

Adopt-a-Levee & Earth Day
coming your way!
Details inside.

Save Our Shores

Spring 2012

Awareness Advocacy Action

Why I Save Our Shores

by Ronn Rygg, Sanctuary Steward Class of 2011



↑ Students at Soquel Elementary show their disgust at all the trash they found during their Soquel Creek cleanup!

Soquel Students Save Our Shores

"Thank you for bringing Save Our Shores to Soquel Elementary school! Your presentation was inspiring — my students wanted to put your message to practice right away, so we went down to Soquel Creek for a cleanup that afternoon! Instead of just being concerned about the problem with waste and plastics in our marine sanctuaries, they now see themselves as part of the solution."

~ Patrick Foster, Soquel Elementary teacher

I think I'm a lot like most people who find solace in being near the ocean. It has always been a source of comfort and rejuvenation, persistently influencing my life to one degree or another.

I feel fortunate to have had such a long association with the ocean throughout my life, starting in my early years in SoCal, body surfing at the beach. Later on, I joined the Navy and made it my career. While on board on calm, cloudless days, I'd climb to altitude in my helicopter where you could see open ocean from horizon to horizon — and the only human presence was my small ship below.

The ocean is the place I went on my honeymoon, and today, the place I call home with my wife, daughter and son, here on the Monterey Bay.

I heard about an organization called Save Our Shores and it got me thinking about how I might become more of a steward for our ocean. It wasn't long before I signed up to volunteer at Annual Coastal Cleanup Day with my teenage son, Travis.

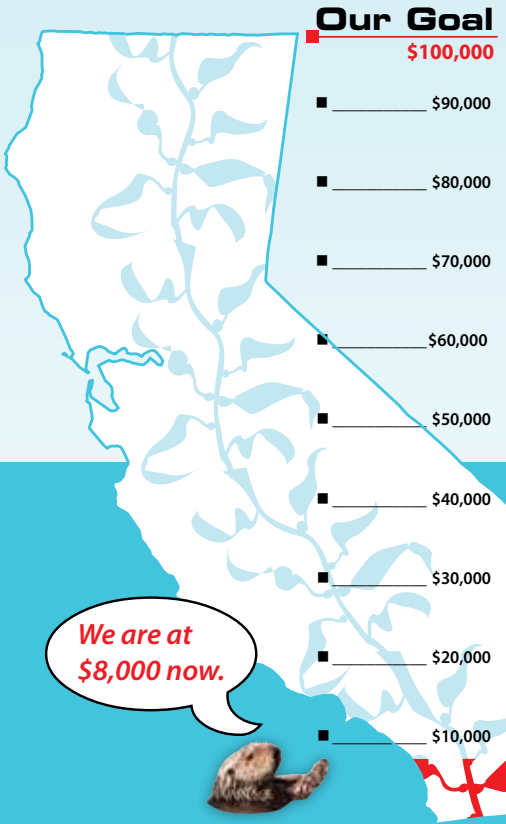
I was hooked. Within a few months, I began my training as a Sanctuary Steward.

The training enlightened me as to how much we have lost just in the course of my lifetime. **But I'm also hopeful about what we can do together to turn things around and bring it back.** Being involved with the Sanctuary Steward program has been a great personal experience and, by the way, a terrific father/son activity that Travis happily and frequently participates in.



↑ 1985: Ronn explores the seas near the Horn of Africa with the Navy

⇒ 1976: Ronn and wife Claire honeymoon on Monterey Bay, where they live today with their son and daughter



Why do you Save Our Shores?
Send your story to media@saveourshores.org

Please join Ronn at one of our next beach cleanups (Calendar inside). And consider a donation today to the California Challenge. You'll fund both cleanups and Steward classes — bringing back the healthy ocean we once enjoyed.

Please Donate to The California Challenge!

Because of the current state of our economy, vital state funding to Save Our Shores ended right along with 2011. But, your donation today will guarantee we continue cleaning your favorite beaches AND educating tomorrow's ocean advocates!

Your gift of \$100 will clean a half-mile stretch of beach or bring an ocean presentation to 30 students. *Thank you!*

Send your gift in the attached envelope or donate online at www.saveourshores.org/Donate.

Join Earth Day Cleanups on Saturday, April 21!

LAST YEAR OVER 2,400 POUNDS OF POLLUTION WERE REMOVED DURING TWO EARTH DAY CLEANUPS WITH THE HELP OF 200 VOLUNTEERS.

"I can't believe how many cigarette butts are out there. It's disgusting!" exclaimed one of our dedicated Earth Day volunteers at the Cowell/Main Beach cleanup, where over 2,700 cigarette butts were found in under two hours. Another 800 were removed at the San Lorenzo River cleanup.

Volunteers also prevented 400 plastic bags from entering our Sanctuary that day. Thank you to our Stewards, volunteers, and Supporters for protecting our ocean and communities from unnecessary trash and pollution!

Calling all Earth Day volunteers in Santa Cruz & Monterey on Saturday, April 21!

From the Earth Day Festival grounds and the banks of the San Lorenzo River, to Cowell Beach and Del Monte Beach, YOU have the chance to give back for Earth Day this year. Join Save Our Shores in creating a pristine ocean environment for you and your loved ones to enjoy. 🌊

Find your Earth Day volunteer opportunity in the list of Upcoming Events below!

Local Groups Adopt-a-Levee to Save their Favorite Stretch of River

Albert's Organics, a national distributor of organically grown produce based in Santa Cruz, decided to take on a new, albeit dirtier, challenge to Save Our Shores. A previous Beach-Adopter, they are now one of the area's very first Adopt-a-Levee groups.

"Last year on Earth Day, we volunteered for a Levee cleanup. **We were shocked at how much trash was in our San Lorenzo River. The gravel and sand quickly buries large items — one tire took 45 minutes to dig out!**" said Adele Geggimignani of Albert's Organics.

"I hope the more people who see volunteers like us cleaning up after others will think twice when tossing their cigarette butt, candy wrapper, empty beer, or drug needle. Yes, drug needles — it's terrible."

"Albert's Organics can be a role model for other local companies who have the means to support such an effort," says Julie Chamberlain of Albert's Organics.

If you know someone in our very first Adopt-a-Levee groups, please give them a round of applause: Albert's Organics, the Homeless Services Center, Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary, Santa Cruz Rotary, and the Tannery Arts Center.

And, thanks to everyone in Santa Cruz! Your support of the City of Santa Cruz's Measure E is now funding the pilot year of the new **Adopt-a-Levee Program!** 🌊

Please let us know if you're interested in becoming an Adopt-a-Levee group! Plans are in the works for expanding this program after our pilot year ends this June.

Upcoming Events **Volunteers Needed!**

MARCH 10, 10AM – NOON

Monterey Monthly Beach Cleanup, Lover's Point in Pacific Grove

MARCH 13, 6:30 – 9PM

End of the Line film screening, Santa Cruz

MARCH 16 – 18

Santa Cruz Surf Kayak Festival

MARCH 17, 10AM – NOON

Santa Cruz Monthly Beach Cleanup, Davenport Main Beach

APRIL 21, 8AM – 5PM

Santa Cruz Earth Day Festival, San Lorenzo Park

APRIL 21, 10AM – 1PM

Earth Day River Cleanup, Water Street Bridge, Santa Cruz

APRIL 21, 10AM – NOON

Earth Day Beach Cleanup, Cowell/Main Beach, Santa Cruz

APRIL 21, 10AM – NOON

Earth Day Beach Cleanup, Del Monte Beach, Monterey

APRIL 21, 8PM

Earth Day Dance Party at Don Quixote's, a benefit for Save Our Shores

MAY 12, 10AM – NOON

Monterey Monthly Beach Cleanup, Asilomar State Beach

MAY 12, CHECK-IN: 7AM. RACE: 8 – 11AM

The Human Race, West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz

MAY 12, 5 – 9PM

Join us for our Clean Beaches Bash, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

MAY 19, 10AM – NOON

Santa Cruz Monthly Beach Cleanup, Capitola Beach & Soquel Creek

JUNE 7, TIME TBD

Monterey Summer Kickoff Party

JUNE 9, 10AM – NOON

Monterey Monthly Beach Cleanup, Carmel Beach

JUNE 16, 10AM – NOON

Santa Cruz Monthly Beach Cleanup, Sunset State Beach



↑ **Top:** Combing Main Beach for trash during our 2011 Earth Day Cleanup. Photo by Sebastian Kennerknecht. **Bottom:** Father and son team heads to the levee for the Earth Day River Cleanup.
↓ **Top:** Albert's Organics is working hard to protect our Sanctuary, one tire at a time. **Bottom:** The Albert's Organics crew cleans up their adopted section between Laurel St. and Riverside Dr. bridges.



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**SAVE THE DATE:
VOLUNTEER ON JULY 4TH & 5TH!**

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Donations from
September 2011
through January 2012

Thanks to Our Supporters!

Sanctuary Champion Leaders \$10,000+

California Coastal Commission
City of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz
New Leaf Community Markets

Sanctuary Circle of Champions \$5,000+

Dream Inn
EarthShare California
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Mount Madrona, LLC

Sanctuary Allies \$500+

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Sanctuary Guardians \$2,500+

California State Parks Foundation
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Sanctuary Benefactors \$1,000+

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Betty Verhovany & Chris McIntosh
Craig & Diane Wilson

In-Kind Gifts

First Congregational Church
Michael's On Main
Monterey Signs
Vine Hill Winery

Recent Tribute Gifts

A tribute gift is a great way to honor the generous people in your life while Saving Our Shores at the same time.

In Honor of:

Sandra Gelman from Anonymous
Orry Korb from Jennifer Castillo
Jack Marden's Birthday from Gail & Douglas Kirby
Lisa Porcella from Jennifer Castillo
Doug Titus from Jennifer Castillo
Brenda Wood from Megan Dwyer

In Memory of:

Joe Levine, who loved the ocean and being on the water, from Lynne Lenger & Laurence Needham
SaiRam Yarlagadda from Sivaramakrishna Yarlagadda

Thank You to Our New Supporters!

Your donations were generously matched by the **Sutherland Fund** and raised \$7,000! **The Salesian Elementary and Junior High School** created FUN-raisers to help us reach the match.

We also appreciate those who participated in **Monterey County Gives!** Thanks to your donations, over \$2,000 will go directly to beach cleanups in Monterey County this year.

And thanks to the **DeLaveaga Nifty Niners** for including SOS in your Invitational Golf Tournament, and to **Peter B's Brewpub** for putting together a Beer Garden event in support of SOS programs.



↑ The ladies from DeLaveaga's Nifty Niners Golf Club Save Our Shores through their invitational golf tourney fundraiser.

Kick Off the Summer of Clean Beaches on May 12

Join Team SOS for The Human Race Walkathon & Fun Run! Contact smalsom@saveourshores.org to request a Human Race Pledge Form. OR, make a donation to Team SOS at www.humanracesc.org.

And then help us celebrate at the Clean Beaches Bash downtown!

Join us from 5-9 PM at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History for tasty drinks, savory finger food, great music and good times! Tickets at the door or at www.saveourshores.org.

⇒ Stewards, staff and Supporters raise vital funds for Save Our Shores programs through The Human Race Walkathon & Fun Run!





Save Our Shores

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Save Our Shores participates in a program to replant an equivalent number of trees to replace the paper used in producing our newsletter. The trees are replanted in Central America and the Caribbean in a program managed by the non-profit organization, **Trees for the Future**. For more information go to: <http://www.treesfff.org/htm>. This service is provided locally by Community Printers in Santa Cruz.

Will the Plastic Bag Ban Affect Me?

You may be charged a small fee if you forget your reusable bag, but you'll find less plastic bags discarded on your streets and beaches.

Santa Cruz County's plastic bag ban takes effect March 20. The lawsuit filed by the *Save the Plastic Bag* coalition was settled, although restaurants were exempted from the ban. SOS will continue to push for restaurants to be included later this year. The market checkout will no longer bag your groceries in plastic, and there will be a small fee on paper bags.

Here are two great ways to ensure you have your reusable bags when you go to the store:

1. Leave some bags in your car.
2. Create a "filing system" at home. Return your reusable bags to the very place you grab things on your way out the door!

SOS is advocating for plastic bag bans in the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola.

Visit SaveOurShores.org to keep up-to-date on this important issue. You can also **take action** to end plastic pollution in your backyard by signing the petition at <http://bit.ly/bag-ban>.



⇐ An otter pup gets stuck in a plastic bag in Moss Landing Harbor. After much work, the mother otter helped to free her pup from this relentless piece of marine debris. Photo by Terry McCormac.



↑ Photo by local kayaker *Steve Lawson*, who had the paddle of his life this winter viewing Humpback whales closer to Santa Cruz's shores than ever before! Plastic pollution makes for a terrible fate for these whales, who have been found washed ashore with large amounts of plastic clogging their digestive tracks.

What Will State Park Closures Mean for My Local Beach?

Save Our Shores beach cleanups will become even more vital for two of the county's favorite beaches!

Twin Lakes and Seabright State Beaches are on the list of 70 California State Parks slated to be closed this July. Although the state cannot stop people from visiting these beaches, State Park maintenance could come to an end. And increasing amounts of pollution at these sites will be common.

Please visit our Calendar inside to see when the next beach cleanups will be in your area. And consider a donation to the CA Challenge (details on the cover) to see more beach cleanups happening at your closed beaches this summer.