

# Environmental Defense Center HEROES

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

**S**URROUNDED BY LUSH GREENERY AT RANCHO LA PATERA AND STOW HOUSE LAST WEEKEND, Santa Barbara's Environmental Defense Center (EDC) recognized the efforts of local environmental heroes that have made a commitment to preserve and protect the region's coastal resources at its 17th Annual Auction and Awards Benefit. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of local wines, hors d'oeuvres, a live and silent auction, live music by The Goodland, and the Environmental Hero award presentations.

"We look for people and organizations who distinguish themselves by work that is inspiring to those of us who work every day to protect and preserve natural resources," shared David J. Landecker, EDC

Executive Director. "We aim to show the diversity of ways one can become a hero in environmentalism."

The environmental heroes honored this year included **The Environmental Studies Program at UCSB**, one of the oldest and largest programs in the nation, for inspiring and training environmental leaders for over 40 years; local activist **Paul Jenkin**, who day after day identifies worthy projects, inspires others to work on them, and follows them through to a successful conclusion; **The New Belgium Brewing Company** who supports

many environmental organizations like EDC and also takes every possible opportunity to use principals of sustainability and ecological responsibility in the production, distribution, and promotion of its product.

The Youth Award recognized **The Whale Migration Project Team**, a group of six students at Oak Park High School who have developed a science based peer education program addressing the whale and the ship strike issue in the Santa Barbara Channel. The group identified their own set of recommendations to reduce whale and ship collisions including buying less, local, and for the long term.

"Each hero works in a very different way to advance the cause of environmentalism," shared Landecker. "Of course, there are many ways. Our point is that everyone has it within their reach to become an environmental hero."



Congresswoman **Lois Capps** and **David J. Landecker**, EDC Executive Director



Back: **Rosie Puff**, **Heidi Schultz**, and **Tonia Guerrero**  
Front: **Oran Young** and **Bill Freudenburg**



**Aimee Gilchrist**, **Jenn Orgolini**, New Belgium Brewing Company, Environmental Hero Award; and **Nathan G. Alley**, EDC Staff Attorney



**Brian Trautwein**, Environmental Analyst; **Paul Jenkin**, Environmental Hero; **Alisa Greenstate-Jenkin**; and **Karen Kraus**, EDC Staff Attorney



Back: **Kevin Contreras**; **Tyson Ellis**; **Geoff Green**, Fund for SB Executive Director & Event Auctioneer; **Salud Carbajal**, First District Supervisor; Summer Ellis; and **Janet Wolf**, Second District Supervisor. Front: **Rebecca Tannebring**; **Neil Dipaola**, Dipaola Foundation; **Christi Glanville**; and **John Glanville**



**J. Marc McGinnes**, EDC Advisory Board and Environmental Hero **Josh Schimel**, Dean UCSB Environmental Studies Program



Back: **Helene Schneider**, SB City Mayor; **Josh Schimel**, Dean UCSB Environmental Studies Program; **Peter Schuyler**; and **Bob Wilkinson**. Front: **Jean Schuyler**; **Gail Osherenko**, EDC President Board of Directors; and **Barry Schuyler**

Although the final numbers are not in, EDC estimates the event netted about \$70,000. Proceeds from the event will provide support for EDC's efforts to preserve, protect, and defend the region's unique natural resources.

"Our heroes presentations are the culmination of the event," noted Landecker.

"It seems that the youth awards, where we see and hear about the dedication of teenagers to improving our environment in their own words, is usually the most inspiring moment of the afternoon."

Since 1977, the Environmental Defense Center has worked to protect and enhance the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. For 32 years the Santa Barbara based environmental non-profit has empowered community-based organizations to advance environmental protection. EDC works primarily within Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties. For more information visit [EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org](http://EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org).



Whale Migration Project Team Environmental Heroes: **Kristi Birney Rieman**, Marine Conservation Analyst; **Rebecca Gordon**; **Kathleen McKeegan**; **Kayla Sadwick**; and advisor **Tony Knight**. Front: **Jacob Wyner**; **Justin Orens**; and **Sam Hirsch**

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