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13 July 2013

WildNotes: Indigenous Baja - Plastic Ocean - The Art of Urban Farming

[WilderUtopia.com](#) | ["Earthly" Baja](#) | [Plastic Ocean](#) | [The Art of Urban Farming](#)

Welcome to WildNotes!

Been traveling down Baja California way and some reflections on its history are provided, the first of a longer discussion on development of the desert. See Chief Marvin Swallow's art in Venice next week, and watch a Huichol documentary at the end of the month. Read about the latest ongoings with the OC Toll Road to Nowhere. As well, read about the Art of Urban Farming and the tragedy of the Plastic Ocean. Either way, keep the faith because positive change is here, or not far away, we just need to keep on the path! And may it have a bridge or tunnel to protect the crossing bears, moose, and elk (read about that, too)!

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[Baja California: An "Earthly Paradise" in the Desert](#)

Baja California, despite proximity to the US and recent rampant growth, remains a wild and untamed coastal desert. Behind the charming pueblitos and peaceful resorts lies a varied history, where conquest and development have moved both slow and fast. Following a recent trip to the Gulf of California town of Loreto, this first in a series of articles attempts to define what makes the place special, as well as what the future holds for this (mostly) hidden resort region.

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July 18th in Venice, CA: Visionary Art of Lakota Sundance Chief Marvin Swallow

Marvin L. Swallow



Marvin Swallow paints "images of time before and after the moment," whispering sacred stories of the beauty and mystery of creation. What has emerged through his art is a unique and powerful contribution to the growing genre of Sacred Art. His art will be on display in Venice Beach, California until the closing fundraiser on Thursday, July 18th.

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[July 30th in Venice, CA: Mexico's Huichol People: Sustaining the World of Tatuutsi Maxakwaxi](#)

Barbara Sackl's documentary on the Huichol-Wixaritari school called Tatuutsí Maxakwaxí, in Mexico's Sierra Madre, shows how it preserves their ancient culture by educating the young by providing skills to participate in the official Mexican educational system. There will be a showing on July 30th in Venice, California. For more information, click here: [Huichol Doc – July 30th Venice](#)



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[La Loba: Wild Woman, Luminous Wolf](#)

Clarissa Pinkola Estés retells the Tarahumara story from the deserts and mountains of Northern Mexico, about a wolf woman, a collector of bones, who resurrects the wild spirit of life from the depths of the Underworld.

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[Also read more about the plight of the wolves with the federal government here and watch a film about Living with Wolves.](#)



[Plastic Ocean: Deep-Sea Garbage Endangers](#)

Marine Ecosystem

While the Great Pacific Garbage Patch continues to grow, a paper by researchers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute shows that trash is accumulating in the deep sea, particularly in Monterey Canyon, off the coast of California. This causes dire impacts to the marine ecosystem and humans who thrive from it. Following is a story by Judy Molland and a video by Paulie Z and the Harbour School of Hong Kong.

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[Orange County Toll Road to Nowhere Denied Permits](#)



Orange County's Toll Road Agency is pushing the first segment of a previously rejected road extension that will have significant and irreversible environmental and economic impacts. According to the Save San Onofre Coalition and the State Attorney General, the project had failed to undertake sufficient environmental studies. As a result, the Regional Water Board in San Diego decided to deny the project a waste discharge permit.

Also read Jack Eidt's piece on the TCA getting Water Boarded in the [Voice of OC](#)

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[Keystone XL Activists Greet Obama in Santa Monica](#)

As part of President Obama's fundraising trip to Southern California in June, a crowd of over 300 activists greeted him in Santa Monica, calling for action on climate change, foremost by rejecting the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.



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[GMO Agriculture: The Case Against Monsanto](#)

Millions of activists in 52 countries around the world Marched Against Monsanto, the biotechnology giant of genetically engineered agriculture. They claim GMOs will safely feed the world, but a growing body of scientific evidence shows it will not increase productivity and presents dangers to human health and the environment.

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[Also read the article by Vandana Shiva on GMO Seeds and watch the documentary, "Seeds of Freedom."](#)



[Urban Farming: Nature, Art and Society Converge](#)

Urban farmers and gardeners around the world transform abandoned lots into edible landscapes, improving human and ecological health as well as creating beautiful places. Richard Ingersoll surveys a myriad of concepts and projects from around Europe and the United States.

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[Composting Workshops - Burbank, CA](#)

Transform yard clippings and food scraps into valuable garden nutrients



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|-------------------------------|--|
| July 17th | 6:30 – 8:00pm – Jordan Middle School -
420 South Mariposa Street |
| July 20th | 9:00 – 10:30am – Thomas Jefferson Elementary -
1900 N. Sixth Street |
| August 17th | 9:00 – 10:30am – John Burroughs High School -
1920 Clark Avenue |
| August 21st | 6:30 – 8:00pm - Luther Middle School –
3700 West Jeffries Ave. |

Workshops are free and open to all. Burbank residents are eligible for a free

Compost bin. Call the [Burbank Recycle Center](#) to rsvp (818) 238-3900

[Composting Workshops on Facebook](#)

[Wildlife Crossings: Animals Survive with Bridges and Tunnels](#)

Providing crossing infrastructure at key points along transportation corridors is known to improve safety, reconnect habitats and restore wildlife movement. Throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and North American, wildlife crossing structures have been implemented



with demonstrable success.

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