

Making a Difference?

Jim and I try to live in an environmentally responsible manner. We use as little gas and electricity as possible, plant native trees, recycle, grow some of our own food, shop locally, pick up trash on the beach, and avoid using plastic bags. I know many of you do all these things and more. Even so, when I read about polar ice melting at an unprecedented rate, the disappearance of the Pacific right whale from its usual summer feeding grounds, 100,000 marine mammals and turtles dying every year from entanglement in or ingestion of marine debris, and severe drought over 43% of our country, I can't help but thinking that we are not doing enough. Can we really make a difference?

Thomas Friedman's editorial in Monday's Peninsula Daily News answers my question with a call to action. In part he writes, "Whatever any of us does individually matters a tiny bit. But when leaders change the rules, you get scale change across the whole marketplace. And the energy-climate challenge we face today is a huge scale problem. Without scale, all you have is a green hobby."



Thomas L. Friedman
Op-Ed Columnist

As we head into an election year we all need to take responsibility for electing leaders who have real, workable solutions for the problems of climate change

and environmental pollution. We need to read, listen, ask tough questions, debate, and get involved. In Friedman's words, we can "help save the planet by voting smart."

The full text of Friedman's editorial is available in the OCDC office, or online at: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/21/opinion/21friedman.html?_r=1&n=Top/Opinion/Editorials%20and%20Op-Ed/Op-Ed/Columnists/Thomas%20L%20Friedman&oref=slogin



Want to put on a costume and have some fun on Halloween? Join us from 2:00 to 5:00 to greet trick-or-treaters, hand out candy, and show kids our new "Freaky Features" kiosk. Afterward we'll head out for dinner in a local restaurant.

Cousteau Brings a Message of Hope

Jean-Michel Cousteau visited Peninsula College on October 4 to speak at Studium Generale and at a fund raising dinner for the Peninsula College Foundation. He spoke of the incredible beauty and amazing life in the ocean, but also the growing problems caused by over fishing, pollution, and marine debris. Cousteau believes that even though the damage done to the ocean environment is

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Jean-Michel Cousteau

extremely serious, it can be reversed if we act quickly. His primary focus is education – teaching people environmentally sustainable practices in fishing and agriculture, and introducing young people to

the wonders of the ocean and the importance of caring for it. He encouraged everyone to sign up for free membership in the Ocean Futures Society (<http://www.oceanfutures.org>), explaining that as membership grows it gives him added strength in petitioning world leaders for action.

Fall and Winter Enrichment Activities

Our fall enrichment series kicks off this Thursday, October 25, with our first potluck supper and guest speaker. We will meet in the Feiro Marine Life Center around 5:30 for dinner. The Discovery Center will provide the main dish; if your last name begins with A-L please bring a salad, or desserts if your last name begins with M-Z. After dinner Bob Steelquist will tell us about his recent work and travel in Viet Nam and the development of eco-tourism in that area.

The enrichment series continues with two special brown bag lunches in November. On November 1 we'll take a look at China's booming economy and its impacts on the rest of the planet. November 15 Bill Bjorklund has offered to share his campfire talk on shipwrecks and lighthouses in the Olympic Coast NMS. Hope you can join us

at noon in the second floor office for these interesting presentations.

November 15 is also Movie Night! We'll meet in the second floor office about 6:00 for pizza and a movie. The Discovery Center will provide pizza, everyone else bring movie snacks – popcorn, candy, chips, nuts – whatever you like to munch!

The enrichment series continues in January with Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato bringing us a report on the recently completed summer field season. The date is Thursday, January 24. The location will be announced in the next newsletter.

Holiday Party

OCDC volunteers past and present are invited to the Lamont house for a holiday party on Thursday, December 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. I'd love to have several volunteers help plan this event, so if you have some great ideas about how to make it even more fun than before please give me a call or send an email with your suggestions.

