

Teacher's Message



Photos by: Candie Printz

What's next? A call out to our entire region: El Paso, Las Cruces, and Juarez. We are seeking artists at every age level to submit art pieces they've created with some component of recycled materials in it. There will be prizes for every age level, with the opportunity to be exhibited in three cities. The February issue of our newsletter will contain all the details in regards to this contest, so keep a look out!

I feel as if holidays signify the passage of time for me now. Christmas is over and here comes Valentine's Day already! I can't help but think that the students who have helped me with this project will soon be walking on stage at their graduation. In that same sentiment, we have managed to do such a great deal since the start of this school year. We are in full swing with community workshops that seek to educate about the importance of recycling and how creative things can be constructed out of normally discarded items.

We are in need of helpers on Saturdays to organize our desert findings. If you've been interested in helping with our project, but haven't had the time or an idea of how to, this is it! Please contact me to get more details.



Photo by: Candie Printz

TecH2O Workshop

By: Candie Printz

Last month we held a recycled planter workshop at the TecH2O Learning Center. Located at 10751 Montana Dr., this facility has numerous educational events throughout the year and is available for tours by appointment. Their focus is on educating the public about water management within the Chihuahua Desert. In the spirit of their mission, we decided to create planters for desert friendly plants. We used plastic bottles for the younger children, while working with glass bottles and light bulbs with the adults. For the children, plastic wasn't just safer to use, but also promoted reusing a material that would otherwise waste a great deal of water to produce again. By simply cutting the bottles in half and painting them, we were then able to add soil and a plant for the kids to take home. The adults were shown how to score, heat, and break glass bottles for their planters. They were also shown how to safely dissect light bulbs to root vines in them. Everyone left happy, with a functional piece of art in hand!



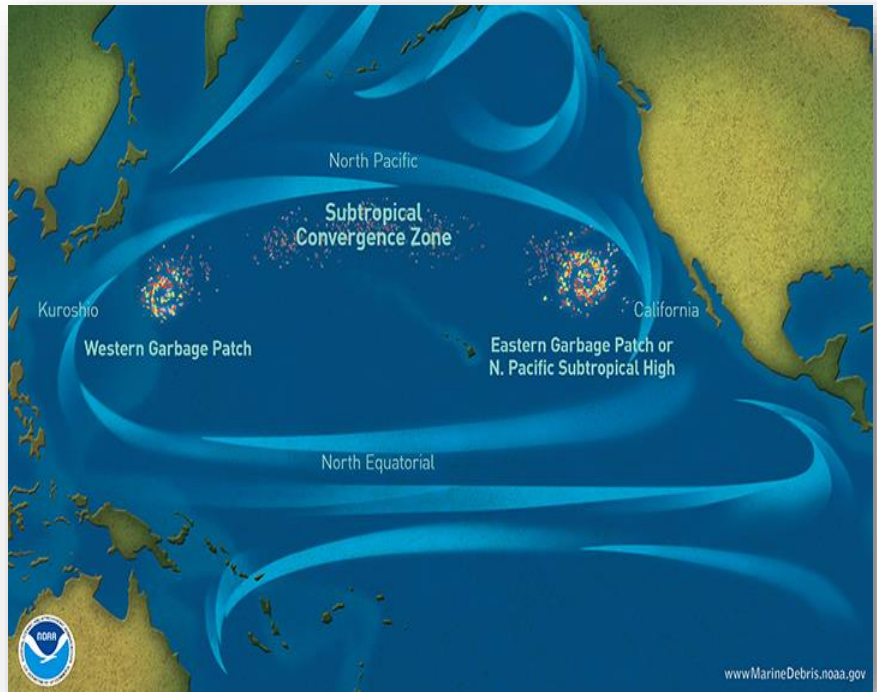
Photos by: Jazmin Olivas



The Pacific Garbage Patch

By: Dillon Schneider

The accumulation of trash and litter in our planet's oceans has resulted in formations of massive "garbage patches", with one of the most hazardous patches lying in the Pacific Ocean. This ocean dump is known as the Pacific Garbage Patch and stretches across the west coast of North America to Japan. With the garbage patch being so distanced from coastlines, no country has taken responsibility for the litter or has provided the funding to clean it. The man who is credited with discovering this vortex of trash says the Garbage Patch would "bankrupt any country" that attempted to remove it. Oceanographers and ecologists discovered that a whopping 70% of garbage in the ocean sinks to the ocean's depths. According to scientists, the only method to successfully rid of this trash is to utilize biodegradable, disposable resources.



Littering in our oceans endangers ocean wildlife, but also harms our environment on a global scale- 78% of our planet's oxygen is supplied by the ocean. When the contamination in our oceans continue to increase, our quality of oxygen is simultaneously damaged.

We can make a difference! If we collectively contribute to recycling, our environment and planet won't endure such heavy damage caused by poorly disposed trash.

Solving Global Issues with Creativity

By: Jenny Cha

Art is not limited to sculptures and paintings; it is creating something wondrous while breaking the boundaries of human creativity. On a planet with so much potential, few attempt to polish the diamonds in the rough – those who do so are called artists. One such artist is Yuken Teruya, who transforms debris into inspiring, beautiful artwork while raising public awareness of environmental issues.



Yuken Teruya is a Japanese artist originally from Okinawa who is now based in New York. He often works with toilet paper rolls, paper shopping bags, and butterfly chrysalises to give shape to his ideas in the form of art. Many of his crafts reflect his origins, showing that art can transcend cultural restrictions. His magnificent work has been included in Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Charles Saatchi Collection, and the Mori Art Museum in Japan,

to name a few. In addition, he has conveyed how a consumer society continues to be linked to the degradation organic world by basing some of his works on the popular board game, *Monopoly*. Yuken Teruya recreated a *Monopoly* board with organic materials and debris. Miniature trees are formed by unwanted McDonald's bags with the *Monopoly* slogan. This art brings the trash used to create it to life, and people who view this artwork become enlightened about how human greed is driving the destruction of our precious planet, especially in the case of trees. His message is clear –the people of Earth must properly cherish all of the planet and its inhabitants, including



the trees we carelessly cut down to satisfy our demands.

CDEC

Story by: Angela Alvarez

The Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition (CDEC) is a group of generous people who created an organization to inform, protect, and preserve the Chihuahuan desert, which covers 2% of North America. They are responsible for the Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta that teaches participants how to incorporate native plants into their landscaping. Their fight for nature is truly commendable, as they protect millions of species that call this desert home. Though our own fight has just begun, their help and support has been



tremendous and our cause has flourished with their contributions. Their continued volunteer efforts have allowed our group to become more knowledgeable of the land we strive to protect. As one of our chosen non-profits, we believe our partnership can change the world.

Feel like helping? Contact Gertrud Konings at cdec.elpaso@yahoo.com or 915-845-1476 (leave a message) for more information.



El Paso Museum of Art

Story by: Angela Alvarez

Recently, It's Your World gave an art workshop held at the El Paso Museum of Art. Our student volunteers assisted individuals of all ages in creating works of art made from recycled materials. Participants had the opportunity to make necklaces, planters, and an array of other items. We were pleased and surprised that the class filled up after registration opened, with people adding their names to a waiting list! We greatly appreciate the enthusiasm of the community and the El Paso Museum of Art for hosting us. The community came together for this workshop, unified by a single desire -to make the world a better place. We hope to see YOU at our next event!



Photos by: Jordan Soliz



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