

Surf movies inspired and entertained

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The Pacifica Beach Coalition hosted two benefit showings of the movie "Surfing for Life" in aid of Earth Day 2013. Both showings were preceded by a sneak preview of "Super Natural," a new movie about surfers who have learned from the tow-in surfing method to surf big waves, but who prefer to return to the paddle-in method.

Audiences listened to Roy Earnest who produced the main feature movie which, he said quoting Jean Bartlett of the Pacifica Tribune, "was about surfers who have come to the end of the endless summer" in their lives, but realize this does not have to be a bummer."

The audience was amazed at the beauty, courage and skill shown by surfers in their 60s, 70s, 80s and even 90s, some surfing side-by-side with their adult children and grandchildren. While the senior surfers included dentists, physicians, and inventors, they all admitted to skipping meetings if the surf was up. It was certainly a tonic to hear in this day of over-achievers who are scared to miss meetings for fear of losing their jobs. Many of the surfers had suffered extreme adversity at a point in their lives, and found surfing helped them to cope better with stress.

We heard a report from teenagers in the 4H Million Tree Project. Since 2008 they have inspired youth worldwide to plant nearly 500,000 trees.

Recently, their project has reached and inspired people in Kenya and many other countries who are in desperate need of outside help because multinational corporations have wrought massive deforestation that has obliterated up to 98 percent of forests; the 4H Club Million Tree Project is almost half way to a global total of one million trees, so they are still interested in partnerships.

David McGuire, shark conservationist and expedition filmmaker, shared a few words about sharks with the audience of the second showing. Because of shark finning and long line fishing, almost every species of shark is threatened or near threatened status. Campaigns to ban shark fin trade in California, Chicago and other U.S. states and cities are intended to help the shark species but there is much more work to do. David will be joined by Lincoln Shaw, of Sea Shepherd's Whale Wars fame on March 22 for "An Evening of Sharks" hosted by the Pacifica Library and Pacifica Beach Coalition. He will share two of his films about sharks and talk more in-depth about their important role in the ocean ecosystem.

As the 4-H Million Tree Project organizers said: "We are not done yet. Nor is the Pacifica Beach Coalition. We have only just begun the countdown to Earth Day 2013."

-- Submitted by Helen Nicely and Lynn Adams