



# The GreenSheet

## Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee

Volume 37

Number 2

May, 2006

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## President's Message: An Exciting Time Of ECEC Activities

By Joan Perron

This is a very exciting time for all of us at the Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee. We have just finished one of our most successful youth poster contests ever. We had a wonderful Environmental Day put on by the Escondido Women's Club and League of Women Voters on May 20. Now, we are looking forward to our General membership meeting and potluck on Saturday afternoon, June 10.

Overall, we are seeing a real resurgence of environmental activism and advocacy in our community. It is a wonderful time to be part of ECEC. I hope that you will all become a part of this organization. Together we truly can make Escondido a better place to live.

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Congratulations and many thanks go out to Rick Mercurio, who did a wonderful job of organizing and carrying out our 17th annual Earth Day Poster contest. More than 1800

students from 72 schools participated, making this one of the most successful events we have had in many years. The posters were absolutely fantastic, and showed a lot of thought and caring. As always, this was a fantastic event.

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Make sure to come out to the *Environmental Education Day* being held this coming Sunday, May 20 from 9:30- 12:00 p.m. at the Escondido Women's Club at 751 N. Rose Street. The Neuter Scooter, a mobile veterinary neuter/spay clinic will be there Friday and Saturday. The program will have all kinds of great information of great value to all of us in the environmental community. ECEC will have a table with information available. We hope to see you there.

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Mark your calendars now for our general membership meeting and potluck on June 10 at Kit Carson Park in the picnic area by the Iris Sankey Garden. We will be having our regular Saturday morning work party at the garden from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., then we will start our meeting. There will be speakers, guided tours of our native plant garden, and displays by local environmental groups. Bring your favorite dish!



A Child's Perspective on Nature

### Inside this issue:

Earth Day Poster Contest	2
Poster Contest Winners Announced	3
Current Issues: Felicita Park Expansion	4-5
Species of the Month: Coastal Live Oak	6
ECEC Membership Drive Rolling Along	7

# ECEC Educational Projects

## “Depth & Message” Make Poster Contest a Success



*“The entries this year were absolutely fantastic. Possibly the best I have seen.”*

- Jack Pomeroy

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day Poster Contest culminated in an awards presentation on May 3 at Escondido City Hall. The contest is co-sponsored by the Escondido Citizens' Ecology Committee and the City of Escondido. The theme this year was “Spend time outdoors in a natural setting. Take a really close look at what is around you. Focus on something most people might never notice if they were in a hurry. Show what makes this small piece of nature special to you.”

Approximately 1800 students participated in the contest, with teachers narrowing down the number to 151 finalists, whose posters were displayed in the upstairs children's section of the Escondido Library. Judges included ECEC Board member and former mayor Jerry Harmon, as well as current mayor Lori Pfeiler. Posters were submitted by 72 teachers from 21 public and private schools in Escondido.

The judges selected the top 30 posters which were honored at the May 3 council meeting. These students received ribbons, certificates, and a pass to the Escondido

Children's Museum. The first place winners in each of the three grade categories also received a \$100 savings bond from ECEC. Teachers of the first place winners got a \$25 gift certificate. The top 30 posters are on display at the Children's Museum until the end of May.

“Earth day is a time for celebrating our connection with the natural world around us, says ECEC organizer Rick Mercurio. “It is vital that children reflect on the beauty and importance of open spaces, clean skies, fresh water, and the diversity of all forms of life. This poster contest encouraged them to do just that.”

*“The depth of their art and the messages they conveyed were really encouraging.”*

“This contest is always really beautiful,” says ECEC president Joan Perron. “If we get the children of the community to experience nature, only good things can happen.

“The results were really good,” said Mercurio. “You could really tell that they had spent some time experiencing nature. The depth of their posters and the messages they conveyed was really encouraging.”





## Nature Poster Contest Winners Announced

### K-2

#### **Honorable Mention**

Sadaf Dadafshar (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) LR Green Mrs. Hastings  
 Alyssa Fraser (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Central Mrs. Shigeoka  
 Cinthia Ramirez (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Central Mrs. Shigeoka  
 Emily Plummer (Kindergarten) North Broadway Mrs. Peterson  
 Laura Arnold (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Grace Lutheran Mrs. Stanley  
 Audrey Vernier-Ouellet (1<sup>st</sup> grade) Grace Lutheran Mrs. Shelby  
 Justin Gamero (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Escondido Adventist Mrs. McIntyre

**Third Place** = Emily Decker (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Juniper Mrs. Bloomfield

**Second Place** = Jordan Dijak (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Oak Hill Mrs. Dillinger

**First Place** = Scott Dewitt (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) North Broadway Mr. Wright

### 3-5

#### **Honorable Mention**

Ellen Hendricks (5<sup>th</sup> grade) LR Green Mr. Bonar  
 Kaitlin Alessi (5<sup>th</sup> grade) LR Green Mr. Bonar  
 Danielle Coony (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Bernardo Mrs. Gaskell  
 Laura Bouck (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Bernardo Mrs. Gaskell  
 Jorge Ferrer (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Juniper Mrs. Fish  
 Adam Hayes (4<sup>th</sup> grade) North Broadway Mrs. Sauer  
 Alexis Tran (4<sup>th</sup> grade) Farr Mrs. Montoya

**Third Place** = Lauren Flizenger (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) LR Green Mrs. Rubin

**Second Place** = Shawn Boomer (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) North Broadway Mr. Johnstone

**First Place** = Paola Sauza (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Escondido Adventist Mrs. Knab



### 6-8

#### **Honorable Mention**

Shelby Long (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Escondido Adventist Mr. Nicola  
 Francisco Garcia (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham  
 George Schmidt (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham  
 Luis Hernandez (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham  
 Randall Johnson (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham  
 Jennifer Mares (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham  
 Tanner Nare (8<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham

**Third Place** = Rosa Sanchez (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham

**Second Place** = Claudia Nunez (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Del Dios Mrs. Needham

**First Place** = Kim Sandoval (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Hidden Valley Mrs. Thomas



## Expansion of Felicita Park Proposed

Although it is the smallest unit of the San Diego County Park System, 42 acre Felicita Park in South Escondido is one of the most heavily used parks in the county.



“Any weekend, holiday, or summer day, you will have trouble finding parking here,” says neighbor Yolanda Fleet, an ECEC member. “Felicita Park is overcrowded, overused, and needs to be expanded.”

“Park space is at a premium throughout North San Diego County,” says Jack Pomeroy, ECEC Outings Coordinator. “People are looking desperately for places to relax, play, and enjoy nature. The more people there are, the more park space we need.”

Yolanda Fleet believes that a solution lies right across the street from Felicita Park in an agricultural area which still has mag-



nificent oaks, granite boulders, the duck pond, and plenty of space for education, natural area rehabilitation, and recreational development. The 60 acre parcel has been for sale in the past, and the owner is again marketing it.

“The County Parks Department was very supportive of purchasing the property several years ago,” says Fleet. “At that time, though, it was in escrow and they didn’t see how it could happen right then. Now the property is again available, and we need to move quickly to make sure that it isn’t lost again.”

“We are certainly going to do what we can to help make this a reality,” says Doug Paulson, ECEC membership chair and a

former Park Ranger. “Parks are central to a city’s quality of life, and must expand proportionate to increasing population.

“When we went to see the property, the possibilities just seemed endless. You could have ballfields, playgrounds, nature centers, natural areas, trails,” continued Paulson. “At the same time, though, there are some very substantial challenges with this site. It has been a long term agricultural area, and that makes many things more difficult.”



Yolanda Fleet shares her ideas for the park

Yolanda Fleet summarizes the thoughts of many, though. “Tough as this may be to make happen, we have to be willing to try. We want wonderful places for our children and our families. The only way is to preserve land now. What we are trying to do is to make Escondido the best place to live in all of San Diego County. I think this new portion of the park could really help.”



## Upcoming Events in the Escondido Environmental Community

### Environmental Education Day

Saturday, May 20 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Escondido Women’s Club  
751 N. Rose Street  
Escondido, CA 92026  
-Guest Speakers  
- Educational Displays  
- Neuter Scooter

### Historic Escondido Walking Tours

Downtown Escondido  
Tuesday, May 23 at 6 p.m.  
  
Old Escondido East Walking Tour  
Tuesday, March 25 6 p.m.  
  
Old Escondido West Walking Tour  
Tuesday, June 27 6p.m.

**ECEC EVENTS**

### Iris Sankey Garden

#### Work Parties

2nd Saturday of each month  
Bring hat, water, sunscreen  
Tools provided  
*Plant native vegetation and help ECEC maintain this model garden. Located in Kit Carson Park behind the El Arroyo picnic area by the Magical Garden*

Rediscovering Escondido  
Tuesday, July 25 6 p.m.

*“This is going to be a great day with wonderful speakers. Be sure to come on May 20.”*  
- Yolanda Fleet

**All walking tours start from the SE corner of Grand and Broadway (in front of Draper's & Damon's) EXCEPT South Escondido Blvd walks which start from the NE corner of Escondido Blvd at 5th Avenue**

### ECEC General Meeting and Potluck

Saturday, June 10  
12:00 –3:00 p.m.  
Kit Carson Park  
Picnic area by Iris Sankey Garden  
*Join ECEC members for guest speakers, displays, garden tours, good food and a whole bunch of fun.*

**Stop by the Historical Society Office at Grape Day Park to pick up a 2006 schedule.**

Note: Since 1992 the ECEC has co-sponsored walking tours of historic Escondido with the Escondido Historical Society.

**Keep up to date on local issues at [www.escondidoecology.org](http://www.escondidoecology.org)**

## Bernardo Mountain Hike Draws Many

In 1999 a group of concerned citizen’s teamed up with local governments to purchase Bernardo Mountain, just north of Lake Hodges. This saved the pristine chaparral area from development , and provided Escondidans with a challenging and beautiful hiking destination.

Each year ECEC outings coordinator Jack Pomeroy leads hikes to the Peak of Bernardo Mountain. This year, the group of 14 focused on the area’s geology and watershed ecology, and how they would have been negatively impacted by a housing development.

Check our website regularly for upcoming outings. [www.escondidoecology.org](http://www.escondidoecology.org)



Riparian waterfall along the trail to the peak



Bernardo Mountain lies in the background of the ECEC hikers



Hike leader Jack Pomeroy



# Chaparral Species of the Month

## Coast Live Oaks Show Fantastic Adaptations

One of the most common native trees that you will see thin rural California are coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). Many of these trees are hundreds of years old. They are the dominant plants in many habitats. The wildlife of California depend heavily upon oaks for food and shelter.



Coast live oak woodlands occur in the tableland areas of coastal California from Sonoma County south into Baja California. They are very common throughout San Diego County, especially in the foothills surrounding Escondido.

When speaking about large stands of coast live oaks, we use the term "woodland" instead of "forest." This is because woodlands tend to be more open and sunlit, their canopies sometimes touching, but rarely overlapping. These woodlands are generally found below 5000 feet, in dry soils, and within a 50-mile radius of the coast. The soils they live in are typically well drained. Although certainly not limited to these areas, coastal live oak woodlands are quite common in the ravines and moister drainages between grassy hillsides.



Coast live oak is often found in areas where they are the dominant or only tree species. Twenty-million-year-old fossils of coast live oak found in the Pacific Northwest reveal that there has been little change in the species over time.

The coast live oak has several features that enable it to survive the hot dry summers of the Mediterranean climate where it is found. It has a specialized root system including a deep tap root and tiered feeder roots which collect moisture at several levels in the soil. Also, its xylem tissues (the ones dedicated to the transport of water from the roots to the leaves) tend to harden as the summer

drought progresses.

Its evergreen, sclerophyllous leaves have a thick waxy cuticle which, in conjunction with stomata (pores) that close in response to seasonal midday aridity, keeps water losses at a minimum. Other characteristics which help it survive droughts and hot weather are the leaves found on different parts of the tree. Variation in leaf size and shape is common among oaks, the coast live oak being no exception.

Two main types of leaves have been identified. The outermost leaves are thick, small, and convex with two to three layers of photosynthetic cells. These characteristics make them good at releasing excess heat, collecting light, and also manufacturing food. Leaves found beneath these toward the middle or basal parts of the tree tend to be thinner, wider, and flatter with only one layer of photosynthetic cells. These leaves are protected from the most intense heat by being in the shade of the outermost leaves, yet they are still able to photosynthesize. This sort of shade-adapted leaves is also found on seedlings growing in low-light.

A vital part of coastal live oak woodland ecology is fire. Coast live oaks have a thick bark that insulates their inner tissues from relatively low-intensity, infrequent fires. Higher intensity fires can be survived by the roots. In other words, the upper part of the tree is killed, but the roots continue to live and a new tree sprouts from them. Also, buried acorns may also sprout after a fire.

If fire is suppressed too long, non-native species overrun the understory, killing oak seedlings and saplings that are not well established. However, if fires occur too frequently, seedlings and saplings are killed off and viable acorns are eliminated from the area, stalling for many years a healthy regeneration of the woodland.

### ECEC Launches Major Membership Drive

Since the Escondido Citizen’s Ecology Committee kicked off its membership drive in March, we have received a fantastic response, nearly doubling paid membership in just two months. “But we still haven’t met our goal,” says membership recruiter Doug Paulson. “We won’t rest until we do.”

“Our goal is still to increase membership each month so we can improve our programs and services,” says president Joan Perron. “There are a lot of things that we believe we can contribute to this community. But it takes membership to get the people in power to listen to you.

“We need to show that we have a broad, committed base that really wants to improve the quality of life in Escondido.”

Since 1971 the Escondido Citizen’s Ecology Committee has been advocating for

Escondido’s cultural and natural environments. Each year ECEC sponsors a wide variety of educational programs, including:

- ⇒ Hikes at Daley Ranch, Bernardo Mountain, Bottle Peak, and other destinations;
- ⇒ The Earth Day Environmental Poster contest, co-sponsored with the City of Escondido;
- ⇒ Historic Escondido Walks, co-sponsored with the Escondido Historical Society;
- ⇒ Candidate forums prior to elections.

Membership dues are still a great bargain, at \$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$5 for students. For this you get 4-6 newsletters per year, a membership card, access to special hikes and events, and the knowledge that you are really helping your community.

*Join today! It is well worth it!*

*“We have been really excited about how many existing members have renewed... Now we need to get new people”*  
- Doug Paulson

## ESCONDIDO CITIZEN’S ECOLOGY COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



July 1, \_\_\_\_\_ through June 30, \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Personal e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members (family memberships) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Return to: ECEC Treasurer  
810 Omar Drive  
Escondido, CA 92027*

Cash

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card

Amex  Visa  M/Card  Discover/Novus

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

Rec \_\_\_\_\_

Post \_\_\_\_\_

Remb \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$30)     Individual (\$20)     Student (\$5)



*The Newsletter of the  
Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee*

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P.O. Box 2240  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.ESCONDIDOEKOLOGY.ORG](http://WWW.ESCONDIDOEKOLOGY.ORG)

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## **EGEG June Member's Activity**

**Join the Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee  
For an informational gathering & celebration  
*Iris Sankey Garden***



**Saturday, June 10  
Garden Work Party  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



**General Meeting, Potluck  
Speakers, Tours  
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

