The election is just days away by the time you’ll be reading this. The fate of our oceans will fall, to a great degree, on the policy and actions of one person. I’m not usually big on making predictions, but I’m pretty confident that I know who that person is. Want in on the secret? Okay, go to your bathroom and look in the mirror. Voila! Yes, you guessed it too; it’s you!

We have been exposed to so much finger-pointing, and so many classic examples of missing-the-point in this campaign, that it has only served to remind me more than ever of the importance of personal responsibility. The first big personal responsibility is, of course, to get out there and vote, and take someone with you. Ask around your neighborhood and the various communities in which you interact, to see if anyone needs a ride, or a short baby-sit so they can vote. 56.8 million eligible voters didn’t vote in the 2000 election. Perhaps some of them were too busy feeding kids or holding down two jobs to take the time. Simply carpooling to the voting booth with friends and neighbors is a great way to be patriotic.

Which brings me to my main point. At what point in history did it become un-American, or unpatriotic to be a conserver? Where did it suddenly say that sacrifice was no longer part of our national responsibility? We cannot continue to preserve at all costs a way of life in which we will contemplate no restraints. Sure, the policies of our government may likely change depending on who is elected President. But however positive or negative the policies of our government, and however dangerous the effects of various corporations, the root of the problem always lies with us, in our private lives. We must train ourselves to see that every issue that concerns us as ocean stewards always leads directly to the question of how we live. As author and poet, Wendell Berry frames it, “The world is being destroyed, no doubt about it, by the greed of the rich and powerful. It is also being destroyed by popular demand.” We are complicit in the problems we fight.

Berry goes on to explain that there are not enough rich and powerful people to consume the whole world; for that, the rich and powerful need the help of countless ordinary people like us. In other words, the problems we are worried about are caused not just by other people but by ourselves. And solving these problems is not just for organizations like the Surfrider Foundation, but for individuals, families, and local communities. In these pages we always talk about grassroots, but it’s usually in the context of tracing the grassroots up to its more powerful concentration manifested in the Surfrider Foundation.

I’d like to trace it back for a moment, to you, and to me. Where do we shop and what do we buy there? What do we drive, but more importantly, how and when and why do we drive? My friend has a sign on her car’s dashboard. It says, “Where are you going?” She says that in the six months that she’s had the sign in place, she has had second thoughts about why she was going to use the car, and has gone back inside the house many, many times. What are you washing down your sink, putting on your plants, or throwing in the garbage? As we all know, the ocean is downstream from everything; there is no escape. Surely we would never throw our used batteries in the ocean, but throwing them in the garbage, and then into a landfill, is sometimes the same thing. If you can’t be sure something is safe; then make it safe by not doing it, or not buying it. Make your own. Make do. Do it the hard way; it’s good for the soul, and it connects us to the world.

We also need a better way of talking about our connection to the world. Every choice we have seems to be a choice of technologies, and Jerry Mander, in his book In The Absence of the Sacred, taught me long ago an obvious but stunning fact; that all technology is introduced in idealized terms, by the entity most likely to profit by its acceptance. Read that again. As Chris Evans likes to say, “it’s kind of a no-brainer,” but one that we so easily forget. Every decision we make has a positive or negative effect on a landfill or a beach or a child somewhere in the world. Let’s work at informing our daily language with these connections. Let’s not tolerate those who give us only bad choices. In our hectic, corporate-driven world we often have more influence as consumers (what we buy) than as citizens (who we vote for). But let’s vote on both fronts, with our hearts.

I’ll leave you with my only piece of political advice: Stop tolerating in your leaders what you wouldn’t tolerate in your friends.

-Joe Mozdzen
I took an ocean swim with one of my heroes last week. John Kelly has taken an almost daily swim circumnavigating the full length of coast and reef at Black Point, Diamond Head, Oahu since the 1930’s. Rain, gale, swell, failing light, whatever. John Kelly, grassroots environmental leader, inventor of the Hot Curl surfboard, big wave pioneer, modern “discoverer” of Makaha’s surfing potential, decorated Navy diver, Julliard-trained musician, and owner of one of the brightest, ego-less hearts I have ever had the privilege to know, may swim as ritual or metaphor. Swimming with him I got the “felt sense” that he swims for transcendence.

In my five years as Surfrider Foundation’s U.S. Executive Director, I was lucky enough to gain an early working association with John and Marion Kelly and the legendary George Downing. The three are founders of the extremely successful Hawaiian environmental grassroots organization, Save Our Surf. In 35 or more years, they have put a yoke of activism around the notion of “People Power.” Among their huge accomplishments they have halted a monotonous parade of improper surf- and habitat-destroying coastal development estimated in excess of several billion dollars. If you like anything about the Hawaiian Islands as a surfer, you partially have them to thank.

John, Marion and George significantly helped me to do my job here at Surfrider Foundation by providing guidance on Hawaiian issues, surf issues and coastal erosion matters. But more critically, outside of Surfrider Foundation, they provided the model of inspiration and focus that I needed to deeply understand what “grassroots” is all about. I have been honored to tell folks that they are lifetime Surfrider Foundation members. The message they related at every turn to me was: be professional, be prepared, do your homework on the issues and harness “People Power.” Their focus is that elegant.

As many of you may know, I am leaving Surfrider Foundation as Executive Director, accepting a judicial appointment and taking a place as a volunteer assisting our national Board of Directors. What I hope I have left behind at Surfrider is that sense of focus.

The focus that Surfrider Foundation has adopted has been woven into the fabric of how we work. We have learned to work respecting each other and our opponents. We have learned to be well prepared. We have set our professional bar much higher than at any time in our 20 year history. We have learned to always strive to achieve specific and measurable outcomes in our environmental work. We have begun to embrace perhaps this single key grassroots tenant: always be recruiting.

Recruiting and building membership has been an idea of all great grassroots leaders, in modern times from Martin Luther King, Jr. to David Brower to John Kelly. Save Our Surf has a way of saying it through art. Years ago, John drew a well-publicized picture of big fish eating little fish. But in the cartoon, when the little fish banded together, the merciless eating slowed way down.

Internally, at Surfrider Foundation, our focus on professionalism takes this form: a formal agreement on the core values and beliefs we bring to the task, chapter support, staying in our mission niche, securing victories, building membership around that, and listening, always listening. The result of five years of this renewed effort has been impressive.

We have increased our capacity to tackle more mission, we have grown our U.S. membership by 10,000, we have created 15 new chapters, we have made great progress to become financially sustainable and we have made long strides in improving our internal culture.

(continued on next page)
I have a lot of people to thank for these past five years. My travels within the Surfrider Foundation world have taken me to places where our friends propelled me and informed my efforts for our work. Our chapter leaders, Advisory Board and Board of Directors, invited me into their homes and lives from Florida to Seattle and everywhere in between. Our activists became the muscle of our victory machine, allowing me to take checkered flags for the work on behalf of us all in beautiful coastal places all over America. Our general membership provided the funding or lifeblood to allow me and this entire organization to help create national water testing, protect specific coastal treasures, win hundreds of campaigns and lead an organization that educates thousands of school age recruits to carry on this struggle after we have all left the scene. Our national board and staff gave us all the skeletal system of support that we needed to become a national powerhouse of grassroots coastal environmentalism.

I'll remember our work and the goodwill of those that helped me from Biarritz, France to Australia and from Asia to South America. And I will always remember the efforts of my brother Executive Directors in Japan, Europe, Brazil and Australia who do this hard work often under harsher and more austere environments of support with tremendous results. I just remain in awe.

I was a bit awestruck last week when John invited me to make the swim with him. Though he has become a man of few words, his speech is laden with wisdom. We stood on the high rocks before a windy, choppy south shore summer swell. There seems to be so much more water moving in Hawaii. He warned me to be sure to jump in exactly as he did; fins first, not too deep and in the trough of waves between these two rocks when the water was high. He said to swim out of there fast and meet him just outside this rocky impact zone where we would negotiate the reef pass together. I was concerned.

Of course, I told myself, swimming anywhere with John Kelly was about as safe of a situation as you could be in. I will never forget what happened next. Just like I was reminded of the famous Edward Abby quote—you know the one where he urges environmentalists not to burn out and to be sure to enjoy nature. We swam out to our meeting point and as we started to stroke our way out of the reef John rolled over on his back, just looked up and said, “look up at the patterns these clouds are making Chris…” I did.

We back-stroked our way with the currents through the line up at Black Point, around coral heads and under breaking blue-green waves. We were small below these cliffs of black lava and second homes. As he changed strokes and made course corrections, I tried to do the same and in time, I saw Debbie and the small pocket beach we were very carefully aiming for. When we all parted later that day I thought that this moment was a pretty good ending point for my five years of this phase of my Surfrider Foundation work. John and SOS embody the best I have seen in places around Surfrider Foundation. Ego-less, open-hearted, hard work for the benefit of future generations is its own reward. Of course, Surfrider Foundation works on a grander scale geographically, but qualitatively it will be able to use the work of John, George and Marion as an example for years to come. I know I will.

Thank you for your support and this opportunity to be of service. I have thoroughly enjoyed coming to know, and working with, so many of you. To those of you I have not met, please know that your quiet support has meant the world to me. I look forward to continuing on and assisting in different Surfrider Foundation roles.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Evans, Esq
Executive Director
The Race for the Presidency Reaches the Coast

by Chelsea Murphy

“...It looks like a tough paddle for clean beaches and clean oceans over the next four years. For every set of whitewater we face when the swell is up, there’ll be ten sets of ‘gray water’ for Congress to paddle through” -Brad Bonhall, Making Waves, Fall 1992.

The sport of surfing is full of polar opposites. You’re either a longboarder or a shortboarder. You wear a leash or you don’t. East Coast vs. West Coast. Andy versus Kelly... As such, perhaps it would be unrealistic to assume surfer’s views on this year’s presidential race would be any less divided.

In a recent poll, visitors to the Surfrider Foundation website were evenly split in their support of the two Presidential candidates. Without question, there are a multitude of serious issues at stake in this year’s election. However in looking at this year’s ballot strictly from the viewpoint of a surfing environmentalist, the question we must focus upon is which party or candidate best supports our country’s oceans, waves and beaches?

Each year the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), a nonpartisan not-for-profit organization dedicated to being the voice of the national environmental movement, publishes its National Environmental Scorecard. This report scores members of Congress according to how they voted on several key environmental issues, such as the recent vote on Department of Defense exemptions (MW, March 03) and Offshore Drilling. Legislators were awarded numerical scores ranging from 0, which indicated the legislator failed to support any of the specified environmental measures, to 100, which meant that they supported all of the specific environmental measures. A failure to vote on any specific issues counts as a negative. When the scores were tallied, only two scores of 100 were handed out within the Senate; one for Sen. Pat Leahy (D VT) and one for Sen. Maria Cantwell (D WA). By contrast, 22 0’s were awarded. Significantly, all of the 0 scores were issued to Republican Senators, with the sole exception of Zell Miller (D GA).

Party lines within the House of Representatives seemed to be similarly aligned, with all of the top scores (95 and 100) being awarded to Democratic Representatives, while virtually all of the bottom scores (5 or 0) being awarded to Republicans.

This leads us to question “Does this trend extend to this year’s Presidential candidates?” By most accounts, John Kerry’s platform is decidedly pro-environment. As a U.S. Senator, Kerry has authored or introduced portions of several ocean and coastal environmental acts or resolutions, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Sustainable Fisheries Act, and an amendment within the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act to prevent invasive species and algal blooms. Kerry is similarly positioned on a number of terrestrial environmental issues as well.

However, Kerry’s record is far from perfect. While Kerry has been largely supportive of the environment, his failure to participate in several critical Senate votes may have compromised the environmental movement’s ability to win key battles. Of the nineteen votes outlined in the LCV scorecard, Kerry participated in only ten of them, resulting in a score of 53 (down from a score of 92 for the 107th Congress). Moreover, Kerry’s running mate John Edwards failed to vote nine times as well (along with two negative votes) which gives him a LCV score of 37—well below average from his peers.

With a platform emphasizing National Security, Energy and Economic Growth, the Bush campaign is decidedly less aligned with the national environmental movement. Despite touting on its website that its FY04 Environment and Natural Resources Budget is the highest ever, the Bush Administration has spent the last four years systematically dismantling numerous pieces of environmental law that protect our country’s natural resources. According to OnTheIssues.org, a nonpartisan web information portal, the Bush Administration worked to weaken the Federal Clean Air Act, lobbied (and failed) to weaken the Federal Clean Water Act, and compromised the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act by successfully working to secure exemptions for the Department of Defense.

Still, the current administration has made some headway in protecting the ocean and coastal environments. The Bush Administration continues to support a moratorium on offshore oil drilling in California and Florida. The Administration has also worked to incentivize the establishment of conservation land through aggressive tax incentives.

With the election mere weeks away and the debate over which candidate is best suited to run the country only intensifying, nothing is certain save for the knowledge that no matter who wakes up a winner on November 3rd, there will still be a lot of ‘gray water’ for our leaders to paddle through.
An Interview with George Basile, Ph.D.

Looking to Our Future On Our Blue-Green Planet: An Interview with George Basile, Ph.D.

Between the vastness of the ocean, the amount of information bombarding you, and the reality that you are only one person with a busy life after all—what can you possibly do that will make a significant difference in the right direction for our oceans and beaches? In the context of the upcoming elections amid growing concern about the state of our oceans and beaches, Making Waves sat down with Dr. George Basile, head of International R&D and Senior Scientist at The Natural Step and asked just that.

MW: We've got an election around the corner. All Surfrider Foundation members care about the health of the oceans and our coastal environment, but of course, most of us are likely basing our presidential choice on more issues than just that. The environmental records of both candidates speak for themselves, but what is the real difference? What world-view (or ocean-view) does our next president have to possess in order to make any positive effect on the conditions of our oceans, waves, and beaches?

G: That is the big question. Let's not pull any punches because while the environment may have fallen off the political map in the wake of terrorists and war, our need for healthy oceans and planet has only increased. Bottom line: what we are doing today to stop degradation of the oceans isn’t enough. That’s a very big deal; as the oceans go so we go. Whoever is President next needs to understand and believe that. Concepts like conservation and working with nature need to be viewed as the opportunities that they are. Manifest destiny as practiced in the industrial revolution needs a serious upgrade. It's been said that nature bats first, last and owns the conditions of our oceans, waves, and beaches.

MW: Life is a crazy hectic dance for most Surfrider Foundation members. I love the beach, but what's so different about today that we need to sit up and take renewed notice?

G: First, let's look at what hasn't changed. Any vision of a healthy future requires a healthy ocean and a healthy planet. That's just common sense and who wouldn't want that anyway. Ocean fisheries provide 80% of the fish we eat around the world. Photosynthetic plankton provides half the oxygen we breathe. The ocean is the largest global air-conditioning unit, which is a huge factor in the face of climate change. Plus oceans and beaches are fun. We all have that perfect spot, that awesome memory; it's in human nature to love the beach. All of this makes healthy oceans and beaches a focal point for success in the short and long terms.

MW: Agreed. So what’s changed?

What have changed over the last 50 years are our negative impacts, and, even more importantly, their scale. Now, our impacts are literally on the scale of the ocean itself. I know it is difficult to imagine or believe. The majority of the fish we eat are over-fished (about 70% of major fisheries are being unsustainably fished). Globally, the ocean is increasingly polluted by persistent chemicals, heavy metals, and piles of various waste. The world's reefs are in trouble; many of the most familiar species are flagging. Can you imagine a world without the grace of a sea turtle or the living colors of the barrier reef? Do you want to? Our answer to the 175-ton blue whale has been a tanker ship that weighs hundreds of thousands of tons and burns 40 tons of fuel per day. That's a lot of oil, and it seems there is not enough. We’ve lost wetlands and built up along our most pristine shorelines and beaches. Since the ocean chugs along no matter what, if we keep changing the mix too much it will spit out some results we don’t like—and might not be able to live with. (Editor’s note: for a deeper look at the state of the beaches see www.surfrider.org and for the oceans see www.pewoceans.org).

This is not “evil” or even “unnatural.” On the contrary, it’s how we, one species on the planet, are choosing to run things. It is a choice. Don’t let anyone tell you differently. And, here’s the key: Right now, we are making uninformed decisions—decisions that really do matter when we add them up—every day. We need to change that and we need leadership to help us do it.

MW: Sounds grimly positive. To be frank, I know my surfboards are made of some toxic stuff, and I drive an SUV because it will hold all my boards and because we have four kids. Sometimes I feel like a bad guy when I'm sitting there at the gas station filling up my tank. Are we all the bad guys?

G: This isn't about bad guys and good guys. The real answer is better than that. It is about the decisions we make. It's about choices. We have a lot of power over that. I painted the picture I did of both a wondrous ocean and a great challenge before us because those are key facts we should all be aware of; reality is a good place to start. In the context of the election we need to talk about the future we want and taking steps to get there. Right now we all feel our significant negative impacts. How about figuring out ways we can all have significant positive impacts? What type of leadership can help us make our vision of a healthy ocean and beaches become a reality? There are definitely things we know now that can help each of us make better-informed decisions on these fronts. We should hold all our politicians and leaders to that.
MW: You brought up significance and leadership. Can even the president have any effect anymore? Our problems seem too big to legislate away. Will the pressure of population and unchecked growth overwhelm us all?

G: Well, we know a lot of damage can be done by following the policies we have. Why not the opposite? I'm an optimist. It's not often that something so complex as the ocean speaks so clearly to people. The facts are there for us to act on, now more than ever. What a great opportunity, albeit a challenging one. One of the biggest challenges is that many of the negative consequences we've seen—e.g. the scale of over-fishing, mercury in tuna, shark, swordfish and others, climate change, wondering if surfers and swimmers are really getting sick worldwide from polluted waters, etc.—are almost unbelievable. "Unbelievable" is a real problem. It makes the issues seem unreal, far away, and untouchable, no matter how important they are. It's even hard to see these things from the beach when your toes are right in the sand. It makes it easy to confuse people about what is going on.

We have to have leadership that brings these issues to people in a way that makes them come alive.

MW: Is this being reflected in today's political scene?

The facts have pushed their way into the policy arena. The U.S. and global community are recognizing that the past approach of reacting to problems and having no overarching strategy, including a clear definition of success, won't work. The next president will be mandated to rewrite US ocean policy early next year (Editor's note: see US Oceans Commission Preliminary Report at http://www.oceancomission.gov). Whomever you vote for will have a significant impact on how we interface with the ocean in the future.

Keep in mind that over the last 25 years there has been a big difference between the two parties in their approach. Republican leadership, led by the '80s Reagan administration, typically puts environmental and resource issues into buckets of dollars and cents, framing the issues as questions of economics and personal responsibility (i.e. cost vs. benefit and putting public resources into private hands). As one might expect, policy ends up being reactive to short term economic concerns. It often leaves out, or only tangentially addresses, a number of long-term issues that do not easily fit into a balance sheet, critical things like climate change, global water pollution, and surfers' health. Taking this one step farther, the Bush administration recently described a concept of the "Ownership Society." That sounds great, but if at the end of the day it means that today's public goods like oceans and beaches are all "owned" in private hands…well, we've seen how that goes; the entry to the beach may look a lot like a toll-booth, or not be there at all. That's why Surfrider Foundation was created.

The Democrats tend to frame the issues as broader social questions with economics as one component, and public rights and conservation as another. It's not as easy to describe, but just as values-driven. Leadership in this arena holds that enlightened self-interest isn't enough. A broader strategic approach with people pulling together is also required. This approach could benefit from more rigor and a focus on successful outcomes, i.e. it's own type of balance sheet. Today's science can now bring that to the table. Keeping the pressure on and forcing that new knowledge into policies will be critical. Both groups often look at the oceans, the atmosphere, and the land as separate environmental issue areas and they really are not. Thus, there are some very different perspectives on the table this fall.

MW: You're saying there is a window coming up to make a big difference. From your perspective what are some of the issues that should be front and center?

G: We tackle problems piecemeal and don't address the root cause. As a result, current policies rely solely on past problems as a guide for the future. That's like driving while only watching the rearview mirror. We know what we have to do though. We need to understand what success looks like and then get upstream of the ocean's problems. Policies aimed at succeeding will build in four powerful strategic directives (Editor's note: for a deeper discussion see "Sustainability: It's All About the Beach," Making Waves, Vol. 16, #3):

1. Moving off the fossil fuel pipe and phasing out our uncontrolled releases of heavy metals and other rare minerals; We know this. We can't keep digging stuff up and just blowing it all around without some big consequences—like greenhouse gasses and mercury-laden fish.

2. Decreasing, then eliminating, our release of persistent compounds that will build up over time; otherwise, it's whales full of PCBs, breast milk full of flame retardants, holes in the ozone and piles of trash on the beach.

3. Managing our natural resources, like wetlands, forests, and fisheries, in sustainable ways; we can't keep systematically paving over them, digging them up, or over-harvesting them. Who would argue that we could?

4. And, it also means supporting people's ability to meet their needs worldwide. If we don't, they can't worry about being environmentally sane. There's no way we'll succeed if a huge group of our planet's people are perpetually underserved and unhappy.

This is not rocket science. It's common sense, backed up by scientific consensus. It's understanding principles for success and then working to implement them in ways that they build on each other. In this case, the ocean is giving us some clear guidelines. We have a chance to embed these in the future policy framework that the next President puts in place. That's significant. That is the leadership we need.

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Congressional perspectives

With the upcoming election mere weeks away, the Surfrider Foundation contacted Congressman Dana Rohrbacher (R-California) and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-New Jersey), both longtime beach enthusiasts, and asked them their thoughts on the upcoming election, and how the outcome may effect our beach and coastal environments

Congressman Frank Pallone

Thirty years ago, Richard Nixon—a Republican president—signed into law some of our strongest environmental protections, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

President Nixon, for all of his flaws, knew that environmental protection was not a partisan matter. Ensuring that our children breathe clean air, that our lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, and beaches were clean, and that our most precious public lands were protected was neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue—it was an American priority.

In less than four years, George W. Bush dramatically changed all of that.

Using an unprecedented level of regulatory action and operating largely out of the public eye, the Bush administration has undermined critical environmental protections to benefit special interests, all while the Republican congressional leadership has stood silent.

A number of Bush administration policies are endangering coastal resources, including our oceans and beaches and the fish we eat. The Administration is proposing weak enforcement of the Clean Air Act, allowing significantly greater mercury pollution into our air and water, which can have serious health effects.

The Administration also rejected limits on the amount of raw sewage entering our waterways while allowing an unprecedented amount of oil and gas development in sensitive coastal areas. President Bush slashed funding for vital environmental and coastal protection programs and attempted to weaken pollution controls that keep our rivers and lakes -- and consequently our beaches and oceans -- clean and safe.

These actions come from a White House that uses the complex federal regulatory process to undermine environmental protections without generating big headlines. Those of us who want to continue decades of progress on cleaning up our nation's environment have an obligation to fight.

Last year, for example, we forced the Bush administration to relent on an attempt to remove Clean Water Act protections from non-navigable waterways. However, many other environmental rollbacks have come without any oversight or approval from Congress, thanks to a Republican majority that is wary of taking on a Republican administration.

As long as the Bush administration continues to favor special interests over our environment decades of environmental progress will be in serious danger. It's time to once again make environmental protection a priority in Washington by electing John Kerry President in November.
Congressman Dana Rohrabacher

The presidential election this November will be among the most important in a generation. At stake are the means and veracity which our nation will fight the War on Terror, tackle a looming Social Security crisis and confront the problem of illegal immigration, among other issues. At times like these, I have a significant advantage over my colleagues in the House of Representatives. To clear my head, I grab the Chuck Burns 9’ 6’’ and paddle out at Huntington Cliffs. All surfers know the particular benefits of this therapy; the exhilaration of a glassy sunset session to put it all in perspective. That perspective necessarily includes the fact that we must have good jobs and be safe from terrorism to continue enjoying our surfing lifestyle. Whether the issue is terrorism against surfers in Bali, or a job that allows a father to teach his daughter to surf on a Saturday in New Smyrna, the President gets my vote.

In addition to these fundamental issues, however, I am supporting George W. Bush because he will continue instituting the policies that are making our coastal waters cleaner and our beaches more accessible to everyone. When I surf in Newport or Bolsa Chica, I know that the water is much cleaner than when I was a kid body surfing in the 60’s. With stringent EPA standards for bacterial pollution, a pledge to reclaim three million acres of wetlands, and 4.4 billion dollars in the budget for conservation projects, the President will continue improving our coastal environment. You may not agree with some of the President’s policies on their face, such as allowing snowmobiles back into Yosemite National Park. But let me point out, it may not be Yosemite that radicals want restricted access to the next time. Next time it could be Trestles and Old Mans, or Assateague Island that must be “protected”, this time from surfers.

I will continue to do my part as well. As a member of the majority in the House, I will continue to advocate for the Global Ocean Observation System (GOOS). This system will be a boon to scientists and surfers everywhere, allowing for real-time water condition information to be posted on the Internet via a network of interconnected buoys and monitoring stations all over the world. The coastal GOOS program is already operating in many areas, but we can expand its scope. This system will someday include instantaneous detection and identification of pollution and its sources by nanotechnology in mobile mini-robots. Sounds like science fiction? Scientists and engineers on Catalina Island, in partnership with the federal government, are already developing the systems that will make it a reality.

This is the future of our shared coastlines that George W. Bush and I are working for; cleaner everyday and more accessible to everyone, accomplished by innovation and technology, not more restrictions. There is simply no greater asset in the United States than our beaches and coastline. Beaches bring enjoyment, comfort, recreation and commerce that benefit us all. They must, and will continue to be, protected and enhanced for the enjoyment of every American.

This election represents a choice; a choice for more freedom or less. The freedom from terrorist threats; the freedom to keep more of your money; the freedom to enjoy our public lands; and the freedom to surf more. The choice, this year, is clear, it’s George W. Bush for surfers.

To find out more about the environmental voting record of Congressman Rohrbacher and Congressman Pallone, as well as the rest of our elected officials in the House and Senate, visit the League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard at www.lcv.org/scorecard.
East Coast

After nearly a year of planning, the Virginia Beach Chapter of Surfrider Foundation implemented their storm drain stenciling campaign. Chapter activists held several logistical meetings and divided the project up into geographic zones. Keeping in line with Surfrider Foundation volunteer recruitment principles each zone was headed by an area leader who was responsible for recruiting volunteers, delegating duties, recording drain locations and tracking volunteer information required by the City of Virginia Beach. Thanks to the efforts of chapter activists area leaders Ari Lawrence, Mike Stewart, John Mock, Dana Sizemore, Julie Dunlap, Skip Jones, Hazel Zamparinim, Brett Copeland, Greg Simon and a host of volunteers, the chapter successfully labeled 1,428 drains in one day with vinyl/plastic discs that state “Only Rain Down the Storm Drain.”

Surfrider Foundation’s Eastern Long Island Chapter helped negotiate an agreement with New York State Park officials that allows surfing at Camp Hero. Under a new interim agreement surfing is now legal at Camp Hero and gives surfers restricted access to the break, which is an important first step toward full-unrestricted access.

Camp Hero State Park, near Montauk Point is home to some fickle yet powerful point breaks. There is, however, one small problem: surfing is illegal in this and other New York State Parks in Montauk. In 2002, the Eastern Long Island Chapter (formally known as the Long Island Chapter) began a dialogue with Montauk State Parks Superintendent, Tom Dess and Long Island State Parks Regional Director, George Gorman. As a result, a Surfing Advisory Committee was created by chapter activists Eugene Alper, Jac Citera, Joe Giannini and Mike Angiullo.

After numerous meetings with Mr. Gorman and Mr. Dess, the chapter came close to a reluctant compromise. This agreement included partial time and area closures for a one-year interim period beginning in September ’03. Surfrider Foundation’s goal remains to change written policy to include legal surfing access 365 days a year within the entire boundaries of Camp Hero from sunrise to sunset. The chapter will continue to pursue this goal.

Please join us in welcoming Jim Van Dyke, the new chairman of the Grand Strand Chapter (Myrtle Beach, SC). A surfer for over 40 years, Jim was an active member of the Jersey Shore Chapter before migrating south from Belmar, New Jersey to Myrtle Beach.

Congratulations as well to Christine Fletcher, newly elected Vice-Chair of Surfrider Foundation’s Capitol Chapter (Washington D.C.).

West Coast

On July 5th, over 1,000 volunteers in San Diego picked up 2 tons of trash left behind from 4th of July celebrations. Surfrider Foundation’s San Diego Chapter, along with Sun Diego Boardshops, sponsored the “Morning After Mess” in order to cleanup litter and raise awareness of the mess left on our beaches. Chapter activists and site leaders from I Love a Clean San Diego, Keep Del Mar Clean and the San Diego Baykeeper met at six different clean up sites throughout San Diego County.

“The event was a tremendous success, not only because of the number of volunteers and tons of trash collected, but also because of the diversity of the volunteers and public awareness that was raised. Volunteers consisted of families, youth groups and beach lovers of all ages,” said Bill Hickman of the San Diego Chapter of Surfrider Foundation.
This past June, the South Orange County Chapter, Friends of the Foothills, and other coalition partners turned out over 800 people for a Foothill-South extension toll road public hearing in Rancho Santa Margarita. Officials for the Transportation Corridor Agencies heard one speaker after another and members of at least two city councils took the podium to speak out against the proposed extension.

The proposed 16-mile extension would connect the end of California 241 east of Mission Viejo to San Clemente, with construction affecting up to 500 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat while running through the Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy and San Onofre State Park.

“The bottom line is that there’s really no demonstrated proof that this road is going to solve any long-term problems,” stated Christopher Evans, former U.S. Executive Director of the Surfrider Foundation. “What the toll route will create”, Evans said, “is urban sprawl, diminished quality of life and an impaired environment.”

The Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club along with other conservation organizations are opposed to the construction of the extension and all its proposed alignments. We will continue to work toward developing innovative, modern solutions that do not destroy our state parks and open spaces forever.

Gigi Grazer, concerned Malibu resident and screenwriter of “Stepmom” (starring Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon), contacted the Malibu Chapter on March 5 to get help protecting the delicate tide pools near her rental home adjacent to Malibu Lagoon State Beach. The Grazer family presented a donation with the hopes of developing signage to educate visitors on how to be responsible “tide poolers.” The sign for Malibu Lagoon State Beach is in the final approval stages, and two more signs are being designed for Big Dume and Leo Carillo State Park tide pools. The Malibu Chapter is presently developing a Tide Pool Awareness program to continue this effort. http://www.surfrider.org/malibu/tidepools.htm

In two other important chapter efforts, in July 2004, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) granted an “after-the-fact” permit to Univision Television founder A. Jerrold Perenchio to continue operation of his 10-acre golf park adjacent to Malibu Lagoon. As part of this permit, the CCC accepted four of the five recommendations made by the Malibu Chapter. The chapter also created a petition and collected over 2,000 signatures to urge the CCC to not allow the golf park to cause any harm to the lagoon and Surfrider Beach. The Malibu Chapter also attended and spoke at numerous city council meetings to support the efforts of Communities Organized Against Smoking and its Trash (COAST), resulting in 34 miles of smoke-free beaches from Dockweiler Beach north to the Los Angeles/Ventura County line. “We wouldn’t be celebrating the establishment of 34 miles of smoke-free coastline today if we didn’t have the Surfrider Foundation/ Malibu Chapter as a partner...” said Robert Berger, Chair of the LA County Smoke-Free Beach Task Force.

The Seattle Chapter kicked off its Blue Water Task Force Program on July 29th with sample collection and analysis training at Green Lake in Seattle. The chapter now has over 10 trained samplers for its growing sampling program. Chapter Treasurer Sahsa Sicks and member Ken McNabb played key roles in providing training and support for this program. In addition, the chapter partnered with 1000 Friends of Washington to provide public comment to the King County Planning Commission regarding the King County Critical Areas Ordinances. Surfrider Foundation comments focused on coastal habitat and measures to protect coastal water quality.

The Surfrider Foundation Welcomes New Development Director

In June of this year, the Surfrider Foundation welcomed Steve Blank as our new Development Director. A graduate from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Steve also received a Masters in International Business Management from University of California San Diego. Prior to joining the Surfrider Foundation, Steve spent five years in development at UCSD culminating in a position in the Health Sciences division focused on fundraising for the University’s two hospitals and a number of medical departments.

“We are fortunate to have found someone with Steve’s experience,” said Interim Executive Director Michelle Kremer. “It is a great benefit to the fulfillment of the Surfrider Foundation’s mission to have such a seasoned Development Director on staff.”

Steve is lifelong San Diegan and an avid surfer, sailor and fisherman.

“This is an exciting opportunity to join a dynamic organization with a mission I am passionate about,” said Blank. “I’m looking forward to working with the National staff, as well as the members, activists and donors to build on two decades of success and help position the Surfrider Foundation for twenty more years of growth and progress.”

Welcome aboard Steve!
Florida’s 825 miles of sandy beaches provide globally important nesting habitat for endangered and threatened sea turtles. Turtle nesting occurs in almost every coastal county with suitable habitat. On the state’s mid-Atlantic beaches nesting densities can exceed 1000 nests per kilometer per year. Sea turtle nesting also occurs in smaller numbers on beaches from North Carolina through Georgia.

In Florida during late summer and early fall, millions of half-dollar sized sea turtle hatchlings will emerge from 40,000 to 80,000 nests laid on the dry sand of the beach. They will scramble down the beach to catch the outgoing surf. They will wander the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, following oceanic currents for the next 20-30 years, before returning to the same nesting beach as mature adults. Adult female loggerhead and green sea turtles, weighing an average of 275-350 pounds, lumber out of the surf late at night to lay their nests from May to October. Giant leatherback sea turtles, weighing from 500 to over 1000 pounds and averaging six feet in length, begin emerging from the ocean as early as February. It is awe inspiring to observe these relics of the dinosaur age emerge onto a dark, quiet beach that hours before may have been buzzing with tourists and vacationers. During nesting sea turtles dig huge body pits, depositing up to 120 eggs into an egg chamber dug in the center of the pit, and then, flailing sand over their backs, they cover and disguise their nests. After about an hour of digging, laying and covering their nests, the giant turtles, breathing deeply and resting occasionally, slowly crawl back toward the ocean. The bounty of eggs and hatchlings will feed beach predators such as raccoons, crabs, and birds. The transfer of nutrients from the turtle’s oceanic feeding grounds to the millions of eggs deposited on the beach plays a vital role in the ecology of the beach ecosystem. Recent findings by University of Florida researchers suggests that the eggs hold essential nutrients that strengthen vegetation along the shore and help preserve the dune system. According to sea turtle researcher Dr. Karen Bjorndal, “Sea Turtles provide a much greater quantity of nutrients to the dune system than other sources.”
But the future looks precarious at best for these giant reptiles. Almost 40% of Florida’s sandy beaches are in a state of “critical erosion,” due mainly to human activities. Coastal engineers in Florida estimate that up to 70% of the state’s coastal erosion is a result of inlets and inlet maintenance disrupting the flow of sand along the shore. In addition people have built too close to the shoreline, drawing a line in the sand along which they battle the natural movement of the beach.

Two main engineering tactics are employed in Florida to protect upland structures from erosion. The first, coastal armoring or sea walls, will temporarily halt the erosion of sand from behind the wall. However, negative impacts to the beach/dune system can be dramatic. Sea walls often help destroy a beach, increasing erosion down beach and eliminating viable turtle nesting habitat.

The second tactic is beach fill, often called beach renourishment, which involves dredging massive volumes of sand from off shore areas and pumping it through large pipes back to a beach where bulldozers shape it into a newly engineered beach. Florida has embarked on one of the most expensive and ambitious beach rebuilding schemes in history. While it has certain advantages over coastal armoring, dredging and filling a beach has its own set of potential damaging impacts to sea turtles. Off shore dredging equipment can suck up and kill sea turtles. If the sand color is too dark or too light the sex ratio of hatchlings can be skewed since sex is determined by sand temperature. Too coarse or compacted sand can inhibit nest digging or discourage nesting altogether. Beaches that are rebuilt too wide and flat can cause turtles to nest closer to the high tide line, resulting in nests being washed out. The issues become cloudier when looking at the impacts to offshore turtle foraging habitats such as sea grass beds and near shore reefs. The effects of repetitive siltation in these sensitive habitats are inadequately addressed.

With careful planning and monitoring of beach fill projects, some specific impacts to sea turtles can be minimized. If these projects are to be employed in the never-ending and costly battle to stabilize the shifting shore, they must be carried out in the most environmentally sensitive manner possible, and cumulative impacts must be fully assessed. At the same time, local, state and the Federal agencies and elected officials must work to address the root causes of coastal erosion, while aggressively pursuing alternatives to improper coastal development and large-scale sand dredging to maintain our beaches and the important ecology they support.

Looking to Our Future On Our Blue-Green Planet: An Interview with George Basile, Ph.D.

(continued from page 7)

MW: Moving back to individual actions, what does this mean?

G: There are three big buckets we can all think about to help move us in the right direction: Conservation, Substitution, and Humanization—better yet, let’s call them Productivity, Innovation, and Better Design. Recently, conservation has taken a beating. It should not be underestimated. The current Administration has gone out of its way to say that energy conservation, for example, is not a significant plank for the future. Let’s reframe that. Think of it another way: conservation should be about getting more from less. That’s called increasing Productivity. Who’s against that! The key here is integrating the changes that the ocean is screaming to us about. Increased “Productivity” in energy, for example more energy from much less coal applied to products that need much less energy in the first place, gets mercury out of fish and us and decreases CO2 emissions that are changing the climate. Similarly, there are many persistent compounds that we need to move away from. These are things like PCBs and CFCs. They will just keep building up and cause problems. We need to develop substitutes. Another word for that is Innovation. Who’s against that! Again, we need to use the principles for working with Nature so that we don’t move out of one problem and into another (e.g. out of mercury-laden coal and into plutonium-laden nuclear power waste). Finally, humanization: That means a focus on meeting human needs so that what we have is really satisfying. Call it Better Design. Who’s against that! Often times we get what we want (e.g. a big powerful SUV, for example), but it comes with a lot of things we don’t (e.g. air pollution and tires that end up just piling up). We need to demand the services we want and be clear about what we don’t want. Again, the ocean has some clear directives for us.

So who’s against higher Productivity, increased Innovation and Better Design? These are hallmarks of the American economy. Again, the key is integrating right up front the picture of success that the ocean is making clear to us. These are also things that our leaders and policy do know how to act on. It’s up to us to make sure that they have all the facts about what we want, what we don’t want, and what we—and our ocean and beaches—think success looks like.

MW: What about Surfrider members and the organization, specifically—are we holding our fingers in the dike, or is there a way to move consistently forward?

G: You have a great story, powerful motivation, and the facts are on your side. With the clarity of vision we are getting from the ocean, our beaches and the planet, and with clear linkages to such common, but powerful, concepts as productivity, innovation and design, it’s really just a matter of making a commitment to integrating the principles for success I described and going for it. Surfrider members know all about that. It’s easier to ride with the wave of our ocean and it’s a lot more fun. Don’t underestimate the power of your voices or your choices—look at what we have done so far. Sure, you can think of a lot of challenges to success, but there are few reasons to not try. So, go out, vote and let the ocean be a guide.
It might seem obvious that building close to the beach is precarious and damaging, but it is actually encouraged by several forces: existing beach stabilization schemes, like seawalls and renourishment, which give a false sense of security to new home builders; lax zoning laws, which define the beach as a narrower strip than it may truly be; and the National Flood Insurance Program, which extends government insurance to coastal homebuilders when private insurance companies wouldn't dare.

While both Commissions have recommended reforms for the National Flood Insurance Program and the US Army Corps of Engineers, who construct most of the beach stabilization, these measures do not exactly preserve beach access. Surfrider Foundation is taking a more active approach through its Beach Access Campaign.

Among the goals of the Beach Access Campaign is a beach access point at least every half-mile in high population areas and uninterrupted access along the beach. Some states with good beach access, like North Carolina and Hawaii, may already be meeting some of the goals; others, like Maine, with only one access point per ten miles on average, have a lot of work to do.

Because it is so variable, beach access will have to be tackled at the local and state level. And that’s one of Surfrider Foundation’s strengths. At the Blue Vision Conference, Surfrider Foundation was heralded by many as an example of an effective grassroots (or, seaweed, rather) organization. The other ocean activists were not the only ones to think that individuals or small groups are best suited to create lasting change. Commissioner Paul Sandifer felt that a new ocean ethic will take hold because of grassroots efforts, and California Representative Sam Farr stressed that true revolutions in America have always been “bottom-up.”

It is time to underscore the fact that the beach belongs to everyone, and to share what many of us know firsthand – that the ocean is a force that must be valued for both its beauty and its power.
Surfing the Great Lakes

What a surprise that the year’s best book on surfing wasn’t written by a six-time world champion or a former magazine editor. Instead it was written by Great Lakes surfing enthusiast P.L. Strazz. In Surfing The Great Lakes, Strazz chronicles the history and unique culture that has grown around the Great Lakes surfing community. Not only does the book do a superb job of documenting the various surf spots throughout the region, it includes a host of interesting and often humorous stories provided by surfers and other lake enthusiasts. The book also contains tons of great photos of waves throughout the Great Lakes region, including a shot from Minnesota that could easily pass of a good day at Salt Creek. This book is sure to fill even the most hardened Lunada Bay local with the spirit of aloha. - M.M.

Surf Science: An Introduction To Waves For Surfing
Tony Butt & Paul Russell with Rick Grigg, University of Hawaii Press, 142 pgs

One need only to stop by the Campaigns section on Surfrider Foundation’s website to understand the magnitude of threats facing our nation’s surf spots. The very existence of surf spots such as Freight Train, Trestles, Newport River Jetties and Surfer’s Point are threatened due to various armoring or development projects. To save our surf spots, we must first understand how they work. Surf Science: An Introduction To Waves For Surfing explains in simple, easy to understand fashion, the dynamics behind wave creation, from how swells are generated to how topographical variables affect wave shape and quality. For that reason alone, it should be a requisite read for all coastal activists concerned about beach and surf preservation. - M.M.

Tribute to the Ocean, Vol. 1.
CD, Various artists. Digalog Records

Major label A&R execs who are in a mad scramble to find the next Jack Johnson may want to save some time and pick up this music sampler from Digalog Records. Tribute to the Ocean, Vol.-1 features a host of young singer/songwriters, many of whom, like Johnson, are rooted in the surf scene. Most of the songs bounce between breezy guitar tracks, like The Red West’s “Twenty-One” or Patrick Park’s “Your Smile’s A Drug.” SoCal fave Matt Costa offers up an interesting cover of the theme song from the TV show MASH, though it isn’t quite representative of the quality of his other work. Still, stand out tracks like Xavier Rudd’s “Solace” and The White Buffalo’s rocking “The Pilot Song,” definitely make this an album to check out. Available online at www.tributetotheocean.org. All net proceeds from the album go to benefit Heal the Bay and the Surfrider Foundation.
- C.M.
Year End Giving

If you’re like most people, you do your major giving toward the end of the year. Some do this for tax purposes; others do it just in the spirit of the season.

Before you ring in the New Year we hope you will consider making a gift to the Surfrider Foundation to help us in our efforts to protect and preserve the nation’s oceans, waves and beaches.

Transfer of Securities

Many of us have assets in the form of stocks. Whether these stocks have appreciated or depreciated in value this year, there are benefits to donating them to the Surfrider Foundation. Stocks that have appreciated in value are a convenient way to give to the Surfrider Foundation. As long as you have held them for at least one year, you can donate appreciated securities to Surfrider Foundation for their market value. Donors receive credit for the full market value of the gift on the day it is made. If your gift of stock, combined with other gifts, exceeds 30 percent of your adjusted gross income (the maximum deduction allowed for most appreciated securities gifts) the excess may be carried forward for up to five additional years. Donations of stock are exempt from capital-gains tax. However, please note that if donors first sell stocks in order to make a cash gift, they must pay capital-gains tax on the appreciation.

If you own stocks that have depreciated in value, you can still use them to make a gift to the Surfrider Foundation. In this case, it is best to sell depreciated stocks that have been held for at least one year, and then donate the cash proceeds. Donors then may claim a capital-loss on their tax return for the difference between what they paid for the stock and the price at which they stock was sold. Donors will receive a charitable deduction for the full amount of their donation.

Tribute and Memorial Gifts

What better way to honor those people we love, admire and respect, than to make a charitable gift in their name. Whether you are making a birthday, graduation, anniversary, holiday or memorial gift, simply log on to our secure donation page: www.surfrider.org/donate or contact us directly at 1-800-743-7873. Our staff will take care of the rest. Tribute or Memorial funds can be opened by friends, family members or anonymously. By giving to the Surfrider Foundation in honor of others, you can help us in our efforts on behalf of the nation’s oceans, waves and beaches.

Don’t Forget About Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. Most companies match dollar for dollar, and some will double or triple match donors’ gifts. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please contact your company’s human resources department or email us at membership@surfrider.org. If your gift is eligible, simply request a matching gift form from your employer, and send your signed and completed form, along with your gift, to: Surfrider Foundation, P.O. Box 6010 San Clemente, CA 92674-6010.

For more information on any of the donation programs listed above, or to simply make year-end donation online, visit our secure online giving page: www.surfrider.org/donate.

Surfrider Foundation Member Benefits

In addition to working to protect and preserve our oceans, waves and beaches, did you know that being a member of the Surfrider Foundation has additional benefits? Here are some examples of exclusive discounts available to Surfrider Foundation members:

Checking the waves? Sign up for a premium membership Surfline and save $10 off the regular price. As a premium member you get a full year of continuous access to Surfline’s live streaming webcams, accurate long range surf forecasts and LOLOA, the world’s only global surf forecasting tool. What’s more—for every Surfrider Foundation membership, Surfline will donate an additional $10 to the Foundation! Don’t wait—sign up today at www.surfline.com!

Renting a car? Beginning this fall, all new and renewing Surfrider Foundation membership members will be receiving an AVIS Rent A Car discount card with their membership packages. Simply use the special Surfrider Foundation ARC# when making your reservation to receive a discount on your next rental car purchase. Foundation members can save at any one of the hundreds of AVIS Rent A Car locations across the United States.

Looking for a loan? As a Surfrider Foundation member, you are eligible to become a member of the Western Federal Credit Union. With branches in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington, Western Federal Credit Union offers competitive consumer loans and outstanding banking services. Visit www.western.org for more information.

Go to www.surfrider.org to check additional membership benefits and partnerships available to Surfrider Foundation members. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Membership Department at 1-800-743-SURF.
On behalf of the world’s oceans, waves and beaches, the Surfrider Foundation wishes to thank the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their generous support received between July 1, 2004 - Aug. 31, 2004.

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Surfrider Foundation members can show their current membership card to receive discounts or special incentives at selected restaurants, hotels, retailers and service providers across the United States and Puerto Rico. By patronizing these businesses, you help them to support the Surfrider Foundation. To find your local participating retailer, please visit our website at: www.surfrider.org/retailers.

Surfrider Foundation
Member Benefits Program

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