



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

WATER: A LIMITED RESOURCE

THE BIG BLUE MARBLE

“The Blue Marble Shot,” famously captured from space on December 7, 1972, is the first image taken of the entire planet. Upon release, this picture was featured on the cover of nearly every newspaper in the world, revealing just how “Ocean Blue” our Earth is and how instinctively humanity recognizes the beauty of this life-sustaining compound.

As the calendar moves us into our annual “Age of Aquarius,” Emerald Keepers turns its attention to all things water related. Today, we discuss water as a precious resource.

H₂O: CANNOT BE CREATED OR DESTROYED

Most of us are familiar with the water cycle, but many overlook its implication that the volume of water on the planet stays about the same. While scientists continue to experiment with artificial water production, the process is extremely expensive and carries high risk



of massive explosion. As a result, preserving the quality of the water we have is critical. Some important facts:

- Today, we are drinking the same water the dinosaurs drank!
- 97% of the world’s water is saltwater, and another approximately 2% is locked in ice caps and

glaciers. Only 1% of the Earth’s water is available for all our needs: agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community and personal.

- The average American uses about 50 gallons of water per day and on average pays \$1 for 500 gallons, or just a penny for 5 gallons!

WATER POLLUTION

At such an affordable price and with seemingly unlimited supply, it might be easy to forget how precious this resource is. Most of California’s waterways, however, are polluted, further reducing the availability of quality water in a region where drought is frequent.

What can you do to stop and reverse this trend?

- Properly dispose of hazardous materials to curb “land pollution,” the result of rain, sprinklers and other water sources sending harmful substances such as car oil and grease, garden pesticides, pet droppings and trash into



NASA

“The Blue Marble Shot,” captured by the Apollo 17 crew 20K miles from Earth—the first and only image of the entire Earth taken by a human. To this day, NASA is not sure which crew member took the picture.

water reservoirs and storm drains.

- As the City of Coronado says, “Only Rain in the Storm Drain!” Report storm water concerns to Public Services at (619) 522-7380 or visit iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client_id=1000038.
- Be sensitive to waterway vulnerability when engaging in outdoor activities such as birthday parties, gender-reveals, quinceañeras, weddings, etc. Skip the balloons and plastic confetti in exchange for Earth-friendly streamers, kites, pinwheels or bubbles.
- Participate in volunteer monitoring programs to track local water conditions. Learn more at Think Blue San Diego, our regional stormwater pollution prevention educational program, sandiego.gov/think-blue.

Sources: EPA, CA State Water Resources Control Board, Utah State University Water Curriculum.

EVENTS

TONIGHT: Emerald Keepers General Meeting with speaker Robert Carr, San Diego Building Electrification Coalition 7pm. Zoom link on emeraldkeepers.org under Events.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! THURSDAY, FEB 10: Delta Beach Clean-Up in partnership with the



Navy. Meet at the Fiddler’s Cove parking lot or at the gate just south of Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Look for the Emerald

Keepers banner on the fence. Bring your own water and a pick-up stick, if you have one. 10am to noon. Please wear a mask.

For more information visit EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG