

**THIS MONTH'S
HEADLINES:**

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WATER AWARENESS
MONTH Speaker
Panel

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Rainwater
Catchment and
Permaculture
Workshops with
CCAT

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Winners!!!

**INTRIGUING WATER ISSUES SPEAKER PANEL A
SUCCESS**

BY MAX TANTI

This past April was Green Campus's first Water Awareness Month (WAM). In an effort to help the campus community better understand a variety of both local and larger scale water issues, we hosted a speaker panel with three local professionals: Aldaron Laird from Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD), Mark Baker, Associate Professor in the Department of Politics at Humboldt State, and Beth Werner from Humboldt Baykeeper.

Aldaron started off the panel by delving into the history behind the Humboldt Bay Municipal District watershed. Humboldt County's water supply comes from a dam that forms Ruth Lake. The system was designed to supply water to the incredibly water intensive nearby pulp mills. Now, however, the logging industry is much more efficient and most mills have moved elsewhere, leaving the county with more water than it has use for. When the current water contract ends, Humboldt will lose rights to any unused water, so HBMWD is exploring different ways to utilize the extra water. Aldaron made a very important point in saying that our county needs to figure out how we are going to "use or lose" this water, and brought to attention the contradictory nature of Californian Water laws in doing so. We should conserve water, but at times, we have to use our water in the most appropriate ways so as not to lose the rights to it.

Next, Mark Baker gave an inspiring talk, explaining that water



can have economic, market, social, environmental, and community value. Baker eloquently explained that our current management of water resources hinges on the market and economic value of water. This talk revealed that to optimize water use

effectively and sustainably, we must account for all different values of water.

...continued...

APRIL EVENTS:

We had a busy month, making it to the following seven events:

- Plan It Green Festival(4/2),
- Spring Preview Tabling(4/8),
- BIG Time(4/9),
- Water Movie Screening(4/13),
- Water Professional Panel(4/19),
- Rainwater Catchment workshop(4/7),
- Permaculture workshop(4/28)

We outreached to 311 people and had over 700 website hits!

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Lastly Beth Werner educated us on the global issue of the overuse of plastics and how they are polluting our coastal ecosystems. During her talk, Beth mentioned some ways for the audience, which was about 50 people, to get involved and support local efforts to establish regulations to reduce plastic use.

After hearing from each of the speakers we opened up the floor for questions from the audience and further discussion. It was in this discussion that the speakers spoke of the importance of the Public Trust Doctrine, a piece of legislation that protects the environment by giving the government the right to maintain natural resources for public use. Its application will undoubtedly help us maintain our planet and our future. Because it covered a wide range of perspectives on water issues and ended with discussion about a pivotal piece of legislation, this speaker panel was truly educational and inspirational, thereby and thereby a great success.

RAINWATER CATCHMENT AND PERMACULTURE WORKSHOPS WITH CCAT BY DEVIN FREDERICKSEN

Water Awareness Month was a great success for our Green Campus Team. I myself was responsible for putting on two educational outreach events, the rainwater catchment workshop and permaculture talk. The rainwater catchment workshop was fantastic! We are grateful to have held the workshop at CCAT, the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology, where we had over 20 attendees. I decided to give this talk about rainwater catchment because of three reasons: 1) the region we live within is very moist and receives over 35 inches of rain a year making this site exceptionally suitable for rainwater harvesting; 2) rainwater harvesting is one aspect we can implement to reduce our water consumption; and 3) I have designed and built a rainwater catchment system myself. After giving my presentation to the group, we had an enthusiastic and engaged questioning session and meaningful discussion about what we can do daily in each of our lives to help reduce our water consumption. We then ventured out of the CCAT basement to observe the three different rainwater catchment systems at CCAT. There are three different systems currently in place: a larger system near the entrance of the house, a bladder tank system behind the new tool shed, and an older smaller system next to the yurt. We are very thankful for the opportunity we had to relate real world examples to the talk I had just given everyone. In planning for the second event, I was aware that this would be the finale of water awareness month. So I did my best to find a topic that tied the whole water conservation idea together and realized that permaculture is the best fit for this task. Permaculture is a holistic view towards every aspect ...*continued...*

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RAINWATER CATCHMENT AND PERMACULTURE WORKSHOPS WITH CCAT

BY DEVIN FREDERICKSEN

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of life, far beyond energy efficiency. Permaculture is a design system that works toward establishing productive environments by providing for food, shelter, energy, waste recycling, material & non-material need, as well as the social & economic infrastructures that support them. It aims to create systems that will sustain the present and future generations. Levon Durr, an active participant and member of the Humboldt Permaculture Guild, was gracious enough to offer his time and volunteer to give the talk at CCAT. This time 30 people showed up for the talk! We had a very insightful and profound talk with everyone who attended and received a lot of wise input from our 10-year old male participant. He helped remind us all that we are all responsible for our actions on Earth – the entire system and each smaller counterpart. Both events proved to be fantastic outreach ventures as all the participants were enlivened with positive energy and enthusiasm to go out and unconditionally serve our surrounding community. Green Campus will definitely remain consistent and continue with these workshops throughout the following semester. We love the ability to connect students, professors, faculty, and community members all while spreading the word about sustainability, energy & water conservation, and community reliance. If you have any suggestions regarding potential workshops or would like to host a workshop with Green Campus, contact Devin at daf29@humboldt.edu for more information. Thank you for all who came out and supported Green Campus and we look forward to seeing you more in the future!

Be sure to come see all 10 winning photos from the Water-Themed Photo Contest at Arts! Arcata, **Friday, May 13th** at **Humboldt Outfitters** on the Plaza, **6-9 PM**

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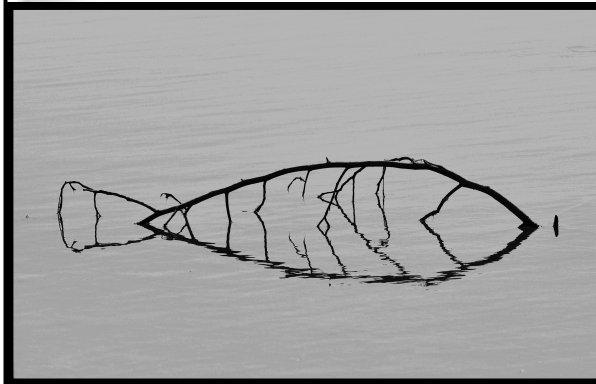
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"The Alliance to Save Energy's Green Campus Program is funded by the ratepayers of California under the auspices of SCE, PG&E, and Sempra Energy."

WAM WATER THEMED PHOTO CONTEST GRAND PRIZE WINNERS:



← **Leslie Anderson**
Title: Like Water for Fishes
From: Shollenberger Park, Petaluma, CA., showing the amazing reflecting properties of water, and representing that without clean water, this may be all we'll have left of our fish resources.

Julianne Fernandez →
Title: Surrounded
Description: This was taken in March on Spring break of 2011 at Yosemite National State Park. I climbed to the edge of a bluff to find a good view. The spot was interesting to me because I could see different forms of water: waterfall, river, snow, and melting snow, which is what was up close.



← **Wes Watts**
Title: Ocean Rays
Description: This photo was taken at Trinidad State Beach, one of many places on the north coast where one can look out across a seemingly endless ocean, which has become more finite in the past 50 years. Recent studies suggest that most marine biodiversity is predicted to collapse by 2048 due to overfishing and habitat destruction. What's on your plate?

