

Rock the Earth - Planet Defender Awards go to:

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And the Planet Defender Awards Go to...

After pouring through dozens of nominations sent in from members and friends of Rock the Earth, RtE's Volunteer Staff is pleased to announce the winners of our annual Planet Defender Award!

ARTIST: JACK JOHNSON

Having grown up on the North Shore of Oahu, Jack has been heavily involved in the Surfrider Foundation and has lent his voice towards the protection of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. In his 2005 tour of North America, Jack donated 1% of his Summer 2005 tour proceeds to organizations certified by 1% for the Planet, a consortium of businesses who promise to donate at least one percent of sales to the natural environment. Jack will be playing the upcoming Kokua Festival on Earth Day in Maui, with proceeds going to environmental protection in Hawaii.

COMMUNITY LEADER: ROCKY ANDERSON

Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson has garnered global recognition for his initiatives to move the city toward a healthy, sustainable future. Mayor Anderson created Salt Lake City Green, a guide for the city's comprehensive approach to environmental protection. Mayor Anderson has been a leading spokesman for combating global warming and has helped convince cities throughout the United States to take more aggressive roles in fighting global warming.

"I am deeply honored to receive Rock the Earth's Planet Defender award. Salt Lake City's efforts to combat global climate disruption focus on the urgent need to coordinate efforts by governments, businesses, and individuals to act in ways that effectively reduce emissions of

global warming pollutants from the burning of fossil fuels. We all have a tremendous responsibility to do all we can to prevent climatic disaster resulting from global warming. We have the means to meet this challenge; all we need is the personal and political will." - Mayor Rocky Anderson

GRASSROOTS ACTIVIST: JASON RUTLEDGE, Healing Harvest Forest Foundation
Jason Rutledge is the President and Founder of Virginia's Healing Harvest Forest Foundation. Healing Harvest was established to develop, implement and support community-based sustainable forestry initiatives and to create a nurturing coexistence between the forest and human communities. The practices of Healing Harvest simply imitate nature and take the worst trees first, using skilled, modern horse logging techniques that have a very low impact on the forest.

"Our Earth is a living organism that we are a part of and dependent upon for our very survival. It is our home, our house and to truly understand this - is to be compelled to defend it. The greatest personal value in practicing restorative forestry is the human dignity dividend of knowing you are doing 'good work.' Such 'good work' is supported by a wonderful award like the Rock the Earth - Planet Defender." - Jason Rutledge

Each Planet Defender recipient will receive a one-of-a-kind award created by artist Scott Wolfson of the Crefeld School, a progressive, alternative learning community in Philadelphia. For more information about Scott's work, visit his website here. Three individuals who nominated our award winners will receive a special Earth Day gift from Rock the Earth. Thank you all for helping Rock the Earth defend the planet one beat at a time!

Thank you to Rock the Earth members Nichole Almeroth for nominating Jack Johnson, Bret Walburg for nominating Rocky Anderson, and Justin LaMountain for nominating Jason Rutledge. We'll be sending a small token of our appreciation to you all soon!

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Spring Cleaning: Protecting You and the Environment
By Jubilee Daniels

Spring is traditionally known as the time for "spring cleaning". However, do you know if your cleaning products are safe for your health and the environment? Green cleaning is a term used to describe cleaning products that are safe for you and environment. Read below for a few simple steps you can take to eliminate toxic household cleaners from your home, and identify safer cleaning products.

How can household cleaners affect your health? Many cleaning products contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These VOCs are gases (fumes) that are emitted from the product, which can then be inhaled into your lungs and potentially affect your health. Many of the smells that your conventional cleaning product gives off are due to VOCs, and in fact the smell could be warning you of their potential presence. According to the US

Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to certain VOCs can cause: “Eye, nose, and throat irritation; headaches, loss of coordination, nausea; damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system, and some VOCs can cause cancer.” More on VOCs...

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Would You Like Plastic or Paper?

We all face this question regularly - the decision whether to put your groceries in a paper or plastic shopping bag can be a tough one, especially if you consider yourself to be environmentally conscious. Whether you think plastic or paper is the safer choice, there is an even better option for you to make a responsible choice for the environment – bring your own bag!

Over one billion plastic bags are given out each day around the world, which end up in landfills, beaches, city streets and waterways, taking about 1,000 years to degrade and contaminating soil and water as they do so (according to *The Bag Beast* by Michael Jensen). Tens of thousands of birds and marine life have been killed eating the bags, mistaking them for actual food. Paper bags, often considered the lesser of the two evils, are not free of causing environmental harm in their production. An estimated 14 million trees are cut down to make 10 billion bags used annually in the US. Paper bag production also requires more energy and generates more atmospheric emissions than the production of plastic bags.

The only environmentally responsible choice is to bring your own bag and help reduce the number of plastic and paper bags used in your community. Canvas tote bags, like the one we offer Rock the Earth members donating \$25 or more, can give you the satisfaction of protecting the environment by carrying a bag that can be reused for years. Our new Rock the Earth tote bag is made with 55% hemp and 45% cotton, and can carry more groceries than plastic bags and even paper bags! So this Earth Day, make the choice to use canvas instead of plastic or paper at the grocery store and feel confident in your decision, knowing you are protecting the earth!

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Celebrate Earth Day and Rock the Earth!

This Earth Day, give (or get!) a gift that helps the protect earth with a Rock the Earth membership! We have gift packages that are perfect for friends and family, including great thank you gifts like our new organic cotton/hemp Rock the Earth tote bag, a variety of cotton/hemp Rock the Earth shirts, and some great CD's, DVDs and posters. Check out our

website, www.RockTheEarth.org, to see our gift packages and sign up for membership today!

We are thrilled to announce even more member benefits to thank you for supporting our work! In addition to discounted concert and festival tickets, free music downloads at emusic.com and 20% off SCIGear merchandise, RtE Members can now receive 10% off Eco-express gift baskets, including great bath and body products, organic foods, music, games and much more, as well as 20% off all Bamboosa products! Bamboosa creates beautiful clothing out of 100% bamboo, and they are giving all new RtE members who donate \$25 or more during the month of April a FREE pair of Bamboosa socks. Celebrate Earth Day by supporting Rock the Earth and getting great discounts on environmentally responsible clothing and gifts!

Don't forget to take advantage of those discounted festival tickets before they sell out! RtE Members can purchase tickets to Smilefest for only \$75 and 10,000 Lakes Music Festival for only \$100! That's a great savings! Volunteers willing to work daily at these festivals can get even more discounts - just email us to learn more.

If you are a member of RtE, or want to become one, email us at Membership@RockTheEarth.net to learn how to take advantage of your membership benefits!

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Rock the Earth Lawsuit Moves Forward!

On March 28, 2006, RtE, along with a coalition of wilderness advocate groups including River Runners for Wilderness, Living Rivers and Wilderness Watch, sued the National Park Service in Federal District Court. To read more about the Colorado River Management Plan go [here](#). Also available are a copy of the Complaint as well as a Press Release.

The outcome of this challenge will impact how all wilderness areas are managed in this country, either resulting in free reign for motorized concessionaires in some of this country's most treasured wild lands, or a restoration and protection of these critical ecosystems for future generations.

Expenses associated with this litigation are expected to exceed \$15,000. This marks a turning point in Rock the Earth's growth and we need your assistance more than ever! Please help support this important case by renewing your membership, signing up for membership if you are not already a member, or making an additional donation to RtE.

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Dr. John Rocks the Earth: Interview

Dr. John, or Mac Rebennack as known to friends and family, is universally celebrated as the living embodiment of the rich musical heritage exclusive to New Orleans. His very colorful musical career began in the 1950s when he wrote and played guitar on some of the greatest records to come out of the Crescent City, including recordings by Professor Longhair, Art Neville, Joe Tex and Frankie Ford. A notorious gun incident forced the artist to give up the guitar and concentrate on organ and piano. Further trouble at home sent Dr. John west in the 1960s, where he continued to be in demand as a session musician, playing on records by Sonny and Cher, Van Morrison and Aretha Franklin to name a few. He also launched his solo career, developing the charismatic persona of Dr. John The Night Tripper. Adorned with voodoo charms and regalia, a legend was born with his breakthrough 1968 album *Gris-gris*, which established his unique blend of voodoo mysticism, funk, rhythm & blues, psychedelic rock and Creole roots. Several of his many career highlights include the masterful album *Sun, Moon and Herbs* in 1971, which included cameos from Eric Clapton and Mick Jagger, and 1973's *In The Right Place*, which contained the chart hits "Right Place Wrong Time" and "Such A Night." Dr. John garnered Grammy award wins in 1989, 1992, 1996 and 2000. He has also received five other nominations over the years. In 2004, his musical love letter to the city of New Orleans, "N'awlins Dis Dat or D'udda," was awarded the prestigious Académie Charles Cros 57ème Palmarès award in France. It was the first time since the 1970s that an artist from North America received the award. After a half century of creating music for others and himself, Dr. John continues to write, arrange, produce and interpret with a passion that has yet to wane. He also continues to dazzle and delight audiences across the globe touring consistently. As a true living legend, Mac "Dr. John" Rebennack will always be a musician who never ceases to explore the endless possibilities that music presents.

What environmental issue(s) do you consider to be the most critical at this time?

At the moment, actually, the clean water and stopping further loss of the wetlands (irreversible damage done to wildlife), and rebuilding them for the future.

What has inspired you to combine environmental activism with your music?

In 1957 I started with a record "Storm Warning" about a hurricane in the early fifties. I was growing up in a state that was a sportsman's paradise, one that was already becoming endangered by the Corps of Engineers and the auspices of politicians diverting the Mississippi River.

Since Prez Reagan refused to sign the clean water bill in the eighties, I began, along with Bobby Charles, to observe tragic expansion of the loss of wetlands, where polluted water coming down the Mississippi River blew into the salt waters in the Gulf of Mexico, and I watched the salt water deteriorate the remains of the wetlands at an alarming rate. Bobby Charles wrote the song "Clean Water," and we planned to do a tour down the Mississippi River, with a gig on each side, showing how much damage the chemicals added to this problem. We had lined up acts such as Muddy Waters, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, myself and more.

As of late my concerns have been with Hurricanes Katrina/Rita/Wilma. Everything in our environment has an effect on our being. Our spirit is connected to higher things, political greed is connected to lower things. At this moment the gulf, with it's tragic disaster running from what may be the greatest political land grab since Columbus stole this land from the skins, from East Texas to West Florida-- I am nauseated by our government's treatment of this area in a lesser fashion than it treats third world countries-- it's an age old trap.

Where is your favorite place in nature to go to find solace or inspiration?

On the water. I love to fish and I dread the day that man has no water to drink and neither do the fish. I love peaceful bayous, the Gulf of Mexico... all waters.

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Rockin the Earth with Artist Scott Wolfson: Photos

Artist Scott Wolfson creates a RtE Planet Defender Award while students at the Crefeld School in Philadelphia look on.

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