

# A Few Green Points

Sustainability Newsletter



FY 2011  
4th Quarter



## Point Reyes National Seashore

### Park Picnic Emphasizes Zero-Waste Goal

Every summer, Point Reyes National Seashore and partner non-profit Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) host a barbecue picnic for staff, partners, and volunteers in appreciation for their service and dedication to the Seashore. Nearly four hundred guests attended this annual event held at the Bear Valley grove picnic area. This year, in an effort to continue the tradition of sustainable operations at the Seashore, the park ramped up its waste

diversion efforts with compostable and recyclable alternatives and communicated its zero-waste-to-landfill goal to all event attendees. In collaboration with Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Conservation Corps North Bay, nearly all food waste, table, and dining ware were composted and all beverage containers recycled. Almost five hundred pounds of food waste was composted through GGNRA's resource recovery company, Recol-



ogy. The Seashore looks to make this effort as an ongoing tradition for all future events. In addition, a goal for PRNSA's 2011 "Dinner on the Pacific Plate" fundraiser was to reduce the waste stream, and PRNSA was quite successful! Over 500 pounds of glass, plastic, and aluminum containers were recycled, and 300 pounds of food scraps were composted. For a dinner of 255 people, only two 33 gallon bags of landfill material were produced. What a great success! For more questions on composting please contact Dale Dualan at [Dale\\_Dualan@partner.nps.gov](mailto:Dale_Dualan@partner.nps.gov).

### Administration Building Earns ENERGY STAR® Certification



The Administration Headquarters building at Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE) has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR certification, which signifies that the building performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meets strict

energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA. "Point Reyes National Seashore is pleased to accept EPA's ENERGY STAR certification in recognition of our energy efficiency efforts," said PORE's Superintendent Cicely Muldoon. "Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental stewardship while also lowering our energy costs."

To earn the ENERGY STAR, the Seashore posted building energy use to increase employee

awareness, changed all lighting to ENERGY STAR certified lighting, utilized energy management computer software, and installed skylights and a 10kW solar array. Commercial buildings that earn EPA's ENERGY STAR certification use an average of 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and also release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy

efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 60 different kinds of products as well as new homes and commercial and industrial buildings that meet strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the EPA. For more information contact Sara Hammond: (415) 464-5165 or email: [Sara\\_Hammond@nps.gov](mailto:Sara_Hammond@nps.gov)



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Interpretive ranger Chris Lish with VIPs Debbie Dvornik and Dale Dualan at EcoFair Marin.



## Point Reyes NS Presents at Inaugural Green Festival

Point Reyes National Seashore was among many exhibitors at the first annual EcoFair Marin green festival which took place at the Marin County Fairgrounds in San Rafael, CA on Sept. 4. The community event was inspired by San Rafael's Climate Action Plan in hopes to inspire a healthy and sustainable Marin. The event made its debut with more than fifty exhibits, do-it-yourself demonstrations, and twenty-five expert speakers, including the keynote and author Dr. Temple Grandin. Exhibitors at the event included Marin Agri-

cultural Land Trust, Point Reyes Books, Marine Mammal Center, Clif Bar, Lalo's Goat's Milk Ice Cream, Sonoma Valley Worm Farm, Dominican University of CA, and many others. The one-day event garnered over two thousand people and provided them a full day to discover local environmental leaders and innovators and to enjoy local food and live music.

For more information on EcoFair Marin visit: [www.ecofairmarin.org](http://www.ecofairmarin.org)

## Coastal Cleanup Sweeps the Seashore



Many thanks to the volunteers who participated in this year's annual coastal cleanup at Drakes Beach. Hosted by Point Reyes NS and Point Reyes National Seashore Association, the cleanup, one of many that took place worldwide, brought in over 60 volunteers. Equipped with gloves and five gallon buckets, volunteers covered twelve miles of coast collecting nearly 400 lbs. of trash that included styrofoam, cigarette lighters, plastic bottles, and many other items. Trash in the oceans and waterways, a majority which come from land sources, continues to be a serious threat to the marine life and ecosystems that thrive there. There are many take-home messages in all this: we need to be conscious of how we throw things away (because there is no "away"), manage our waste better, purchase more environmentally friendly products, reuse as much as we can, and help to maintain a clean and healthy environment for fish and friends.

## “The Green Wave by the Seashore” Lands 1st Place Overall

While there might be some truth to the famous lyric, “it’s not easy being green,” there are a vast amount of ways one can contribute to the Park Service mission at home and in the community, many of which that are simple and easy. Selected winner of the first NPS-wide My Green Parks Video Contest, *The Green Wave by the Seashore* is a theatrical short video showcasing some of the many ways the Seashore has integrated sustainability into their operations. Videos will be featured at workshops and the soon to be release “My Green Parks” intranet site.

The video can be watched on the PORE website:  
<http://www.nps.gov/pore/photosmultimedia/multimedia.htm>

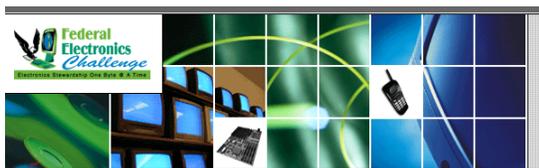


A screenshot of Roads Crew member David Jones (“DJ”) as “the Wizard” in the Point Reyes NS video short.

## Point Reyes Earns Bronze for Electronics Stewardship

This year Point Reyes was a recipient of a Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) Award at the Bronze level for electronics stewardship activities completed during the fiscal year. Launched in 2004, the FEC is a federal partnership program with EPA that encourages participants to purchase greener electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use, and to manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way. In FY2010, 100% of all computer desktops, laptops, and monitors purchased, leased, or acquired for Point Reyes were EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) registered. 100% of all printers purchased, leased, or acquired met at least three positive FEC Key Environmental Attributes. This year’s awards ceremony was held at the EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C. on September 19.

For more information on the Federal Electronics Challenge, visit: <http://www.federalectronicschallenge.net/>



Shawn Norton (left), WASO Facility Management Division, Branch Chief Sustainable Operations & Climate Change, accepting the award for Point Reyes NS.

# Upcoming Events

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Oct 6—NPS Green Open Mic (Held 1st Thursday of every month) more info at: <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=999&id=9890>

Oct 13—Lunchtime Science talk at Red Barn: “Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Point Reyes National Seashore” Speakers: Sarah O. Hameed, Jill H. Baty, Katie A. Holzer, and Angela N. Doerr - UC Davis

Nov 15—America Recycles Day (Sara Hammond and Dale Dualan exhibit recycling and waste reduction at the Bear Valley Visitor Center)



## Quarterly Challenge

Reduce paper towel usage! Help lower our waste stream and reduce costs for ordering and shipping more paper towels. Use a hand towel for drying your hands. Your peers have already begun the effort!



“I only went for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for *going* out, I found, was really in.”  
-John Muir