

San Diego

Earth Times

Special Earth Day Issue

April 2010



PROTECTING POLAR BEARS

The five countries where polar bears live (Russia, US, Canada, Norway, Denmark (Greenland)) signed an agreement in 1972 to protect polar bear habitat. In a 2009 meeting, those countries agreed that "...their common obligation to protect the ecosystem of which polar bears are a part can only be met if global temperatures do not rise beyond levels where the sea ice retreats from extensive parts of the Arctic."

Getting the shot

"This one year old polar bear cub was playing with her sibling out on the pack ice. Suddenly she caught my scent in the air and started walking towards my hide. Normally a true Arctic predator will try to get a bite when possible, but this time she had her mind when the hide revealed a smelly nature photographer."
Mireille de la Croix

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Global Climate Change

Will the polar bear be extinct in her lifetime?

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Reliable Reality vs Unreliable Reality

by Carolyn Chase

Would you fly on a plane designed by opinion? Scientists are sounding the reality alarm over climate change. But just as with the fight to know the truth about the health impacts of tobacco, vested interests are fighting back as if reality doesn't matter.



But in the end, nature still bats last. We fail to understand the difference between science and opinion at our own peril.

No matter what you hear, the science is settled. There is no reasoned debate over the facts that climate warming is happening and humans are a major cause (along with other planetary forces). There is only the biased propaganda from vested interests still seeking to muddy the waters, just the way they did with tobacco.

No matter what attack you hear on the science, when you get into the details, it's been rebutted in every single case. Those who deny it simply don't want to do the homework – which is complicated. Some are paid not to, and then promote their opinions as if they were reality. Some simply don't seem to care about reality, as if their opinions were more important, and this, sadly, is shaping far too much of our politics today.

Climate change is now being used as a partisan "litmus test" to sort believers from non-believers for political support in Congress for upcoming elections. Unfortunately, this is not merely about belief; this is about truth vs. fiction.

When I was copying flyers about global warming for the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in 1990, I remember that it was difficult to get scientists out of their ivory towers to make clear statements about the evidence. They agreed about the basic "greenhouse effect" mechanism of warming (carbon dioxide traps heat in the atmosphere the way the glass panels trap heat in a greenhouse), but they were loath to step out and claim that the science was settled. Twenty years later, their reticence is gone, replaced by dismay at the attacks on the facts.

Global warming is now happening all around us – visibly. The huge increase in the burning of fossil fuels during the 20th century has become globally significant. The Arctic is melting. The onset of spring is happening sooner, snow storms are heavier – these are all effects of climate change.

Climate change is real and serious. It will get worse unless humanity acts. Action must be global and coordinated; no one single country can solve it – every country must take part. But my trip to the United Nations climate change treaty negotiations in Copenhagen last fall gave cold comfort indeed. Read about why the United Nations will never solve the problem on page 10. Leadership will be required by individual nations, especially the United States where we have produced the highest emissions.

February 2010 national oil import data shows that we're still
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Cover photo: Will there still be polar bears in the world when she grows up? Photo by Carolyn Chase taken at COP15 in Copenhagen; see story on page 10.

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Communication

Environmental groups release report card for San Diego Mayor, City Council

LOW GRADES ARE A “WAKE UP CALL” FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP IN SAN DIEGO

provided by League of Conservation Voters

The League of Conservation Voters San Diego, in coalition with 10 other environmental groups, released last month the first-ever comprehensive Environmental Quality Report Card for the Mayor and City Council of San Diego.

The Report Card builds on the work done by San Diego Coastkeeper, which has commissioned an annual Water Quality Report Card since 2001. This year, 11 environmental organizations adopted the report and expanded it to quantitatively grade city officials on decisions related to environmental health in 2009.

“The Report Card grades are a wake-up call. The mediocre scores for San Diego’s Mayor and City Council reflect an overall lack of awareness, leadership and vision for our region’s environmental health,” said Jamie Gonzalez, President of the League of Conservation Voters San Diego. “Our elected officials must recognize that environmen-

Official	District	Environmental Quality Grade
Sherri Lightner	1	C
Kevin Faulconer	2	D
Todd Gloria	3	A-
Tony Young	4	D
Carl DeMaio	5	F
Donna Frye	6	A
Marti Emerald	7	C-
Ben Hueso	8	C-
Mayor Jerry Sanders	All	D-

Environmental Quality Grades for San Diego City Councilmembers and the Mayor... not something to be proud of.

tal stewardship, moving to a green-collar economy, and becoming a more sustainable city also offer the greatest opportunity for San Diego to right our economic ship and bring new opportunities to our communities.”

Environment ignored

The Mayor and most members of the city council received mediocre or poor grades. Mayor Sanders received a poor grade for not making the environment one of his top

(Continued on the right)

What’s Missing from the Report Card

by Carolyn Chase

While report cards provide grades on what was actually on the city’s agenda, what’s missing from that agenda cannot be ignored from any environmental perspective. Council members and the Mayor serve on a variety of regional boards with little public input or oversight, but with great environmental impacts. These boards include SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) and MTS (Metropolitan Transit System).

The transportation sector is the largest regional source of climate change emissions, as well as other major pollutants. Transportation itself, planners know, is destiny. The region’s growth strategy for accommodating another million in population is currently dominated by freeway-widening and increasing traffic

congestion. While the City has adopted the so-called “City of Villages” approach, the Regional Transportation Plan still needs to catch-up.

SANDAG is currently updating the Regional Transportation Plan, which lays out projects for the next thirty years. The choices made in this Plan Update will show whether our elected officials are serious about climate change science and “smart growth” – or not.

The prospects do not look bright. SANDAG has created a Regional Climate Action Strategy that is weak and woefully incomplete. Transit services have been decimated as a result of the illegal diversion of funding by the State legislature. Neither the Boards of the transit agencies (MTS, NCTD) nor the Board of SANDAG

have done anything other than righteously rail at the state.

The separation of transportation agencies (Caltrans, MTS, NCTD, SANDAG) from City Hall means that major decisions related to multi-billion dollar transportation investments and the plans that lead to project choices do not show up directly on City Council agendas. These votes may not have shown up on this City Council Report Card, but environmentalists are watching – and all taxpayers and voters should be too. **ET**

Carolyn is Chair of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club and CEO of San Diego EarthWorks, organizers of the Earth Day Fair in Balboa Park. She served as a Planning Commissioner for five years for the City of San Diego.

Wendell Berry's 17 rules for a sustainable economy

... AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU CARE ABOUT

Wendell Berry is a strong defender of family, rural communities, and traditional family farms. These underlying principles could be described as the sound cultural and ecological principles for the preservation of ecological integrity and the renewal of local economies and local communities:

1. Always ask of any proposed change or innovation: **What will this do to our community?** How will this affect our common wealth?
2. **Always include local nature** – the land, the water, the air, the native creatures – within the membership of the community.

3. Always ask how **local needs** might be supplied from **local sources**, including the mutual help of neighbors.
4. Always **supply local needs first** (and only then think of exporting products – first to nearby cities, then to others).
5. **Understand the ultimate unsoundness of the industrial doctrine of 'labor saving'** if that implies poor work, unemployment, or any kind of pollution or contamination.
6. Develop **properly scaled value-adding industries** for local products to ensure that the community does not become merely a colony of national or global

provided by San Diego EarthWorks economy.

7. **Develop small-scale industries and businesses** to support the local farm and/or forest economy.
 8. **Strive to supply as much of the community's own energy as possible.**
 9. **Strive to increase earnings** (in whatever form) within the community for as long as possible before they are paid out.
 10. Make sure that **money paid into the local economy circulates within the community** and decrease expenditures outside the community.
 11. Make the community able to invest in
- (Continued on page 6)

priorities. The Mayor decimated city budgets related to environmental programs instead of searching for new revenue sources. Mayor Sanders is also one of the few mayors of a large city without a point person in his administration dedicated to managing environmental policy.

Two major initiatives supported widely by environmental organizations greatly impacted the grades of the City Councilmembers. Many Council members voted against Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR), a plan to recycle wastewater into usable drinking water, although a pilot project is proceeding as a result of a broad-based coalition of advocates. According to the report-card coalition members, IPR is the most sustainable policy proposal to address San Diego's critical water shortage.

Poor department

A majority of the Council also voted against appointing Diane Takvorian, Executive Director of Environmental Health Coalition, to the San Diego Port Commission. With more than 30 years of working to protect the health of communities from the Port's polluting operations, and with an endorsement from the League of Conservation Voters, among others, Takvorian was the clear choice for the environmental community.

In the coming year, the environmental

community will monitor a number of key votes that are likely to be graded on next year's 2010 Environmental Quality Report Card. Officials can improve their grades by supporting the following issues.

- The establishment of an Indirect Potable Reuse demonstration project to recycle wastewater into usable drinking water.
- Minimizing impacts to wetlands in the proposed deviations to the city's Envi-

The Mayor decimated city budgets related to environmental programs instead of searching for new revenue sources. Mayor Sanders is also one of the few mayors of a large city without a point person in his administration dedicated to managing environmental policy.

ronmentally Sensitive Lands regulations.

- Reducing the potential environmental impacts of the city's proposed creek channel maintenance program for storm water conveyance.
- Implementing equitable policies to encourage energy-efficiency retrofits to municipal buildings and private residences.
- Appointing a Port Commissioner with a record of protecting the health and environment of communities surrounding the Port.

Copies of the report cards are available at the League of Conservation Voters website, www.lcvsd.net.

The coalition of environmental organizations contributed funding to commission the Report Card. The Report Card itself was produced by Strategic Community Consulting, an independent group which provides consulting services from the UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) to nonprofit clients in the San Diego area.

The City of San Diego Environmental Quality Report Card Coalition is made up of the following organizations: The League of Conservation Voters San Diego, Surfrider San Diego, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, Center On Policy Initiatives, Coastal Environmental

Rights Foundation, Environmental Health Coalition, Friends of Rose Canyon, San Diego Audubon Society, and San Diego Canyonlands. **ET**

The League of Conservation Voter San Diego (LCVSD) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes conservation and environmental protection in San Diego county by:

- *Identifying and electing environmentally responsible candidates*
- *Educating the public*
- *Promoting environmental policies*
- *Working with elected officials*

If I were President: a climate change speech

AS YOU READ THIS, TRY AND IMAGINE OUR PRESIDENT SPEAKING... IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, BUT IT IS A NICE FANTASY.

by Richard C. J. Somerville Center for Atmospheric Sciences,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego

The following speech, written in the words of a fictional US president, is the "fantasy" of Richard Somerville, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. Somerville is the author of *The Forging Air: Understanding Environmental Change*, a new edition of which is being published this year by the AMS. In the book, Somerville discusses the science of climate change, together with air pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion, and atmospheric aspects of other global environmental issues. The book, aimed at the general public, is up-to-date and includes a nontechnical summary

of the main scientific findings of the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

While Somerville's book focuses on the hard science, what is to be done with such information – by scientists, politicians, and the general public – remains a complex and contentious issue. For the moment, perhaps the politics of climate change have created an environment where a presidential speech

like this is more likely to come from a meteorologist's imagination than from an actual president. Although Obama did make a positive showing at the UN treaty negotiations, there is much more to be done.

My fellow Americans. In my first 100 days in office, I shall emphasize that addressing the challenge of climate change must be a high priority both nationally and internationally.

I pledge today that the United States will

Global climate change is real and serious and ought not to be a partisan issue. ... If we fail to act decisively, the result will inevitably be a severely degraded climate later this century.

play a leadership role globally and will work cooperatively with other nations toward the goal of protecting the Earth's climate for the benefit of all humankind.

In the days ahead, I shall lay out the many benefits for our nation of confronting climate change forcefully, including strengthening national security, promoting energy independence, and increasing economic prosperity and competitiveness.

I shall also outline the threats posed to the United States and the entire world if we continue to give climate change much less attention than it deserves. Americans must realize that the costs of neglecting climate change are very large in comparison to the costs of acting firmly and promptly.

Global climate change is real and serious and ought not to be a partisan issue. The main obstacle to progress is refusing to face reality and dismissing the problem. To produce effective actions for positive change, the nation needs strong leadership and political courage. Climate change is not a problem that the United States or the world can afford to procrastinate about any longer.

If we fail to act decisively, the result will inevitably be a severely degraded climate later this century. Different parts of the United States in coming decades will be at risk for rising sea levels, decreased water supplies, altered precipitation patterns, floods, droughts, heat waves, and wildfires. The consequences will affect the domains of public health, economic prosperity, and national security.

Making the cut

Making the needed cuts in greenhouse gas emissions will not be possible by any single approach, and all routes to meet the challenge must be explored. The promising options include improving energy efficiency and energy conservation, greater reliance on renewable energy sources, temporary exploitation of nuclear power, and development of carbon capture and storage technology. We shall be pragmatic rather than ideological and favor whatever approaches work well.

This issue begins with the science of climate change. Rapid progress in research has created a body of sound settled science that must be acknowledged and used to inform wise public policy. We know that our climate is currently changing because of human ac-

(Continued on page 8)

Berry's 17 rules

(cont. from page 5)

- itself by **maintaining its properties, keeping itself clean (without dirtying some other place), caring for its old people, and teaching its children.**
- See that the **old and young take care of one another.** The young must learn from the old, not necessarily, and not always in school. There must be no institutionalized childcare and no homes for the aged. The community knows and remembers itself by the association of old and young.
 - Account for costs now conventionally hidden or externalized.** Whenever possible, these must be debited against monetary income.

- Look into the possible uses of **local currency, community-funded loan programs, systems of barter, and the like.**
- Always **be aware of the economic value of neighborly acts.** In our time, the costs of living are greatly increased by the loss of neighborhood, which leaves people to face their calamities alone.
- A rural community should always be acquainted and interconnected** with community-minded people in nearby towns and cities.
- A sustainable rural economy will depend on **urban consumers loyal to local products.** Therefore, we are talking about an economy that will always be more cooperative than competitive. **ET**



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Planet Ocean



If we were truly honest in our nomenclature, we would call this planet “Ocean” rather than “Earth.”

Scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) have been reporting their research on ocean acidification. Ocean acidity has increased by 30% since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. This increase is 100 times faster than any change in acidity experienced by marine organisms for at least the last 20 million years. If the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide continues to increase at the current rate, the ocean will become corrosive to the shells of many marine organisms by the end of this century. One recent paper shows part of the Arctic Ocean is already “corrosive” and that’s before what the models have predicted, so we’re seeing organisms that already will not be able to adapt.

Increasing acidification means that organisms either cannot produce new shells, existing shells break down, or it takes more energy than they can muster to create new shells. Literally, it means dissolving of shells in an acid solution as the oceans absorb our increasing carbon dioxide emissions.

Sixty-five million years ago, ocean acidification was linked to mass extinctions of calcareous marine organisms, an integral part of the marine food web. At that time, coral reefs disappeared from the geologic record and it took millions of years for the coral reefs to recover.

I asked the SIO scientists what needs to be done. ***“We are already in an overshoot situation. We’re already past a point that any of us would regard as safe. We need to minimize the time we’re in this dangerous regime.”***

If I were President

(cont. from page 7)

tivities, especially the increase in the amount of carbon dioxide, or CO₂, in the atmosphere. This increase in CO₂ is due entirely to human activities, mainly by burning coal and oil and natural gas, and also by deforestation.

As a result, the natural greenhouse effect has already been significantly escalated by human-caused increases in CO₂ and other heat-trapping emissions. The main immediate result is a warming of the Earth, but many other changes in our climate result from this interference with the climate system.

It’s the science

The definitive scientific summary is found in the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – or IPCC – the group of climate scientists that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Among the many scientific results highlighted in the IPCC report are the following:

“The largest CO₂ growth rate in modern times has occurred in the most recent decade. Any attempt to limit further climate change must be aimed at stabilizing the amount of CO₂ in the

atmosphere. However, CO₂, the most important of the man-made greenhouse gases, continues to increase in the atmosphere, and more rapidly in recent years than previously. Thus, the trend is in the wrong direction. It must be reversed.

“Our planet is now about 1.4° Fahrenheit warmer than in the late nineteenth century. Observations of many kinds, such as air and ocean temperatures, melting ice and snow, and rising sea level, show that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal. Furthermore, most of the observed warming since the mid-twentieth century has at least a 90% chance of having been due to the human-caused observed increase in greenhouse gas amounts.

“The overall warming trend in the last 50 years is nearly twice that for the last century. North Atlantic hurricanes have intensified since 1970. Arctic temperatures have increased at about twice the global rate. Arctic sea ice has shrunk by about 2.7% per decade. Globally, 11 of the last 12 years are among the 12 warmest on record since reliable measurements began around

(Continued on page 10)



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It's not really a small world after all

WITNESS TO GLOBAL POLITICS OR, GEE! I MUST LOVE SAUSAGE!

by Carolyn Chase

I've never been a big fan of so-called global conferences. But when I saw the application from the Sierra Club for volunteers to attend the United Nations treaty negotiations on climate change in Copenhagen last November, I decided to check it out. I pursued briefings from local scientists about the facts and scale of the problem, and was accepted to attend as part of more than 40

volunteers who determined to try and make a difference where all the nations come together to deliberate – at least that's the way it's billed. United Nations conferences, in this case, the 15th "Conference of the Parties" (COP15)

to the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty, take place over two weeks. The first week is when the lower-lever government negotiators meet to work out the details and set the stage for

"The biggest thing we miss is a large grassroots movement at home creating the political will necessary to move this issue in Congress" (Behind the scenes quote, US State Department Official).

their bosses to arrive the following week. This first week is when "non-governmental organizations" (NGOs), like the Sierra Club and hundreds of others, take center stage and attempt influence the process.



The Sierra Club Student Coalition was probably the largest NGO group at COP15.

Little did I know that my trip to Paris Disneyland week before would turn out to be such excellent preparation for COP15! It's no accident that the incessantly cheery (some would say creepy) "It's a Small World" venue is located in Fantasyland. Much better preparation was found in "Alice's

Maze" – a low-tech walk through "This Way" and "That Way" and "Go Back", with the infamous Cheshire Cat looking down on the proceedings with his all-knowing-but-I'm-not-telling grin.

I am in total sympathy with those who look at United Nations processes with hopelessness, or even disdain. The idea that all nations can agree on anything is impossibly hopeful. To expect them to address a global crisis like climate change seems too much to ask.

If I owned sea-level property, I'd sell.

Fighting self-interest

I can also understand those who support compromises in the name of progress. At some level, any progress is something, even if that something is out of synch with the hard chemistry of climate change and what would really be needed to address it.

Why, for instance, would Saudi Arabia and other oil-dependent tribes support anything that undermines their wealth and power? Science is not their strong suit. The island nations who face sinking under the

(Continued on page 15)

If I were president

(cont. from page 8)

1850. The global ocean is warming to depths of at least about 2 miles. The ocean has absorbed more than 80% of the heat added to the climate system. Sea level rise averaged globally over the twentieth century has been about 7 inches. This rate has recently increased."

These are the facts, as established by science. They cannot be ignored.

Just holding your breath won't help

The main goal in stabilizing the climate must be to quickly reduce the rate at which the global population emits CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The speed and size of this reduction will determine how

much the climate will warm. Tokenism and good intentions are insufficient. Numbers are what matter: Rapid and quantitatively large reductions in global emissions are essential.

How much warming is tolerable? This is a judgment call, and reasonable people with different tolerances for risk may differ somewhat, but science can help inform the decision. Several other countries have already made decisions about setting a safe limit to climate change. In 2007, the European Union adopted a goal to restrict global warming to no more than 2° Celsius (or 3.6° Fahrenheit) above the average preindustrial temperature level of the mid-nineteenth century. In order to fulfil this goal, the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, has agreed that developed countries will have to strive to reduce their emissions by 15%-30% by 2020. The European Parliament has proposed a European Union CO₂ reduction target of 30% for 2020 and 60%-80% for 2050.

Many expert climate scientists would support that decision, and as a first concrete step for the United States, I shall ask the Congress to join me in seeking bipartisan nationwide support for the following 6 urgent actions:

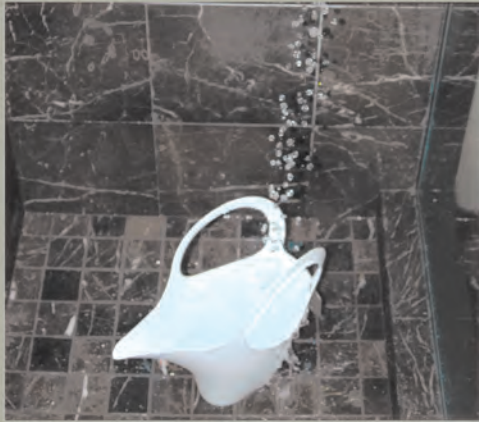
1. Establish **concrete goals, timetables, and plans** for reducing US greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with those already adopted by the European Union as appropriate for developed countries.
2. Mount a **nationwide climate-change education program** and make clear to all Americans that these goals are the minimum necessary cuts in emissions of heat-trapping pollutants, that even deeper cuts are both desirable and achievable, and that as the level of man-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is reduced, the risk of dangerous climate change is correspondingly reduced.

(Continued on page 16)



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Attending a global climate rally

MONTY PYTHON MOMENTS FOR ALL!

by Carolyn Chase

The weekend in between the two weeks of UN COP15 conference was a time for the non-governmental organizations to take to the streets and rally public support for their cause. I had always planned to attend the big rally and march on the first weekend of COP15, but the details were a bit sketchy. The announcements I'd heard would only say "downtown Copenhagen."

No fear

When the day came, I invited Barbara, my Danish friend and a Copenhagen native, to go with us. She said her sister was going, but she wasn't planning to go. When she found out I planned to go, she kindly offered to take me – but she had her concerns.

As we were walking to where we thought the rally was taking place (more on that later) she asked me: didn't I think it was dangerous? I said, nah, it never really entered my mind that it would be dangerous.

In my view, the type of people this kind of rally would attract are 99% on the peace-

movement side. The tiny fraction of those who might hold the view that property destruction is somehow useful are, fortunately, not well organized enough to really carry it out – and certainly not in the face of a peaceful, well-trained police plan.

Then she let me know that there was a great deal of coverage in the Danish media about the potential for destructive activities along the lines of what Seattle endured during the infamously bungled (on all sides) WTO event a few years back. She also shared how a personal friend of hers took the situation quite seriously and was leaving town with his kids! She reminded me that we are living in a world where you don't want to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

So she agreed to escort us, so we'd know easily how to get in and out.

Hopenhagen central

We first ended up in the "Hopenhagen" plaza (sponsored by Coca-Cola) where they had exhibits, a stage, and a Christmas tree

with bicycle-powered lights. Anyone could pedal a bike and light up the LED lights on the tree. A pedal-powered sound system worked in another part of the plaza.

But this was clearly not the main rally we were looking for. Barbara inquired, and led us on a back route to the Big Rally in Parliament Square. We came across a set of hundreds of Danish citizens marching to the square with signs, music, and followed at the end by a police van. The people were old and young, parents with kids, just plain folks. I couldn't help pointing out to Barbara what "dangerous characters" they looked like. She ran into a neighbor and a colleague (driving an electric, enclosed bike) in the march.

Squaring off

The huge Parliament Square was mostly filled, with tens of thousands of people gathered for the pre-march rally. It was packed in front of the speaker's stage, and very crowded until you got pretty far back.

I decided to tour the crowd, starting at the

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Right to the heart of the matter...

back and circling in closer.

I didn't believe organizers estimates of 100,000 at the rally, but they definitely got into the 60,000 range for the march itself. I sensed there were a lot more people who were there to march for their support of effective action against climate change, than those who were there to hear the socialist messages from the stage.

I also noted around 20-25 climate deniers in my crowd sampling. They were true believers of another sort – one I'm greatly perplexed by, though I see I really shouldn't be. The history of humanity is crowded with folk who denied reality and left it to history to sort it all out. I was heartened to hear Senator John Kerry call them out, "Those who look for any excuse to continue challenging the science



Who says you can't have a little fun while doing serious business?



The bulk of rally attendees looked like the people you might see on Copenhagen streets any day of the week – if they were carrying signs, of course.

have a fundamental responsibility which they have never fulfilled: Prove us wrong or stand down." Gosh, if only we could apply that to so many things.

What do we want? Really.

The funniest part of the rally was when one of the speakers tried to do what you do from the stage at a big rally: you get a call-and-response going. It goes like this: "What do we want? When do we want it?" It helps if you have someone hold up a big sign with the answers – call a "prompt card."

Evidently no one told the crowd the right answers! So it was a bit like a Monty Python moment: I was circulating in the crowd, and heard the call: "What do we want?" And there was this big uncomfortable pause, with everyone looking at each other like: "Us? Well, what do we want? Climate change! NO, that's not right. Uhhhhh gee, what do you call it?" The announcer moved on to, "When do we want it?" "Well, pretty soon would be good," was the collective thought bubble.

The speaker now realized he had to let us know the right answers, so the word goes around and the next time there's a weak but determined answer: "Climate Justice," and when? "Now!"

We were much more sure of that. Yes, that's right, whatever we want, we want it NOW! The third time a few more got with the program. But "Climate Justice" just didn't catch on. So the speaker gave up after a couple of more times.

It got me thinking. Technically speaking, what we want is a stable climate – but that doesn't trip off the tongue either. Stop emis-

sions now! Yeah, but again, not great slogan quality. Climate Solutions! Getting Better.

Of course, for the most part that crowd did not contain the individuals who will actually have to invent or finance the solutions to battle climate change. Though each individual has a part to play, the problem is so challenging that collective government and business action will be required. Yet, we're still arguing as if it doesn't matter. We are ignoring that nature and physics and chemistry do not negotiate.

Several Danes had gotten there early and taken the high ground (literally), climbing up on a major statue in the square so they could see and be seen. Their messages: "Respect Our Police," and a universally applicable slogan, "Don't Be Idiots."

By the time police detained more than 900 at the end of the march that they considered too rowdy or suspicious (including one Buddhist nun), we were having hot tomato soup at a local Danish cafe. As the sunlight retreated (beginning around 3:30pm – this is Denmark in winter after all), tens of thousands marched on in the clear, cold darkness to the Conference Center as a moving candlelight vigil demonstrating massive public support for a climate agreement now. (Climate Agreement Now!)

Of the hundreds detained by police, only three were arrested, one who had his own illegal firework explode, injuring himself. After treatment, he was arrested. I'm sure the charge was possession of an illegal firework, but it may as well have been: being an idiot.

To view video interviews with other COP15 attendees or see more of my photos visit: MessagesToAmerica.net. **ET**

CALLING ALL ENERGY ALL-STARS!



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Save the Dates

Start saving today! Join us for these upcoming free workshops and events.

Solar for Homeowners

Thurs. April 29

Solar Water Heating Basics for Homeowners

Thurs. May 27

Street Smart San Diego®

Sat. July 10

Sustainable Energy Week

Sun. Sept. 12 - Sat. Sept. 18



Everything is energy. No living or manufactured thing exists on our planet without energy. So, no matter which environmental issue is your passion, achieving a sustainable energy future is a concern we all share.

You can do something positive. The California Center for Sustainable Energy will help you reduce energy use and make your home or business more energy efficient. Our free workshops teach a range of topics from energy-efficient lighting and solar power generation to improving home energy performance and understanding your utility bill.

We're the energy experts – so you don't have to be.

Let us show you how to take control of your energy use. We aren't trying to sell you anything, which means you get the information you need from a trusted source.

Register for a free workshop at www.energycenter.org/earthday.



The California Solar Initiative (CSI) program is funded by California investor-owned utility customers and administered in San Diego Gas and Electric territory by the California Center for Sustainable Energy under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Visit www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov for more information on the CSI.

Your carbon “foodprint”

FOODPRINT IS NOT A TYPO: WHAT AND HOW YOU EAT CAN HELP STOP CLIMATE CHANGE.
WHO KNEW?

Whether you live to eat or eat to live, one thing is sure: staying fed represents a substantial portion of your total impact on the climate. The greenhouse gas impacts of food are complex and far-reaching, as every bite of food you eat takes energy to grow, process, store, transport, sell, cook, and discard. By understanding how your eating habits affect global warming, you gain the power to reduce those impacts through conscious daily living.

Your “carbon foodprint” is the sum of all the greenhouse gases your meals produce as they wind their way through the food system. Three main gases comprise the vast majority of food-related emissions: carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

- **Carbon dioxide** (CO₂) is released whenever fossil fuels like coal, gasoline, or natural gas are burned to generate energy. CO₂ accounts for about 71% of your total

food impact.

- **Methane** (CH₄) is released when food scraps and packaging decompose in landfills, and during livestock digestion and manure treatment. While methane is released in relatively low volumes, it is 25 times as potent a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide. In all, it accounts for about 13% of your total food emissions.
- **Nitrous oxide** (N₂O) comes predominantly from chemical fertilizers used on crops. Although little nitrous oxide is released, each pound has a global warming impact equivalent to 300 pounds of carbon dioxide. N₂O makes up about 15% of the average American’s foodprint.

The remaining 1% of food’s global warming impact comes from a number of gases that are released in very small quantities, primarily SF₆ from electricity production and HFCs from refrigeration systems.

by Matthew Kling, Brighter Planet, Inc.

To simplify things, we combine all of these gases and their relative potencies into a single comprehensive measure of the climate impact of a given activity, called carbon dioxide equivalent: CO₂e. When we talk about “CO₂e,” “carbon emissions,” “climate impact,” or “foodprints,” we’re referring to the combined impact of the various greenhouse gases.

So how big is your foodprint? Estimating the climate impact of food is a tricky process, and estimates of that total number vary. Many of the emissions are distantly removed in the supply chain. For example, a fraction of the emissions for a hamburger bun might come from harvesting wheat in Washington, a fraction of those harvest emissions might come from manufacturing a combine at a factory in Louisiana, and a fraction of those combine production emissions might come from min-

(Continued on page 16)

Small world

(cont. from page 10)

seas are playing for their own survival while the usual powers-that-be seem manifestly unsympathetic. After all, they have politics-at-home to deal with.

Underwater islands

Tiny Tuvalu (known in UN parlance as a “small island state”) cannot think in terms of adaptation, but sees its very survival at stake. (“Adaptation” is the current buzz response to those who see we’re not going to make the changes needed to reduce our emissions sufficiently, and realize that we will just need to adapt to the consequences). A sea level rise of few feet will put much of the island under water.

Tuvalu and the other small island nations will continue to insist on a deal that reflects what the science says about the situation we are in and the effort that must be made. Many of them support a 1.5 degree C global warming limit and 350 ppm (parts per million) of greenhouse gases, while the negotiations by the status quo would be lucky to achieve a 2

degree C warming (if everyone actually did their part). (The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was 385.2 parts per million in 2008 and is still rising rapidly – up 2 parts per million in one year.)

Little or nothing – some choice

But Saudi Arabia, backed by China, India, all of OPEC and a few others, opposed them. The developed countries (e.g., US, the European Union nations, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) remained silent. Formal proceedings were suspended.

By the time President Obama arrived for the second week’s proceedings, the choices were either failure or a weak agreement. Obama called representatives of the globe into closed-room discussions and the rest is history: a weak agreement. We’d better hope that China gets the science and that we can get a bill out of the Congress. For that, the people will have to rally support.

Obama is indeed willing to lead, but the people must push Congress. As he said, “If we are flexible and pragmatic, if we can resolve to work tirelessly in common purpose, then we will achieve our common purpose: a

world that is safer, cleaner and healthier than the one we found; and a future that is worthy of our children.”

What’s needed: political will

Perhaps the most interesting thing at the COP15 was attending private briefings by US State Departments officials. It was both fascinating and heartening to hear our officials working behind the scenes.

At one briefing, one of the Sierra Club volunteers asked what they might be able to do to assist move things forward in Copenhagen. The State Department official candidly stated that they didn’t need help at the conference, but that what was really needed was help at home getting whatever was agreed to through the political process. “The biggest thing we miss is a large grassroots movement at home creating the political will necessary to move this issue in Congress,” he said.

Those who don’t respect or understand the important of science and the pursuit of energy independence to achieve national as well as natural security, must be replaced. **ET**

To take action, visit CitizensClimateLobby.org or contact your local Sierra Club office.

Save Thousands of Gallons of Water In Your Own Back Yard!

Don't Drain Your Pool Water, San Diego SaveWater Has An Alternative . . .

SaveWater Mobile Pool Filtration offers San Diego an alternative to draining their pools, saving up to 15,000* of gallons of water from being wasted, while protecting their pools at the same time.

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*Based on average-sized pool of 20,000 gallons.

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Call us for a free consultation
Visit our booth at Earth Day Fair on April 18th!

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If I were president

(cont. from page 10)

3. **Reform the patchwork of federal subsidies, taxes, and other incentives** and disincentives so as to encourage large reductions in U. S. greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Emphasize that the first major steps in reducing our nation's greenhouse gas emissions should come from **dramatic improvements in energy efficiency and energy conservation**, and that these gains typically involve either low costs or actual significant savings.
5. Ensure that our national climate policy is based on **sound science** and also embraces principles of **equity, fairness, and justice**, protecting lower-income Americans and those employed in economic sectors adversely affected by climate-change policy.
6. **Engage other nations vigorously** in a diplomatic effort to find agreement on how all nations can act cooperatively to decrease heat-trapping emissions, in a manner consistent with their greenhouse gas emissions and their state of development and technological capacity. **ET**
Richard C. J. Somerville is Distinguished

Professor Emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego. He is a theoretical meteorologist and an expert on computer simulations of the atmosphere. He received the Ph. D. in meteorology from New York University in 1966 and has been a professor at Scripps since 1979.

Richard Somerville's research is on the physics of clouds and their role in the climate system. His interests include all aspects of climate, including climate science outreach and the interface between science and public policy. He comments frequently on climate and environmental issues for the media.

*Somerville has received awards from the American Meteorological Society for both his research and his popular book, *The Forgiving Air: Understanding Environmental Change*, a new edition of which was published in 2008. Among many honors, he is a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Meteorological Society. He is a Coordinating Lead Author for the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize equally with Al Gore.*

Climate Foodprint

(cont. from page 15)

ing ore in Montana and smelting it into steel using coal shipped from Virginia.

It's also tricky to decide which emissions sources should be included. Is the electricity that lights your kitchen, allowing you to cook, part of your foodprint? (We think so, but we don't include the dining room lights.) But while it's important to understand that there is some inherent imprecision in carbon foodprint figures, that hasn't stopped us from

pulling together the best data available and synthesizing it into a picture of the climate impact of eating in America.

The average American has a carbon foodprint of over 12,000 pounds CO₂e each year. That includes emissions from growing, processing, distributing, and selling food, emissions from getting it home and cooking it, and emissions from discarding or recycling the leftover waste products. In all, food represents 21% of the typical American's total annual carbon footprint of 28.6 tons of

CO₂e. Of course, that's just the average; your personal foodprint depends on how much and what kinds of food you eat, where and how that food is produced, how it's prepared, and what you do with the leftovers.

The good news is there's lots you can do to reduce your carbon foodprint, and many of the steps you take will have substantial non-climate benefits as well. Shrinking your foodprint will help improve environmental and social conditions in near and distant places touched by our food system. It can also increase your quality of life by saving you time and money, improving the healthiness and tastiness of your diet, and building community connections. **ET**

Excerpt by Kling, M.M. and I.J. Hough (2010). "The American Carbon Foodprint: Understanding your food's impact on climate change," Brighter Planet, Inc., Brighter-Planet.com.

Do-It-Yourself Climate Action

Whatever your current carbon foodprint, following these seven basic rules will get you on the fast track to a climate-friendly diet.

- Eat fewer animals and more plants
- Buy unprocessed foods with less packaging
- Grow and harvest your own food
- Minimize car trips to restaurants and stores
- Cook at home more and eat out less
- Cook with efficient appliances and techniques
- Compost, recycle, and relish leftovers

20th anniversary EarthFair takes off April 18

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

EarthFair 2010 will be the event's 20th anniversary. San Diego EarthWorks annual EarthFair in Balboa Park has become the largest free annual environmental fair in the world! Produced by 400 volunteers, EarthFair 2010 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, 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.

Spotlight on home gardens

Small, sustainable gardens in every yard should be the push in every community in 2010. 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 "\$30 Prosperity Garden." Hosted by the San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project, you'll see an inexpensive and easily-installed garden that most people can manage, even the elderly (with some help). The Prosperity Garden, and the groups that are presenting it, will be located in Exhibit Area 8, 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,

(Continued on page 18)



Attend Awards Reception in honor of Earth Day

San Diego EarthWorks presents the 20th annual V.I.P. (Very Important Planet) Reception and E.A.R.T.H. Awards:

Wednesday, May 12th, 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 evening's activities will include:

- A **Silent Auction** with eco-friendly goods, services and entertainment packages.
- A **buffet dinner** and no-host bar.
- **Pam Slater-Price Sustainability Award**, presented by County Board of Supervisor's Chair Pam Slater-Price.

- **Clean Air Award** from the Air Pollution Control District presented by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.
- **Green Building Award**, presented by the US Green Building Council, San Diego Chapter.
- **San Diego EarthWorks' "EARTH" Awards**, presented by Councilmember Donna Frye.

For more information, to donate to the silent auction, to volunteer, or to purchase tickets, visit EarthDayWeb.org, email vip10@earthdayweb.org, or call (858) 272-7370.

V.I.P. Reception sponsors include San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, Solar Turbines and US Green Building Council. Volunteer online at www.earthdayweb.org. **ET**

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

(Continued on page 23)

EarthFair 2010

(cont. from page 17)

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.

Green Building

Exhibits in the Pan American Plaza show-case 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 to help you get off the grid will also be shown.

eARTh Gallery

The eARTh Gallery features artwork made from recycled materials, or depicting "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).

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, where you can board a Route 7 Shuttle to Balboa Park. Remember to get a Day Pass when you start your trip on the trolley.

To plan your trip visit www.sdmts.com.

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.

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.

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

Historically, EarthFair features 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 fee shuttle ride.**

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 7, go to 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.

Ride a bike

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** box on page 14.

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 at the County Administration Building on Pacific Highway. The shuttles will run from 10:30 am to 6 pm. NOTE: EarthFair shuttles 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. Go straight two blocks and park in the lots opposite Garfield Jr. High School. The shuttle

(Continued on page 23)

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 18. 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. For more information, please call the EarthWorks office at: (858) 272-7370.

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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

10:00 TBA
 11:00 KEV and Tom Baird – *fingerstyle acoustic guitar*
 12:00 Larry and JoAnn Sinclair
 1:00 Steve White – *Blues*
 2:00 Gone Tomorrow – *Bluegrass*
 3:00 Schmooze – *guitar & vocal trio*
 4:00 Jim Earp – *fingerstyle guitar*

Multi-Cultural Earth Day

World Beat Cultural Center

Music – Exhibitors – Food

San Diego EarthWorks presents ... **EARTHFAIR 2010**

April 18 • Balboa Park • 10am - 5pm
www.EarthDayWeb.org





Goblin



Sun Stage

Federal Building lawn

*Produced by Will Edwards/Tangled Records and Canobliss
Sound provided by Goblin Studios*

- 10:00 Tony Kevin Jr – Folk Rock/Country
- 10:30 Valhalla Hall – Ambient/Folk Rock
- 11:10 For Strangers & Wardens – Acoustic/Americana
- 12:05 Whim – Americana/Rock
- 1:00 Canobliss – Rock/Metal
- 2:15 Mokshya – Rock/Metal
- 3:30 Psydecar – Reggae/Soul

Moon Stage

Park & Presidents Way

Produced by Spirit Soul & Friends

- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:10 Manjari Mantra Band
- 10:45 Wil G. and Ted Takeuchi – Acoustic/Pop/Latin/R&B
- 11:15 Jyoti, Janaki and Jhulana Jennings – Acoustic, Folk
- 11:30 Eli Buston – Acoustic
- 12:00 Deep Stirrings – Folkrock
- 12:45 Global Grove with Sarah Naomi Baxter and Alex Marjeb
- 1:00 Scarlet Rivera and Kori Linea Carothers – New Age/Ambient
- 1:45 Spirit Sout & Friends – Kirtan/Pop/R&B/Reggae
- 2:30 Carly Reeder Yoga Dancers
- 3:10 Kurt Mahoney
- 4:00 Closing Ceremonies

Children's Sky Stage

Children's Area

Produced by Betsy Hawkins

- 10:00 Yoga for Kids with Carolyn Clarke – Interactive yoga
- 10:45 Dance Scene – Children's Variety Dance
- 12:00 DJ Pokkey & His Vinyl Parade – B-Boys, B-girls and lockers dancers
- 1:15 Paul Green School of Rock – Youth playing classic rock
- 2:30 The Elephant Project and Bad Cards – Reggae & alternative youth bands
- 4:00 Bafflin' Bill Cody Magic Show

EARTHFAIR EXHIBITORS

AS OF 3/15/10

- 3ho Foundation at
Cosmic Flow
Active Pasture
Chiropractic
Affordable Solar Solutions
Algalita Marine Research
Foundation
Alooha Concessions
American Red Cross-San
Diego/Imperial
Counties Chapter
Americans For a
Department of Peace
Amnesty International
Group 137
Amway Global
Independent Distributor
ArchisAcres.com
Arnett's Plumbing
Association of
Environmental
Professionals (AEP)
Atheist Coalition
Avatar Products
Awareness Magazine
B 'N' B Kettle Corn
Backyard X-Scopes
Baha'i Faith
Becky Bones
Birch Aquarium at
Scripps, UCSD
Birkenstock of San Diego
Blooms from the Heart
Brighter Concepts Inc.
Premier Solatube
Dealer
Buddhist Tzu Chi
Foundation
Butterfly Maidens
CA Center for
Sustainable Energy
Cali Bamboo
California Straw Building
Assoc. (CASBA)
California Wolf Center
Californians for
Population Stabilization
Camp Stevens
Center for Integral
Education
Christians for EarthCare
Chula Vista Nature
Center
City of San Diego -
Environmental Services
Dept.
City of San Diego Solid
Waste Local
Enforcement Agency
City of San Diego Water
Department
Citywalk Christian Church
Clary Solar
Clif Bar & Co
Clif Bar & Co.
Committee Opposed to
Militarism and the Draft
Compassion Over Killing
Cooking 4 Life
Councilmember Todd
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- County of San Diego,
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and Recreation
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Vector Control
Cox Communications
Culligan Water of San
Diego
Cuyamaca Rancho State
Park Interpretive
Association
Cymer Inc.
Cyphertech Mechanical
Donate-a-Pack
Foundation
Dottie Korn-Davis
Double Koi Tea Company
Dr. Bauer's Advanced
Wellness
Earth Day Network
Earth-List.com -The
World's Premier
Environmental
Resource
Easy-Turf, Inc
Ecodog Inc.
Endangered Habitats
League
Environgentle
Even Chance: Pit Bull
Advocacy, Resources
and Rescue
Express Vegetarian
Fair Trade San Diego
Ferdinand's Familia
Fiesta Island Dog Owners
Fleet Readiness Center
Southwest
Forever Banner, the dry
erase reusable banner
Fred Ferino and His
Inventions
Friends of Famosa Slough
Friends of Humane
Society de Tijuana
Fruit Tree Planting
Foundation
Garfield High School
Gratitude and Love
Bottles
Greater San Diego
Academy
Green Bay Group, LLC
Green Clean
Green Cruiser / Simon &
Hu Enterprises
Green Party Kits
Green Party of San Diego
County
Green World Bags
Guardian Angels Animal
Rescue San Diego
Guthrie and Sons
Heating & Air
Heifer International
Honest Tea
HT SOLAR
I Love a Clean San Diego
Iberdrola Renewables
IBEW Local 569
Innovations Academy
Charter School
- Inspirational Imports
Jamar Power Systems
Jamba Juice
Jeanne Rosenberg
Jewelry By Naomi
John M. Gates
Journey To Unknown
June Accessories
Kahal Am: the
Humanistic Jewish
Community of San
Diego
La Jolla Country Day
School
La Jolla Friends of the
Seals
Last Chance for Animals
League of Women Voters
of San Diego
LION Coffee
Lions Tigers & Bears
Love, Create & Help
Manila BBQ & Grill
Marketation
Maui Wowi Hawaiian
Coffees and Smoothies
Mike Millen
Mission Trails Regional
Park Foundation
Mossuto Chiropractic
Center
Move San Diego
Mr. Joey's Taco Shop
Mueller College of
Holistic Studies
Natural Pet
Nature of Art
NAVFAC Southwest Navy
Facilities Engineering
Command
New Hope Natural
Media
New World Leadership
Children's Academy
Nika Water
Nordic Naturals
Olive Branch Green
Building Supply
Om! Lifestyle
Pacific Home Remodeling
PaintGreen Professional
Painters
Palomar College - KKSM
Peace Pies
Peace Resource Center
of San Diego
Plan It Green
Planned Parenthood of
San Diego & Riverside
Counties
Plant With Purpose
Plug In America
Pouchies
Pour It Forward
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Church
Pro Peninsula
Promoting Solar Electric
Vehicles
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Foundation
Pure Life Wellness
- Pure Water Technology
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Endangered Species
Real Goods Solar
REC Solar
Red Lotus Society
Registrar of Voters,
County of San Diego
REMCON Design Build
Retroturf
Sahaja Meditation
San Diego Animal Rescue
San Diego Association of
Governments
(SANDAG)
San Diego Audubon
Society
San Diego Beekeeping
Society
San Diego Cactus &
Succulent Society
San Diego Canyonlands,
Inc.
San Diego County Water
Authority
San Diego Democratic
Club
San Diego Diaper Service
San Diego Geranium
Society
San Diego House Rabbit
Society
San Diego Humane
Society & SPCA
San Diego Natural Guide
San Diego Neck and Back
Pain Relief Center
San Diego News Network
San Diego Oceans
Foundation
San Diego Peace Corps
Association
San Diego Peace
Promotions
San Diego Real Diaper
Circle
San Diego River Park
Foundation
San Diego Roots
Sustainable Food
Project
San Diego SIPS & ICFS
San Diego Veterans For
Peace
San Dieguito River Valley
Conservancy
Save The World Fridays
SaveWater Mobile Pool
Filtration, LLC
Scripps Ranch High
School S.A.F.E. Animals
Club
SeaWorld of San Diego
Self-Heal School of
Herbal Studies and
Healing
Senator Christine Kehoe
SHARE Network San
- Diego
Sharp Hospital
Outpatient Pavilion
Health Library
Sierra Club, San Diego
Chapter
Simply Jute
Skoy Enterprises
Smart Home Remodeling,
Inc
SPIRIT SOUL & FRIENDS
MUSICAL PEACE
TROUPE
SuperForest
Surfrider Foundation, San
Diego County Chapter
Synergy Organic Clothing
Synthetic Landscape
America
Tapioca Heaven
Team Detroit
The American Chemical
Society, San Diego
Section
The Camping Bares
The Cancer Project
The Global ARC
The GoodOnYa Bar
The Inconvenient Bag
The Ultimate Green Store
Think Blue San Diego
Thunder Carrot
Tools 4 Healers
TUWA Elements of the
Earth
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv.,
Office of Law
Enforcement
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service - San Diego
NWR Complex
U.S. Green Building
Council / San Diego
Chapter
UCCE Master Gardeners
UCSD Medical Center
Urban Green
VisionPulse Creative
Vitalah
Viva Pops
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Garden
WaterReuse Association -
San Diego Chapter
Wee Companions Small
Animal Adoption, Inc.
Wildcoast
Worldwide Impact
Zavella
Zik Originals
Zoofari
ZoomCraft, Inc.

EarthFair 2010 is funded in part by a grant from the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

EarthFair 2010

(cont. from page 18)

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. **ET**

Award Inspiration

(cont. from page 13)

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, register 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 15, 2010. Self-nominations are welcome.

The awards will be presented to the winners by San Diego City Councilmember Donna Frye on May 12 at the 20th annual V.I.P. Reception (see story on page 17). **ET**

EarthFair 2010

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5 Stages – 1 Parade

Managed by

400 Volunteers

and YOU

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VOLUNTEER

EarthDayWeb.org



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WELCOME TO THE SIERRA CLUB'S 33RD ANNUAL NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP 2010

Friday-Sunday: June 4-6 or June 11-13

*Join us for a weekend...
that can 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, dwindling natural resources with a sharing and a building of new friendships. Leave the weekend with a renewed vigor towards a society respecting and preserving all living co-habitants.

Location

The Sierra Club's scenic Foster Lodge on Mt. Laguna (el. 5,800 feet, San Diego County).

Date

Friday evening through Sunday noon. Pick either weekend – June 4-6 or June 11-13, 2010.

Cost

Early bird registration before May 1: \$125 per Sierra Club Member, \$135 per Non-Member.
After May 1: \$140 per Sierra Club member, \$150 per non-member

Your registration fee includes:

- 1) A comprehensive 190-page **Naturalist's Manual**.
- 2) **Six full & nutritious meals** created by Sheena Myers and Staff.
- 3) **Two nights' lodging** – either in the Lodge or tenting on the grounds.
- 4) A stompin', clappin' **Bluegrass concert** on Friday evening.
- 5) Half-day **nature hikes** led through chaparral, forest & meadow ecosystems.
- 6) **Evening workshops** on a variety of subjects, given by biologists & specialists. Subjects include plants, mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, Indian history & lore, ecology/conservation, astronomy, population issues, nature photography, and more.
- 7) **Yoga & meditation sessions**.
- 8) An **NKW t-shirt**.

The NKW usually fills up early, followed by a long waiting list.

Please apply promptly.

For more information:

Visit <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/nkw/>

Email NKW@sierraclubsandiego.org



Go organic – it's worth it

These days, the word “organic” is everywhere: it can be found on food, clothing, pet supplies, lawn care products, and just about everything else. But what does “organic” really mean?

There is a common usage of organic, but to preserve it's real value, an organic labeling system has been created that is connected to healthy standards for consumers, farmers, their plants, animals and land.

The Certified Organic label refers to the way agricultural products are grown and processed. It includes a system of production, processing, distribution and sales that assures consumers that the products maintain the organic integrity that begins on the farm.

This system, which is governed by strict government standards, requires that products bearing the organic label are made without the use of toxic and persistent pesticides and synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, antibiotics, synthetic hormones, genetic engineering or other excluded practices, sewage sludge, or irradiation.

Environmental health

Organic agriculture is based on practices that not only protect environmental and animal health, but also strive to improve it. Instead of relying on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, which can deplete soil of valuable nutrients, organic agriculture builds up

soil using compost, crop rotation, and other natural tools.

It also helps to keep our water supply clean.

Plus, by prohibiting the use of petroleum-based fertilizers and absorbing carbon dioxide from the air, organic agriculture helps to reduce our carbon footprint and combat climate change. Using organic agriculture is one of the easiest ways to reduce our carbon footprint. This also reduces our dependency on fossil fuel.

Organic agriculture also enhances ecosystem resilience, enabling farmers to cope with the challenges associated with drought, moisture stress, pests and disease.

Organic farmers also see animal health and welfare as a top priority. By law, organic farmers must provide their animals with access to the outdoors and pasture, quality organic feed and safe, clean living conditions. Organic farmers are also required to raise animals without the use of antibiotics or synthetic growth hormones. The result: healthy, animals that exhibit their natural behavior.

Why trust organic?

The organic system is designed to verify that federally regulated organic production and processing methods are followed.

That is why U.S. organic standards require:

provided by the Organic Trade Association

- Rigorous announced – and unannounced – certification inspections by third-party inspectors to ensure that products bearing the organic label are grown and processed in a manner that you and your family can trust.
- An Organic Systems Plan that enables inspectors and consumers alike to trace organic products from the farm to the family.
- All products bearing the organic label must comply with federal, state, FDA, and international food safety requirements.

Through their use of sustainable business practices, companies involved in the production of organic products do much to promote and protect human and environmental health.

In many cases, their good work does not stop there. Some are actively involved in the preservation of the rain forest; others strive to ensure pregnant women's access to essential pre-natal care. Still others work to keep endangered animals from going extinct. **ET**

For more information, please visit OrganicItsWorthIt.org.

Editor's note: San Diego County has the largest number of certified Organic farms in the State. Look for certified organic produce and products in your local grocery store and farmer's markets. Get involved locally through the San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project: SanDiegoRoots.org.

Urban Corps opens Recycling Buyback Center

provided by Urban Corps

State raids on recycling funds have not stopped Urban Corps of San Diego County from its plans to open a Recycling Buyback Center at Qualcomm Stadium.

Amid the closing of recycling centers throughout California, including several locations in San Diego, the Urban Corps Recycling Buyback Center at Qualcomm opened its doors to the public on Wed. Mar. 10, 2010. The center collects bottles and cans and reimburses CRV deposits five days a week; hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Buyback Center is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Center is located at the southwest end of the stadium parking lot at Gate 3 near the practice field.

Urban Corps is a non-profit local conser-

vation corps which offers youth ages 18-25 the opportunity to earn a paycheck while learning environmental job skills, gaining an education, and giving back to the community. Corpmembers plant trees, paint out graffiti, restore native habitats, and collect recyclables.

The majority of Corpmembers are high school dropouts with little or no job training. After completing the program, Corpmembers are not only more employable, but they know the importance of protecting natural resources and have the life skills and confidence needed to succeed in the mainstream workforce. Since its founding in 1989, Urban Corps has helped create a brighter future for more than 7,000 young people.

The Urban Corps Recycling Department collects recyclables from businesses, schools, offices and event venues throughout the county including Qualcomm Stadium and Petco Park. Crews collected more than 1.1 million pounds of recyclables in 2009 and anticipate doubling those totals in 2010 with the opening of the Recycling Buyback Center at Qualcomm Stadium.

For more information on the Urban Corps Recycling Buyback Center, please contact Asst. Director of Conservation Services, Eric Wolff at (619) 235-6884 ext 3311 or by email: ewolff@urbancorps.org For more information on Urban Corps programs, contact Klara Arter at 619-235-6884 ext. 3122 www.urbancorps.org. **ET**

Economic security and population

GROWING POPULATION CREATES ECONOMIC INSECURITY ON GLOBAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

by Jim Bell

The connection between increasing world population and its impact on ecological security is an area of great public misunderstanding. By now, most people are aware that increasing human population is causing ecological problems. Currently, the most dramatic increases in world populations are occurring in the developing nations. Given this fact, people in the "developed world" tend to focus their concerns on the impact of increasing population in those areas. The prevalent view in the developed world goes something like this: "I wish that people in the developing world would quit having so many children because they're messing up the environment."

If we look at population from the perspective of ecological damage per-capita, however, we see a different picture. Most of our planet's ecological problems result from "how" we procure, process, and transport our planet's resources and "how" we use and dispose of the things we make from them. Since

people in the developed world use far more resources per capita than do their less affluent developing world neighbors, their negative ecological impact is far greater. The operative word in the previous discussion is "how."

IF Ecologically sustainable methods are used to procure and process raw materials, and,

IF the products made from them can be

The average US citizen consumes 50 times more steel, 56 times more energy, 170 times more synthetic rubber and newsprint, 250 times more motor fuel, and 300 times more plastic than the average citizen of India.

used in environmentally benign ways, and,

IF they are designed to be easily reused or recycled,

THEN an ecologically sustainable, materially secure standard of living can be maintained by a large number of people.

It should be noted that even if we develop ways to extract, process, use, and "recycle" (replaces "dispose") the material wealth that our planet offers – in ways that maximize economic sustainability – population will still be a limiting factor.

Even if we do everything correctly, we still can only support a limited number of people at any particular material standard of living, sustainably.

As population grows, the average standard of living must decrease if economic sustainability is to be maintained. Based on contemporary levels of consumption and waste, the average person in the United States has a 20 to 100 times greater negative impact on the world's ecology than the average person living in a developing country. The average US citizen consumes 50 times more steel, 56 times more energy, 170 times more synthetic rubber and newsprint, 250 times more motor fuel, and 300 times more plastic than the average citizen of India.

In spite of their considerably smaller populations, people living in the developed world have a far greater negative impact on our planet's ecology than do people living in developing nations. The per capita contribution to pollution in the developed world is also greater than the per capita pollution generated in the developing world.

At 1970 pollution levels, "an increase of 75 million Americans (United States) would be equivalent to adding 3.7 billion Indians to the world population." This puts the pollution contribution of the average US citizen at almost 50 times greater than that contributed by the average Indian.

In terms of mineral and fuel consumption, "75 million Americans are the equivalent of 2 billion Colombians, 10 billion Nigerians, or 22 billion Indonesians."

Even if we assume that the negative ecological impact of the average US citizen is only 20 times the per capita impact of the average third world resident, the US population alone has almost twice the negative ecological impact as all the people living in the developing world combined.

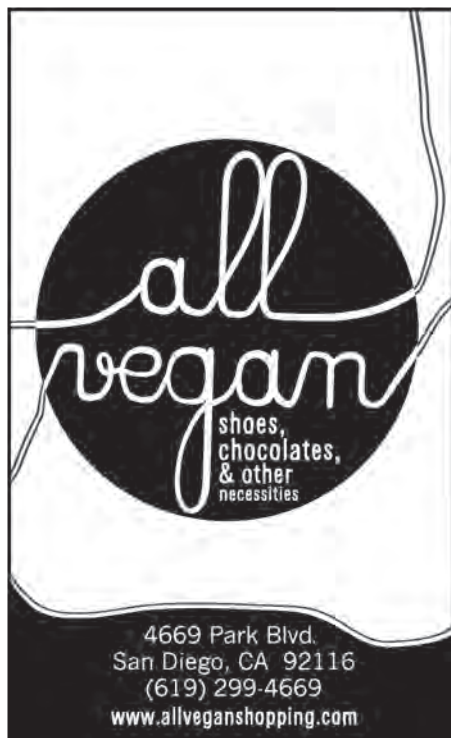
If we assume the ratio of 100-to-1, the ecological damage caused by 250 million US citizens is almost 10 times greater than the combined impact of all the people living in the developing world.

Even though the average US citizen consumes more resources than the average citizen elsewhere, the rest of the developed world comes in a close second. "The world's wealthiest nations, which have 25% of the world's population, consume 70% of its resources."

"The industrial world accounts for up to 90% of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) (mainly from fossil fuel burning) that has so far accumulated in the earth's atmosphere."

Additionally, many of the negative impacts that occur in developing nations can be directly attributed to the consumption patterns

(Continued on page 28)





Cox Conserves



Nominate your conservation hero at 4.SD.com
By April 25, 2010!

Winners will receive up to \$10,000 from the Cox Kids Foundation
to donate to their favorite environmental nonprofit.



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Donate today to the Earth Day Overpopulation Fund

Overpopulation is at the root of all environmental problems, but you wouldn't know it from listening to most environmental groups. The topic is rarely discussed, even though unsustainable human population growth is eating up wild-life habitat, polluting water, overfishing the oceans, and driving species to extinction.

Overpopulation is the most important – and most ignored – environmental problem on the planet. Help us change that by donating to our **Earth Day Overpopulation Fund**.

Building on the spectacular success of our Valentine's Day launch of the Endangered Species Condom project, we will distribute a quarter of a million funny, edgy, conversation-provoking Endangered Species Condoms in all 50 states this Earth Day, April 22. With your help, it will be one of the biggest overpopulation campaigns in US history.

Our six condom packages have beautiful drawings of endangered species and funny sayings – like “Wear with care, save the polar

bear” – on the outside. Inside, they explain how species are being crowded off the planet by an ever-growing human population, and what people can do about it.

The packages are designed to get people talking about overpopulation. And boy, do they work. We tested them on Valentine's

Building on the spectacular success of our Valentine's Day launch of the Endangered Species Condom project, we will distribute a quarter of a million funny, edgy, conversation-provoking Endangered Species Condoms in all 50 states this Earth Day, April 22.

Day, expecting 100 volunteer distributors to come forward. An astounding 5,000 people volunteered, taking all 100,000 condoms in just a couple of days!

As planned, the media ate it up. We generated funny but deadly serious conversations about overpopulation and the extinction crisis in hundreds of newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *L.A. Times*, *Miami Herald*, and *Boston Globe*. More than 300,000 blogs and Web sites covered the issue.

Please help us ramp up the campaign now with a generous gift to our Earth Day Overpopulation Fund. It's the perfect opportunity to reach hundreds of thousands of people at Earth Day events across the country. We need to raise \$50,000 to make it happen. With \$50,000, our staff can produce and distribute a quarter-million Endangered Species Condoms on Earth Day and double our overpopulation activist network.

It is imperative that we break the wall of silence around overpopulation. If we don't, all the environmental progress we make will be overwhelmed by the sheer

mass of people pushing into the last wildlife habitats, eating the last fish, and damming the last wild rivers. **ET**

To make a contribution, visit www.endangeredspeciescondoms.com.

The Center for Biological Diversity works through science, law, and creative media to secure a future for all species, great or small, hovering on the brink of extinction. Visit them at www.biologicaldiversity.org.

Security/Population

(cont. from page 26)

of people living in the United States, Europe, and Japan. For example, the consumption of beef imported from developing nations hastens rain forest destruction by providing ranching interests in rain forest countries the economic incentive to clear forests and

convert them into grazing land.

Slowing population growth and eventually reducing the number of people that live on our planet is something we should all work toward. Even if we do everything else perfectly, from an ecological perspective, our planet's ecology can only support a finite number of people sustainably – even at a very low level of consumption per-capita.

Doing our part in the developing world

Considering our impact on economic sustainability, the most immediate thing we can do, in the developed world, is to reduce our per capita impact. By focusing on reducing our own negative impacts, we will be developing the strategies and technologies needed to live and make livings in ways that are eco-nomically sustainable – the very strategies and technologies that developing

nations need to improve their own living standards in ways that avoid the ecological damage that the developed world has caused, up to now, in the same pursuit.

This in itself can be a powerful tool in curbing population growth in the developing world. Historically, a rise in living standards has tended to reduce the rate of population growth. Indeed, the development and transfer of ecologically sustainable strategies and technologies, coupled with promotion of equal rights for women may prove to be the best way the developed world can contribute to the stabilization of our species' global population. **ET**

This is an excerpt from Jim's book, *Achieving Eco-nomic Security on Spaceship Earth*. Visit JimBell.com for the text of the entire book, including copious footnotes (omitted here), plus other articles. Email Jim: jimbellel@cox.net.

How to Save the World

- 1) Go to EarthDayWeb.org
- 2) Click the link under EarthFair "Volunteering"
- 3) Read the EarthFair job descriptions
- 4) Signup to volunteer
- 5) Go to a training
- 6) Do your job at EarthFair
- 7) The world is saved!

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Golden Eagles of San Diego County and beyond

THE GOLDEN EAGLE STARING DOWN AT YOU SHOULD CATCH YOUR ATTENTION – IN A VERY REAL SENSE, HER PLIGHT REPRESENTS THAT OF ALL WILDLIFE IN OUR REGION.

For more than 10,000 years Golden Eagles have been soaring over San Diego County. And they still are today. Last year alone, Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) banded 24 new baby eaglets.

But, sadly, our eagles are beginning to disappear. WRI's research has shown a 56% reduction in the number of Golden Eagles in San Diego County – down from a population of 104 pairs during the 1870s to only 46 pairs today.

Perhaps surprisingly, little is known about where these birds actually migrate, for how long, and what critical habitats and flyways they need in an ever-shrinking wild environment. We are going to need this information if we want to ensure their survival by, in some sense, “staying out of their way.”

Keeping Track

Starting in 2005, Golden Eagles from San Diego have been fitted with satellite and or VHF transmitters and tracked by WRI biologists; currently, 77 eagles wear these transmitters. Each of these birds is giving us a clearer picture of their habitat, and how far our Golden Eagles range.

Figure 1 shows a map of the track of one

young Golden Eagle. The track ranges 750 miles north of San Diego for several months then returns to San Diego. The bird then travels into Baja on four different trips.

We are learning how the Golden Eagles live, breed and die and what causes these deaths. All this is important to protecting the species and knowing what habitats are critical to preserve for their future well being. New threats, such as wind energy farms and expansion of oil and gas wells, are causing electrocution deaths that are compounded on top of those due to the prolonged drought that has gripped Western North America since 1998.

Rocky Mountain migrations

The Golden Eagles we see in San Diego are part of the largest annual North American migration that begins in Montana along the Rocky Mountain Range Front. The eagles breed in Canada and Alaska, then migrate to the 17 western states, (including California), to spend the winter. More than 4,000 eagles were counted annually during the 1990s.

provided by Wildlife Research Institute

WRI has been tagging Golden Eagles with satellite transmitters in west central Montana for three years. We are also examining what types of mortality and how often mortality might occur on the wintering grounds. WRI has banded 381 Golden Eagles in our current studies to learn more and help save this declining species.

WRI's Montana 2009 research expedition to band Golden Eagles had another very successful year. Sixteen WRI members joined our 10 field biologists to assist in the effort, and everyone had opportunities to learn how to handle hawks and Golden Eagles. One of the biologists, Jack Holt, has

(Continued on page 32)



Nesting mother eagle and her young. Photo by D. Bittner.



Figure 1. This radio tracking data from a single young Golden Eagle shows how widely a single bird may travel. Each colored line is a separate “trip.”

Volunteers: find your place at the Sierra Club and help protect the environment

The Sierra Club was founded by John Muir in 1892 and is now the largest, environmental membership group in the nation. The San Diego Chapter was established in 1949 and holds regular meetings at its office in Kearny Mesa. Its Outings Committee leads regular hikes every weekend.

The sections below list just some of the volunteer opportunities. If any of these interest you – or if you want to help but don't see your perfect job below – contact Richard Miller at 858-569-6005 or rmiller@sierraclubsandiego.org.

Staying green

Are you looking for a way to get involved with protecting that special natural area, plant, animal, or quality of life? The Chapter's Conservation Committee is looking for motivated people to address these and other issues in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Answer this call and we will train you as a Sierra Club

conservation activist. In addition to helping your favorite cause, you'll have access to the opportunities and resources of the Chapter, you'll learn valuable leadership skills, and get connected with other environmentalists and groups.

Green screen

A healthy environment requires good government. You can get active in the political process on the Chapter's Political Committee. Committee volunteers are responsible for interviewing candidates interested in the Club's endorsement.

Help get the word out

Do you like to go to events? Street Fairs? Parades? Concerts? Walks/Runs? You can both attend and help out by volunteering for our "Tabling Team." Tabling volunteers take our Outreach Kit to events, and set out flyers, sign-up sheets, and petitions. Times and locations vary. You can choose an event in your

provided by Sierra Club San Diego Chapter area that suits your schedule.

Party Organizers & Fun! Raisers

To accomplish the Chapters goals, we need to bring people together to increase our financial contributions. Do you like to give parties or organize events large or small – whale watching, wine tasting, even gala dinners? Events are scheduled regularly so come join us.

Marketing and Graphic Designers

The Chapter has many ways that you can put your skills in marketing and graphic design to work for the environment. Consultants to help committee's create innovative and appealing web pages, reports, publications, guides and other materials are just what we need.

Calling all Office Administrators

Want a way to get out of the house for a few hours a week, meet new people and put those office and computer skills to use? We are always in need of volunteers for general office duties, data entry, and member services. **ET**

Golden Eagles

(cont. from page 31)

now banded more than 2,200 Bald Eagles and more than 25,000 hawks and owls during his career.

Early winter weather became problematic for our crews while banding on top of the continental divide at 6,400 feet elevation. Two-foot snows made climbing the mountain an extra effort. Everyone adapted, and they ended up banding 24 Golden Eagles. During the eagle trapping efforts, they had bobcats take over their traps, mountain lions haul off the bait (road killed deer), and bears carry off the bait and traps. They also fed a lot of coyotes, ravens and magpies – and a few eagles that they didn't catch.

Tracking eagles at home

Many WRI members are signing up for the new Golden Eagle Tracking Team Program. This new program opens an opportunity to any WRI member to track a Golden Eagle year round, on their home computer, via e-mail. WRI wildlife biologists will update the participating member monthly by forwarding the satellite data on Google Earth Maps, showing where the Golden Eagle has

migrated, nested or hunted the past thirty days. It is a great opportunity to learn about Eagles and also support WRI's Golden Eagle research.

By learning about the migratory habits of the Golden Eagles, and using what we learn to shape our own use of the environment, we can hopefully guarantee their survival for another 10,000 years. **ET**

By joining our Golden Eagle Tracking

Team, you can become part of our elite cadre of Research Partners. Tax-deductible donations to WRI are also welcomed and needed; the satellite transmitters each cost \$4,000, and it costs \$1,000 per year, per bird, to receive the daily satellite data feeds.

For information about joining, or making a donation, please call Dave Bittner at 760-789-3992. For more information, visit wildlife-research.org.



The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College

Visit the Garden's five acres of displays showcasing water-efficient landscaping through a series of beautiful themed gardens and how-to exhibits. Bring the kids along for some fun on the Children's Discovery Trail!

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What does caring for the Earth have to do with poverty?

CHOOSING BETWEEN CARING FOR THE POOR AND HEALING THE ENVIRONMENT DO NOT HAVE TO BE SEPARATE EFFORTS – THEY GO HAND IN HAND.

by Scott C. Sabin

This year marks the 20th anniversary of San Diego EarthWorks' EarthFair in Balboa Park, and I'm pleased to say that Plant With Purpose (formerly known as Floresta) has been involved with every EarthFair event since the first in 1991. It has been a great place to raise awareness about the links between deforestation, environmental decline, and poverty.

Earth Day is a reminder of the responsibility we have to care for the Earth. We have the capacity to do something here, at a local level, to heal the environment in our own community.

I frequently get asked how we can choose between caring for the poor and caring for Earth, as if we have to choose one or the other. As often as I have been asked that question, it still catches me by surprise, because my own

concern for the Earth first grew out of a concern for the poor.

Someone told me recently that caring for the environment seems like a cause for bored middle-class Americans, whereas the poor don't have the luxury of worrying about their environment. The suggestion was that environmental issues are primarily aesthetic and fall pretty high up on Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

If you live in a world where water comes in plastic bottles and food comes from the supermarket, it is easy to see the environment as purely decorative. In the



Most of these volunteers were not yet born when Plant With Purpose (Floresta) attended their first EarthFair in 1990. How time flies when you're saving the planet!



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United States, we have been able to use our material wealth to purchase several layers of insulation from the Earth. I believe we have much to learn from our brothers and sisters in rural communities throughout the world. They recognize that there is a direct connection between environmental quality and the most basic of needs: food, water and air.

The connection between poverty and tropical deforestation has long been one of my hot-button issues. Plant With Purpose got its start responding to the needs of the poor by addressing the environmental degradation that contributed to their poverty. Poor farmers were made poorer by deforestation, which caused their soil to erode and their water resources to dry up. This robbed them of the two assets they counted on to provide them with food and income. Poor farm families, practicing slash-and-burn agriculture, cut trees to clear land for farming. The topsoil from treeless slopes erodes many times faster than before. Streams dry up. Wells give out. Without topsoil and water, crops don't grow, leading to hunger and despair, and without the natural filter of trees, the water that does flow is contaminated, leading to diarrheal disease.

Ironically, we found that the poor were often caught in a vicious cycle where they were creating the deforestation that made them poorer. Small-scale subsistence agriculture and firewood collection – activities of the poor – are among the biggest contributors to tropical deforestation.

We quickly learned that the problem was not one of ignorance, but rather a lack of

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opportunity. I have had more than one poor, illiterate farmer give me an elegant description of how a watershed works. But, as I was told recently in Haiti, they also have a saying that translates to "Either this tree must die or I must die in its place." They are aware of the long-term stakes and would do more to care for the environment – if they had the opportunity.

Thus, helping to create opportunity – serving the poor – helps to serve the environment; and helping to restore the environment

serves the poor. We need not make a choice between the poor and the earth.

This Earth Day, consider what you can do to make a difference beyond April 22nd. Perhaps it involves raising your own vegetables, or planting trees to reduce your impact on the planet. Donate as little as \$1 to plant one tree by visiting the Plant With Purpose Trees Please! page at www.plantwithpurpose.org.

Find out more ways you can help make every day earth day. **ET**

Scott Sabin is the Executive Director of Plant With Purpose, (www.plantwithpurpose.org) a San Diego-based, international environmental organization that reverses deforestation and poverty by transforming the lives of the rural poor in Haiti, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Burundi, Tanzania, and Thailand. Scott is the author of the recently released book Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God's People, which offers a global perspective on the theological foundation for caring for the earth and its people, and also focuses on Scott's experiences working with the rural poor in Haiti.

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A smart way to create jobs AND help the environment

YOU CAN THINK ABOUT TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AS MORE THAN JUST A BETTER WAY TO GET FROM “A” TO “B”: IF DONE WELL, IT CAN GENERATE LOTS OF JOBS.

by Elyse Lowe

Not long ago, it was thought highway expansion was one of the best ways to create jobs. Not so. Data from the federal stimulus, recently analyzed by Smart Growth America, USPIRG and the Center for Neighborhood Technology, demonstrates that spending on public transportation produces almost **twice** the number of jobs as spending on highways.

It's time to rethink old paradigms about stimulating the economy, and look to public transit – not highway building – as an innovative, smarter way to create jobs, support smart growth, and reduce our climate-changing emissions.

Back to the drawing board

In San Diego County, we have double digit unemployment (10.1% average) with some areas (e.g., National City) seeing more than 19%. Economists predict it will take five years or more to recover the more than 15 million jobs lost nationally since December 2007.

Treasury Secretary Geithner recently told Congress, “Our basic test should be: what's going to add jobs? At the stimulus's one-year mark, we've learned that the answer is ‘more public transportation.’”

Federally, spending one-billion dollars on public transportation generates 8,806 more job-months than if those funds were spent on highways. That's twice as many jobs for the dollar. Federal dollars for transit should be leveraged to create job opportunities locally.

Transit decongestant

By 2050, growth will add the equivalent of another City of San Diego in population (1.3 million people) to our region, including 400,000 new households and 500,000 new jobs. Only smart transit can provide relief from the massive congestion this promises. Our elected leaders should support smart growth by building an expanded, robust transit system: rapid buses and trolleys, attractive stations, and competitive trip times.

Smart communities feature clean, reli-

able transportation options that move people to work, school and play as quickly as they could drive. We must set a high priority on investments in transit capital and operations that create smart, transit-oriented communities – not funded as an afterthought to massive spending on freeways.

What does EPA DOT HUD spell?

Everyone is trying to figure out the best ways to get people out of their cars. A new federal partnership between Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Transportation (DOT) and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will coordinate federal investments through an ambitious new livability initiative. A new California Strategic Growth Council has been designed to assist local jurisdictions in the planning of water- and energy-efficient, communities with improved transportation systems.

Locally, we are the first to undertake the state's newly required Sustainable Communities Strategy element in SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan. Reductions in driving, measured by Vehicle Miles Traveled, must be achieved by coordinating our future housing and land use plans with billions of dollars in planned transportation investments. Residents of our region should call for innovative transit projects and funds to provide operational support.

Jobs in transit

San Diego is known as a clean energy hub. CleanTech, solar power and clean fuel creation have put us on the map. The recently reviewed data confirms public transportation was the top job generator among the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) clean energy programs.

According to Scott Bernstein, President of the Center for Neighborhood Technology, “The new data shows that the job productiv-

ity of transit is no fluke – transit not only maintained its job productivity advantage over highway investing over a longer period of time, in the fourth quarter it was the top job supporter of all clean energy investments in ARRA, according to the White House's Council of Economic Advisors. Shifting as much of our transportation spending to the most job-creating investments as we can is essential. The Senate should give transit spending parity with highways.”

Transit savings

In addition to job creation, transit puts money back in people's pockets. Household transportation costs tend to be higher for those without access to public transit.

Windfall for All, a recent study by Oakland's Transform, and Chicago's Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, showed that San Diego households could save on the average of \$3,515 each through improved access to high-performing public transportation and compact, walkable areas.

Move San Diego's Green Dividend study reports that just minor reductions in driving (3.2 miles/person/day) would directly stimulate the local economy by over \$1 billion annually.

Supporting transit in San Diego makes sense for the long haul. It's a smart way to create jobs and give a long term boost to the local economy and the environment. **ET**

Elyse Lowe is the Executive Director of Move San Diego, a locally-based non-profit corporation. MSD's mission is, “To organize and serve a broad collaboration of people and organizations 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 San Diego.”

To learn more, or see how you can help make fast, convenient transit in San Diego real, visit movesandiego.org.



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Saving San Dieguito lagoon from overdevelopment

by Senator Christine Kehoe

When the San Dieguito Lagoon re-opened next to the Del Mar Fairgrounds about a year ago, the restored area boosted the fish population from almost nothing to 12 million, and increased bird species in the area from 59 to 158. It was an ecological recovery like few seen in San Diego's history.

In February, I introduced Senate Bill 1177 that requires the 22nd District Agricultural Association (DAA) to develop and manage a minimum 100-foot wide greenway along the north bank of the San Dieguito River, stretching from Interstate 5 to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

SB 1177 requires the 22nd DAA, a state agency that manages the Del Mar Fairgrounds, to work with the Californian Department of Fish and Game and California State Parks Department to design a path within the greenway that extends the 55-mile long Coast to Crest Trail through the Fairgrounds.

A natural buffer along the river would allow the area to recover, much as the lagoon has after the Edison-funded lagoon restoration project. Restored wetlands along the river should reduce flooding that regularly plagues the Fairgrounds.

The greenway would also provide a permanent buffer between buildings on the fairgrounds and the river, and ensure permanent public access on this priceless state property, all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Why introduce legislation now? Governor Schwarzenegger and his staff are still pursuing the sale of all or part of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. A pending appraisal would help set the anticipated high selling price for the approximately 400-acre state property.

Second, the 22nd DAA is proposing 18 major construction projects on the Fairgrounds property, including a 330-room condo-hotel, a 60,000-square-foot fitness center, an exhibition hall with three lighted rooftop playing fields, retail space, and a 48-foot tall electronic screen overlooking Interstate 5. The entire project would cost as much as \$300 million.

SB 1177 directs that the greenway and path must be completed by January 1, 2014. The 22nd DAA has proposed starting construction of the new facilities as early as two years after certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report, which is expected sometime this summer.

The Fairgrounds plan would add noise

and lights to the fragile ecosystem of the lagoon and river and the adjacent habitat, and the proposed buildings are out of scale with existing structures on the Fairgrounds. Any new buildings should be stepped back in height and located farther from the property boundaries.

A grander vision for the fairgrounds would include a natural buffer along the river that creates recreational opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, and bird watchers. Just think how much more beautiful and natural the area would become if we could permanently protect the river from development along its shores.

This is a defining moment for our region, and protecting this valued natural resource must be a priority. If you support legislation to create a Del Mar Greenway, please visit my website at www.senate.ca.gov/kehoe and sign the related petition. **ET**

Senator Kehoe represents the 39th Senate District, which includes much of San Diego, Del Mar, and Lemon Grove.

Reliable reality

(cont. from page 3)

importing nearly 60% of the oil we use, and we're still using about 70% of that for gasoline, to drive our cars, light trucks, and SUVs, and diesel for heavy-duty trucks.

In February, we imported 322 million barrels of petroleum at a total cost of \$24.6 billion. That means we're still on track to send approximately **1/3 OF A TRILLION DOLLARS** out of the country this year to pay for our gasoline and diesel – and that's with February being a short month and the world still in a recession!

There's no single magic bullet, but there are many, many things to be done to move us toward energy independence – and much money to be made through innovation and clean technology. An unstable climate will

be much more expensive than stabilizing it.

To see what one local prominent scientist has to say, see: "If I were President: a climate change speech" starting on page 6.

To Do

- Learn that there is settled science (visit www.skepticalscience.com - iPhone users download the app!)
- Accept the facts. Ignore denialists. This problem is not going to go away.
- Support businesses and governments – and the politicians – leading the way. (There are many "win-win" solutions.)
- Write, call or email Senators and find out if they care about science or not. Vote out the ones who do not. Really. This is a good "litmus" test issue.

Climate change touches all other areas of nature and our environment: water, energy,

habitat. Probably one of the most important things is to be involved in politics. There is something you can do in every area. For ideas for volunteering with the local Sierra Club, the largest local environmental group, see page 32.

Find out what you can do this year for this 40th anniversary of Earth Day – and the 20th anniversary of the EarthFair in Balboa Park on Sunday, April 18th. Then take steps in your daily life: Do Your Part! **ET**

Carolyn Chase is editor of the San Diego Earth Times, chairperson of the San Diego Sierra Club Political Committee, 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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