

# OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



## Message from our President *Ched Myers*

*We are in a watershed moment.* The Ojai Valley Green Coalition's Board and staff understand this double entendre:

- We believe that as citizens we must realistically face the many interconnected ecological crises at this momentous time in our history. As Naomi Klein puts it, "this changes everything."
- We also believe that the only way to resist paralysis is, in the famous words of Arthur Ashe, to "start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can." For us this means engaging these challenges at a *watershed scale*.

Every one of the Coalition's educational, community service, advocacy and skill-building programs endeavors to nurture consciousness, build literacy and promote strategies of sustainability for our Ventura River Watershed. We are here to help residents "transition" to personal and political practices that will promote a resilient and just ecological commonwealth and community.

At an Ojai City Council meeting in the summer of 2015, then-Mayor Severo Lara told fellow councilmembers: "If the Green Coalition didn't exist, we'd have to invent it. Fortunately, we don't need to." Lara articulated the bottom line: the OVGC's work is absolutely necessary to the health of our amazing but fragile *place*, given our troubled and demanding *times*.

*continued on page 2*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**January:** 7th Annual Recycling and E-waste Collection Event

Stewart Canyon Creek restoration work day under the direction of the C.R.E.W.

**February:** 4th Annual Seed & Plant Swap

**May-June:** Solarize group-purchasing discount program

**September:** 6th Annual Ojai Creek Clean-up Day

**October:** 8th Annual Ojai Day Bike Valet and Bicycle Education

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

**March:** Community Presentation & Potluck – *How to Install a Laundry to Landscape Greywater System*

Tour of homes with greywater installation

**April:** Hands-on *Laundry-to-Landscape* installation workshop

Produced Earth Day celebration in partnership with **Oak Grove School**, **Food for Thought Ojai**, and the **Ojai Valley Land Conservancy**

**August:** Skill-building Food Preservation Series – Fermenting, Bread & Cheese Making, and Dehydrating

**November:** Hosted Ojai Film Festival Focus Earth screening of *In Pursuit of Zero Waste* followed by panel discussion & mini-expo

Tour of E.J. Harrison & Sons recycling facility

## NEW AND CONTINUING EFFORTS

- Rolled out our *Save Our Water, Ojai!* campaign
- Initiated a Salon Series for the *Heart & Soul* of Activists
- Resource Center featuring book, literature and film library; educational displays; and meeting room
- We are a funding member and participant of the Ventura River Watershed Council
- Designated Dark Sky Community Initiative and Exterior Lighting Standards Outreach in Partnership with the City of Ojai
- 5<sup>th</sup> year Valley of the Moon community garden fiscal sponsor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ojai Food Co-op fiscal sponsor

Ojai Valley News Advertisement

### Gray is the New Green!

A Collection of Graywater Educational Events

**Friday, March 27**  
Community Potluck and Presentation  
An overview of the Ventura River Watershed Management Plan AND "How-To Laundry-to-Landscape" presentation. Donation suggested.

**Saturday, March 28**  
Graywater Home Tour  
Admission: \$15 for non-members, \$10 for OVGC members and City of Ojai residents

**Saturday, April 25**  
Graywater DIY Installation Workshop  
Admission: \$15 for non-members, \$10 for OVGC members and City of Ojai residents

Full details and payment options at [www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org](http://www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org)  
Phone: 805-669-8445



## President's Message *continued from page 1*

The Coalition began 2015 navigating through a Board transition, budgetary pressures, and overtaxed staff. But through an expanded partnership with the City of Ojai, the hiring of our new Executive Director, and several new grant opportunities and business sponsors, we finished the year stronger than ever. Some highlights of our work:

- Convening strategic public forums, site visits and skill-sharing workshops on two crucial issues: water and waste management;
- Continuing our coordination of the successful Green Home Tour, Earth Day and Ojai Film Festival events;
- Rehabilitating the Valley of the Moon Community Garden, while educating about a range of local pest issues;
- Publishing monthly E-newsletters and hosting regular “salons” on various environmental topics;
- Expanding our organizing and advocacy for “dark skies” and “complete streets;”
- Continuing habitat restoration and “Solarize Ojai” partnerships.

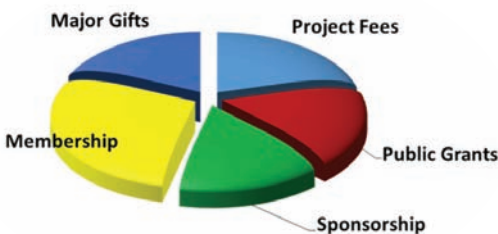
Because the Coalition exists, we don't have to invent it. But we *do* need to work together on this mission, in this place, in these challenging times. We are grateful to all of you who help us do that, and we look forward to continuing to respond ever more broadly and deeply to this watershed moment.

*Ched Myers*

Board President

## OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION | FINANCIALS 2015

### 2015 UNRESTRICTED INCOME



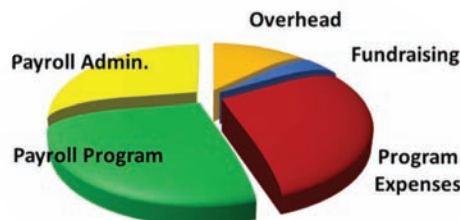
### 2015 income | \$65,670

Project Fees	\$ 13,637
Public Grants	\$ 11,000
Sponsorships	\$ 10,589
Memberships	\$ 18,499
Major Gifts	\$ 11,946

### 2015 EXPENSES

### 2015 expenses | \$63,060

Program Expenses	\$ 17,718
Payroll Program	\$ 17,500
Payroll Administrative	\$ 17,400
Overhead	\$ 7,973
Fundraising	\$ 2,469



### Our Mission

is to advance a green, sustainable and resilient Ojai Valley.

### 2016 Board of Directors

Christopher Cohen  
Noel Douglas  
Heather Mohan-Gibbons  
Ched Myers  
Deborah Pendrey  
Kit Stolz  
Laurie Walters

### 2015 Board of Directors

Joanie Blaxter  
Chris Cohen  
Noel Douglas  
Ched Myers  
Margaret Tarmy  
David White

### 2016 Staff

Russell Sydney, *Executive Director*  
Deborah Pendrey, *Program Director*  
Noel Douglas, *Administrative Assistant*

### 2015 Staff

Deborah Pendrey, *Executive Director*  
Noel Douglas, *Administrative Support*

### 2015/2016 Non-voting Liaisons

Severo Lara, *City of Ojai*  
Brian Brennan,  
*Ventura County Supervisor Bennett District I*

### Resource Center and Mailing Address

206 N. Signal St. Suite S, Ojai CA 93023

### Hours:

Wednesday - Friday: 12 to 5 p.m.  
(805) 669-8445



OVGC is a 501(c)3 non-profit.  
Contributions are fully tax-deductible.





# Our Volunteer of the Year, **Gail Topping**

Gail Topping, an Ojai Valley resident for 13 years, is the Coalition's 2015 'volunteer of the year'. Gail has been a model activist and advocate holding steadfast in moving a single issue with multiple impacts forward for over eight years.

"Gail brought the issue of light pollution in the Ojai Valley to the Coalition's attention in 2008," says Executive Director, Deborah Pendrey, in announcing Gail's selection. "It is time to recognize Gail's hard work in building awareness and advocating for policy change. With Gail at the helm, the Coalition was able to help the City of Ojai update its Exterior Lighting Standards Ordinance and provide a standard for review by the County for the unincorporated areas of the Ojai Valley. We have also continued working on awareness of this important issue with outreach to the residential and business community.

Gail visited Tucson, AZ in 2007 and was amazed such a large city could still be dark at night. "I discovered that they had a comprehensive exterior light ordinance," said Gail. She



*from left to right, Nancy Emerson, Chuck McPartlin, Erin Rush, Gail Topping and Shawn Jacobson at the first of many 'Dark Skies' community events.*

learned the clear views of the skies over Tucson were originally initiated for their science industry and planetariums, but were benefiting the residents and wildlife as well. Gail was hooked on 'Dark Skies'.

"It hasn't been easy," says Gail, whose environmental ideas were at first considered too small to effect changes the community was looking for 9 years ago. Gail has kept going though, ever the environmental and community activist. "I'm close to 80 and I know I'm withdrawing and not going to every meeting... and yet it still invigorates me!"

The Coalition and community are very lucky Gail could see the glow of the Ojai Valley increasing from her Foothill home and took up the cause. The Board of Directors and staff of the Coalition wish to thank Gail for her care and concern in preserving our night sky, a significant natural resource, and improving the health and safety of the Ojai Valley citizens through safe and appropriate lighting.

## Why We Give

**Chris & Nellie Cohen**



*"We give to the Ojai Valley Green Coalition because we believe in the power of small communities to drive*

*change toward a more responsible, peaceful system that treats people and the environment with dignity and respect. The Green Coalition demonstrates what is possible--and then facilitates concrete actions that we can all take to help achieve that goal."*



## 2015 SUPPORTERS

Aaron & Betsy Clapp  
Alan & Margo Haas  
Alise Echele  
Allen Vail  
Allison Monahan  
Anca Colbert  
Anoush Dekmezian  
Anthony & Angela Ocone  
Aqua-Flo Supply  
Barbara Balderman  
Barbara Brown  
Barbara Feild  
Bettyann Sessing  
Bill Brothers  
& Susie Ault  
Bill Haff  
Bill O'Brien, Nexgen Engineering  
Bob Daley  
Bob Tallyn  
& Betsy Bachman  
Bonnie Bartling  
Brad Hudson  
Bret Bentzen  
California Solar Electric

Carol Garramone  
Carol Vesecky  
Caryn & Charlie Bosson  
Charlene Spretnak  
Charlie & Barbara Snyder  
Chevron Matching Gift Program  
Chris Cohen Law  
City of Ojai  
Dale Hanson  
Dana Stephens  
Daniel Moses  
Darrell & Glenda Jones  
Dave & Sage Intner  
David Wappler  
Deborah & Wayne Pendrey  
Diana Goodrow  
Dianne McCourtney  
Don & Stephanie Midgett  
Don Campbell  
Donna & Robert Feist  
Donna Santoro  
Doug Adrianson & Chris Elder  
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Vander  
Dr. Anthony & Barbara Hirsch  
E.J. Harrison & Sons  
Ecologic Life



# The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is Grateful for Our Many Volunteers & Partners!



*L to R Deborah, Bill, Bob and Patty at Annual Ojai Creek Clean-up Day, supported by City of Ojai and EJ Harrison & Sons*

*Heather Mohan-Gibbons, Garden Manager, Valley of the Moon Community Garden at the HELP of Ojai West Campus*



*Our Annual Ewaste Collection Partners: Dave Brubaker with his wife Karen, Ojai Community Bank, and Ren and Victoria Adam, Ojai Valley Directory*

continued from page 3

## 2015 SUPPORTERS

Elaine Enns  
& Ched Myers  
Elaine Unzicker  
Emily Palko  
Erin Smith  
Frances Fitting  
Gail & Michael Hercher  
Garrett & Anne Clifford  
George Ball  
& Amanda McBroom  
George Berg & Gail Topping  
Glenn & Nancy Perry  
Inez Canvasser  
Jack Wells  
Jackie Lanum  
Jakob Bogenberger  
& Susan Swift  
Jane Carroll Design  
Jane Handel  
JB White  
Jeff & Liz Otterbein  
Jennifer Pandol  
Jerry & Anne Kaplan  
Jim & Sally True  
Jim Klausen  
& Karen McAuley  
Jim McCarthy  
& Christine Brennan  
JL & Sons Landscaping Inc.

Joanie Blaxter  
John & Helene Vachet  
John & Kathy Broesamle  
John & Pat Allen  
John & Peggy Russell  
John Aufderheide  
John Slade & Laurie Walters  
Jon & Linda Lambert  
Jonathan Hall  
Jonathan Katz  
& Stephanie Pincetl  
Joseph Gillick  
Julia Heyman  
Kale Starbird  
Kara Anne Hooper  
Karen McAuley  
Karen Schmidt  
Karin Finn  
Katharine Kilmurray  
Kathi & Mark Connally  
Kathy McAlpine  
Keith & Alisan Peters  
Keith Helmkamp  
Ken Wright  
Kenley Neufeld  
& Leslie Davis  
Kent Epperson  
Kerry Miller Design  
Kristina Grey  
Kristofer Young  
Larry Daigle  
Larry Rose  
& Lisa Larramendy  
Larry Yuva & Carol Smith

Len Klaif & Linda Harmon  
Letitia Grimes  
Libby & Sandy Treadwell  
Linda Meyer  
Loren & Shirley La Barre  
Lori Hamor  
& Grady Runyan  
Lori Pye  
Lorraine Walter  
Mac & Jaime Lojowsky  
Marc Whitman Design  
Margaret Tarmy  
Margaret Wilson  
Mari Braveheart-Dances  
Maria & Jon Parisen  
Marilyn Miller  
Marlyn Bodo  
Marsha MacDonald  
Marsha McKeon  
& Ira Heilveil  
Martha Fast  
Marti Reid  
Mary Lynch  
Mary McFarlin  
Maureen Hannah  
McDaniels Insurance Service  
Meg Goodwin  
Meghan Mulqueen  
Michael J. Shapiro  
Michelle Ellison  
Neil Jorgensen  
Nellie Cohen  
New Energy Answers  
Noel Douglas

Ojai Community Bank  
Ojai Valley Directory  
Pat & Julie McPherson  
Paul Gibbons  
& Heather Mohan-Gibbons  
Peter Fox  
Petra Battleson  
Rachel Pratt  
Rainbow Bridge  
Randy & Renee Roth  
Randy & Sherry Smith  
Risa & Sam Horowitz  
Robert & Jill Sorel  
Robert & Linda Meyer  
Roger Conrad  
& Ruthie Marks  
Ron Whitehurst  
& Jan Dietrick  
Rotary Club of Ojai  
RSF Social Finance  
Russell Sydney  
Ruth & Larry Reynolds  
Ruth Cooper  
Ruth Farnham  
Sally & Jim True  
Shed & June Behar  
Sheri Ann Cate  
Simon Patterson  
Sonia Nordenson  
Southern California Gas  
Stephen  
& Rose Marie Pronovost  
Steve Bennett  
& Leslie Ogden

Steve Colome  
Stuart & Mary Niebel  
Stuart Valentine  
Studio Landscape  
Sue Williamson  
Tania Parker  
Ted & Claudia Gall  
Thomas Bussler  
Tom McCormick  
Tom Swetek  
Tomas Bostrom  
Trina & Jesse Grantham  
Becker Services  
Tyler Suchman  
Ulrich Brugger  
Valerie Mintz  
Venskus & Associates  
WaterSmart Technology  
West Wood Construction  
William Castagna  
Wyn Matthews

*Thank You to All of Our Donors, Members, Sponsors and Grantors*



*Our sincerest apologies if we inadvertently omitted your name or misspelled it. Please let us know.*