The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world’s waves, oceans and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

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## TIDE CHARTS

### TRACKING THE EBB AND FLOW OF COASTAL ENVIRONMENTALISM

*Offshore Drilling*

Three oil companies, led by Chevron, recently announced that they have found potentially the largest American oil find in a generation off the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. While this oil field area could potentially yield a fifty percent increase for US oil reserves, the oil supply in this new area would meet America’s oil needs for two years at most. Do the math.

*Mid-Atlantic Beach Fill*

Profound shore break, which Mid-Atlantic beaches are notorious for, contributes to some swimming injuries. However, check out this statistic published by the Delaware State News: In 2004, there were 12 spinal cord injuries in Rehoboth Beach, and in 2005 — the year a beach replenishment was completed — there were 38.

*Surf Industry*

As concern for coastal damage and polluted beaches increases, surf apparel companies are making more prudent fabric-material choices. At the recent ASR trade show in San Diego, companies highlighted fabrics like organic cotton, hemp and bamboo. They also featured shoes made with less toxic materials. And they were still stylin’.

*Sonic Pollution*

According to an article published by Environmental News Service, “The expanding global shipping trade is making the underwater world a noisier environment, with unknown effects on marine life, according to a new study of California offshore waters published [last month]. The study shows a tenfold increase in underwater ocean noise off the coast of Southern California as compared with the same area in the 1960s.”

*Chinese tuna fishing boats waiting to purchase surplus tuna that the U.S. factories in American Samoa could not process. Photo by Wolcott Henry. Endangered deep-sea coral habitat - Coronaster briareus at 1753-feet deep. Photo by Sandra Brooke.*

(Back) San Diego Surfrider Chapter’s Paddle Out for Clean Water at Ocean Beach. Photo by Scott Harrison.
I've never been impressed by the smartest person in the room. I need more than that. Those people whose lives only revolved around acing the SATs or having the highest GPAs always seemed... boring to me. I've always felt that intelligence alone isn't a good barometer for success, a meaningful measure of value or, in the end, the defining attribute of someone I want to spend time with. One-dimensional people get stale fast. Sure intelligence is notable, but what impresses me more than that is the potent mix of smarts and passion. The only thing better is an insatiable intellect combined with a seemingly endless supply of passion and a strong bent for action. Pow. That's when the superpowers seem to kick in.

The mix of intelligence, passion and action is the essence of the Surfrider Foundation.

Ericka D’Avanzo has that mix. Ericka was instrumental in many New York metropolitan campaigns. She moved to Florida, studied the unique local issues tirelessly and in a short time has set records in fending off an onslaught of challenges on the Florida shores.

Eugene Alper has that mix. He reinvigorated the Eastern Long Island chapter by straightforwardly applying our chapter resource guides and helped build local coastal-conservation muscle. A year or so later the local successes came rolling in.

Sergio Mello has that mix. He came to our International Affiliate meeting last year, was chatting with global Surfrider supporters via Skype weeks later and managed to coordinate a Jack Johnson / Samba-fueled beach cleanup in Rio a few months later.

Pete Stauffer has that mix. He went from being a Maui-based windsurf instructor to a Washington DC-based policy wonk, all the while dipping his toes in the Surfrider Kool Aid. Today he’s one of our Pacific Northwest powerhouses driving policy changes that will help keep his new home of Oregon the gem of the Pacific Northwest it is today.

Marco Gonzalez has that mix. Marco may never have turned down an opportunity to argue a point; he’s a smart lawyer with adrenaline and a love of our coasts. His mix of smarts and action has enabled him to help build our San Diego chapter into the powerhouse it is today.

Dr. Rick Wilson has the mix. Rick isn’t a doctor but the title seems to fit. His work at Surfrider is an endless study... with one heck of an output. He is the core author of the annual 500-page State of the Beach report, highlighted in this issue. It is the seminal source for a national report card on our nation’s beaches.

What about you? You have the ingredients to make a large impact in your region if you bring the elements together. Go to the next chapter meeting: find that unique place to plug in.

Go.

Jim Moriarty
Executive Director
What if there was an easy-to-navigate online "coastal encyclopedia" that allowed you to quickly find information on coastal access in Massachusetts, beach-erosion data in New Jersey, information on beach-fill projects in Florida and water-quality monitoring program data throughout California? Plus, what if you wanted to compare coastal-access policies among several states or see how different states dealt with the issue of seawalls along their coast? How could you find out if any states had programs or collected data regarding beach ecology?

The good news is all this information is literally at your fingertips, a few mouse clicks away. Surfrider Foundation's 2006 State of the Beach report is now available on our website at www.surfrider.org/stateofthebeach.

Now in its seventh year, this annual report is quite simply the most comprehensive document chronicling the health of our nation's beaches and coastlines in existence today. And recently, both the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy have issued reports that validate our concerns.

The State of the Beach report is very unique. There is, literally, no other document in existence that provides information on, and evaluates the status of, our nine "beach-health indicators" (beach access, surf-zone water quality, erosion data, erosion response, beach fill, shoreline structures, beach ecology, surfing areas and websites) for 24 coastal states and territories. For each of these indicators, we evaluate and provide a one to ten rating on the amount of easily available information and the status of the indicator. For instance, there may be plentiful information on beach water-quality in a particular state, but the access ways may be hidden or poorly marked with no online or printed access guides. In this case, the information rating would be low while the status rating would be high.

With six years of reports and monitoring behind us, we feel that we have established a baseline in assessing the beach health for nearly all of the coastal states across the country. This report is a resource, which can help both our chapters and members of the public in their efforts to further beach and shoreline conservation.

In each section of each state report, numerous links are listed to provide easy access to additional information, such as data and reports produced by state agencies, academic institutions and other organizations. Where information is available, the status of recent and current coastal projects is discussed. Of course, many of these same projects are issues for our 60-plus chapters. In the Surfing Areas section of each state report we provide links to each of our local chapter websites. Accessing these sections, Surfrider members are given the chance to "plug in" and identify an issue that could turn a passive member into an activist. It also gives the general public a window into the world of Surfrider that may help recruit additional people concerned about protecting the oceans, waves and beaches.

Featured Indicator – Shoreline Structures

Each year our report focuses on a particular beach-health indicator. This year it's shoreline structures – those ugly seawalls, revetments and other structures designed to protect buildings, roads and other infrastructure that we've built too close to eroding coasts. Although it would be hard to find anyone whose vision of the beach includes a seawall or rock revetment, the sad reality is that an increasing percentage of our coastline around the country is being armored. The ultimate, inevitable end result? – no beaches. Go to the "Beach Indicator" section of the report, then to "Indicator Focus" to learn
more about why shoreline structures are bad for our beaches and to read about and see photos of some of the more egregious examples of beach-destroying projects.

While you’re in that section of the report, you can view discussions of each beach-health indicator to see what criteria we use to evaluate state performance. Also, visit the “Indicator Issues” subsection and see a quick summary of some of the hot coastal issues around the country.

Another method we’ve used to illustrate shoreline-structure issues in each state, is that on each state home page there is a list of beach-health indicators. Although these run the gamut among all our nine beach-health indicators, we’ve pulled out many that highlight shoreline-structure issues.

Duck Diving Deeper – Hidden Treasures

The State of the Beach report is more than just the reports on beach conditions in each state. Check out the “Bad and Rad” lists of events and policies that are indicators of what’s going wrong and what’s going right along our coasts. Along the same lines, the “For CZMs” section provides examples of state programs that we believe should be models for other states. These programs help illustrate how to protect our coastal resources and also allow enjoyment of those resources by all of us. Drop in to the “Perspectives” section to read thoughtful articles written by Surfrider staff, activists and other environmentalists regarding the state of our beaches and coastal waters. Are you wondering what our coasts would be like if Surfrider Foundation could better influence public policy? Then read our “Beach Manifesto.”

The Report is Alive

Our online State of the Beach report is a living document. We’re continually updating it and adding new information. You can help us keep the report current and accurate by letting us know about any coastal studies, new or proposed policies, major coastal-development projects, water-pollution issues, etc. We also want to know if any links that we supply are bad – if they don’t work, let us know and we’ll fix them. You can give us feedback at http://www.surfrider.org/stateofthebeach/contact.asp

Print Version

If we printed our online 2006 State of the Beach report it would be more than 500 pages. We don’t know the actual page count because we’ve literally never printed the whole thing. That amount of tree destruction didn’t seem like a good thing for an environmental organization to do. However, we have produced a 52-page executive summary report, printed on 100-percent recycled Reincarnation Matte paper with 100-percent vegetable-based inks. If you would like a copy of this report (while supplies last), contact us via the feedback link noted above or email us at info@surfrider.org.

We hope that you read our report and make use of the information that we’ve gathered to help us in our mission to protect the oceans, waves and beaches.

CHINKED ARMOR

More than 10 percent of the California coastline is armored, with a much higher percentage of armoring occurring along Southern California beaches. Unfortunately, the pace of armoring is not slowing down, as evidenced by Surfrider Foundation’s efforts to fight new seawall or revetment projects in: Solana Beach, Dana Point and Santa Cruz in California; Barview, Oregon; Ocean Shores, Washington; Hull, Massachusetts and elsewhere.

All across the country, beaches and communities such as Spreckelsville Beach on Maui; Indian River and Broward Counties in Florida; Humarock Beach and Falmouth, Cape Cod in Massachusetts; Folly Beach, South Carolina; and the Hamptons and Fire Island in New York are left to suffer the consequences of past armoring projects, including sand loss, shoreline retreat and beach-ecology impacts.

Ironically, many of these projects were put in to “protect the beach.” However, in a natural setting, beaches usually do not need protection. It’s only when we see buildings placed too close to the shoreline and other projects such as dams and jetties which interrupt the natural sand supply – that we start seeing conditions that typically precipitate armoring.
The month of September marked the gathering of our Surfrider tribes to participate in Surfrider Foundation’s Third Annual Paddle Out for Clean Water. Chapters from all over the nation joined forces to show their support for clean water.

PORTLAND, OREGON
Over 20 participants paddled surfboards, kayaks, and rowboats on the Willamette River to raise awareness for a clean watershed. Jessica Hamilton, Governor Kulongoski’s ocean policy advisor was the featured speaker. The event also highlighted the Portland Chapter’s new water-quality testing program in the Willamette/Clackamas rivers. Thanks to David and the rest of the Portland Chapter organizers for putting on an awesome event!

EASTERN LONG ISLAND, N.J.
Members and friends of the Eastern Long Island Chapter paddled out at Ditch Plains Beach in Montauk, N.Y. The chapter’s environmental director, Thomas Muse, said a few words about local water-quality issues and the importance of clean water, and the group gave thanks for all our oceans have to offer. As they formed their circle of solidarity on a mostly flat and waveless day, a set of waves started to roll in.

JERSEY SHORE, N.J.
About 30 people paddled out in Loch Arbour and gathered in communion with the ocean, in the shadow of construction vehicles working on a wastewater-treatment plant. They paddled out by surfboard and by bodyboard, all to draw attention to the state’s beaches, as well as to raise awareness of water quality. Our South Jersey Chapter also participated in their area.

CENTRAL LONG ISLAND, N.J.
This chapter went beyond just paddling for clean water and made this event uniquely their own. They had over 80 paddlers in a circle commemorating their lost friends and heroes of 9-11. Surfers spoke the names of those they wanted to remember as they held hands and floated on the incoming swell from Florence. They also had a moment of silence for all the 9-11 families affected and wished for clean oceans for the world. Joe Moses, Chapter Chairman, lead the festivities. There was a BBQ with awesome local L.I. corn and other homemade goodies after the paddle out.

LAKE WORTH PIER, FLORIDA
Had an improved attendance from last year, with about 35 people there. Two dozen had boards and paddled out, including the Mayor.

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA
Had a successful event with around 80 attendees and about 40 paddlers! There were great speakers and raffle prizes.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
The Malibu/South Bay Chapter received a proclamation from the office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, our South Orange County chapter was in full-force down at the San Clemente Pier and our San Diego chapter braved a paddle out around the entire length of the Ocean Beach Pier for the 15th straight year!

Many other chapters participated and a great time was had by all.
FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS
The Sebastian Inlet Chapter saw some changes being made in the right direction in regards to their ongoing campaign to protect numerous surf breaks and NOAA-designated Essential Fish Habitat in Satellite Beach and Indian Harbour Beach. Army Corps officials rejected Brevard County’s proposed plan for a $40-million sand-pump project unless the project includes the roughly 43 acres of coquina reef that fish, sea turtles and other marine life inhabit. Since project alternatives still have the possibility of occurrence, Chapter Chair Rick Hayes spoke at the County Commission to encourage work towards a plan that would greatly decrease the impact on the community and environment.

The First Coast Chapter, and chapter activist Scott Shine, finally saw the fruit of their labor in their successful legal battle for beach access at Ponte Vedra Beach. Six months after a judge ruled that St. Johns County must clear obstructed beach-access paths, county workers started removing vegetation in five of the 14 access points along Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

TEXAS-COASTAL BEND CHAPTER
For decades the barrier islands that line the Texas Gulf Coast were pristine coastal areas with very little development, the only exception being the Galveston area. That certainly isn’t the case any longer! Developers have discovered Texas Gulf beaches in a big way and they have launched an all-out assault. Galveston, on the upper Texas Coast, to South Padre Island, on the lower Texas Coast, and all areas in between are facing serious beach issues. Beach erosion, private-property encroachment, over development and public-access issues are just some of the problems facing all four Texas Surfrider Chapters.

Currently, the hottest battle on the Coast is being fought by the Coastal Bend Chapter, which is located in Corpus Christi, Texas. Developers, realtors and land speculators have decided to back a Corpus Christi City Council ordinance that would restrict the public’s beach-access rights on 7,200 acres of coastline that was the barrier island with two long jetties that have built a huge resort at an area contained within this stretch of beach known as Packery Channel. The Packery Channel area is a new channel cut through the barrier island with two long jetties that have created new surf breaks and numerous fishing spots. It was created with public funds and was originally planned to have unrestricted access for the public to all parts.

The Coastal Bend Chapter, Central Texas Chapter, Texas Chapter and the South Texas Chapter have challenged the City’s ordinance on the grounds that it violates the Texas Open Beaches Act (TOBA). The TOBA was passed in 1995 to protect the public’s beach-access rights and over the past few years has come under heavy attack from big-money interests. In addition to using the TOBA to fight this issue, the Coastal Bend Chapter also joined forces with a number of other activist groups in the area to form the Beach Access Coalition. The Coalition was able to score a major victory with a successful petition campaign, gathering over 11,000 signatures on a petition that resulted in a lawsuit and petitions against the City’s ordinance to restrict access. The petition drive forced the City to place the issue on an April 2007 ballot for a public vote where the people will decide what’s best for their beaches.

DON’T MESS WITH TEXAS BEACHES!

OREGON
In June 2006, Newport, Ore. went through the final process of becoming an official chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Although Surfrider members have conducted water-quality testing at area beaches since 1999, new volunteer interest and a widened scope of activities now support the formation of an official chapter. Newport Surfrider volunteers partnered with the Oregon Coast Aquarium Youth Volunteer Program for weekly beach water testing along a 20-mile area of the Central Oregon coast. Water quality “hot spots” at Nye and Agate Beaches have been documented by this testing and brought to the attention of the Newport City Council and Dept of Human Services. The city responded by forming the “Mayor’s Workgroup on Water Quality” which meets monthly with the public to help improve health-advisory signage, streamline notification procedures, educate the public about water-quality issues, and identify source contributors of water pollution at local beaches. With funding assistance from a statewide Surfrider grant, the Newport Chapter is upgrading its testing equipment by investing in a new Quantitray testing system and refining testing protocols to enhance baseline-data credibility. Projects for the coming year include: developing a source identification plan for Nye and Agate Beaches, working towards obtaining EPA certification for the Aquarium lab, adopting a Hwy. 101 road clean-up area near Beverly Beach (in partnership with the Hug Gliding Club) and advocating for a stronger NPDES Permit for the Georgia Pacific Pulp and Paper Mill in Toledo, Ore.

Greg Niles, owner of Ocean Pulse Surfboards, is the new Chapter Chairperson and may be contacted at (541) 265-7745 or oceanpulse@cable speed.com.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
On August 8th the stars came out to Costa Mesa, Calif. to support the Living Room Salon and Art Gallery’s 4th Annual Cut-a-thon and “Evening Extravaganza” to benefit the Surfrider Foundation. Paris Hilton, celebrity DJ and model Caroline D’Amore, Kevin and Christine Costner, Kim Kardashain, Jillian Barberie-Reynolds and husband Grant Reynolds, Rick Deckert, “Laguna Beach” cast members, Masiela Lusha, Rob Pinkston, Lindsey Shaw, Camille Solarri, Briana Deutsch, and more ventured south to Costa Mesa to support the worthy cause.

Guests enjoyed a fashion show hosted by Jillian Barberie that featured designs from Newport Beach’s own Jennifer Croll boutique, including the brand-new 2007 swimwear collection by Vitamin A.

Paris Hilton was thrilled to come out for the event to support her best pal, Caroline D’Amore, as Caroline hit the runway and also while she spun her favorite tunes.

Paris expressed her support for the foundation when she shared, “I love the ocean. I love the beach... and I want to be sure it’s a healthy, clean place for my grandchildren to enjoy one day, so I support Surfrider.”

Kevin Costner, who has a beach house just south of Santa Barbara, shared his support for the Surfrider Foundation, as well. “We need to keep our beaches and oceans clean, and our friends at Surfrider need our support to do so.”

Surfrider Foundation would like to thank event sponsors Svedka Vodka, Hyptioniq, Red Bull, Southern Wind and Spirits, Sprinkles Cupcakes, Chronic Taco, Memphis, Mi Cass, Roman Cucina, Jack Shrimp, Earthpack, FOAM Magazine, Water Magazine, Dermalogica, ghd, Duwop, Philosophy, GoSmile, Equinox, Comptoir Sud Pacifique, Interiors by Decorating Den, Jennifer Croll, SIIIG, Too Faced, the Lost Bean and more.

A very special thank you to the Living Room salon owners and their outstanding staff, Amy Denoon and Shannon Mahoney of Scoop PR and the many volunteers who donated their time to help make this event such a wonderful success. The event raised $12,000 and we signed up 30 new members which contributes toward our efforts for coastal protection and preservation.

EAST COAST
The Rhode Island Chapter is working to improve the way the town of Narragansett cleans the beach. The town rakes the beach to remove seaweed and debris, but they dump it in a corner of the beach. As expected, this debris pile is full of plastics and litter. The Chapter is urging the town to find another solution because the current method violates Rhode Island laws.

The New York City Chapter teamed up with Quicksilver and Kelly Slater for the New York premier of his movie Letting Go. It was one of the Chapter’s most successful fundraisers ever.

A dozen kids and their adult mentors learned about the water cycle and watersheds as well as how to catch waves at NYC’s Rockaway Beach. Erik Johnson and other chapter volunteers worked with Stoked Mentoring to teach this environmental education and surfing know-how over the course of eight weeks this summer.
In September 2007, Surfrider Foundation, Brazil organized a clean up in partnership with PADI's A.W.A.R.E. Project. Focusing on Angra dos Reis, a municipality that contains approximately 360 islands and is located two hours south of Rio de Janeiro, 200 volunteers participated with the aid of two Catamarans and two diving boats.

Three groups were organized. One group focused on a beach called Praia da Vila do Frade. The second group was formed by a group of 40 divers that focused on an area close to an island called Josefa. And the third group gathered at a beach called Praia do Dentista on Gipoia Island.

Most notably, there was a group of 10 kids from Project Rocinha Surf Club (based in Rio's slums) that participated in the clean up. For these kids who had never been to a resort, on a boat or on an island, it was a stimulating experience. The kids that participated in this field trip were chosen based on their commitment to the project and their grades in school. It was a special reward/ prize for them. They were all stoked on life due to this experience.

Bocao, the community leader, said “this kind of reward is priceless and is very stimulating for the kids. It makes them want to improve and gives them something to look up to.”

This project was sponsored by Frade Golf Resort, E-brigade and was organized in partnership with PADI.

The objective was to clean up as much as possible and compare the amounts and types of pollution/waste found in these three different areas.

On the beaches of Praia da Vila do Frade they collected lots of cigarette butts, plastic bottles, condoms, plastic wrap, straws and other litter. Most of this waste was produced by the local community. Total = Approx. 100 kilos.

The diving team found mostly leftovers from houses built on the islands. These items included paint cans and brushes, working boots, rakes, shovels and even wheelbarrows. They also gathered car tires, pesticide cans and bottles. Total = Approx. 350 kilos.

On the beaches of Praia do Dentista on Gipoia Island they found fishermen’s and beachgoers’ leftover material such as Styrofoam, fishing nets, ropes, plastic covers, plastic and glass bottles, beach chairs, cans and plastic wrap. Total = Approx. 750 kilos.

In all, they collected more than one ton of waste. If you project this number based on the number of islands x the number of houses in this area, we estimate that millions of tons of waste pollute this region's fragile ecosystem. This region also suffers from the lack of appropriate sewage-treatment plants and the adverse effects of a nearby petroleum terminal.

Surfrider Foundation, Brazil is organizing their next clean-up for March 2007 and is aiming to get at least three times as many volunteers so we can triple the reach of our clean up. Through this, they hope to create public awareness and an environmental education platform.
Stop Global Warming: The Solution is You! An Activist’s Guide
By Laurie David. Fulcrum Publishing. 70 pgs.

If you’ve ever watched TV’s Seinfeld or Curb Your Enthusiasm, then you’ve probably heard of Larry David. But if you care about the planet that we live on then it’s his wife, Laurie David, you should be paying attention to.

As former Vice President, Al Gore, says, “Laurie David has done more than any one person I know to raise awareness of the climate crisis.”

Laurie is the founder of the Virtual March to Stop Global Warming – www.stopglobalwarming.org (Go online right now and join this “march”. You won’t be sorry you did.) – an internet campaign launched in 2005 with Senator John McCain and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. She is the creator of the award-winning comedy special Earth to America! and helped to produce the recent documentaries An Inconvenient Truth and HBO’s Too Hot NOT to Handle. Now she’s released this brief, yet powerful book that is a must-read for all of us.

The book opens with a “big tent” mentality and points out that global warming is not an issue based on race, gender, politics or nationality and that, ultimately, all humans are environmentalists. She then briefly lays out the science so there can be no dispute that global warming is real and urgent. She follows up with a retelling of how she became an activist on this issue, joined the fight and eventually took a leadership role in placing it in the spotlight. Finally, she ends with a chapter on what each of us can do to slow (and perhaps stop) the trend of global warming. She doesn’t expect you to adopt all of her suggestions. She even encourages the reader to take small, gradual steps to change their behavior. But, she does ask that each of us do something and commit to doing it completely. As she says, “Do your 10 percent, 100 percent . . .”

Interlaced with quotes from celebrities, politicians, scientists and the media, and with excerpts from her blog that point to timely and newsworthy examples of the issues she covers, Laurie David’s book is an easy, fun, informative and important read. At only $9.95 retail, it will make a great stocking stuffer for all your family and friends this holiday season.

Making Waves readers can act now and receive a 25% discount on the purchase of Stop Global Warming: The Solution is You! Visit www.fulcrumbooks.com and at checkout enter the promotional code PINTAIL06.

Surfer’s Code: 12 Simple Lessons for Riding Through Life
By Shaun Tomson with Patrick Moser. Gibbs Smith, Publisher. 192 pgs.

The sport of surfing has many great figures in its history. And one of its very best ambassadors is Shaun Tomson. The 14-year veteran of the World Tour and 1977’s World Champion compiled a 12-part “code” for surfers a number of years back. Since that time he has printed up cards with the 12 commitments and handed them out to surfers all over the globe - from top pros to intermediate groms to complete beginners. As with any code they’re meant to be a system of principles for surfers to live by . . . to both give and get respect . . . in the water and out.

Now Tomson has expanded upon the cards he used to hand out. He’s added personal stories and lessons learned to explain the 12 principles and give examples of each in an easily understandable format. Most of the stories center on his career and many are taken from his experiences surfing. Others focus on decisions he made in life and in business, wisdom passed down from his father, and even a touching experience where his son took on the role of teacher.

Surfers will especially enjoy the narratives where Shaun serves up some of the history of the early pro surfing circuit. And his descriptions of waves he’s surfed and experiences he’s had in the water will capture the interest of anyone who’s ever ridden a wave or enjoyed the ocean. Throughout the book, co-writer Patrick Moser shows what a class-act Tomson is and seizes on his compassion, generosity and sense of family, while also capturing his sense of humor, competitiveness, love of the ocean, and love for the sport of surfing. The book also features photos by some of surfing’s great lensmen including Divine, Merkel, Stoner and Wilkins.

Filled with lessons to live your life by, this book will be a treat for surfers and non-surfers alike. And, if everyone were to pick up a copy of this book perhaps we’d have more “noble” people like Shaun in the lineup - and in life.
Ellis Pickett is a fifth generation Texan who lives in Liberty, Texas, about 55 miles from the coast and is one of the primary catalysts for the formation of the Texas Chapter, the growth of our Texas chapter network and too many campaign successes to name in this short piece.

Although he started networking with people in 1994 to organize a chapter, it was a September 1998 tropical storm named Frances that finally lit the match. The day after the storm, he was at Surfside Beach waxing his board to catch the waning swell. He looked around to see 30-plus houses on the public beach due to storm erosion. Their septic tanks, water lines and other debris littered the beach and stood out. He surveyed the situation and thought to himself, “the developers and property owners are going to try to solve this erosion problem - and they don’t surf.” That’s when he made up his mind to do something to save our waves and beaches.

Sometimes good things come out of bad. The erosion caused by tropical storm Frances was truly disastrous, but it was the best thing to happen to Surfrider Foundation in Texas. The 106 houses left on the public beach along the north coast of Texas became the lightning rod. The media reported that property owners wanted to build 30 miles of breakwater to stop the waves - waves that thousands of people surf on and enjoy.

Four weeks later, they held their first chapter-organizing meeting in Houston, with 55 people in attendance and in January 1999, they became the first chapter on the coast between California and Florida.

In Ellis’ own words, “For me, the best Surfrider Foundation experience has been the great people I have been fortunate to meet. Surfing is pretty much an individual sport. We spend most of our time bobbing up and down in the water and the most we might say is ‘my wave’ or possibly ‘nice wave.’ Surfrider has given Texas surfers an opportunity to get to know each other.”

Ellis chalks up the success and growth of Surfrider in Texas to three fundamental keys: teamwork, self-education and the Texas Open Beaches Act (TOBA).

“In the beginning most of us knew nothing about coastal science or law, or the TOBA,” says Picket. “Early on, we recognized that we had to know more about the science, the law and the TOBA than anyone in the room on any given day, on any coastal issue. We also recognized that the TOBA was the choke point for coastal development and access issues. We focused on the legislature and the Texas General Land Office (the agency in charge of the coast) through grassroots outreach.”

Texas Chapter activists have evolved from a bunch of surfers and beach users – with a limited view of coastal development, science, and politics – into a true power base of grassroots organizing. They have earned a reputation as knowledgeable and reasonable negotiators. The Texas Office of the Attorney General at one time refused to have any contact with their chapter. The AG’s office now uses them as a resource and sounding board, as do other state and local officials. The media contacts them for articles and quotes. They have had a lot of success, but the thing that Ellis is most proud of is that we now have four Surfrider Foundation chapters in Texas, and I’ll bet money we have a fifth soon.

Of all the causes I support, beach access is one that deeply touches my heart and I happily send you a donation tonight to help your efforts in this area.

I grew up on the Jersey Shore and spent my childhood days on the beaches of Sea Bright, Long Branch, Asbury Park and many others in the area. Sea Bright was my personal favorite and there was an ocean-front retreat house owned by the local Jesuits who allowed us local kids to use their beach. However, the Jesuits were forced to sell their house to a developer and along with it went our beach access. It was horrible. The developer paid security guards to keep us all off the beach and, other than a small-town beach that was in disrepair, there was no other place for us to go. (The rest of the beachfront was owned by private beach clubs.) It was horrible -- I remember feeling like a criminal. Even as an adolescent, I could never understand why people had the ability to “own” a beach. It seemed completely unjust. Luckily, after the completion of a major N.J. beach-replenishment project (paid mostly by taxpayers), beach access to Sea Bright was greatly improved and now there are plenty of public paths to the shore (even public parking has been greatly improved).

I do wish you much luck in your work with Asbury Park to help assure that beach access is provided as part the new revitalization plan. As an adult, I’m now living in the Boston area, and my husband and I spend time during the summer and in the off-season with our three kids on Martha’s Vineyard. (We just bought an “inland” house on the island with another family.) While N.J. laws are certainly outdated, Massachusetts beach-access laws are completely archaic! The most beautiful beaches on the Vineyard (primarily Chilmark) are completely off-limits to the public. It’s sickening. Thankfully, I did learn through you guys that as long as we walk onto “town resident-only beaches” and do not park, the law is in our favor and legally, Chilmark can’t restrict our access. Of course, we haven’t tried this yet, but I’m willing to give it a go next summer. (And I may even bring a fishing pole for extra leverage!)

Please keep up the good work with helping people gain access to beaches nationwide. As a kid, I remember feeling a sense of rejection by not being able to just walk onto a beach and go swimming, and those feelings have definitely resurfaced as an adult on Martha’s Vineyard. I feel passionate about doing what I can to change things. It’s organizations like Surfrider, and groups in our own state like the Trustees of the Reservations and Land Bank, which have purchased private land and beaches for public use, that make it incredibly easy for me to make the choice to donate to the causes I’m passionate about. Thanks a million for all your work -- I’m a proud member.

-Chris McCue Potts
When you make a year-end outright gift to support our work you aren’t just giving money. You’re perpetuating your own values and those of the Surfrider Foundation -- a commitment to the protection, and enjoyment by all people, of the world’s oceans, waves and beaches. You’re making a statement that says, “I see what you’re doing and I want to make certain you keep doing it. Your values are my values.”

By making a gift to the Surfrider Foundation before December 31, you can help secure our vision for the future—to advance coastal-conservation victories and preserve that special wave, beach or coastline for future generations.

The end of the calendar year, especially, marks the time when many people think about making charitable gifts. If you itemize on your income tax returns, you’re able to deduct your charitable contributions during the past year. Then, when you calculate your deductions and the resulting tax savings, you may discover that you can make an even larger gift than you thought possible.

Why does it help? Because it makes the cost of donating a charitable gift less than the value received by the charity. Let’s look at an example:

Say a person who pays taxes at a 31 percent federal rate makes a gift of $1,000. It’s as if that person has actually spent only $690. The $310 difference is the tax that the donor would have paid anyway had no gift been made.

Without the deduction, the donor might make a gift of only $690 (the same cost). But because of the deduction, Surfrider Foundation benefits by $310 more. This means that the gift generates 45 percent more benefit to us because of the deduction. The effect of the deduction is that the higher your income tax bracket, the more you’ll save in taxes. Many states also allow an income tax deduction. The effect of the deduction is that the higher your income tax bracket, the more you’ll save in taxes. Many states also allow an income tax deduction. The effect of the deduction is that the higher your income tax bracket, the more you’ll save in taxes. Many states also allow an income tax deduction.

Do your giving early. This is especially true if you want to make a gift of stock or other non-cash assets. It also applies to life-income gifts (gift annuities, trust arrangements, etc.).

Consider a life-income gift. For those of our members who are over age 65, the Surfrider Foundation offers a variety of life-income plans to fit your needs. You can make a gift now, obtain tax benefits, and receive income for the rest of your life. Sound too good to be true? A few minutes of your time will convince you otherwise.

Don’t forget about gift matching. Many employers sponsor matching-gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. 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. Most companies match dollar for dollar, and some will double- or triple-match donor’s gifts. If your gift is eligible, simply request a matching-gift form from your employer, and send it - completed and signed - along with your gift, to:

Surfrider Foundation-Director of Development
PO Box 6010
San Clemente, CA 92674

For additional information and a variety of gift opportunities visit http://www.surfrider.org/support.asp or contact our Director of Development, Steve Blank at 949-492-8170 or sblank@surfrider.org.

Here are six tips to help you make the most of your year-end giving:

1. Calculate your income.
2. Take the time to do some planning while you still have the opportunity to make a year-end gift. Try to get a handle on your tax liability for the year. Did your unearned income increase? Did you sell any appreciated assets? Will you owe more taxes? This alone may motivate you to increase your giving before December 31.
3. Talk to your advisor. Before making a gift to the Surfrider Foundation, or to any other nonprofit for that matter, you should have your CPA, attorney, or other advisor help you understand the impact of your gift on your income tax return and estate.
4. Review your stocks. Look at the stocks you have held for more than a year. Which ones have appreciated the most? It may be prudent for you to make your year-end gift using one or more of these stocks. Here’s why: If you sell the stock, you will incur capital gains tax on the appreciation. However, if you gift the stock you get a charitable deduction for the full amount of the stock, just as you would if your gift was made with cash. And if you can’t use all of the income tax charitable deduction resulting from the gift, you can carry it forward for up to an additional five years. Such gifts are deductible up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.
5. Do your giving early. This is especially true if you want to make a gift of stock or other non-cash assets. It also applies to life-income gifts (gift annuities, trust arrangements, etc.).
6. Consider a life-income gift. For those of our members who are over age 65, the Surfrider Foundation offers a variety of life-income plans to fit your needs. You can make a gift now, obtain tax benefits, and receive income for the rest of your life. Sound too good to be true? A few minutes of your time will convince you otherwise.

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**GIVE THE GIFT THAT GIVES BACK**

This holiday season, why not give the gift of a Surfrider Foundation membership to your ocean-minded friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members?

The recipient of a Surfrider Foundation gift membership receives a one-year membership, a Limited Edition t-shirt, a set of exclusive Campaign and Victory note cards, a subscription to our award-winning newsletter, Making Waves, and stickers to show their support of Surfrider Foundation.

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Surfrider Foundation’s new educational video exploring watershed stewardship features a host of today’s hottest action sports stars, including Tony Hawk and Tara Dakides – 19 minutes.
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