementing a state-of-the-art bus rapid transit program, and constructing bike paths in the corridor, we may finally offer residents, tourists and commuters legitimate alternatives to jumping in their car, stalling in traffic, and fouling our air.

There are better ways to move people through coastal communities than solely widening freeways. Improved transit service costs less, lowers pollution, and reduces congestion. Identifying and implementing better transit should always precede freeway expansion. **ET**

*Senator Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego) represents California's 39th Senate District. The district encompasses 847,000 residents from the City of San Diego, City of Del Mar, and parts of Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, and La Mesa.*

Interstate 5 travels through some of the most scenic areas of California, with the Pacific Ocean on one side of the freeway and six coastal lagoons on the other. Unfortunately, it's not like the old days when traffic congestion occurred only during weekday rush hours. Now it's seven days a week beginning early in the morning and ending well after dark.

To respond to this gridlock, voters approved the TransNet extension in 2004. The 27-mile long I-5 North Coast Corridor Project, sponsored by Caltrans, SANDAG, and the Federal Highway Administration has proposed various widening options from La Jolla Village Drive to Camp Pendleton, the largest of which would create a 14-lane interstate and cost \$4.5 billion.

Depending on which alternative is selected, it will take 40 years to build at a cost of more than \$125 million per mile for the least expensive option, to \$166 million per mile for the most expensive one.

And what do commuters forty years from now gain after spending \$3.4 billion? It will take seven minutes longer to travel from La Jolla Village Drive to Oceanside during rush hour. For \$4.5 billion, drivers will save one minute and carpools will save 10 minutes.

The public clearly wants realistic transit options and is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as we've seen with voters soundly defeating Proposition 23 last November, but none of the proposed expansion options accomplish that goal. An estimated 300 people attended a Senate Transportation Committee hearing I organized on the project last November, with an overwhelming number speaking against the Caltrans freeway expansion plans.

The problem is compounded because half of all Californians live in the coastal zone, and traffic in those areas will only worsen as the population increases, thus degrading the coast as an attractive place to live, work, and play.

I recently introduced legislation that would require the implementation of real transit options in coastal communities before Caltrans could add freeway lanes. The legislation would apply statewide, but the first project affected is the I-5 expansion project in

## EarthFair 2011 takes Balboa Park on April 17

A QUICK GUIDE TO WHAT TO SEE AND DO AT THIS LANDMARK EVENT.

by Chris Klein

**E**arthFair 2011 will be the San Diego EarthWorks' 22nd annual event. EarthFair in Balboa Park has become the largest free annual environmental fair and Earth Day celebration in the world! Produced by 400 volunteers, EarthFair 2011 will feature more than 350 exhibitors, special theme areas, a food pavilion, a special Kids' Activity Area, five entertainment venues, the Children's Earth Parade, and the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Show.

### Exhibitors

The exhibitors are the heart of EarthFair. They represent every type of environmental organization, governmental program and commercial enterprise with goods, services, and causes that address our environment and quality of life. EarthFair exhibitor fees are graduated to allow everyone to participate, from the smallest club to the largest corporation.

It's impossible to list everything you'll find at EarthFair: traditional conservation organizations, wildlife preservation groups, green building, products made from natural and organically grown crops, organic gardening information, alternative energy vehicles, eco-tourism opportunities, many alternative

and traditional health care products and services, pet adoption services, clean air and clean water products, rainforest preservation groups... the list goes on and on.

If your organization, club, or company is interested in exhibiting at EarthFair, please visit [www.EarthDayWeb.org](http://www.EarthDayWeb.org).

### Spotlight on home gardens

Small, sustainable gardens in our yard is becoming more common. With economic hard times for many, and repeated contamination of our food supply, it is more useful than ever to locally grow our own food.

The Sustainable Personal Gardens project says: if you've got a lawn anywhere in San Diego, or a plot just about anywhere, you can put in your own little garden and grow for yourself or your local Farmer's Markets.

A group of exhibitors concerned with food and farming will be showing a demonstration "Victory Garden." Hosted by the Fair Food Group, you'll see an inexpensive and easily-installed garden that most people can manage, even the elderly (with some help). The Victory Garden, and the groups that are presenting it, will be located in the exhibit area just off Presidents Way and east of the

Hall of Champions. Stop by and find out how YOU can roll up your sleeves and get to work on your own garden.

### Special for Kids

In our Children's' Activity Area you'll find crafts, games, face painting, story-telling, and a hands-on activities for children of all ages. Activities are designed to educate, entertain, and inspire youth in the spirit of Earth Day. This year, participants can make take part in a number of eco-friendly crafts. Our Children's Stage features performances throughout the day.

### Children's Earth Parade

The Children's Earth Parade starts at 10:30AM by the Spanish Village and marches through the Park to the Children's Area in the Pan American Plaza. Participants are invited to dress up as endangered species or present their favorite earth-friendly messages. To find out more about the Parade or to register, please visit [www.EarthDayWeb.org](http://www.EarthDayWeb.org).

### eARTH Gallery

The eARTH Gallery features artwork made from recycled materials, or depicting

(Continued on page 14)



## Attend Awards Reception in honor of Earth Day

**S**an Diego EarthWorks presents the 21st annual V.I.P. (Very Important Planet) Reception and E.A.R.T.H. Awards:

**Wednesday, May 11th, 6:00PM-9:00PM**  
**9601 Ridgehaven Court, Kearny Mesa**

Business and community members will gather at the V.I.P. (Very Important Planet) Reception to celebrate Earth Day, acknowledge individuals and organizations who have taken extraordinary action on behalf of our environment, and support San Diego EarthWorks programs. The evenings activities will include:

- A **Silent Auction** with eco-friendly goods,

services and entertainment packages.

- A **buffet dinner** and no-host bar.
- **San Diego EarthWorks' "EARTH" Awards**, presented by Councilmember Todd Gloria.

For more information, to donate to the silent auction, to volunteer, or to purchase tickets, visit [EarthDayWeb.org](http://EarthDayWeb.org), email [vip11@earthdayweb.org](mailto:vip11@earthdayweb.org), or call (858) 272-7370.

V.I.P. Reception sponsors include San Diego Gas & Electric and Solar Turbines. Volunteer online at [www.earthdayweb.org](http://www.earthdayweb.org). **ET**

## Earth Artists

Do you have art works or craft pieces that are made from recycled, found or sustainable natural materials, or that are concerned with the environment? If so, we invite you to display your works at the **eARTH Gallery** at EarthFair on April 17. There is no charge to show your works, and a modest fee if you would like to offer them for sale.

You can register for the eARTH Gallery online at the EarthWorks website, [www.EarthDayWeb.org](http://www.EarthDayWeb.org). For more information, please call the EarthWorks office at: (858) 272-7370.

# Award inspiration

NOMINATE A DESERVING INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP FOR AN E.A.R.T.H. AWARD

by Alice Martinez

Often, the people making extraordinary efforts on behalf of the environment and our quality of life are unappreciated beyond their small circle of associates. EarthWorks' E.A.R.T.H. Awards (Environmental Action & Restoration That Helps) give these special individuals and groups the wider acknowledgment they deserve, and encourage others to follow their example.

In your daily life, you may know individuals or groups worthy of an E.A.R.T.H.

Award. It could be a student that has set up a recycling program at school, a restaurant that has converted to recycled paper products, a government department that has eliminated pesticide use, or an organization that is promoting zero-waste. The possibilities are endless.

EarthWorks asks YOU to nominate potential recipients for the E.A.R.T.H. Awards. A nomination form can be filled out at the EarthWorks on-line registration system. Just go to [sdew.earthmedia.bz/login](http://sdew.earthmedia.bz/login), regis-

ter yourself on the system, and click the "E.A.R.T.H. Award 2010 Nomination" button. If you don't have web access, please call the EarthWorks office at 858-272-7370. The nomination deadline is April 22, 2011 – Earth Day! Self-nominations are welcome.

The awards will be presented to the winners by San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria on May 11 at the 21st annual V.I.P. Reception (see story on page 13). **ET**

## EarthFair 2011

(cont. from page 13)

"Endangered Spaces" in San Diego County. The artwork will be presented next to the Children's Area in the Pan American Plaza (close to the Auto Museum).

### Green Building

Exhibits in the Pan American Plaza showcase products and technologies that can make

your home more environmentally sustainable and healthy. Find out about energy- and resource-saving products and materials, such as energy-efficient appliances and low-E windows. A wide variety of solar-electric systems can help you get "off the grid."

### Cleaner Car Concourse

The Cleaner Car Concourse features alternative-fuel and high-efficiency vehicles of all descriptions (hybrids included). This isn't just "the future" – these are vehicles being used on the road today. The vehicles will be on display in the Pan American Plaza.

Do you have a vehicle that belongs in the

show? Visit the website for more information and to register.

### First, you have to get there

EarthFair attracts around 60,000 visitors. That's a lot. If you plan on arriving at EarthFair after 11:00AM, there may be little or no car parking close to the park. Instead of sitting in your car looking for that one needle-in-a-haystack parking place, try one of these alternatives: **bike, use transit, or use off-site parking with a free shuttle ride.**

#### Ride a bike

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition will offer free, guarded bike parking available in two locations:

- On Village Place (off of Park Blvd., south of the Zoo) behind the Natural History Museum.
- In front of the Museum of Man, just over the Laurel St. bridge.

If you don't want to ride the entire way to the park, drive part way, park in a convenient spot, and ride the rest of the way.

#### Ride public transportation

There is a trolley stop about a ten-minute walk from the Park. See the details in the **Try Transit for Earth Day** below.

#### Trolley and Free Shuttle

Take the free shuttle service from City College. From the trolley stop on Park Blvd., cross to the east side of Park Blvd. and walk up to Russ Blvd. The shuttle stop is close to the corner of Russ Blvd. and Park Blvd.

#### Off-site Parking and Free Shuttles

**Free shuttle services** will take you between the Fair and **two free off-site parking locations: at City College, and**

(Continued on page 19)

### Try Transit for Earth Day!

Riders can take any Blue or Orange Trolley Line to the City College Station in downtown San Diego. The station is located between 11th Ave. and Park Blvd., and C St. and Broadway. The Route 7 bus stop is just steps away at the corner of 11th Avenue and C Street. Remember to get a Day Pass when you start your trip on the trolley.

Use the Transit Trip Planner online at [transit.511sd.com](http://transit.511sd.com). For automated schedule info, call: 619-685-4900.

Remember, riding MTS buses and trolleys make every day "EARTH DAY." When you take transit instead of driving a car you reduce greenhouse gases, slow global warming, and improve our air quality. Saving just one gallon of gas can eliminate 19 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

### On-line Exhibitor Finder

We have always listed the names of our exhibitors on our website, and links to their websites. However, searching through hundreds of exhibitors is daunting.

To help you find the specific exhibitors you are interested in visiting, we're launching a new web-based service this year. Starting April 6, go to [EarthDayWeb.org/EF/EF\\_Exh\\_Info.html](http://EarthDayWeb.org/EF/EF_Exh_Info.html). You will find a list of 60 topics, like "Climate Change", "Peace", "Solar - electric" and "Waste Reduction." Check off the topics you are interested in, press the "Show Exhibitors" button, and the system will list the exhibitors that specialize in those topics, their exhibit description, and a link to their website.

SAN DIEGO EARTHWORKS PRESENTS  
**EARTHFAIR 2011**  
 BALBOA PARK • SAN DIEGO • APRIL 17, 2011



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 COMMISSION FOR  
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JACQUES L. SCHROEDER 2-12-11

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San Diego EarthWorks Acknowledges and thanks our sponsors and supporters without whose generous support the EarthFair would not be possible:

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 San Diego Bicycle Coalition  
 San Diego Gas & Electric / Sempra Utilities  
 San Diego 6 The CW  
 Solar Turbines  
 Sophie 103.7  
 Toyota Dealers of San Diego County  
 University of San Diego  
 Urban Corps of San Diego  
 Wal-Mart  
 Zero Waste San Diego  
 10News  
 91.7 Diego  
 FM 99.3 La Mejor

## Magic Stage El Prado East

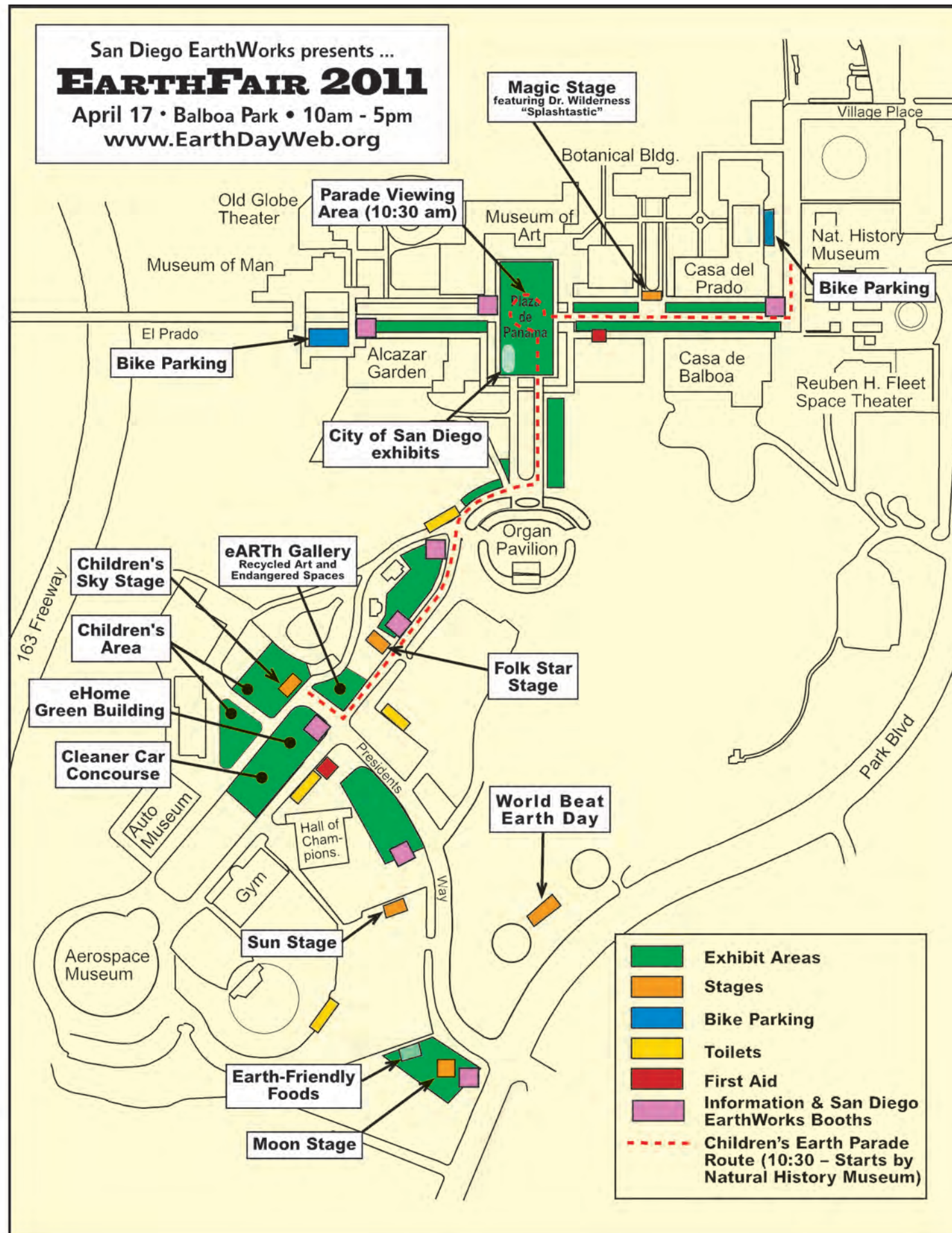
Dr. Wilderness "Splashtastic"  
 The History and Mystery of Water  
 Shows at 11:30, 1:00, 2:15

## San Diego Folk Star Stage UN Building Lawn

Presented by San Diego Folk Heritage Society

11:00 Delta Blues Dogs – Country Blues of the 20's and 30's  
 12:00 The Sinclairs – Folksingers  
 1:00 Sapphire Jam – Folk, Blues, Jazz  
 2:00 Chris Clarke – Traditional & new American Heritage Music  
 3:00 Ron Franklin – Singer-songwriter  
 4:00 Tom Cahoon – Singer-songwriter

**Multi-Cultural Earth Day**  
 World Beat Cultural Center  
 Music – Exhibitors – Food



## Zero Waste at EarthFair

EarthFair has a goal of **Zero Waste**, meaning everything that is thrown away will either be recycled or reused. In 2010, 80% was diverted from the landfill. Help us do better in 2011!

If you have food, paper or other waste, don't just put it in a trash can; instead, go to one of the 35 **Zero Waste Stations** throughout EarthFair and recycle! Each station, under a colored canopy, will have blue Recycling and green Composting bins, and our volunteer **Trash Talkers** who can answer any recycling or composting questions you have, and help you get your waste in the right bin.

## Canobliss Sun Stage

### Federal Building Lawn

Produced by Canobliss and Will Edwards

11:00 For Strangers and Wardens – Acoustic Americana  
 12:00 The Socialists – Rock  
 1:00 Sunday Girl – Rock/Hard Rock  
 2:00 Canobliss – Hard Rock/Metal  
 3:00 High Tide – Reggae/Ska

## Moon Stage

### Park & Presidents Way

Produced by Spirit Soul & Friends

12:00 U4EA – Youth Rock Band  
 12:30 Kristofor Szasz – Poet, acoustic guitar  
 1:00 Paul Hanna – Island/Folk/acoustic guitar  
 1:30 Diaspora – Afro/Brazilian drum ensemble  
 2:00 Spirit Sout & Friends – World music, Yoga Dance  
 2:30 Will & Ted – Island/Reggae, acoustic guitar  
 3:00 Elijah Bustos – Vocalist, acoustic guitar  
 3:30 Jam & Bread – Family trio  
 4:00 Spirit Sout & Friends – Rock Out Kirtan, Closing ceremony

## Children's Sky Stage Children's Area

Produced by Betsy Hawkins

10:00 Dance Scene – Children's Variety Dance  
 10:45 Capoeira Brasil – Afro-Brazilian martial arts  
 4:00 Bafflin' Bill Cody – Magic  
 Music, Dance, and Storytelling throughout the day

# EARTHFAIR EXHIBITORS

AS OF 3/10/11

+E (Positive Energy)	Clayponics	Kactis4Kancer	Raja Yoga Meditation	Smart Home Remodeling,
10News	Clif Bar & Co.	Kahal Am: the	Center	Inc
Ace Rain Systems	Committee Opposed to	Humanistic Jewish	Re-Pac Bags	Solana Center for
Active Posture	Militarism and the Draft	Community of San	Re-Wear Clothing & More	Environmental
Chiropractic	Coral's Little Reef	Diego	REC Solar	Innovation
Advanced Exteriors, Inc.	Councilmember Todd	Kids for Peace	Red Lotus Society	Spanish Village Art
Algalita Marine Research	Gloria's Office	Kyronart	Red Umbrella Textile Arts	Center
Foundation	County of San Diego,	La Jolla Country Day	Regeneration-Art	Spay Neuter Action
American Cetecean	Department of Parks	School	Reincarnation Clothing	Project
Society	and Recreation	La Jolla Friends of the	Renewal by Andersen	State Senator Christine
American Society of	County of San Diego,	Seals	Sagewinds Farms	Kehoe
Landscape Architects -	Vector Control Program	La'Vera Delight FKA	San Diegans for Safe	Strictly Vegan Jamaican
San Diego Chapter	Cox Communications	Manila BBQ & Grill	Water	Cuisine
Americans for a	Culligan Water of San	Laguna Mountain	San Diego Association of	Surfrider Foundation, San
Department of Peace	Diego	Volunteer Association	Governments	Diego County Chapter
Animal Protection and	dc woodcrafts	Last Chance for Animals	San Diego Audubon	sweetwater zen center
Rescue League	Doc Popcorn	League of Women Voters	Society	Tech Electric
ArchisAcres, Veterans	Domchurro	of San Diego	San Diego Beekeeping	The American Chemical
Sustainable Agriculture	Dr. Bauer's Advanced	Lillie Soap Co.	Society	Society, San Diego
Training	Wellness	Linear City Concepts	San Diego County	Section
Arnett's Plumbing, Inc.	Dunn Edwards Paints	Love, Create & Help	Democratic Party	The Camping Bares
Atheist Coalition	Earthfoods	Lume di Luna Designs	San Diego County Office	The Cancer Project
Atwater Solar &	Eco Nuts	Maui Wowi Hawaiian	of Education	The Friendly Feather
Construction	Edible San Diego	Coffees and Smoothies	San Diego County Water	Shop
Awareness Magazine	Environgentle	Metropolitan Transit	Authority	The GoodOnYa Bar
B 'N' B Kettle Corn	Evergreen Center for Self-	System (MTS)	San Diego Diaper Service	The San Diego River Park
Baha'i Faith	healing	Mignon Vietnamese	San Diego Gas & Electric	Foundation
Bang for your Green Buck	Fair Trade San Diego	Restaurant	San Diego Geranium	The Unity Center
Barden Circulation	Ferdinand's Familia	Mission Trails Regional	Society	The Waldorf School of
Be Love	Fiesta Island Dog Owners	Park Foundation	San Diego House Rabbit	San Diego
Becky Bones	Fleet Readiness Center	Mix Up Gallery	Society	The Zeitgeist Movement
Birkenstock of San Diego	Southwest	Mossuto Chiropractic	San Diego Libertarian	TheGreenAddict
Stores	Foster Chiropractic Clinic	Center	Party	Thistees & Bella Crepe
BottleHood	Fred Ferino and His	Move San Diego	San Diego Neck and Back	Thresholds Home
Buddhist Tzu Chi	Inventions	Mueller College	Pain Relief Center	Funerals
Foundation	Friends of Famosa Slough	MVS Radio - Diego 91.7	San Diego Pagan Pride	Tierra Miguel Foundation
CA Center for	Friends of Humane	fm & La Mejor 99.3 fm	San Diego Peace Corps	Organic Farm & CSA
Sustainable Energy	Society de Tijuana	Nataraja Meditation and	Association	Tools 4 Healers
California Native Plant	From War to Peace	Yoga Center	San Diego Puppet	TUWA Elements of the
Society - San Diego	Fruit Tree Planting	Nature's Elements	Insurgency	Earth
Chapter	Foundation	Landscaping	San Diego Roots	U.S. Fish & Wildlife
California Rare Fruit	Goodwill Industries of	NAVFAC Southwest Navy	Sustainable Food	Service, Office of Law
Growers	San Diego County	Facilities Engineering	Project	Enforcement
California Straw Building	Great Old Broads for	Command	San Diego Solar Install	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Association	Wilderness, San Diego	Nika Water	San Diego Toyota Dealers	Service - San Diego
California Wolf Center	Green Party of San Diego	Ocean Beach Wellness	San Diego Veterans For	NWR Complex
Californians for	County	Center	Peace	UCCE Master Gardeners
Population Stabilization	Green Truck	Ocean Discovery Institute	San Diego Workforce	Urban Octopus
Camp Stevens	Guthrie and Sons	Om! Lifestyle	Partnership	Urban Plantations
CBS Radio San Diego -	Heating and Air	One of a Kind Purses	San Diego Zoo Global	Vitality Chiropractic
KyXy & Sophie 103.7	Heifer International	Pacific Coast Naturals	San Dieguito River Valley	Viva Pops
Cheetah Conservation	Hostelling International-	PaintGreen Professional	Conservancy	Water Conservation
Fund, San Diego	USA	Painters	Save The World Fridays	Garden
Chapter	Hug It Forward	Palomar Mountain Water	SCHAP	WaterReuse Association -
Christian Vegetarian	Humanist Fellowship of	Palomar Solar	Sea Shepherd	San Diego Chapter
Association	San Diego	Peace Pies	Conservation Society	Whole Being Weekend
Christians for EarthCare	I Love a Clean San Diego	Peace Resource Center of	Self-Heal School of	Whole Life Home Care
Christine T. Babcock	IBEW Local 569	San Diego	Herbal Studies and	Wildcoast
Citizens Climate Lobby	Innovations Academy	Piper Reed's Italian Ice	Healing	Wings of Healing
Citrus Pest and Disease	Charter School	Planned Parenthood of	SHARE Network San	Xothi Designs
Prevention Program	Innovative Growing	the Pacific Southwest	Diego	YaYa Bamboo
City of San Diego -	Solutions (IGS)	Plant With Purpose	Sharp Hospital	Zero Waste San Diego
Environmental Services	International Rectifier	Plug In America	Outpatient Pavilion	ZuumCraft, Inc.
Department	JAK Native, Inc.	Plus One Water	Health Library	
City of San Diego Solid	Jamar Power Systems	Port of San Diego	Sierra Club, San Diego	
Waste Local	Janet Reese	Pour It Forward	Chapter	
Enforcement Agency	Just a Dog Pit Bull Rescue	Project Wildlife	Skoy Enterprises	
City of San Diego Water	Just Like My Child	Quality Assurance	Slow Food Urban San	
Department	Foundation	International	Diego	

EarthFair 2011 is funded in part by a grant from the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

# EarthFair 2011

(cont. from page 14)

at the **County Administration Building on Pacific Highway. The shuttles will run from 10:30 am to 6 pm.** NOTE: EarthFair shuttle buses cannot accommodate bicycles, unlike MTS buses.

To get to the **City College lot**, from the 163 freeway, exit on Park Blvd. and follow the signs: turn right (south) on Park, turn left (east) on C St., and left again (north) on 16th.

## Sick transit

(cont. from page 10)

getting it changed is not.

Please join MSD. Let's build a thriving, clean, livable future for San Diego – where people can use both cars and transit in a future that works for all of us and the environment. Move San Diego needs your help to transport us to a stronger, more prosperous, more enjoyable future. Visit [MoveSanDiego.org](http://MoveSanDiego.org) to learn more, and find out what you can do. **ET**

*Elyse Lowe is Executive Director of Move San Diego, a regional non-profit dedicating to improving the performance of our transportation planning and investments.*

Go straight two blocks and park in the lots opposite Garfield Jr. High School. The shuttle stop is marked with a sign.

To get to the **County Administration north parking lot** (and observe the one-way streets), take Pacific Highway and turn west on West Ash Street, turn right on North Harbor Drive, and right again on West Grape Street. Enter the north parking lot by turning right off of Grape. Note that parking in the north lot is free; if the north lot is full, parking is available in the south lot for a fee.

## And... VOLUNTEER!

It takes about 400 volunteers to produce this event. Come make a difference, and help create a fun, safe, productive event for 60,000 of our closest friends. There are 17 different volunteer jobs. Some are active and physical, others mental and social, still others almost contemplative. Work one 3-hour shift, or pitch in all day. Your choice. Check it out: [www.EarthDayWeb.org/EF/EF\\_Vol.html](http://www.EarthDayWeb.org/EF/EF_Vol.html). **ET**

# EarthFair 2011

60,000 Visitors – 400 Exhibitors

5 Stages – 1 Parade

Managed by

400 Volunteers

and YOU

Pretty cool, huh?

VOLUNTEER

EarthDayWeb.org



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# POLLUTION AND WASTE

## Red Cups

by Dani Ito

As I wade shin-deep through piles full of crunching plastic, all I see is red. Shiny, fire-engine red that has become oh-so familiar. But for now, the living room is unrecognizable. A fort has accumulated out of stacks of red plastic party cups. Solo, Kirkland, Dixie, Hefty – the gang’s all here... all two thousand and thirty of their cups, to be exact. They sit, impatiently scarlet, waiting to be turned into some masterpiece of the recycled-trash-art genre. The task seems insanely daunting, or maybe just insane. How did I get into this mess?

### Mission possible?

The mission was simple: conduct a little experiment to see just how many of those red cups are generated in Isla Vista [a town populated by students from UC Santa Barbara] over any given weekend. Armed with a family-sized box of trash bags, rubber gloves, and a couple of very loyal friends, we set off down the 6600 block of Del Playa Drive, one of the most notorious hangouts of the infamous red cup. Knocking on every door along the ocean side of the street, we met our neighbors, explained the project, and took their generous donations of all the cups they used the previous night. Really, if you’re looking for a way to make some new friends

in Isla Vista, try offering your party cleaning services door-to-door; the general population seems pretty receptive to it.

Some were dripping in jungle juice, some half-full of stale beer, some completely destroyed; then there were the obligatory ash-tray red cups, but mostly there were cups that were almost perfectly clean and otherwise

---

*We're a community of students who have a reputation for being committed to the environment and to having the absolute best time possible in the best location possible. So why do we continue to relentlessly trash the town and beaches we love every weekend?*

---

reusable. No matter the state of the cups, they had a common destination: the good ol’ Santa Barbara landfill. When I explained the project up and down the street, people were prompt to inform me: “It’s OK, we recycle all our red cups.”

The sad truth of the matter is that Santa Barbara County does not recycle the type of plastic red cups are made of. Essentially, it is the same stuff as Styrofoam, the out-dated material used in all take-out food containers of previous decades until people realized how

bad it is for the environment. As a generation that was brought up to “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” most of Isla Vista’s student population sincerely believes they are doing their duty by placing the debris of last night’s party in the blue bins. The standard red cup, however, is inscribed with a deceptive recycling symbol, but also numbered 6PS, standing for

Polystyrene, the type of plastic that is not recycled around here.

And so the hundreds of thousands of cups used and rejected on the streets of Isla Vista find their way to the landfill to be “stored” indefinitely. At least, this is the fate for the majority of the 2,000 cups we collected

from sticky weekend aftermath inside the houses. Many, however, were rescued from gutters, dumpsters, and cliff-side yards where they hung perilously above the beach below. Plastics in this quantity blowing from backyard parties into the ocean continually, year after year, has surely impacted the surrounding beaches – not to mention that great swirling vortex, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, out in the ocean we love.

We’re a community of students who have

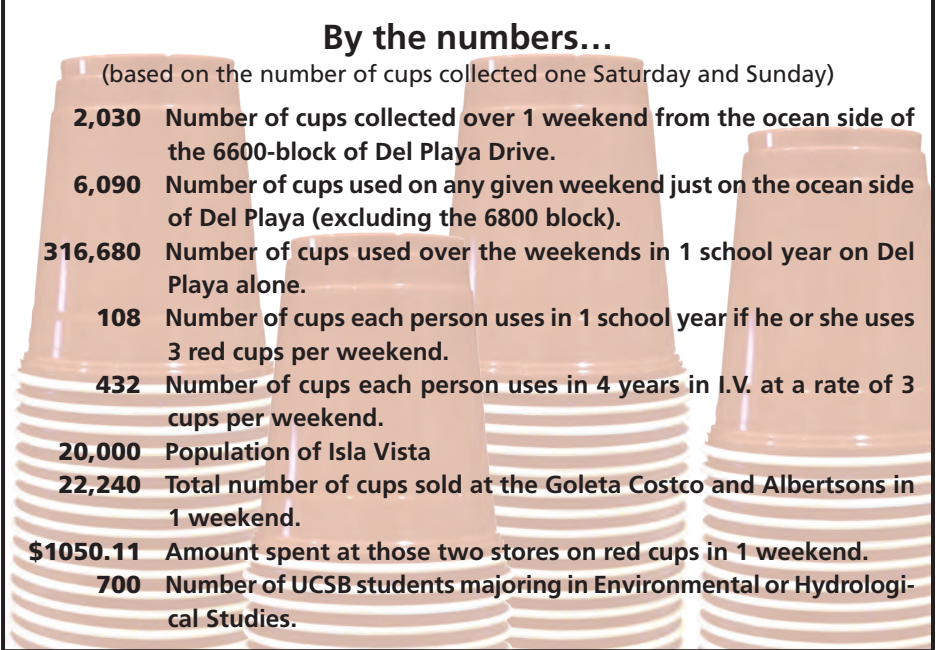
(Continued on page 22)

### Polystyrene

Polystyrene is very rarely recycled, for technical reasons and low value. First made from a tree in the 19th century, polystyrene became an industrial product through the Nazi-associated corporation IG Farben (now Bayer, BASF and Agfa). The name Styrofoam is Dow Chemical’s polystyrene. In Germany today polystyrene is collected as a consequence of the packaging law (Verpackungsverordnung) that requires manufacturers to take responsibility for recycling or disposing of any packaging material they sell.

### By the numbers...

(based on the number of cups collected one Saturday and Sunday)

- 
- 2,030** Number of cups collected over 1 weekend from the ocean side of the 6600-block of Del Playa Drive.
  - 6,090** Number of cups used on any given weekend just on the ocean side of Del Playa (excluding the 6800 block).
  - 316,680** Number of cups used over the weekends in 1 school year on Del Playa alone.
  - 108** Number of cups each person uses in 1 school year if he or she uses 3 red cups per weekend.
  - 432** Number of cups each person uses in 4 years in I.V. at a rate of 3 cups per weekend.
  - 20,000** Population of Isla Vista
  - 22,240** Total number of cups sold at the Goleta Costco and Albertsons in 1 weekend.
  - \$1050.11** Amount spent at those two stores on red cups in 1 weekend.
  - 700** Number of UCSB students majoring in Environmental or Hydrological Studies.

## Crazy weather: How it's linked to climate change

The story leading up to the Super Bowl was whether it would happen at all. For the previous week, Dallas, along with the rest of the Midwest and Northeast, had been buried in a blizzard that dumped record amounts of snow, closing airports, clogging highways and causing rolling power blackouts.

Commentators wondered sarcastically about what had happened to global warming. Actually, even if counter-intuitively, this major weather event was a confirmation that global warming is here, and it's getting more serious all the time. Global warming is not just about the world getting hotter. It is also about the weather getting crazier, as Southern California also has been experiencing recently in the form of sudden temperature changes and abrupt storms.

### Weather or not

Climate scientists, such as those at the World Meteorological Organization, caution that any individual storm, drought or flood should not be viewed as proof of anything. These events constitute weather, which is

a short-term phenomenon. Climate change represents a long-term pattern, averaged over many seasons and weather events. Since data recording began in the late 1800s, it consistently documents trends in temperature, rainfall, ice melt, ocean rise and weather intensity supporting the conclusion that global

---

**Global warming is not just about the world getting hotter. It is also about the weather getting crazier, as Southern California also has been experiencing recently in the form of sudden temperature changes and abrupt storms.**

---

warming is increasing. This correlates directly to the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere by human activity, mainly from consuming carbon-based fuels. That is the fundamental point underlying the reports issued by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the principal network of scientists studying climate change.

*by Cary Lowe & Patricia Butler*  
Any given winter may be cooler or warmer, but that just represents expected variation in a very long-term natural process. As the National Center for Atmospheric Research points out, there still will be record cold days, but fewer of them, and there will be more record highs than record lows. The trend is what matters, and the trend is one in which each of the past several decades has been warmer, on average, than the one preceding it, and the most recent decade was the warmest ever recorded. At the same time, there are cyclical conditions like El Niño and La Niña that change ocean temperatures and thereby sharply alter usual weather patterns.

### Climactic climate

Against this backdrop, it is the increase in weather intensity that underlies events like those we have been seeing throughout the country this winter. As the atmosphere warms, even slightly, it absorbs more moisture. This is accelerated by warming of the oceans and the resulting increase in evaporation. This doesn't necessarily lead to more storms, but  
(Continued on page 24)

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## Red Cups

(cont. from page 21)

a reputation for being committed to the environment and to having the absolute best time possible in the best location possible. So why do we continue to relentlessly trash the town and beaches we love every weekend? For a good time? Surely we're entitled to have a good time. But we can do it in a sustainable way. It just takes stepping out of the typical I.V. mindset and thinking about some alternative options.

What can you do instead?

- Play water pong! It's just like beer pong, but much cleaner and more hygienic. Fill the cups with water instead of beer, and each time someone makes a shot, drink a third of your side drink. The game is the exact same, but the cups stay clean so you can reuse them throughout the entire

year. You save money and the environment while decreasing your likelihood of picking up diseases!

- Skip cups altogether and buy cases of beer. The cans are recyclable and many of I.V.'s local can collectors will be more than happy to take them off your hands the next day.
- Break the mold! Buy different cups. Several brands such as Solo make cups that are recyclable (though they may not be red). Just check the bottom to make sure it has the recycling triangle with a number 1, 2, 6 or 7 – NOT 6PS – before you buy it!
- Petition your local stores to stock more cups that are made of recyclable plastic. They're the ones that can determine our choices by giving us more options.
- When you're drinking at home or at a friend's place, try to use kitchen cups,

or even bring your own flask! Washing and reusing is always cheaper and more sustainable than using a disposable cup.

- Spread the word and host a BYOC – Bring Your Own Cup – party! Tell everyone to bring a plain cup from their kitchen and offer Sharpies to decorate with. Everyone gets a pimp cup they can show off at all future parties. **ET**

*Red cups (#6PS plastic/polystyrene) are not recycled in San Diego, either! The above article originally appeared in the current edition of the UCSB student magazine Word, edited by Hector Diaz.*

*To learn more about the plastic plague, see the award-winning documentary Our Synthetic Sea (available in Spanish too) available from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation and read Culture Change articles on the plastic plague.*



## Innovative Growing Solutions, Inc.

*Earth Day is a momentous celebration that emphasizes the importance of our long term sustainability on this planet. Local food economies are our best hope for obtaining this sustainability because food is at the heart of every economy. Together as a society, we need to dedicate ourselves to helping each other while supporting our local communities to create a sustainable future for all.*

*Innovative Growing Solutions loves everything about San Diego – its beaches, mountains, lakes, farms, and parks. Every April, like-minded people come together for Earth Day at one of San Diego's most beautiful parks to share their feelings and views on how to be the best stewards for our planet.*

*IGS was established 10 years ago here in San Diego by two men with a shared vision for the future and passion for agriculture. We are a business without a large profit margin, feeling the effects of a struggling economy; however, we are still here and remain a strong presence in our community and beyond. The notion that innovation creates prosperity is not new. However, what is new is the evolving definition of prosperity. For us at IGS, it is the vitality of our community through the happiness of its members, the health of our farms, arts, sustainable energy security, and local foods. The traditional way to run a corporation is to take more than you leave, and then move on. At IGS, our mission is to work harder and be a leader by leaving more than what we take. We will succeed in a positive and helpful way, so our profit is honestly earned – balancing profit with human and environmental needs. Localization is our constant drive, placing more emphasis on individuals and small enterprises while creating partnerships between several entities as opposed to the success of a single organization. Our innovations are tailored to our local community market needs. We share our findings from hands on experience on our IGS, R&D farm to help San Diego's small scale farms stay up and running... not running away. Our extensive research on how to be more productive is a way to keep and create more healthy local foods with the intent of having a positive impact on the environment. Our research allows us to give back and support the schools of San Diego, to help educate and develop the young minds of our future generations. They are the seeds of a grassroots movement! Our goal is to inspire all students to become activists and work together while promoting a better, sustainable way of living. We help ensure that they have enough fresh, nutritious and affordable local food - we aim to create a beneficial, co-existence between the youth and the earth. The solution is simple and right in our backyard, stop by and we'll show you!*

*IGS will help teach any student, veteran, professional or small backyard farmer with hopes that they will pay it forward by teaching it to the next person and so on. There is no monetary profit resulting from a pay-forward / pay-back program, IGS simply wants to spread the knowledge available to all who desire to learn. You can do what you want with the teachings, but just do something!! We at IGS hope to look back at the innovations of the 21st century to find that YOU are the ones that have helped humanity with a positive impact on the environment, carrying the torch for sustainability.*

*Thank you and the earth for your time. – Mike Dial, IGS.*

**Innovative Growing Solutions, Inc. Farm and Garden Supply**  
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# Greenhouse gasses and YOU

by Andrea Cook, Ph.D.

**B**y now, everyone has heard of climate change and knows that what we do locally has an impact on our whole planet. In our own neighborhoods, we have witnessed dirty air coming out of vehicles, polluted water running down the street and overflowing trash cans on trash day. We drive our cars, watch TV and take hot showers without batting an eye. It is just daily life as we know it. How big of an impact could our residential life possibly have on the earth? You might be surprised.

## Who, me?

When we look at greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within San Diego County by economic sector, it's a real eye opener. The residential sector is the largest emitter, contributing 56% of all greenhouse gasses (Anders *et al.* 2008). In San Diego, we cannot point our finger at the commercial (21%) or industrial (11%) sectors and declare that they are the big polluters. If our planet is to avoid climate disruption – higher temperatures, drought, sea level rise and extreme weather events – it's up to us residents to take action (along with the other sectors of the economy).

## It's all about energy

Largely, it's the energy that we use and waste that is the problem. The gasoline and diesel we put in our cars and SUVs; the natural gas that we use to heat our homes and dry

our clothes; the electricity we use to power the lights, television, computer and microwave; the propane we use to fire up our barbecues; the fuel in the airplanes we take to go on vacation; the off-road vehicles and boats we recreate on, etc. Of all GHG emissions in San Diego County, 91% come from carbon-based energy use (fossil fuels). The other 9% of GHG emissions come from industrial chemicals, landfill gas, manure, wastewater treatment and the like. GHG-emitting dirty energy is the biggest cause of climate change.

And there is something that we can do about it.

I suggest beginning at home and surrendering to the fact that we are wasteful with how we use energy. Here are just a few ideas of how you can change your energy behaviors:

- Carpool or take public transportation
- Turn off or unplug computers, televisions, microwaves and video games
- Turn down your hot water heater's temperature
- Buy water and food from local sources
- Take your cloth bags to the grocery store
- Turn off your car rather than letting it idle while waiting for friends
- Quit using water wastefully, and save the energy it takes to pump it here
- Take pride in recycling, reusing and repurposing

I know what I'm going to do – I'm going

to be more conscious about my energy use and stop wasting so much of it. I didn't even realize I was wasting energy... I was just living daily life as I knew it. I am making changes in my behavior, but I'm also looking into ways I can make my home more efficient – so I don't have to work so hard at saving energy.

The new Energy Upgrade California program is a good opportunity to fix the whole house at once. After I stop wasting energy, I'll use the money I've saved to invest in clean energy, like solar or wind that won't pollute the planet so much or lead to climate disruption. It is not a sacrifice; it is ceasing to waste energy immediately – and investing in a healthier planet for now and later. **ET**

*Andrea Cook, Ph.D., is the Climate Change Program Manager at the California Center for Sustainable Energy. For background on the numbers, please visit [www.sandiego.edu/epic/ghginventory/](http://www.sandiego.edu/epic/ghginventory/). For more information about Energy Upgrade California see [www.energycenter.org](http://www.energycenter.org) and [energyupgradeca.org/overview](http://energyupgradeca.org/overview).*

*Editor's note: Addressing climate change will require political action in addition to individual action. Locally, you can volunteer with the Sierra Club Climate Change committee. Visit [sandiego.sierraclub.org](http://sandiego.sierraclub.org).*

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## Crazy weather

(cont. from page 22)

it does result in storms being more severe, with stronger winds and greater precipitation. In recent months, this has been exacerbated by a change in the condition known as the arctic oscillation, which has shifted cold air from the northern latitudes downward, where it has combined with moist air from the south to produce cold precipitation, that is, snow, sleet and ice. This collision of a long-term warming trend with a short-term cooling condition resulted in winter days where it was colder in the Southwest than in parts of Alaska and Canada.

At the same time, heat waves and droughts are intensified in some regions of the world, as precipitation patterns also shift. In the

past year, we have seen the hottest summers ever in Russia, the heaviest monsoons ever in South Asia, the worst floods in decades in China and the greatest Arctic melting ever recorded. These extreme occurrences, coupled with extreme winter weather elsewhere, led commentator Thomas Friedman to suggest that global warming is better seen as “global weirding,” as climate change leads to increasingly severe but erratic conditions.

In the long run, as the climate continues to warm, the freakish weather events will increasingly be of the warm variety such as monsoons and hurricanes, particularly in the middle latitudes, where the ocean and atmosphere are warmer. However, especially

for the short run, whenever the temperature drops into the freezing range, stormy weather will take the form of blizzards, like the ones that have been blasting the Midwest and Northeast.

The next Super Bowl will be played at an indoor stadium in Indianapolis, substantially north of Dallas. No one is predicting the weather for game day, but it would be prudent to bring a parka, or at least a raincoat, for the trip to the stadium. **ET**

*Cary Lowe is a San Diego land use and environmental lawyer. Patricia Butler is an environmental planner and adviser to the San Diego Foundation.*

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Brian Halweil, *Edible East End*

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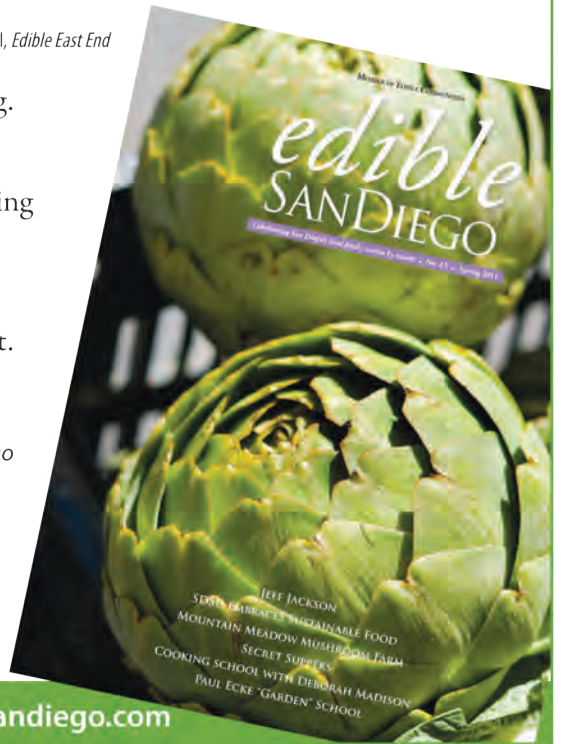
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## University of San Diego has Gone Green!

Through a campus-wide sustainability initiative, USD is making great strides toward creating an environmentally friendly campus. With an emphasis on finding opportunities for renewable energy and active energy and water conservation efforts, the University of San Diego is reducing its environmental impact and becoming more sustainable.

  
University  
of San Diego  
[www.sandiego.edu](http://www.sandiego.edu)

## Off California, many common fish now spawn earlier

On land, among the most compelling pieces of evidence for ecosystem restructuring under climate change are the observed shifts in seasonal animal migrations, breeding cycles and home ranges. New findings from California Sea Grant show that life history characteristics of marine species in the California Current ecosystem are also in a state of flux.

In particular, California Sea Grant researchers report that 18 of the region's 43 most abundant fish species are now spawning between 14 days and 62 days earlier than in the early 1950s.

Some of the earlier-spawning species include: jack mackerel, chub mackerel, hake, Senoritas, medusafish and the aurora, splitnose and short-belly rockfishes.

Eight species are also spawning later – between 15 days and 35 days later. Among these are chilipepper rockfish, blacksmith, two species of flatfishes and three species of mid-water fishes.

The findings are based on counts of fish

larvae in water samples collected during the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) cruises, which began in the early 50s.

“We don't know why there is this trend toward earlier spawning,” says California Sea Grant Trainee Rebecca Asch, a doctoral student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. “But, it's likely related to temperature.”

“Many marine organisms use temperature as a cue for when to initiate spawning, so the idea that changes in seasonal temperatures would affect spawning time shouldn't come as too much of a surprise,” she says. “Similar patterns of earlier reproduction have been observed in many terrestrial ecosystems and have been frequently attributed to climate change, in general, and the earlier arrival of spring more specifically.”

Sea surface temperatures off California are now reaching their seasonal peak about 25 days earlier today than in the early 1950s. Compellingly, the fish species that are spawn-

*provided by California Sea Grant*  
ing earlier are doing so by, on average, 29 days.

Meanwhile, for the species that are spawning later, Asch notes that they are predominately coastal dwellers that spawn in winter and fall, when upwelling is weak and larvae are less likely to be swept offshore, where the fish would perish. The hypothesis Asch is now exploring is that these species are responding to changes in upwelling patterns and associated offshore flows.

Asch presented her findings at the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) conference on the effects of climate change on fishes and fisheries in Japan, April 2010 and is preparing a manuscript on this work, as well as including it in her doctoral dissertation. **ET**

*California Sea Grant, a part of NOAA's National Sea Grant, is a network of 32 university-based programs related to the marine sciences.*

## Coastal dead zones

RESEARCH IDENTIFIES 530 COASTAL “DEAD ZONES” AND 228 MARINE EUTROPHIC SITES

Within the past 50 years, eutrophication – the over-enrichment of water by nutrients such as nitrogen phosphorus – has emerged as one of the leading causes of water quality impairment. The two most acute symptoms of eutrophication are hypoxia (or oxygen depletion) and harmful algal blooms, which among other things can destroy aquatic life in affected areas.

The rise in eutrophic and hypoxic events has been attributed to the rapid increase in intensive agricultural practices, industrial activities, and population growth which together have increased nitrogen and phosphorus flows in the environment. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) found that human activities have resulted in the near doubling

of nitrogen and tripling of phosphorus flows to the environment when compared to natural values.

Before nutrients – nitrogen in particular – are delivered to coastal ecosystems, they pass through a variety of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, causing other environmental problems such as freshwater quality impairments, acid rain, the formation of greenhouse gases, shifts in community food webs, and a loss of biodiversity.

Once nutrients reach coastal systems, they can trigger a number of responses within the ecosystem. The initial impacts of nutrient increases are the excessive growth of phytoplankton, microalgae (e.g., epiphytes and microphytes), and macroalgae (i.e., seaweed). These, in turn, can lead to other impacts such

*provided by World Resources Institute*  
as: loss of subaquatic vegetation, change in species composition, coral reef damage, low dissolved oxygen, and the formation of dead zones (oxygen-depleted waters) that can lead to ecosystem collapse.

### Dead on-line

If you want to view these coastal areas, visit: [www.wri.org/project/eutrophication/map](http://www.wri.org/project/eutrophication/map), This Interactive Map of Eutrophication & Hypoxia lets you zoom in on trouble spots around the world. Here are two entries for our local area:

#### San Diego Bay

US-California (32.671, -117.141) – Hypoxic

San Diego Bay is a natural harbor adjacent

(Continued on page 29)



**What on Earth are YOU Doing?**  
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**EarthFair 2011**

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**or call EarthWorks at 858-272-7370**

## Growing a new generation of gardeners

KIDS ACROSS AMERICA ARE GROWING, AND SOME ARE EARNING, A LOT OF “GREEN” PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL BONNIE PLANTS CABBAGE PROGRAM.

*provided by Bonnie Plants*

**T**his year, more than 1.5 million third graders in 45 states have gotten hands-on gardening experience growing colossal cabbages with high hopes to win “best in state” and receive a \$1,000 scholarship towards education from Bonnie Plants.

Each year, Bonnie Plants delivers free O.S. Cross, or “oversized,” cabbage plants to third grade classrooms, nationwide, whose teachers have signed up for the program, online at [www.bonnieplants.com](http://www.bonnieplants.com). If nurtured and cared for, cabbages can grow bigger than a basketball and tip the scales at nearly 40 pounds!

First launched in 1995, the program awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one student in each participating state. At the end of the season, teachers from each class will select the student who has grown the “best” cabbage, based on size and appearance. A picture of the cabbage and the student entry is submitted to Bonnie Plants by mail or online. That student’s name is then entered in a statewide drawing. The winners of each state’s drawing are randomly selected by the Commission of Agriculture, state by state.

“The Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program is our way of engaging children in the joy of gardening”, said Stan Cope, President of Bonnie Plants. “Gardening provides children with a

safe place to experience nature, discover the cycles of life and develop an understanding of our environment. It also exposes children, first hand, to the benefits of growing your own nutritious food and it’s a great source of physical activity. The cabbage program, over the past 15 years, has proved to be an enriching hands-on experience that kids and teachers across America have embraced. Seeing students excited about learning and the art of gardening is what we strive for”.

### Getting It Growing:

Growing a colossal cabbage may seem like a giant undertaking for little kids, but it’s easier than you think. All you need is:

**Sunshine:** Cabbages need at least six hours of full sunlight, more if possible.

**Space:** Bonnie O.S. cabbages need at least three feet on each side to spread out. If you don’t have that much space, use a large container.

**Soil:** Work some compost into the soil - cabbages love nutrient-rich soil.

**Food:** Start your cabbage off right with an all-purpose vegetable fertilizer, then fertilize it every 10 days to keep it growing strong.

**Water:** Your cabbage needs at least one inch of rainfall each week. If it doesn’t rain, use a watering can or a garden hose to gently

water your plant.

**TLC:** Keep weeds out of the cabbage patch – they compete for the food and water your cabbage needs. Be on the lookout for brown or white moths – these come from worms that love to munch on cabbage. If you see any, get rid of them right away. Cold weather can damage your cabbage. If the weather gets below 32° F, cover your cabbage with a bucket.

**Time:** In just 10 to 12 weeks, you should have a huge head of cabbage you can be proud of.

Green thumbs and perseverance can pay off, providing participating children with a great sense of pride and accomplishment, a humongous cabbage, and for the lucky state winner, the beginning of an educational fund for college. To see the 2010 winners and learn more about the 2011 contest, visit [www.bonnieplants.com](http://www.bonnieplants.com). **ET**

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## Dead zones

(cont. from page 27)

to San Diego, California; it is separated from the Pacific Ocean by a long narrow strip of land called Silver Strand. High population density leads to high levels of nutrients. An estimated 4.5 square kilometers have been affected by periodic hypoxia since the 1990s.

Source: Collias, 1985; Rabalais, 1998

### Tijuana Estuary

US-California (32.559, -117.128) – Improved

Tijuana Estuary is a small intertidal coastal estuary on the international border

between California and Mexico; three quarters of the estuary catchment is located in Mexico. Extended periods of drought leave parts of the estuary dry during some periods, while flooding inundates the same areas during others. The Tijuana River Estuary is one of the few salt marshes remaining in Southern California, where over 90 percent of wetland habitat has been lost to development. The site is an essential breeding, feeding and nesting ground and key stopover point on the Pacific Flyway for over 370 species of migratory and native birds, including six endangered species. The Tijuana River is

the primary source of fresh water to the estuary; it is also a source of untreated sewage from the city of Tijuana, Mexico. An estimated 0.13 square kilometers have been affected by periodic hypoxia in the past decade, though oxygen levels have been improving since 1990.

Source: Sanger *et al.* 2002; Wenner *et al.* 2004; Bricker *et al.* 2007 **ET**

*The World Resources Institute is a global environmental think tank that goes beyond research to put ideas into action. They work with governments, companies, and civil society to build solutions to urgent environmental challenges.*

# San Diego Sierra Club's Nature Knowledge Workshop 2011

**Friday-Sunday: June 10-12**

Join us for a weekend that may influence the rest of your life. This annual event is one of the two big Sierra Club happenings of each year (the other is the Wilderness Basics Course). The Nature Knowledge Workshop (NKW) combines education and appreciation for our precious and dwindling natural resources with a sharing and a building of new friendships. You will leave the weekend with a renewed vigor towards a

society respecting and preserving all living co-habitants. Included is a comprehensive 190-page Naturalist manual, meals, two night's lodging, a Bluegrass concert, hikes, and a t-shirt. Evening workshops on a variety of subjects, given by biologists and lay-biologists. Subjects include plants, mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, Indian history/lore, ecology/conservation, astronomy, population issues, nature photography, and more. This

life shaping event is held at the Sierra Club's scenic Foster Lodge in the Laguna mountains and Cleveland National Forest (el. 5,800 feet, San Diego County) on Friday evening through Sunday noon, June 10-12, 2011. Cost: \$125.00 per Sierra Club member, \$135.00 per non-member. For more information, contact Barry Hite (619) 990-6414 or email: NKW@sierraclubsandiego.org. **ET**

## Dying oaks

(cont. from page 9)

and staining and oozing on the bark surface. Goldspotted oak borer is easily transported long distances. Oak firewood brought from infested areas has a high probability of containing GSOB, and could devastate oaks around any location where the firewood is stored. Currently, there are no known treatments to eradicate GSOB once it becomes established, and a GSOB outbreak is likely to kill many of the coast live oak and black oaks in an area. This could cost a community millions of dollars in removal and restoration costs. To stop this insect from spreading to other parts in southern California, purchase

firewood locally and don't move firewood.

This effort alone is not enough. With more than one million of acres of oaks in southern California, it is nearly impossible for agencies to monitor all woodlands for signs of infestations. So, we are asking you to help us create an early warning system by keeping an

eye out for GSOB damage. At a minimum we are hoping that you will log on to our website, [www.gsob.org](http://www.gsob.org), to learn more about the outbreak and keeping oak trees healthy. If you'd like to speak to someone personally please contact Tara Piraneo [tpiraneo@ucr.edu](mailto:tpiraneo@ucr.edu) at 951-313-4193.

## Take It Back

(cont. from page 3)

We're takin' it back  
for nature's sake  
We're takin' it back  
for our sake  
We're takin' it back  
for future's sake  
We're takin' it back  
for earth's sake

Take back your preaching  
Take back your lies  
Take back your dogma  
Take back your wars

Take it back  
for our sake!  
Take it Back!

You're takin' it back!  
for nature's sake  
You're takin' it back!  
for our sake  
You're takin' it back!  
for future's sake  
You're takin' it back!  
for earth's sake

Take back your illusions  
Take back your God  
Take back your devils  
Take back your hate

**ET** Carolyn Chase is editor of the San Diego Earth Times, chairperson of the San Diego Sierra Club, past member of the City of San Diego Planning Commission, and a founder of San Diego EarthWorks, the host of the EarthFair in Balboa Park.

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