

Scholarship Recipients



The Manhattan Beach Property Owners Association awarded scholarships to five Mira Costa Students of \$2000 each. A dinner was held for the recipients and their families July 18. These scholarships are awarded on the financial and academic needs of the students. Scholarship recipients: Leila Moinpour, Lianne Pinsky, Ashley Peper, Karsten Kaczmar, and Blake Foster. Provided by Gordon Cherniak, Manhattan Beach Property Owners Assoc.

EarthTalk



From the Editors of *E/The Environmental Magazine*

Synthetic agricultural chemicals became commonplace beginning with the so-called "Green Revolution" in the second half of the 20th century, but their benefits haven't come without environmental costs — namely the wholesale pollution of most of our streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and even coastal areas, as these synthetic chemicals run-off into the nearby waterways. Image by Roger Smith, courtesy Flickr.

Dear EarthTalk: What effects do fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides used on residential lawns or on farms have on nearby water bodies like rivers, streams—or even the ocean for those of us who live near the shore?

-- Linda Reddington, Manahawkin, NJ

With the advent of the so-called Green Revolution in the second half of the 20th century—when farmers began to use technological advances to boost yields—synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides became commonplace around the world not only on farms, but in backyard gardens and on front lawns as well.

These chemicals, many of which were developed in the lab and are petroleum-based, have allowed farmers and gardeners of every stripe to exercise greater control over the plants they want to grow by enriching the immediate environment and warding off pests. But such benefits haven't come without environmental costs—namely the wholesale pollution of most of our streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and even coastal areas, as these synthetic chemicals run-off into the nearby waterways.

When the excess nutrients from all the fertilizer we use runs off into our waterways, they cause algae blooms sometimes big enough to make waterways impassable. When the algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes

oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic species can't survive in these so-called "dead zones" and so they die or move on to greener underwater pastures.

A related issue is the poisoning of aquatic life. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Americans alone churn through 75 million pounds of pesticides each year to keep the bugs off their peapods and petunias. When those chemicals get into waterways, fish ingest them and become diseased. Humans who eat diseased fish can

themselves become ill, completing the circle wrought by pollution.

A 2007 study of pollution in rivers around Portland, Oregon found that wild salmon there are swimming around with dozens of synthetic chemicals in their systems. Another recent study from Indiana found that a variety of corn genetically engineered to produce the insecticide Bt is having toxic effects on non-target aquatic insects, including caddis flies, a major food source for fish and frogs.

The solution, of course, is to go organic, both at home and on the farm. According to the Organic Trade Association, organic farmers and gardeners use composted manure and other natural materials, as well as crop rotation, to help improve soil fertility, rather than synthetic fertilizers that can result in an overabundance of nutrients. As a result, these practices protect ground water supplies and avoid runoff of chemicals that can cause dead zones and poisoned aquatic life.

There is now a large variety of organic fertilizer available commercially, as well as many ways to keep pests at bay without resorting to harsh synthetic chemicals. A wealth of information on growing greener can be found online: Check out OrganicGardeningGuru.com and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Alternative Farming System Information Center, for starters. Those interested in face-to-face advice should consult with a master gardener at a local nursery that specializes in organic gardening.

Contacts: CDC, www.cdc.gov; Organic Gardening Guru, www.organicgardeningguru.com; USDA's Alternative Farming System Information Center, www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/ofp/ofp.shtml.

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All-Stars

from front page



Sean Isaacs came in to shut down Lennox and nail down the win for the MB All-Stars.

round, facing Lennox in the finals. Lennox, which draws its players from the Inglewood area high schools, had to come through the loser's bracket to reach the finals. But the Lennox All-Stars' deep pitching staff demonstrated why it advanced to the regionals a year ago. Manhattan Beach used three pitchers against Lennox, and all three worked out of jams. Once again the defense played well behind the pitchers during crunch time.

Playing on a dilapidated field can always be an adventure and it certainly looked that way in the championship game at Lomita Little League Field. The Lennox All-Stars jumped out to an early 2-0 lead by combining two hits, two walks and an infield error for their runs. In the bottom of the inning, Manhattan Beach countered when Brian Afzali scored on a double by Isaacs to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Manhattan Beach starter Morgan Ascher was once again in trouble in the second inning, but the defense came up with some highlight plays to keep the team in the game. Lennox scored another run to make it 3-1, but it could have been much worse had it not been for two defensive gems. The first one came when Lennox had runners on first and second base with no outs. Manhattan Beach outfielder Brett Clark tracked down a long fly ball that appeared to be heading for a home run. Clark timed the ball and fence and reached over for a home run-saving catch. The other defensive highlight was when Lennox had bases loaded later in the inning and a hard groundball was hit to third baseman Max Wohlmut, who threw to the plate for a force play.

Manhattan Beach kept the game close in its half of the third inning. Lombardo singled and later scored after Ryan Franklin walked and Ascher hit a bad hop infield single to make it 3-2.

With a pitching staff that is deep, the Manhattan Beach All-Stars turned to Austin Henning in the fourth inning when it appeared that Lennox was getting to Ascher. Henning handcuffed the Lennox hitters over the next two innings, escaping out of just one jam. In the top half of the fifth inning, Largent singled and Franklin hammered a fastball over the right field fence for a two-run home run and Manhattan Beach a 4-3 lead. In the bottom half of the inning, with one out, Isaacs came in relief for Henning and shut down Lennox the rest of the way for the save.

In the Sub-Division Sectional

tournament held at Rio Mesa High School in Oxnard, Manhattan Beach fell behind 2-0 to Alhambra early in the game. But the All Stars came charging back with four runs in the third inning, highlighted by Largent's grand slam home run over the left field fence to give his team a 4-2 lead.

With Isaacs cruising on the mound and Manhattan Beach increasing its lead to 7-2 through five innings, things looked favorable. But Isaacs appeared to waver a bit in the bottom of the sixth inning and Alhambra scored twice to close the gap to 7-4. In the seventh inning, Bo Weber was asked to get the final three outs and came in to pitch for Isaacs. Two singles and a walk later, Alhambra had the bases loaded with no outs. Turner Conrad came in to relieve Weber and surrendered a sacrifice fly ball deep enough for a run to score. With the bases still loaded, Conrad gave up a run-scoring single to make it 7-6. Largent came in to pitch and induced a groundball force out at the plate. But he uncorked a wild pitch to the next hitter and Alhambra tied the game. Three pitches later, a sinking line drive hit to centerfield fell just in front of a diving Clark, and Alhambra's remarkable 8-7 come-from-behind victory was complete.

Manhattan Beach slipped into the loser's bracket and won a doubleheader, pounding out a 20-3 win over Oxnard and beating Orange 7-5 in the second game. Against Oxnard, Largent's second grand slam of the tournament was the big highlight as well as the pitching of Afzali and Henning.

Against Orange, the All-Stars held a 2-1 lead through four innings and then broke the game open with a three run home run by Lombardo in the fifth. They added two more runs in the sixth inning and then held on for the win in the second game.

Manhattan Beach played Wednesday. If things go right and the All-Stars wins this Sub-Division Sectional, they would advance to a one-game playoff against another Sub-Division Sectional winner in Riverside. The winner of that game would advance to the Western Regionals in Ontario with that winner representing the West in the Senior Little League World Series. •



The Manhattan Beach Senior Little League All-Stars pose with their championship banner after their win.