Albatrosses can live to be 80-85 years old and they mate for life.

Anchoring of the tsunami detector bottom unit during the RV Poseidon expedition 360, on Nov. 5, 2007, north of the Canary Islands. The PACT bottom unit was deployed at about a 10,000-foot depth.

LONG LINE HOOKS KILL BIRDS TOO!

The use of long line fishing is not illegal in international waters. However, if the lines catch an endangered or threatened species, they become illegal. A long line is a monofilament line that is anywhere between a mile to several miles long. It floats at the surface by attached plastic buoys and contains lines that hang down about 15 feet. These lines have baited hooks and they ensnare sharks, sea turtles and many other creatures of the sea. But did you know that they also kill at least 44,000 albatross each year. The great winged-birds of the sea can see the baited lines when they are flying above and when they dive down for the bait they get caught and are drowned. Commercial fishing has now been identified as the most serious threat to the survival of most albatross species. For more information visit: www.seashepherd.org/longline/index.html#scs

HEAD FOR THE HILLS!

A new milestone for the development of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System (GITEWS) has been reached. In late 2007, a successful testing of a new seafloor pressure recording system was completed in the Canary Islands. Although tsunamis reach monstrous heights near land, they measure only a few centimeters high (and often hundreds of kilometers) out at sea. The only way to send out the earliest of warnings is to monitor the seafloor bottom and measure sea level rise in the open ocean. If successful, this warning system may give people the precious moments they need to evacuate coastal areas. In order to extend alert times and avoid false alarms however, more testing must be done under different weather conditions. That testing will take place in the Mediterranean Sea in early 2008.

THESE ROBOTS WILL KICK YOUR PIRATE BOOTIE!

Piracy on the high seas is not just the stuff of rum-induced day dreams, nowadays it is a global epidemic with the International Maritime Bureau tracking a 14-percent increase in worldwide pirate attacks just this year. The standard pirate M.O. is to put out a distress call and then ambush any vessels that respond. There are two unmanned robotic vessels that have been developed that could be used to thwart such pirate attacks. The 30-foot long Protector and the 21-foot long Interceptor. Both ships can be operated remotely and could be a first-line defense scout against Seafairing Skallawags. For more information visit: www.popularmechanics.com/science/robotics/4229443.html
You may have noticed the numbered crest on the front of *Making Waves*. If you’re really aware of Surfrider Foundation’s initiatives you may also know that this is tied to our vision statement “150 coastal victories by 2010”. This is very intentional, very public and very calculated.

“You can’t manage what you can’t measure.”

That phrase is an organizational truism; it speaks to the simple need we have to quantify things so we can understand them. Once we understand something we can manage it. This intersects with you, as you are a member of Surfrider Foundation. You are literally an investor in our mission. Thus, I assume you have questions like…

“What is Surfrider Foundation doing with my (membership dollars) investment?”

In my opinion EVERY institution should have a crisp answer to this question. You deserve to know what your investment has enabled. You deserve an understandable ROI (return on investment).

*The victory number is an indicator of what Surfrider Foundation has accomplished, it is an ROI.*

We wanted to elevate an understandable barometer of our effectiveness to the top of our strategic plan. We did this for ourselves, to have a clear goal to shoot for. We also did this for you, so you can hold us accountable on our ability to reach our goals. The goal is “150 coastal victories by 2010.” This brings us to the definition of “coastal victory.”

A ‘Coastal Victory’ is defined as a decision made in favor of the coastal and ocean environment that results in a positive conservation outcome, improves coastal access, or both.

When we sent California Governor Schwarzenegger more than 10,000 emails to illustrate widespread support for Saving Trestles … that wasn’t a victory. That was a milestone, many of which combine to enable a victory. When we won a beach access case in Florida, resulting in net new beach access, that was a clear victory.

The “150 coastal victories by 2010” goal was set on January 1, 2006. It calls for a cadence of 30 victories per year. As you can see from the number on the front of this magazine we’re slightly ahead of schedule. What you can’t see from that number is how challenging these environmental campaigns were; most lasted longer than a year and some longer than a decade. At any given time our Chapter and Affiliate Network are collectively managing over 100 active environmental and access campaigns around the globe. Some are small and some are massive.

Lastly, no organization is defined by a single number. We have over 50,000 members and yet another 100,000-plus exist as supporters outside of that. Similarly, our 60-plus victories since 1/1/06 only offer a tiny glimpse into our effectiveness and value. We influence culture, we educate children, we sculpt policy decisions, etc. The victory metric is simply one view into this organization; still … it’s an important view.

*The victory number illustrates Surfrider Foundation has real, understandable accomplishments.*

What we’re saying with our victory number is that we take your investment seriously. We also take the job of communicating our progress seriously. The victory number is a no-nonsense indicator of your return on an investment in Surfrider Foundation. I hope you find it a straightforward tool, letting you know if your investment in this organization was a sound one.

Thank you for your investment in this organization.
—Jim Moriarty, Chief Executive Officer

For a complete list of victories since 1/1/06 visit: www.surfrider.org/wins

Comprehensive definition of “Coastal Victory”: www.surfrider.org/whoweare6q2.asp

Check out Jim’s blog at: http://oceanswavesbeaches.blogspot.com/
The Surfrider Foundation Chapter network works on a diverse set of coastal problems ranging from water quality, to wetlands protection, to fights against shoreline armoring and protection of surfing areas. However, the common thread is that all of these efforts are direct action organizing campaigns. Take a moment to check out our Top Ten Victories and Accomplishments in 2007.

**Preservation of Pupukea-Paumalu, North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii**
The scenic bluffs overlooking the famous North Shore waves of Sunset Beach, Rocky Point and Pipeline were under threat of development from the Japanese Obayashi Corporation. Towards the end of the lengthy development approval process Obayashi decided to put the property up for sale for $12 million. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Surfrider Japan’s Masuo Ueda, the North Shore’s Blake McElheney, musician and Hawaiian-native Jack Johnson an all-volunteer coalition of citizens and business leaders called the North Shore Community Land Trust, the land was purchased for $8 million and saved from development (with additional backing from the state, the city, the military and federal agencies). The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit group also helped to steer and complete the purchase of the land for transfer to the state and city. Fundraising for this area (Pupukea-Paumalu) continues today in an effort to support the coordination of community planning and stewardship activities so that residents, visitors and surfers from around the world will be able to enjoy the property in perpetuity.

**Texas Open Beaches Act Defended by Courts**
The Surfrider Foundation Chapters in Texas have won two important legal battles to keep their beaches open for all Texans. Under the Texas Open Beaches Act, the courts can authorize the removal of structures on the public beach to ensure proper public access. Beach photos provided by the Texas Chapter during a legal deposition in Austin two years ago, along with the Chapter’s fortuitous “adoption” of a mile of beach in Surfside that recently had to fight to uphold public access, were key events in the judicial process.

**Marine Protected Areas on the Central Coast, CA**
A network of Marine Protected Areas was enacted on the Central Coast as part of the Marine Life Protection Act. Surfrider Foundation and its partners have worked for several years with activists and stakeholders throughout California to help make this happen.

**Year-Round Water Quality Testing in Delaware**
The Delaware Chapter convinced the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to expand their beach-monitoring program beyond the normal tourist season to year-round testing and provided some of the volunteer labor needed to make this happen.

**Stopped Reconstruction of Jetties at La Perla and Stopped Further Construction of Jetties in Buenos Aires**
Surfrider Foundation Mar Del Plata, Argentina Organizing Committee stopped the Province of Buenos Aires from rebuilding the jetties at a beach called La Perla. Now they are considering...
other technologies to stop erosion. They also stopped the Province of Buenos Aires from building “T” jetties at Constitution beach. The “T” jetties that were a common “solution” to erosion problems are really supposed to be breakwaters (lateral jetties offshore). However the contractors put in roads to construct the breakwaters and never removed them, thus worsening the situation even more. Now government officials are considering other technologies to stop erosion.

AUSTRALIA—STRADBROKE ISLAND SHIP TERMINAL
At the northern end of Queensland’s Gold Coast, adjacent to a river mouth, is a beautiful beach area known as the Spit. The nearby channel is known as the Gold Coast Seaway. South Stradbroke Island (affectionately referred to as “Straddy”), is separated from the Spit by the Seaway. The Queensland State Government planned to construct a Cruise Ship Terminal, Super Yacht Marina in the rivermouth of this recreation area, but abandoned the Cruise Ship element of its plan due to the unacceptable negative environmental and economic impact it would create, that and based on concerns expressed by Surfrider Foundation members and concerned locals who banded together to form the Save Our Spit Alliance.

REMOVAL OF RINCON, CA SEPTIC TANKS
After a long nine-year battle, the Surfrider Foundation (in partnership with Heal The Ocean and others) finally compelled a state agency to force the removal of individual septic tanks at Rincon Point in Santa Barbara, California and replace them with a comprehensive sewage system under the jurisdiction of the Sanitation District. At a homeowners’ cost of about $88,000 per home, the implementation of this was not an easy sell.

REDUCE TOXIC POLLUTION IN OREGON
On June 26, 2007, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski signed into law Senate Bill 737, which provides Oregon with a roadmap for reducing toxic discharges into rivers, lakes, and the Pacific Ocean. Volunteers from the Central Coast and Portland Chapters actively participated in this campaign through the Action Alert, letter writing, and presenting public comments in Salem. Thanks also to our coalition partners Sierra Club and the Riverkeepers.

FLORIDA ACCESS LEGISLATION
Beach access in Florida is under constant attack due to the overdevelopment of the coastline. Florida Statute Chapter 161 Beach Management had only protected lateral beach access when it came to coastal construction permitting. By adding several sentences to the definition of “access”, both lateral and perpendicular accesses are now protected. The legislation was instigated by the South Florida Chapter’s campaign to re-open access at Bal Harbour.

LANDMARK COURT DECISION TO PROTECT MARINE SPECIES
The U.S. Court of Appeals struck down a rule issued by the EPA for inadequately enforcing the Clean Water Act in regards to the use of “once through cooling” systems by coastal generators across the United States. The decision is a victory for the Surfrider Foundation, who along with a number of other environmental organizations and several State Attorneys General, was co-plaintiff on the suit lead by the Riverkeeper organization.
Seven beaches across America from North Carolina, Florida and New York to Hawaii and California became officially “barefoot-friendly” this summer thanks to the good people at Barefoot Wine. The winery partnered with the Surfrider Foundation to stage a summer-long series of beach cleanup and restoration events through the Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project (BWBRP).

The project kicked off in Maui in June 2007, where Chapter Chair Jan Roberson helped coordinate an event at Ho’okipa Beach Park. Here volunteers helped plant 300 native plants including Naupaka and Pōhinahina in an effort to naturally buffer the eroding shoreline at Ho’okipa, helping prevent the use of armoring.

After Maui, the Beach Rescue Project then traveled all the way across the country to New York City’s Rockaway Beach. Armed with garbage bags, gloves and rakes, New York City Chapter Chair Doug Parent and Beach Cleanup Coordinator Alexi Remnek led over 70 volunteers who braved intermittent rain showers to collect and bag debris and litter hiding in the sand. To mark everyone’s efforts, volunteers were treated to a special reception with Barefoot wine and bubbly tastings along with a musical performance by Luscious Jackson front woman Jill Cunniff and musician Singh Birdsong as the sun set at venue Pier 92 Restaurant and Bar. Stars kicked off their shoes to do their part including E! Daily 10’s Sal Masekela, actor Andrew Keegan, comedian Kristen Schaal of HBO’s Flight of the Concorids and musician N’Dea Davenport of The Brand New Heavies.

The project returned to Hawaii the following weekend, where Kauai Chapter Chair Sheri Saari organized an early morning effort to give Kealia Beach a much-needed cleaning. The Chapter also conducted outreach efforts to raise awareness about marine debris in the area. Over 50 volunteers were treated to coffee and breakfast as a special thanks.

The series remained in Hawaii for the next event, where Co-Chairs Marvin Heskett and Scott Werny led over 100 activists from the Oahu Chapter in a successful beach cleanup effort at Ala Moana Beach Park. Stars came out to show their support including Fox’s 24 Eric Balflour, Hawaii Champion Surfer Matty Liu, Big Wave Rider Ken Bradshaw, and ABC’s The Bachelor Andy Baldwin. Everyone was then treated to a special “Mahalo” celebration event that was held at the Local Motion Surf Shop’s Brew Moon pub. Highlighting the evening was a wonderful acoustic performance by Jill and Singh. As an added bonus one lucky volunteer walked away with a free surfboard after entering a raffle that was open to all volunteers who participated in the day’s beach cleanup.

The South Florida Chapter kicked it up a notch with their native planting event at North Shore Open Space Park, helping to restore local dunes by removing invasive plants and replacing them with native plant species, which work to prevent coastal erosion. Local Surfrider Foundation Coordinator TJ Marshall and Florida Regional Manager Ericka D’Avanzo were onsite training volunteers on the basics of native replanting, before handing out gloves, shovels and plants. Volunteers then headed over to the local Quiksilver Store to celebrate. Renowned surfboard shaper Matt Kechele donated a custom surfboard that was raffled that evening with 100% of the proceeds going to the Surfrider Foundation. TLC’s Miami Ink Darren Brass and Pro-surfers Ryan Helm and Skeeter Zimmerman attended the event as well.

As part of this year’s Beach Rescue Project, Barefoot Wine and Surfrider Foundation gave America the chance to select the sixth beach rescue project location. It was a close race, but beach enthusiasts voted and North Carolina’s Wrightsville Beach won the honor. On August 18, Cape Fear Chapter Chair Sean Ahlum
and crew coordinated a successful cleanup event at Crystal Pier, where volunteers, including WB actress Sophia Bush who calls the area her second home, gathered following the All Women’s East Coast Wahine Surf Championship. Once again, the crew headed over to enjoy live music by Jill, Barefoot wine and appetizers at Tower 7 Baja Restaurant. In September, the final BWBRP took place at Trestles Beach, California where guides from the Surfrider Foundation’s South Orange County Chapter led groups of volunteers along the trail leading to Trestles Beach. Along the way, the guides provided insight about the current status of the Trestles-Myster Creek Watershed and Surfrider Foundation’s efforts to protect the area with their “Save Trestles” campaign. Following the beach cleanup, volunteers then walked down to the San Clemente Rip Curl store, for the chance to meet and hang-out with celebrity actors David Chokachi, Andrew Keegan and Peter Mensah, E! Daily 10’s Sal Masekela and 8-time World Surfing Champion Kelly Slater as well as enjoy Barefoot wine, surfside fare and an unforgettable performance by Jill Cunniff and Singh.

“This year’s Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project was an absolute success,” said Surfrider Foundation CEO Jim Moriarty. “Not only did we make a difference on seven of America’s most popular beaches, this campaign helped beaches all across the country by raising public awareness of the important issues affecting our coastal communities.” As part of the Beach Rescue Project, Barefoot Wine donated $125,000 to the Surfrider Foundation to directly assist the organization’s campaign efforts in Montauk, NY; Kawela Bay, HI; Lake Worth, FL; Trestles, CA; Ma’alaea, HI and elsewhere.

The Surfrider Foundation wishes to thank the good people at Hunter Public Relations and our Maui, Kauai, Oahu, New York City, South Florida, Cape Fear and South Orange County Chapters, for their assistance in making these events possible. Surfrider Foundation also wishes to extend a very special thanks to Jeremy Soine, Jake Wheatley, Mark Dunlea, and everyone at Barefoot Wine for their support of our beach and coastal environments and generosity in making this year’s Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project an incredible success!

Laura is Surfrider Foundation’s Marketing Manager.

Invasive species have been removed – job well done.
As part of our 2006 Ocean Revolution series we reported that a leading recommendation of the Pew Ocean Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy was the need to apply ecosystem-based management (EBM) to protect and conserve our coastal ocean environment. Subsequently, the need for EBM has been emphasized by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and the West Coast Governor’s Agreement on Ocean Health. Needless to say, EBM has become the recommended paradigm for ocean and coastal conservation. So what does that mean?

Communication Partnership for Science and Sea (COMPASS), an organization dedicated to helping coordinate and communicate important marine conservation science issues defines ecosystem-based management as the following:

“Ecosystem-based management is an integrated approach to management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. The goal of ecosystem-based management is to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition, so that it can provide the services humans want and need. Ecosystem-based management differs from current approaches that usually focus on a single species, sector, activity or concern; it considers the cumulative impacts of different sectors.”

In other words, ecosystem-based management means taking the entire ecosystem, add the way it interacts, including with humans, into account when making decisions. While this may be revolutionary for government agencies, the concept is very intuitive for Surfrider Foundation’s grassroots activists. Our advocacy tends to take a community-based or area-based approach in addressing coastal issues, which often tends to be inherently ecosystem-based.

At a conceptual level this seems obvious, but exactly how to put EBM into practice remains ambiguous and challenging. One practical place to start experimenting with EBM is at the community level and that is exactly what the Surfrider Foundation is trying to do.

The Surfrider Foundation is active in four precedent-setting community-scale “ecosystem-based management” campaigns that are demonstrating the value of proactive coastal and ocean management that takes the entire ecosystem into consideration. These communities are the San Juan Islands in Washington, Port Orford in Oregon, Ventura in California and Rincón in Puerto Rico.

In upcoming issues of Making Waves we will highlight these four leading projects and discuss how they are applying EBM to proactively create model communities that are striving to balance coastal protection, recreation and economic development in a holistic manner. We are hopeful that these projects will illustrate how ecosystem-based management can be applied to all of our efforts and campaigns.

For more information on this efforts visit:

www.surfrider.org/ebm

Chad is Surfrider Foundation’s Environmental Director.
Coral reefs are one of the oldest, largest and most diverse habitats on the globe. They also create some of our favorite waves. Sadly, coral reefs around the world are threatened by habitat destruction, overfishing, sedimentation, marine debris and global climate change. For example, in the Caribbean, 90 to 95% of Elkhorn coral (Acropora palmata) has died. Elkhorn coral colonies immediately offshore Rincón, Puerto Rico are some of the healthiest and more genetically diverse reefs in U.S. territorial waters. Not only do they provide important habitat and protect the coast from wave attack, they also produce world-class surf at Tres Palmas.

In 2004, the Surfrider Foundation took a major step to protect these corals by leading the establishment of the Reserva Marina Tres Palmas – a marine reserve designed to protect this threatened species. Thanks to support from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Leon Richter, our Puerto Rico Field Coordinator, was able to lead an effort to further protect the reefs by working with local fishermen, the municipality and community volunteers to clean up tires and marine debris within the reserve. The clean up effort was complimented by an extensive education and outreach program at local schools.

With the help of UCSB graduate student Sean Guerin and local fisherman Edwin “Pauco” Font, we coordinated a summer-long volunteer clean up program where volunteers were “manta-towed” behind a boat following transects. When a tire or other marine debris was identified, the location was documented and the debris was carefully removed so as not to harm the sensitive coral reefs. Over the course of the summer 18 volunteers logged over 31 days on the water, covering over 210 acres of the reserve, and removed over 250 tires. The tires were collected by the municipality and we are hoping to recycle them into a local children’s park.

While this project was underway, Leon and a group volunteers were working with Sra. Brenda Cardona’s Environmental Science class on a Public Service Announcement (PSA) project to raise awareness about the importance of coral reefs and the threats from marine debris. Local activists and fisherman visited the class to teach the students about the very special coral reefs found in Rincón. The class was then given existing Surfrider Foundation PSAs developed by world-renowned advertising firm Saatchi & Saatchi for inspiration. The students were supplied with cameras to photo document the clean up project and graphic images of coral reefs to create their own PSAs. The students developed two fantastic PSAs that were printed and then distributed to 100 businesses throughout Rincón. The students interviewed each business owner about coral reef protection. One student developed a video PSA using his phone! The students are now writing letters to local media outlets to see if they will run the student-designed PSAs.

To bring the project full circle, Saatchi and Saatchi had a professional photographer shoot the tires for a Surfrider PSA that will be used globally.

More information can be found at:
www.trespalmascoral.blogspot.com/
www.flickr.com/photos/14239269@N02

Student video PSA:
WHAT: Surfrider Foundation’s Second Annual Art for the Oceans. An event fusing modern fine art with surf culture to raise funds for the protection of the world’s oceans, waves and beaches. The evening featured an auction of unique art and one-of-a-kind experience packages followed by a live performance by ArcKid.

WHEN: September 19, 2007

WHERE: The Xchange. Nine floors up alongside the east river in New York’s Chelsea neighborhood.

WHO: Honorary Chairs - Laird Hamilton and former President Bill Clinton. Event Chair - Daniel Loeb of Third Point LLC. Event Host - Victoria’s Secret supermodel, Marisa Miller. Plus 300 of New York and New Jersey’s financiers, celebrities, socialites and surfers.

WHY: To auction off “unobtainium.” Part one of the auction featured unique pieces of art by some of the modern art world’s current masters including: Daniel Gordon, Ed Ruscha, George Condo, Jeff Koons, Cameron Martin, Pieter Schoolwerth, Ashley Bickerton, Doug Wada and Damien Hirst. Part two of the auction featured once-in-a-lifetime experience packages such as a guitar lesson with Chris Martin of Coldplay, a movie world premiere with Gwyneth Paltrow, a custom Joe Bark paddleboard coupled with a day of surfing with Laird Hamilton, three “Dazzle” surfboards by designer Rogan that were shaped by Chris Christenson and the Clinton Trifecta, which included a personalized copy of the President’s new book, a signed golf club of the President’s and a chance to attend a special town hall meeting/concert.


OUTCOMES: Surfrider Foundation once again threw an event that was the talk of the town and made known its presence in the New York metropolitan area and the East Coast in general. All while raising over half a million dollars in net proceeds for the organization’s mission-related work. A successful evening indeed!!!

More info at www.surfrider.org/art

SECOND ANNUAL ART FOR THE OCEANS

A STUNNING SUCCESS

Damien Hirst, “Beautiful Electrifying Hypercolour Hot to Trot Fantastical Painting”, 2007
Evan Cousineau was not your typical 9-year-old boy. One half of a dynamic fraternal twin package, Evan lit the city of San Clemente, California ablaze with his talents in piano, water polo, hockey, swimming and surfing (to name a few). But more than just being a talented boy, Evan had a tremendous heart and was a great friend to many. This made it especially hard on everyone who knew him when on April 30, 2007, he was struck with a seizure, and was later diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy, or ALD—a genetic disorder that progressively deteriorates brain function.

Evan fought hard to beat the disease, losing his hearing and eyesight along the way, but never his spirit. His family was there every second of the way and together they traveled to one of the best programs in the nation for treatment, the University of Minnesota’s Children’s Hospital. It was there that he received a bone marrow transplant that the doctors hoped would save his life. However, on Nov. 2 Evan lost his battle with ALD and passed away (just shy of his tenth birthday).

“It was like going through a minefield,” Gina, Evan’s mom, said. “We lost 13 children in the last two and a half months in Minnesota. We knew those families. Those kids kept hitting those mines, and we kept missing them. Then, on November 2, we hit the mine. We had to limp home and we have to survive.”

Just twelve days later, on November 14, 2007 a memorial was held for Evan in San Clemente. More than 1,000 people came out to say “Good-bye” to Evan and, at his request, attended a beach party at T-Street after the memorial services. NO dark attire, just bright California casual colors. There was a ceremonial paddle out, a fireboat spouting water, a skywriter spelling out his initials and enough love to fill every heart in attendance.

“I think Evan had a profound effect on the community as a whole,” said Gina. “We have the Caring Bridge site, which has gotten almost 400,000 hits since May. The outpouring from the community – and entire country – really has been unbelievable. ‘We’ve been here 25 years, and we’ve lost a lot of kids in this community. I know this is from a mother’s eyes, but you can’t imagine the impact he’s made on this town.’

We will miss you Evan.
FOURTH ANNUAL MAKING WAVES CHAPTER AWARDS

The Surfrider Foundation is proud to present the 4th Annual Making Waves Chapter Awards. These awards serve to recognize those Chapters, which through their efforts set the bar for the rest of us to follow.

CHAPTER VICTORY OF THE YEAR

Winner: Florida Chapter Network- Florida Access Legislation
Beach access in Florida is under constant attack due to the overdevelopment of the coastline. Florida Statute Chapter 161 Beach Management had only protected lateral beach access when it came to coastal construction permitting. By adding several sentences to the definition of “access”, both lateral and perpendicular accesses are now protected. This victory was part of 5-plus-year campaign that was originally spearheaded by the First Coast Chapter and cumulated as a Surfrider Foundation nationally supported campaign coordinated throughout our Florida Chapter network. Not only is this a significant victory, it demonstrates the effectiveness of our grassroots-based structure.

Runner up: San Luis Bay Morro Bay/Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
After years of hard work from the San Luis Bay Chapter and their allies, the era of the 301(h) waiver for the Morro Bay/Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant is about to come to an end. In May, the Cayucos Community Service District Board and Morro Bay City Council both unanimously voted their intent to upgrade the Morro Bay/Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant to tertiary treatment standards. The plant currently operates under a 301(h) waiver that has exempted it for decades from meeting federal Clean Water Act standards. The upgrade would increase the treatment to full secondary and include additional tertiary treatment—which means cleaner effluent and an opportunity to reclaim water for non-potable use. This is a landmark moment for the Chapter, the communities of Morro Bay and Cayucos, and all Californians, as the upgrade of this plant will eliminate one of the two remaining 301(h) waivers in the state.

BEST WEB SITE

The Web is an interactive, dynamic, and rapidly changing communications medium that a Web site should reflect. A common misconception Chapters make that are new to the Web is that if they put up a page, people will visit it. In order to have a popular site, you have to offer something to the user: information, interactivity, fun, something more than an 800 number. A Web site should reflect the culture of the organization and the Chapter. Many of our Chapters incorporate new technology such as downloadable podcasts, real time tickers and videos on their sites and we hope all will begin doing this. No other category sees as much change as the Web site category and it’s hard to pick just one winner with so many Chapters having outstanding components to their sites.

Winner: Sebastian Inlet Chapter
What are the essential traits of a great Web site? After you visit a site and find yourself staying for a while, what makes you stay? For the judges, we choose the Sebastian Inlet Chapter as our top pick because it is well-organized in an attractive manner, has original content, valuable timely information (not lots of data) and the information is being updated on a regular basis.

Runner up: Palm Beach Chapter
We picked the Palm Beach, Florida Chapter Web site because it is as clean and easy to navigate as it is aesthetically pleasing. Bright accent color highlights the great surf photos that revolve in a slideshow format on the main page. The highlight colors also bring attention to the call out buttons that make it easy to join, find out Chapter happenings and check the surf. This Web site is a good example of a clean and effective communication tool.
Runner-up: Jersey Shore Chapter
The Jersey Shore Chapter staged a huge rally with 200 people to save a special part of Long Branch history from development. The privately-owned Takanassee Beach Club has been sold and is slated for development pending a coastal building permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJDEP. The five-acre site has beachfront, coastal lakefront, and three historic buildings that were built by the U.S. Lifesaving Service. The Lifesaving Service eventually turned into the Coast Guard. The Chapter wants this property to be turned into a public beach since it already has parking and facilities. This stretch of Long Branch called Elberon, has very little public access to the beach. Using Surfrider Foundation’s Action Network, over 600 messages were sent to DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson the day before the rally. As a result, the DEP has held off on issuing the permit.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE—ACTIVISM
This category is determined by a combination of the judges and results of our annual C-View Chapter surveys, which track our Chapter’s programmatic and volunteer efforts. Chapters were scored by their participation in the key areas, including the number of educational outreach presentations, beach cleanups, total number of volunteer hours, volunteer recruitment and consistency of operation.

Winner: Eastern Long Island Chapter
The ELI Chapter’s scope of work is so encompassing of our mission that it wasn’t too difficult to select them this year. Ranging in issues from development to access to moving a lighthouse, the Chapter has consistently set an outstanding example of how an all volunteer-based Chapter should operate. They recognize that it takes more than issues to have an effective chapter and build volunteer recruitment, leadership and outreach opportunities into all their efforts.

Runner-up: South Florida Chapter
About four years ago the South Florida Chapter was basically on life support, kept alive by a couple of its founding activists. This year marked a complete turnaround for them that began a couple of years ago with the development of active campaigns, new leadership and outreach efforts and the full implementation of our organizing processes.

OUTSTANDING CAMPAIGN TACTIC
Winner: Sebastian Inlet Chapter- Gambling Boat Protest, Clean Oceans Bill Campaign
The Chapter held a demonstration at Madeira Beach to protest the dumping of partially treated sewage by gambling ships just off the coast of Florida. More than 50 people participated in events ranging from paddle outs to building signage and surfboards on the Johns Pass Bridge that read “Pump, Don’t Dump,” “Dilution Is Not the Solution” and “No Poo in the Big Blue.” The Chapter had an airplane flying a large banner with the phrase “Got Sewage? SunCruz Dumps It Daily!” circling the gambling ship. If the Clean Oceans Bill—sponsored by Rep. Bob Allen and Sen. Mike Haridopolus—is passed, it will make it illegal for boats running “cruises to nowhere” to dump any sewage within 12 miles of Florida’s coastline.

Winner: PNW Clean Water Classic
For Pacific Northwest surfers, the Clean Water Classic surf contest has become a sort of family reunion and every year the family gets a little bit bigger. Now in its sixth year, this gathering has turned into an International affair, seeing competitors from Australia, Hawaii, Brazil, South Africa, France, Canada, and the United States. The contest has become the marquee surf contest for the region, and also acts as a major fundraiser, activist recruitment and issues awareness event for Surfrider Foundation Chapters in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. This event again demonstrates the importance of Chapters working together to promote the mission on a larger scale.

Runner up: San Diego Chapter Morning After Mess Beach Cleanup
On July 5, the Chapter, along with their partnering organizations, organized the Morning After Mess Beach Cleanup. Every year the City of San Diego’s resources are challenged by the amount of garbage left in the wake of the 4th of July. This year’s event had more than 1,000 volunteers and cleaned up over 9,000 pounds of trash.

Runner-up: Jersey Shore Chapter
The Jersey Shore Chapter staged a huge rally with 200 people to save a special part of Long Branch history from development. The privately-owned Takanassee Beach Club has been sold and is slated for development pending a coastal building permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJDEP. The five-acre site has beachfront, coastal lakefront, and three historic buildings that were built by the U.S. Lifesaving Service. The Lifesaving Service eventually turned into the Coast Guard. The Chapter wants this property to be turned into a public beach since it already has parking and facilities. This stretch of Long Branch called Elberon, has very little public access to the beach. Using Surfrider Foundation’s Action Network, over 600 messages were sent to DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson the day before the rally. As a result, the DEP has held off on issuing the permit.

Winner: PNW Clean Water Classic
For Pacific Northwest surfers, the Clean Water Classic surf contest has become a sort of family reunion and every year the family gets a little bit bigger. Now in its sixth year, this gathering has turned into an International affair, seeing competitors from Australia, Hawaii, Brazil, South Africa, France, Canada, and the United States. The contest has become the marquee surf contest for the region, and also acts as a major fundraiser, activist recruitment and issues awareness event for Surfrider Foundation Chapters in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. This event again demonstrates the importance of Chapters working together to promote the mission on a larger scale.

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Runner-up: South Florida Chapter
About four years ago the South Florida Chapter was basically on life support, kept alive by a couple of its founding activists. This year marked a complete turnaround for them that began a couple of years ago with the development of active campaigns, new leadership and outreach efforts and the full implementation of our organizing processes.
On September 12, 2007, Texas State District Judge Patrick Sebesta ruled that the Texas Open Beaches Act is constitutional and that 16 houses on the public beach in Surfside, Texas must be removed. Sebesta’s judgment is the second judicial ruling in recent months upholding the Texas Open Beaches Act.

Under the Texas Open Beaches Act, Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson can ask the courts to authorize the removal of structures on the public beach to ensure proper public access. In 2006, Commissioner Patterson notified a number of property owners that he might pursue the removal of any houses on the public beach and offered financial assistance to move the houses. Several of the property owners then sued Patterson to block the removal of their houses, resulting in Judge Sebesta’s ruling. Most of the property owners have accepted the state’s offer for financial assistance to remove or demolish their houses. A very small handful of holdouts are likely to appeal the recent ruling, however. The Texas Attorney General’s Office—which has represented the state and Commissioner Patterson during the legal proceedings—said that beach photos provided by the Texas Chapter during a legal deposition in Austin two years ago, along with the Chapter’s fortuitous “adoption” of the mile of beach in question in 1998, were key events in the judicial process.

In an effort to reduce and offset its own carbon footprint, the Surfrider Foundation’s Virginia Beach Chapter recently partnered with California-based nonprofit organization CarbonFund.org, through their specialized CarbonFree™ Surfing program. Simply put, CarbonFund.org aims to tighten the faucet on carbon discharge from businesses, organizations and individuals by suggesting ways to reduce carbon output and then offsetting any remaining CO2 emissions. So, after looking at ways to reduce the Chapter’s direct carbon output (like more centralized monthly Chapter meeting spots, carpooling to beach cleanup events, etc.), CarbonFund.org measured its remaining carbon footprint via an “energy audit” and calculated the offsets needed to zero out their CO2 footprint.

Given the opportunity to choose which types of projects to support including renewable energy, energy efficiency and reforestation, the Virginia Beach Chapter chose to use its offset to assist in renewable energy efforts in hope that their Chapter’s carbon offset would help turn the tide on global warming. The partnership between CarbonFund.org and the Virginia Beach Chapter is helping to address the issue of climate change within the surfing community, while also illuminating some of the many benefits that clean, renewable energy holds for surfing.

Surfrider Foundation’s Cape Fear Chapter’s Save Access 33 Campaign continues to make solid progress on many fronts. The campaign includes a dedicated web site, www.access33.org, the distribution of bumper stickers and an online petition has been signed by over 1,000 people-to-date among other key outreach activities.

The issue can be traced back to minutes from a November 8, 1962, Wrightsville Beach Board of Aldermen meeting record with the passing of a resolution to abandon standing plans to build Seashore Street to the water. In accordance with North Carolina law, when a town abandons a street, the land is divided between the property owners adjacent to it. While the Seashore Street end was never built, the public used the portion of land that would become Access 33 as a path from the road to the beach. Town Manager Bob Simpson explained that the town issued quitclaim deeds, which transferred the property rights from the town of Wrightsville Beach to the Murchison/Gorno family that owns the adjoining house and the owners of what is now the Blockade Runner, respectively. The developers of the Blockade Runner built out to the end of their property line, while
the Murchisons allowed the public to continue to use the remainder as a path from the beach to the street. Last year the family received tax notices on the land for the first time, and an estimated value of the additional land was added to the property assessed value. In response to that Mary Gornot contacted the town that Access 33 no longer be used for “public purposes.”

Simpson said that negotiations between the property owners and the Board of Aldermen had ended. In the Nov. 9, 2006, Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Bob O’Quinn made a motion to abandon any further claim to the easement. Mayor Pro Tem Ed Miastkowski seconded the motion and Alderman Kitty Brunjes and Mayor O’Quinn approved it, while Aldermen David Cignotti and Stephen Whalen dissented. Surfrider Foundation’s Cape Fear Chapter hopes that their grassroots campaign will convince the board of aldermen and the property owners to resolve the issue and reopen the access. “It’s a publicly funded beach,” states Sean Ahlum, Co-Chair of the Cape Fear Chapter. “So I think the town should do whatever it takes to keep it open.”

The City of Folly Beach elected to team up with the Surfrider Foundation Charleston Chapter to aid the Chapter in their 2007-2008 campaign against cigarette butt litter on Folly Beach. The program is part of an area-wide effort initiated by Surfrider Foundation to directly address the accumulation of cigarette butts on area beaches and in marshes, using personal ashtrays which were distributed throughout the area beginning with Spring Break of 2007, and the installation of Cigarette Cannons at all of the public access walkways along Folly Beach. The Charleston Chapter Program Team Leader for this large campaign is Keith Merrill.

Similar efforts are also being initiated by the Chapter on Isle of Palms and Sullivan’s Island and are being met with equal enthusiasm. Addressing the cigarette butt litter accumulation directly benefits the area municipalities by inhibiting the huge amount of cigarette butts, which accumulate in storm water runoff. This is beginning to make the renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits much more difficult for area beach municipalities.

The City of Folly Beach has had a long-standing working relationship with the Charleston Chapter, and cooperation between the City and Surfrider Foundation has resulted in many projects undertaken by the Chapter which have directly addressed several environmental and beach access issues, and saved the citizens of Folly Beach a surprisingly large amount of taxpayer funds.

Members of Surfrider Foundation’s Rhode Island Chapter gathered on a sunny fall afternoon to participate in storm drain labeling. Activists adhered tiles with the message, “No dumping, drains to ocean,” to all storm drains along the seawall in Narragansett, RI. In conjunction with the labeling, a cleanup was held nearby, in an area that the Rhode Island Chapter has “Adopted.” This was the last cleanup of the summer season; members helped to keep this “Adopted” spot clean by participating in 10 cleanups held throughout the months of May to October. Following both events, members were treated to an assortment of delicious thin crust pizzas provided by local business Blue Wave Pizza, who has been a huge supporter of the Rhode Island Chapter.

A huge number of volunteers showed up to participate in the Rhode Island Chapter’s annual “Trick or Trash” fall beach cleanup on October 27, 2007. The Rhode Island Chapter partnered with Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, hosting an ECO-Depot for Household Hazardous Waste, Computer Monitor and Cell Phone drop offs. Cleanups were held at numerous beaches and surf breaks in both Newport and Narragansett. Volunteers were treated to a post-cleanup BBQ hosted by the Rhode Island Chapter. Thanks to Anchor Storage for providing us with a truck to haul supplies, Shaw’s Supermarkets, Belmont Market, Brickley’s Ice Cream and Blue Wave Pizza and to Narragansett Rubbish Removal for hauling away the enormous amount of trash that was picked up that day!
Surfrider Foundation’s New York City Chapter was honored by the NY City Parks Department for their outstanding work and its commitment to Rockaway Beach Park. The award was given at a luncheon sponsored by Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of the City Parks Foundation and the New York City Parks and Recreation Department. The Chapter has consistently been conducting beach cleanups in Rockaway led by Alexi Remnek. They’ve also advocated for new surfing beaches and conducted Respect the Beach programs for the Rockaway community.

Surfrider Foundation’s Central Long Island Chapter elected a new slate of officers in September. The Chapter would like to thank the out-going officers who served since the Chapter was formed including Joe Moses, Cari Beckerman, and Mike Weber. Joe and Cari worked especially hard as Chair and Volunteer Coordinator to get the newly-formed Chapter off the ground (or at least through the whitewater.)

Surfrider Foundation’s Jersey Shore Chapter staged a huge rally with 200 people to save a special part of Long Branch history from development. The privately-owned Takanassee Beach Club has been sold and is slated for development pending a coastal building permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJDEP. The five-acre site has beachfront and coastal lakefront property as well as three historic buildings that were built by the U.S. Lifesaving Service. The Lifesaving Service eventually turned into the Coast Guard. The Chapter wants this property to be turned into a public beach since it already has parking and facilities. This stretch of Long Branch called Elberon, has very little public access to the beach. Using Surfrider Foundation’s Action Network, over 600 messages were sent to DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson the day before the rally. As a result, the DEP has held off on issuing the permit.

Surfrider Foundation’s Eastern Long Island Chapter continues to fight for surfing access at Montauk Point State Park. Another round of meetings with park officials and fishing interests was unproductive. But the Chapter has successfully fought (and continues to fight) the tickets in court thanks to attorney and Chapter activist Joe Giannini. The Chapter has also met with elected officials to convince them that moving the Montauk Lighthouse is the best way to save it for future generations. The Army Corps of Engineers has a plan to build yet another rock revetment at the Lighthouse base, but the Chapter has argued that moving the structure is the most cost-effective and environmentally-sound plan.
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
This winter is forecasted to be a snowy one for Oregon and the Surfrider Foundation Portland Chapter has been preparing for the season with new faces and partners with their Snowrider Program.

“The 07-08’ snow season will see us tabling regularly at Timberline Lodge and Mt. Hood Ski Bowl, producing a Public Service Announcement multimedia project for use at Mt. Hood Ski & Snowboard camps, working to create long-term partnerships with key stakeholders, and enthusiastically organizing creative fundraising opportunities”, says new Snowrider Coordinator Michael Halle. During the month of October, the Portland Chapter organized, “The Art of Surfing” a group month-long art show and Surfrider Foundation fundraiser at Visage Gallery in Portland. The show featured surf artists throughout the month of October from all over the Pacific Northwest region including Spencer Reynolds, Andrew Rodman, Nellyda Anslow, and John Holm. The opening attracted over 300 surfers, activists and those curious about the hub-bub. Thanks to Kona Brewing and Mcmenamins Edgefield Wines for donating the libations.

Central Coast Chapter
The Nye Beach and Watershed Campaign still remains central to Surfrider Foundation Central Coast Chapter’s core issues. The Chapter has now expanded research and monitoring efforts within the watershed into partnerships with OSU Extension’s After School Programming. Additional data and mapping will be carried out through the efforts of local middle school students in the after school program to support the campaign efforts. Additionally, a group of youth volunteers at the Oregon Coast Aquarium have established Nye A.R.M.S. (Assessment, Research, Monitoring and Stewardship). The group will be working with the Chapter, local officials, and the after school program to promote the campaign, continued monitoring and stewardship. Most recently, the Chapter recommended the City of Newport Council and Planning Commission to create a watershed protection plan and ordinances for urban watersheds. The city responded with an open door for suggestions and recommendations on the development of this plan. The city council unanimously supported Surfrider Foundation’s effort and charged the city manager and attorney to work with the chapter on the development of a plan.

“...” says Chapter Chair Greg Niles.

Surfrider Foundation’s Florence Organizing Committee has gotten off to a booming start, organizing around two major campaigns and hosting events after only a couple of meetings! Much of this work is in thanks to historical organizing from folks like Gus Gates, Mark Chandler, and John Morris, laying an early foundation for Surfrider Foundation members in the Florence area. After attending the Northwest Regional Conference in August 2007, Gus brought back some great energy and organizing to the local group and led the way to the group hosting a local Marine Reserve Forum with members from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, tabling and representation at the Heceta Head Coastal Conference, and campaign planning for two new campaigns: Harbor Vista: User Fee/Access and Wave Energy–Florence Jetty.
Surfrider Foundation’s South Coast activists and organizers are prepping for a busy Blue Water Task Force season. Surfrider Foundation’s two south coast labs, Port Orford and Charleston, continue to collect and sample recreational beaches with some exciting new projects on the horizon for storm season. This year, Jared Tarr, our Port Orford Blue Water intern, is partnering with the Curry Watershed Council’s Storm Chaser program to better understand storm and high volume rain impacts on local near-shore waters. Storm Chasers has been documenting local water quality in the terrestrial watershed for years during and after storm events. Jared will start sampling and correlating near-shore water quality during these same events, helping to document and report local land-sea connections. These efforts are also part of a much larger cooperative project to help define and better understand a marine and terrestrial stewardship area through our Port Orford Ocean Resource Team partnership. Surfrider Foundation and local volunteers are helping to develop land-use planning and zoning recommendations, making terrestrial links to the condition and future protection of the near-shore stewardship area.

Surfrider Foundation’s Seattle Chapter recently participated in the Get Snowed In Event at Pyramid Brewery, which benefits the Surfrider Foundation’s Snowrider Project. The show’s headlining bands were The Presidents of the USA and The Dandy Warhols. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this event possible.

Surfrider Foundation’s South Sound Organizing Committee is becoming active in the South Puget Sound area. They have had many beach cleanups in Grays Harbor County, specifically Twin Harbors State Park, involving every age group. They continue to work on a federal bill to fund a rescue tug in Neah Bay, Washington. This past fall and over the winter the South Sound Organizing Committee will be hosting many events in South Puget Sound and Grays Harbor County. They are in the middle of a huge recruitment drive and are beginning to create a plan for the next two years. If you have ideas or just want to get involved in your community or on your college campus come to the meetings the second Tuesday of the month in Olympia, Washington.

Recently, the Surfrider Foundation Northwest Straits Chapter kicked off its 3rd Annual Soundwaves Benefit Concert. This year was the biggest and most successful event. It was open to all ages and had ten local bands and over $3000 in donated auction/raffle items. Members of the Hoh River Indian Tribe from the beautiful Olympic Peninsula Coast blessed the event with native songs and drums. The storm that had been looming just offshore also began to move in, but the people still came. Maybe it was “Northwestern audaciousness” that brought them out that day. Whatever it was they came, they stayed, they got wet, and they had a great time. The 2008 season will be a very exciting one for the Northwest Straits Chapter as it marks their decadal anniversary in Whatcom County and as the longest-running Western Washington University Club! The Chapter has much to be excited about on their tenth birthday with such great programs to work with!

This past fall Surfrider Foundation’s Olympic Peninsula Chapter has been focused on making the beaches they frequently use in Northwest Straits safer places to visit and enjoy. They had a trail maintenance work party and put loads of gravel on the trail and continue to fund temporary sanitation facilities (Port-A-Potties) at beaches that don’t have the facilities for beach enthusiasts to use. Please respect the beaches in the Olympic Peninsula, leave no traces that you were on the beach and purchase permits when needed. Thank you for the continued support to protect the beaches in the Olympic Peninsula region.

WEST COAST
Surfrider Foundation’s Newport Beach Chapter’s Teach & Test, an educational program of water-quality testing by high school students, has gotten the attention of the University of California Irvine, UCI. Familiar with the success of Teach & Test, which has been running since 1994 and now includes nine Orange County high schools, Dave Kiff, Assistant City Manager of Newport Beach, invited the Newport Beach Chapter to participate in the education component of the new Back Bay Science Center, a partnership of the City of Newport Beach, Orange County Health Department, California Department of Fish & Game and the University of California Irvine. As a result, the Chapter is now working with Dr. Bill Cooper of UCI’s Urban Water Research Center to provide students who’ve been bitten by the science bug through their participation in the Teach & Test program an opportunity to pursue areas of interest with support from UCI.

Recently, at the Vet’s Hall on the pier in Cayucos, Surfrider Foundation’s San Luis Bay Chapter celebrated the 5th Annual Free Fall Art Benefit. The all-day family-friendly event, coordinated by former Chapter Chair Matt Fleming, showcased the rich cultural attributes of San Luis Obispo County and featured over 40 artists of various media, a silent auction, a shapers’ bay, education booths, native tree giveaways, seven acoustic and music performances, and Surfrider Foundation outreach.

Each year, the spirit of environmental stewardship is enhanced by the implementation of a composting and recycling plan, which has enabled the Free Fall Art Show to annually generate less than one bag of trash! Funds raised from the event will go towards the Chapter’s water-quality monitoring program and the solution-based “Appropriate Technologies” implementation campaign.

San Luis Bay Chapter Recycling Team Monitors, Paul & Ben, display the single bag of trash generated at the 5th Annual Free Fall Art Benefit and prove that “Styrofoam sucks!”
October was a busy month for the Surfrider Foundation’s **Monterey Chapter**, including two productive General Meetings, a fabulous fundraiser, and a truly entertaining tabling weekend at the Monterey Music Summit with live background music by such notables as **Cake**, **G Love & Special Sauce**, and **The Roots**. At the first General Meeting the Chapter was honored to host guest speaker David Wilmot, Surfrider Foundation National Boardmember and Ocean Champion. By sharing his unique understanding of ocean advocacy and policy-making, he fomented activism in many first-time audience members.

Then came the fundraiser at the **Pelican Tavern** in Pacific Grove. Well over a hundred people came out to the event, which featured Taylor Steele’s film “Slipping Jetstreams” on five screens, local surf footage from Steve Spaulding, local surf musicians, and special musical guests The Hallway Ballers. Many thanks go to **Studio 411** and **Taylor Steele** for allowing the Chapter to use the film, **On The Beach, Sunshine Freestyle**, and **Liquid** surf shops for donating fresh gear for the raffle, and **Southern Wine and Spirits** for their beverage donations. That Friday night was followed by nearly 48 hours of rock-star tabling at the Music Summit. In top form, volunteers cut the grass rug while signing up a continuous line of festival-goers. With a beautifully montaged broken surfboard by Lara Pierson and a glass fish full of bottle caps saved from beach cleanups, Surfrider Foundation’s fanciful table garnered much praise.

And finally, to round the month out, the Monterey Chapter held Executive Committee elections in October 2007. Surfrider Foundation would like to welcome and congratulate **Tony Tersol**, **Steve Donahue**, **Kendra Sand**, **Vanessa Ricciardi**, **Mark Bowen**, **Steele Clark**, and **Naima Chaves-Ely** as the new chapter executive committee.

Surfrider Foundation’s **San Mateo County Chapter** recently participated in Coastal Cleanup Day by organizing a special cleanup of the beach at Tunitas Creek. The location posed special challenges, as the beach is reached by descending a cliff along a steep path, at one point with the aid of a rope. This difficult access also meant that the beautiful beach was very much in need of a cleanup, as beachgoers often fail to carry their trash back up the cliff. Thirty-one adventurous volunteers, ranging in age from ten to sixty, were careful not to disturb threatened snowy plovers nesting near the creek, and were treated to a display of dolphins surfing the beach break.
Volunteers found many cigarette butts and bottles, and the twisted wreckage of a burned shopping cart. The City of Half Moon Bay assisted by hauling a 92-lb wheel up the cliff. In total, 630 pounds of trash and recyclables—over a quarter of a ton—were removed from the beach and carried away by sponsor Junk General in a truck powered by biodiesel derived from waste vegetable oil.

Surfrider Foundation’s San Francisco Chapter first got word of the major oil spill hitting their coastline on Wednesday night at their November Chapter meeting, where an activist mentioned that 100 gallons had leaked into the bay. By the next morning, officials admitted they had grossly understated the spill, and the official amount was actually 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel that spilled into San Francisco Bay. Chapter activists hit the phones, email, and the streets to immediately respond to the deluge of emails from volunteer members asking how to get involved.

Meanwhile, Chapter activists were in close communication with several local activists who took it upon themselves to find and rescue wildlife and begin the cleanup process. What started as a couple of people filling a void in the official efforts resulted in an overnight grassroots effort. They focused their efforts on Ocean Beach for the weekend. Saturday saw roughly 200 volunteers on the beaches; Sunday there were roughly 1,000. Donations of food, tools, and equipment flooded in to the unofficial cleanup group as volunteers were mobilized onto the beaches to collect oil splotches with organic hair mats. A combination of media coverage and undeniable strength in numbers resulted in more official support for the beach. By Monday morning, the Chapter had secured training for volunteers and several specialized cleanup crews were focused on Ocean Beach. The San Francisco Chapter made a difference! Activists also added signs along Ocean Beach, as no authorities wanted to take the time to post the beach as a potentially hazardous place for the uninformed. According to the National Parks Service, “Ocean Beach is a hard beach to close.”

Q. How many volunteers turned out to the beach to help and how did you rally them?
A. Although they DID try to arrest us on Saturday, we got our hands on some donated hair mats to help with the oil cleanup and just went down to the beach anyways. On the first day (Friday) we had 50 people show up. Saturday there were 200 people, on Sunday there were 1,000-plus and by Monday we had over 3,000 down there helping. We also had tons of help from local businesses who donated everything from HAZMAT suits and gloves to hot coffee and pizza for the volunteers. It was amazing and there was really no need to “rally” anyone there were just a lot of intelligent people that wanted to do a positive thing. It wasn’t a rally, it was an opportunity.

Q. So how did the volunteer effort come about?
A. Well let me put it this way: We heard about the spill on Wednesday and we were unhappy with the official response to the San Francisco Oil Spill, concerned residents quickly mobilized to form an army of volunteers to help clean up the oil stained beaches. This grass-roots effort has become the organization “Kill The Spill.” Surfrider Foundation caught up with its co-founder Byron Cleary to find out just what went down during the days that followed that awful spill.

Q. How will the spill affect San Francisco’s beaches into the future?
A. Well, on Wednesday evening we had heard that 140 gallons had spilt into the bay. However, by morning that report had changed and now we were dealing with a 58,000-gallon spill. Kathleen Segan and I went down to the command center to see how we could help, but there wasn’t a whole lot going on besides press conferences. The cleanup effort was going nowhere and we basically just sat around all day waiting for the opportunity to help. That night instead of the weekly evening mountain bike ride that I do with friends, we decided to take our bike night lighting gear down to the beach. What we saw was unbelievable! Thousands of oiled birds all over the beach. What started out as just a site survey became a full-blown rescue effort. We gathered as many birds as we could and tried to keep them warm. Then we brought them to a gal at UC Davis who was involved in the bird rescue efforts.

The next morning we went back to the beach at sunrise and what we saw was gnarly. Along with the thousands of oiled birds we also saw oiled porpoises that were beached and listless. It was disgusting. The National Parks Service ordered us off the beach though, saying our presence there was illegal. We called the hotline again to see how we could help and they said they were full up on volunteers and couldn’t use us.

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Q. It appears that your efforts have resulted in the “officials” re-evaluating their standard operating procedure. Is this the case?
A. That is DEFINITELY the case. We’ve had nothing but thank yous from members of the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA.

Q. How will the spill affect San Francisco’s beaches into the future?
A. Well let me put it this way: We heard about the spill on Wednesday and we were not officially endorsed as a volunteer effort until the following Monday at 1:00 pm. I can guarantee that will never happen again. If there is another spill we will be down there right away and I feel that the organizations in charge of the cleanup efforts will recognize and support our efforts right away.
Surfrider Foundation members in Japan are protesting against the Rokkashu Nuclear Waste Reprocessing Plant located about 435 miles north of Tokyo at Rokkasho-mura in Aomori prefecture. Expected to be fully operational by February 2008, the plant has been under construction for more than 20 years at a massive cost of some USD 21 billion.

When in full operation it is estimated that the plant will extract from spent nuclear fuel as much as 7-8 tons of plutonium annually, with the plutonium produced being one of the most radioactive elements found on earth. In one day alone, the discharge will equal a year’s worth of radiation produced from a typical nuclear power plant, and that will quickly disperse into the atmosphere and water on a daily basis.

While it is purported that the end product will be reused as an energy source, for the most part it remains unclear what the Rokkasho plant’s policy for handling and use of this plutonium will be. A Greenpeace-commissioned study has calculated that global radiation doses to humans from the Rokkasho plant releases are likely to be similar in magnitude to the collective dose from the Chernobyl disaster that occurred over 21 years ago.

Simply stated, this facility poses huge environmental and health threats that are frightening, particularly when those in control appear to be the least informed. In response to protests against the reprocessing plant, the Japanese government has stated, “there is no problem regarding radiation as it is diluted enough by the ocean and the atmosphere and it does not affect human health.”

And, according to a 2006 radiation investigation report made by the Aomori prefecture referencing the Rokkasho plant, it was concluded that, “as ocean water wasn’t usually taken in by humans it therefore shouldn’t be considered a problem.”

However, we do know that radiation does steal its way into the earth contaminating human, agricultural and marine life, threatening the safety of food supplies and lives. For example, it is well documented from events surrounding nuclear reprocessing plants in England and France that the incidence of leukemia tended to be high among kids. Surfers and musicians in Japan are determined to stop the Rokkasho plant. Together they have organized a tour called “Wavement” to raise awareness of the huge risks that the plant poses. The tour recently kicked off in Japan’s most popular surfing area, Shonan, 31 miles southwest of Tokyo, and traveled north along the eastern coastlines of Japan creating awareness amongst surfers through discussion forums, music and arts. Quickly becoming a collective effort, the group has joined forces with farmers and fishermen who fear their livelihoods are at great risk.

Asako Oya of Surfrider Foundation Japan, is hoping that their protests will be heard, “We are standing up against our country itself which is not a small thing! It is said that there are 2,000,000 surfers in Japan. If we could get every one of those surfers to campaign with us we could be very successful and that’s what we’re working on right now.”

Surfrider Foundation Japan has also started a petition drive against the operation of the Rokkasho plant and against the possible discharge of radiation into the atmosphere and ocean. The petition form can be downloaded at www.surfrider.jp. Please support this effort!

Michelle is a frequent contributor to Making Waves.
SURFRIDER FOUNDATION FEATURED MERCHANDISE

GLOBAL SURF CALENDAR 2008
12-month calendar showcases surf spots from around the world
$12.95

ROBB HAVASSY 2008 CALENDAR
12-month calendar showcases Robb Havassy's art
$15.95

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION BEACH TOWEL
blue with white print
$30

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION BEACH BLANKET/THROW
perfect for a warm day at the beach or cozying up on a winter evening – 100% cotton – 50” x 60” blue & white weave
$39.95

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