

# Environmental Earth News

## OSPIRG Promotes Alternatives to Pesticides



### OSPIRG's Pesticide Action Campaign

#### Get Involved!

more synthetic chemicals in all exterior walls, attics, crawl spaces and baseboard cracks. Dan Stein, an exterminator in Eugene, has reduced his use of chemicals to control carpenter ants by more than 80% by observing the pest problem and spot treating the ant nest sites. Stein calls his approach to pest control "least toxic pest control," and has found it to be effective.

Lawn and grounds maintenance can involve intensive chemical pesticide use. In 1990, approximately 67 million pounds of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides were poured on U.S. lawns. The Parks Departments in Portland and Eugene have both adopted integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers used to maintain grounds.

IPM is a policy of pest management that is based on first studying and defining the pest problem and then finding the least toxic way to control the problem. The State of Oregon has also adopted an IPM policy to control pests in state buildings and grounds.

OSPIRG found that while there are examples of pesticides use reduction throughout Oregon, these practices will not become widespread until policies are adopted to promote and expand the use of alternatives. OSPIRG's Safe Drinking Water Campaign offers a comprehensive approach to protecting groundwater from agricultural chemical contamination.

The Campaign platform calls for expanding information available about pesticide use, improving existing groundwater cleanup programs, and identifying and promoting alternatives to pesticides. OSPIRG is organizing a statewide grass-roots campaign to build citizen support for the platform to ensure that the legislature addresses groundwater and pesticides issues in the 1993 session.

You can get involved by contacting Pamela Peck at 231-4181 in Portland. ♦

A little wasp that preys on hazelnut aphids has eliminated the need for Willamette Valley hazelnut growers to use chemical aphicides. The switch from harmful chemicals is saving these farmers \$300,000 a year, reducing their exposure to the aphicide, and helping to protect the environment.

The success of this biological pest control is one example of pesticide use reduction that OSPIRG documented in its recent research report, *Doing More With Less: Reducing the Use of Pesticides in Oregon*. The report showed that reducing pesticide use in Oregon is feasible and that further reductions could be achieved if the state adopts policies that promote and encourage alternatives to pesticides.

#### The Many Problems with Pesticides

Excessive use of pesticides has been linked to a number of serious environmental and public health problems.

**Environmental Risks.** A 1988 study found that less than 1% of pesticides applied to crops reach target pests, leaving 99% to move into ecosystems contaminating land, air, and water.

Pesticides impact wildlife as well as beneficial insects that help control pests. Agricultural chemicals have been identified as a leading threat to groundwater quality in our state — which supplies drinking water for more than 75% of all Oregonians. Already pesticides have been detected in groundwater in eight Oregon counties.

**Worker Exposure.** Farmworkers suffer up to 300,000 illnesses and injuries a year from exposure to pesticides in the United States. An Oregon State University study of Oregon farmworkers concluded that workers on farms where pesticides are regularly applied, when compared with workers on organic or transitional organic farms, had a greater number of medical symptoms and work days lost to illness, and a greater number of overall symptoms possibly related to pesticide exposure.

OSPIRG's report found that pesticide use reduction strategies are being used to control agricultural pests as well as for home pest control and for grounds maintenance. Organic farming and integrated pest management (IPM) are two of the most effective ways to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides.

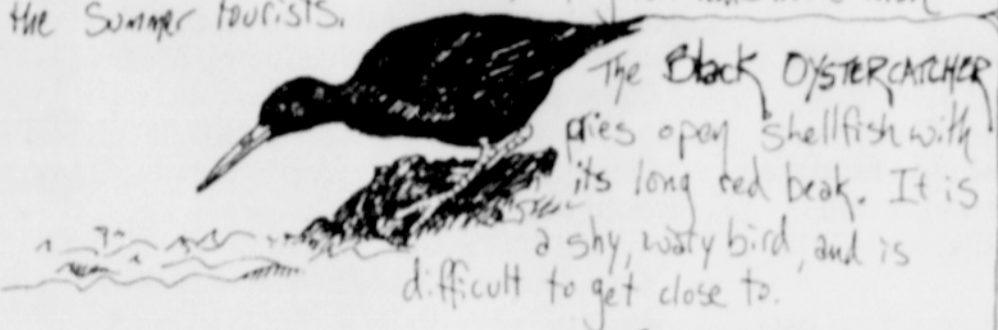
**Benefits of reducing or eliminating pesticides** Organic farmers in Oregon produce a wide variety of food crops, from apples and pears to cucumbers and cabbage. A Willamette Valley farmer, Ellis Hester, made the transition to organic farming in 1988 after he was offered a higher price for organic cucumbers from a food processor. Hester estimates he spent \$30,000 a year on pesticides and herbicides before he switched to farming the organic way. Carpenter ants are a common wood-infesting pest in homes and are usually treated by spraying one or

## SPUD'S WILDLIFE COLUMN

Seen this month:



Raccoons - garbage bandits who are anything but endangered. These urban rascals disrupt the neighborhood more than the summer tourists.



The Black Oystercatcher flies open shellfish with its long red beak. It is a shy, warty bird, and is difficult to get close to.

Although hunted, trapped, and persecuted as a pest and potential for-bearer, the coyote, another urban survivalist, has managed to keep its numbers at a respectable level.



Hail the irrepressible!

**CANNON BEACH Recycling Center Schedule**

COMMERCIAL & RETAIL	RESIDENTIAL
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Weekly	First and Third Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monthly

\*The monthly curbside orientation is held on the last Wednesday evening each month promptly at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

It is not enough to be busy... The question is: What are we busy about?  
- Henry David Thoreau



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**CANNON BEACH SHUTTLE SCHEDULE**

10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday - Tuesday  
Hourly runs

Going South

Leaves from:	
Les Shirley Park	10:00
Candy Kitchen	05
Coaster	10
Midtown	12
Surfcrest	14
Tolovana Wayside	15
Haystack Heights	16
Wave Crest	25
Maher	30

Going North

Leaves from:	
Maher & Hemlock	10:30
Tolovana Wayside	35
R.V. Park	40
Midtown	45
Ecota Square	50
White Bird Gallery	55
Les Shirley Park	00

Not all stops listed.  
Shuttle's last run going South at 6:10 p.m. from Coaster.  
Shuttle goes to lunch at 1:10 at Coaster and resumes run at Midtown at 2:12 going South.

CANNON BEACH ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECT  
P.O. Box 988 Cannon Beach, OR 97110  
Phone 438-1387

Human beings are not perfectible. They are improvable.  
- Eric Sevareid



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Catalogues can be purchased for \$2.00 at Pacific Produce, 1235 S. Hemlock in Haystack Square. Come in and join the growing number of people who are living right and paying less.

