

Saturday, January 30, 2010

Wolf Moon

The Wolf Moon is the first Full Moon of the calendar year. Also called the Cold Moon, it occurs in the middle of the cold winter season, a time of death and desolation in nature. Food supplies for predators are scarce, and wolves are on the prowl for prey, often coming into towns in search of food.

Wolves and dogs are associated with death and reincarnation in many cultures, guarding the gates to the underworld. Since so many died in the dead of winter, when survival depended on the hearth fire and dwindling food stores from the fall harvest, naming this Full Moon the Wolf Moon makes sense. But wolves are also pack animals who, like humans, keep the same family for life. Wolves depend on their families for wisdom, support and love, just like we do. Without their pack, many wolves would not survive the winter. This is the perfect time to honor hearth, home and family. Pay attention to the lesson of the wolf and spend some quality time with blood relatives and family of choice, and thank them for all they have given you.

The word "January" comes from the Roman God Janus, who had two faces. He is the God of the past and future, beginnings and endings. Put aside the old and the bad in your life and start fresh with new thoughts and goals.

So tonight, honor the Wolf and howl at the moon! Give thanks for your family, your home, and all that you have. The days are getting longer and spring is near. Winter will soon be over and you have survived!

Posted by Dryad in Moon Talk at 01:00

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Common T-Shirt Terms

T-shirt manufacturers use many terms to describe their products. Deciphering a t-shirt description such as "100% 30/1 combed ring-spun Jersey knit organic cotton, 4.5 ounce, cap-sleeved, shoulder to shoulder taped, Oeko-Tex 100 certified," can be confusing, so here is the official Green Man T-Shirts Guide to t-shirt terms.

Green Man T-Shirts Guide to T-Shirt Terms

20s, 20/1, 20s single: Unit of measurement that defines the fineness of cotton thread. A standard spool of single-ply cotton thread is comprised of 840 yards of cotton thread. If it takes 20 spools to weigh one pound, then the thread on those spools is referred to as 20s cotton, or 20/1. If 30 spools weigh one pound, then the thread on those spools is referred to as 30s cotton thread, or 30/1. If it takes 40 spools to weigh one pound, then the thread on those spools is referred to as 40s cotton, or 40/1. The higher number means a finer thread, and thus a finer, softer fabric is created. T-shirts made of 30s and 40s are softer, finer, and have better drape than t-shirts made of 20s. The terms are used many ways, but it's the number that counts; "20s," "20/1," and "20 singles" are the same. Threads can be twisted together into thicker strands. If two 20/1 cotton threads were twisted together, it would be referred to as 20/2.

Bamboo Fabric: Rayon made from bamboo cellulose. Although rayon is a man-made synthetic material, most experts agree it is readily biodegradable. Bamboo fabric is extremely soft and has excellent drape.

Bamboo: Fast growing plant, classified as a grass, which can be readily processed into rayon to make bamboo rayon clothing.

Bleach Wash: A process that uses bleach to soften and distress the look of the fabric being washed.

Boat Neck: A very wide neckline that runs across the collarbone area to the shoulder points. Derives from early sailors' shirts, where the wide neck enabled quick removal if the sailor fell overboard.

Boy Beater: Women's fashion answer to the wife beater. A women's tank top, although it can be any color.

Brushed Cotton: A method to remove excess lint and fibers from cotton fabric. Brushed cotton usually has a very soft, smooth finish.

Burn-Out: A process that uses sulfuric acid or other strong acid to "burn-out" parts of a fabric knit, usually a polyester/cotton blend. The process gives a see-through, very sheer effect.

Cap Sleeves: Usually refers to shorter sleeves on women's garments.

Carbon Dioxide: CO₂. A chemical compound composed of two oxygen atoms and one carbon atom. Known as a "greenhouse" gas because of its relationship with global warming. A few t-shirt manufacturers are now measuring and recording the CO₂ emissions involved in manufacturing their shirts.

Carbon Trust: Independent organization founded in 2001 in Great Britain that monitors carbon emissions. The Carbon Trust works with companies to help reduce their carbon footprint, and now certifies companies and products as having a "low carbon" or "no carbon" footprint. A few t-shirt companies now manufacture "low carbon footprint" t-shirts.

Carding: A fiber cleaning process that eliminates short fibers and removes dirt and foreign matter. Carding can be done by hand or by large machines using drum rollers. Carded-only cotton is not as desirable as combed cotton.

Cellulase Wash: Another name for enzyme wash. This gives fabric a soft feel and a vintage look, depending on how the wash is done.

Cellulose: Derived from the cell walls of certain plants. Useful in making certain types of fabrics, including acetate, triacetate, and rayon. Bamboo fabric is actually rayon made from bamboo cellulose.

Cheap Cotton T-Shirt: T-shirts made with carded cotton, using 18/1 thread, usually knitted on 20 gauge machines.

These t-shirts are coarse, rough, and have poor drapability. Used often as cheap promotional give-aways.

Climate Neutral: A term used to describe a company, process, or product that has zero impact on the Earth's climate. A few t-shirt manufacturers advertise their company as climate neutral.

CO₂: Carbon dioxide. A chemical compound composed of two oxygen atoms and one carbon atom. Known as a "greenhouse" gas because of its relationship with global warming.

Colorfastness: The ability of a garment to withstand multiple washings without losing its color.

Combed Cotton: A method to remove short fibers and to arrange longer fibers parallel to create a smooth, fine cotton yarn. Combed cotton has high strength, excellent uniformity, and better hand. Combed cotton costs more and is used in finer t-shirts.

Compacting: A process that compacts the space between cotton fiber pockets. Helps to reduce shrinking.

Contrasting Stitching: Stitching with a different color than the garment. Gives a nice design detail in t-shirts.

Control Union: An international organization that offers certification services for a variety of programs--including many organic certification programs. Certifies USDA Organic, as well as GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard).

Cotton Jersey: Knitted, very slightly stretchy fabric with a smooth flat face and a more textured but uniform back. Average weight per yard is about 5.5 to 6 ounces. Basic t-shirts are made of cotton jersey. Fine cotton jersey is usually smoother and has a lighter weight per yard.

Cotton: A natural fiber that is the most popular in the world for fabrics. Cotton fibers are usually $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long. Longer fibers produce finer cotton fabric. Varieties such as Pima and Egyptian, which feature fibers exceeding 1.5 inches, are more highly valued than ordinary varieties.

Crew Neck: A round close-fitting neckline. Most common neck on t-shirts.

Crop Top: A shirt with a short body to it; made to expose the midriff area.

Double-Needle Stitched: Used mostly on sleeve/bottom hems and refers to a parallel row of stitching. This type of stitching gives durability and a cleaner, more finished look.

Drape, Drapability: Refers to how a fabric hangs. A fabric like bamboo rayon has excellent drape, while a coarse fabric like burlap has very little. T-shirts that have good drape qualities feel nicer to wear.

Drop Tail: A garment that features a longer back than front.

Eco-Friendly: Extremely loose term that refers to a product's "greenness." Almost useless in realistically assessing a product. Favorite term used by green washers.

Egyptian Cotton: Cotton produced in Egypt and valued for its long length of fiber. Apparel made with true Egyptian cotton is prized for its softness and fineness.

Environmental Justice Foundation: A registered charity established in 2000 to help people who suffer most from environmental abuses such as pesticide poisoning, water depletion, and soil destruction. Especially active in curbing abuses in cotton farming.

Enzyme Washed: A wash process using special enzymes to produce a soft finish and smooth look to a fabric. Ages dyes to create a special look to dyed fabrics. Enzyme washing is physically less harsh on the fabric compared to stone washing.

European Cut: A style of t-shirt that is narrower than what one normally finds. For example, a full cut men's t-shirt, size large, usually runs 22 inches across the chest (measured one inch below the sleeve). A men's large European cut will run about half an inch to 1 inch narrower, sometimes more.

Fabric Dyed: Fabric dyed before being cut and sewn into a finished piece of clothing.

Fair Labor Association: A nonprofit organization dedicated to ending sweatshop conditions in factories worldwide. Works to develop Code of Labor Practices, especially important in the apparel business where working conditions have historically been so poor.

Fair Wear Foundation: An international group dedicated to enhancing garment workers' lives all over the world. Works with companies that produce clothing and other sewn products and that take responsibility for their supply chain.

Fine Cotton Jersey: Knitted, very slightly stretchy fabric with a smooth flat face and a more textured but uniform back. Fine cotton jersey is usually smoother and has a lighter weight per yard than regular cotton jersey. T-shirts made with fine cotton jersey have a better drape and feel than regular t-shirts. Usually made with 30s and higher cotton thread, and weighs about 4.3 ounces per square yard.

Fitted Cut: Definitions vary, but generally a fitted cut refers to a cut that flatters the body. Used often in women's t-shirts, the middle section of the shirt will be tighter than the top or bottom. Overall, the shirts run narrower than a basic full cut.

Full Cut: A generous, roomy cut. In t-shirts, tubular styles are generally considered full-cut, but there are exceptions. Full Cut differs from the slimmer European Cuts, Slim Cuts, and Fitted Cuts.

Garment Dyed: Clothing dyed after it has been cut and sewn into a finished article of clothing.

Garment Washed: A process where finished articles of clothing are washed, usually with added softeners to improve the feel and look of the fabric.

GMO Free: GMO stands for Genetically Modified Organisms. First used in the 1990s when consumers became worried about genetically modified food. Many companies now apply the GMO free label on everything from food to natural fabrics, like cotton.

GOTS: Stands for Global Organic Textile Standard. A project of the International Working Group. They have developed standards to ensure organic status of textiles, from the harvesting, manufacturing, and labeling, in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer. An organic t-shirt that meets the standards can be GOTS certified.

Green: Generic term used by marketing gurus to promote products. Another favorite term of "green-washers," who are hopping on the environmental bandwagon without any real commitment.

Green-Washing: Take off on the term "white-washing," but in an environmental context. Companies that green-wash are paying lip-service to environmental concerns to attract more business, but haven't taken any real steps to be environmentally responsible.

Hand: The way a fabric feels to the touch. A fabric that feels soft and smooth is considered to have a good hand.

Hemp Fabric: Hemp, or *Cannabis sativa*, has been used for fabric for thousands of years, mostly as an industrial fabric. Newer processing methods have made it suitable for finer clothing, and now it is used in many clothing articles, including t-shirts. Hemp is valued for its strength and durability.

Henley T-Shirt: Similar to a collarless polo shirt, a Henley is a pullover t-shirt featuring 2 or 3 buttons (sometimes up to 5 buttons are used, but that's uncommon). A Henley can be either short or long sleeved.

Ice Wash: A method of stone washing where the stones are first soaked in a solution of potassium permanganate. This method produces a frosted appearance to fabric.

Interlock Knit: A type of knit that is very soft and has a good drape. Interlock knit stitches are tighter, more stretchy than Jersey knit, but less stretchy than rib knit. Used in very fine garments.

Jersey Knit: Commonly found in t-shirts and is the most durable of knits. It is light weight, and has fine vertical ribs. The Jersey knit was named after the British Island in the English Channel. Fine cotton Jersey refers to Jersey Knit made with fine cotton threads such as 30s and 40s.

Knit: Defines how the interlocking loops of yarn that make up fabric were made. There are many types of knits. Jersey Knit is commonly found in t-shirts and is the most durable of knits. It is light weight, and has fine vertical ribs. On the other hand, rib knits have heavy ribs running down the fabric, while interlock knits are used in very fine fabrics. T-shirt collars are usually rib knit.

Muscle Shirt: Sleeveless style t-shirt, but not exactly a tank top. Basic t-shirt, just without the sleeves. The shoulder strap portion is much wider than an ordinary tank top.

Neck Tape: A thin strip of fabric sewn over the seam running across the shoulders and neck area. It covers the seam and looks better than an exposed stitch. Often referred to as "shoulder to shoulder taped."

OekoTek 100: Certification from the International Oeko-Tex® Association, which assures consumers that the apparel they buy is chemical free and poses no risk to their health. Under the Oeko-Tex standard, clothing must be free of formaldehyde, arsenic, lead, cadmium, and other toxic chemicals.

Organic Apparel: A term very loosely applied in the garment industry. It can mean anything from 100% organic to as little as 6% organic. Often combined with terms like Eco-Friendly, Green, and so on. Consumers must check the labels and verify the materials used to see if something is truly organic or not.

Organic Cotton: Cotton grown without the use of pesticides. Certified organic cotton has been inspected to insure it truly is organic.

Organic Soil Association: Founded in 1946 by a group of farmers, scientists and nutritionists concerned about the relationship between farming practices and plant, animal, human, and environmental health. The Organic Soil Association pioneered the first organic standards in 1967, and certifies farms and businesses that meet those standards.

Overdyed: A process where previously dyed garments or fabrics are dyed with an additional color to create a unique look.

Performance T: Name for t-shirts manufactured for athletes and outdoor enthusiasts. Performance Ts are characterized by their breathability, moisture wicking, fast drying, and odor control capabilities. Many performance Ts are polyester/cotton blends, or can also be 100% polyester. Bamboo t-shirts, due to their absorbency and wicking properties, have become known as performance t-shirts, although they do not dry as fast as performance t-shirts made of 100% polyester.

PFD: Stands for Prepared For Dyeing. Sold this way to t-shirt customizers who want to create their own look with dyes.

Pigment Dyed: A type of dye that creates a washed out, distressed look.

Pima Cotton: A cotton developed in the U.S. in the early 1900s to compete with Egyptian cotton. It features longer fibers and is used often in fine men's and women's shirts. The name Pima comes from the Pima Indians, who helped with the first crops of the new cotton as it was first grown in the U.S.

Pique: A method of knitting that creates a waffle-type, fine textured surface. Used often in polo shirts.

Polyester: Man-made fiber manufactured from synthetic polymers. Used widely in apparel, especially combined with cotton in 50/50 blends.

Pre-Shrunk: Refers to the process of pre-shrinking fabric before it is cut and sewn. Occasionally it refers to an actual finished garment that has been preshrunk. Clothing that has been preshrunk shrinks less once the buyer washes it. Preshrunk cotton t-shirts will still shrink a bit, however, especially if dried using a clothes dryer.

Raglan T-Shirt: Style of t-shirt featuring sleeves that run directly to the collar. Usually the sleeves are a contrasting color from the body. Raglan sleeves are wider under the arms, and are preferred by wearers who want maximum freedom of movement. Baseball t-shirts usually feature a raglan sleeve style.

Rayon: Man-made fiber that uses plant cellulose as its main ingredient. Rayon is very soft, has excellent drape, and is very absorbent. Originally developed as a silk substitute.

Rib Knit: Characterized by heavy vertical ribs running down the fabric. Rib knits are usually classified as 1x1, 2x1 or 2x2. This lets you know the width of the rib compared to the space between. For example, a 1x1 rib knit or a 2x2 rib knit means the space between each rib is the same width as the ribs. But a 2x1 rib knit means the ribs are twice as wide as the spaces in between. Rib knit is very stretchy and is often used for t-shirt collars, cuffs, and tank tops.

Ring Spun: Refers to yarn made by twisting and thinning a rope of cotton fibers. The continuous spinning results in a

softer feel and stronger yarn. Ring-spun t-shirts are noticeably softer to the touch.

Ringer T: A t-shirt with colored sleeve bands and matching crew neck. Most ringers are white, with the armband sleeves and crew necks in various colors.

Sand Wash: Refers to using sand while washing a garment or fabric to soften and distress it.

Satin Washed: Another term for silicone washed, which produces a very smooth and soft finish to fabric, and also gives the fabric good draping properties.

Scoop Neck: Wide, gently curved neckline that varies in depth. Favored in women's shirts.

Sheer Jersey: Very light weight jersey knit, weighing about 3.9 ounces per yard. A little stretchier than fine jersey.

Shoulder to Shoulder Tape: A thin strip of fabric sewn over the seam running across the shoulders and neck area. It covers the seam and looks better than an exposed stitch.

Shrinkage: Usually refers to cotton apparel and the amount it can be expected to shrink. Most cotton t-shirts are pre-shrunk, but 4-5% shrinkage can still be expected.

Side Seamed: Refers to shirts with a seam running down at each side under the arm sleeves to the bottom hem. Side seamed t-shirts are more expensive to manufacture.

Silicone Washed: Refers to using inert silicone in a washing process. Produces a very smooth and soft finish to fabric, and also gives the fabric good draping properties.

Singlet: another term for a men's tank top.

Slim Cut: A style of t-shirt that is narrower than what one normally finds. For example, a full cut men's t-shirt, size large, usually runs 22 inches across the chest (measured one inch below the sleeve). A slim cut will run about half an inch to 1 inch narrower, sometimes more.

Stonewashed: A washing process that uses lava rocks or sometimes silicon and rubber balls. This method makes fabric softer and gives it an aged or distressed look. Sometimes bleach is used in this process.

Tank Top: T-Shirt characterized by thin shoulder straps and no sleeves. The name came from the early term for swimming pools: swimming tanks.

Taped Seam: Not actual "tape," but a thin strip of fabric sewn over the seam running across the shoulders and neck area of t-shirts. It covers the seam and looks better than an exposed stitch.

Tubular Style: A style that has no side seams; the body of the t-shirt is round and straight. Tubular t-shirts are less expensive to manufacture, and make up the bulk of the cheaper t-shirts.

Unisex T-Shirt: No standard definition exists for a unisex t-shirt, but generally speaking a unisex t-shirt is made of lighter weight, fine cotton jersey, side seamed, and not cut as full as a regular men's t-shirt. The sleeves are not extra short, like cap sleeves, but are not full elbow lengths either. The body length is usually medium/long. However, there are wide variations in unisex t-shirts, depending on the manufacturer.

Uzbekistan: Former U.S.S.R. satellite that became independent in 1991 and is notorious for its cotton production methods, which include forced child labor and environmentally destructive practices. Ethical apparel companies boycott Uzbekistan cotton; however, many companies don't care and have refused to join in the boycott because Uzbekistan cotton is cheap.

V -Neck: Inverted triangle style of neckline. Can be deep or shallow, depending on the style. Usually favored by women, but a shallow style v-neck is popular among men.

Viscose: Typically another name for rayon, as in viscose rayon.

Weight: Usually expressed ounces per square yard. A 5.5 ounce weight cotton fabric means that one square yard will weigh 5.5 ounces. Fine jersey cotton fabrics usually have lighter weights, while coarser cotton fabrics have heavier

weights.

Wife Beater: Derogatory term for a men's tank top t-shirt. Usually refers to a basic white tank top.

Yarn Dyed: Yarn that is dyed before it is woven into a fabric

Posted by Green Man in T-Shirt Information at 21:41

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

California Brown Pelicans Hurt by Storms

The recent California storms have caused extensive damage up and down the coast. Along with the mudslides, downed trees, and flooding, are the effects upon our wildlife.

For example, the California Brown Pelican, an animal only just removed from the endangered species list, has struggled to survive the storms.

It seems odd to think wildlife isn't equipped to handle nature, but in the pelicans' case it's the urban runoff from the storms that hurts them. The runoff is polluted with oil, grease, and other gunk that gets over the birds and mats down their feathers. The pelicans lose the insulating barrier that the feathers usually give them, and hypothermia sets in. Once wet and cold, the birds suffer from failing immune systems and get sick.

Brown Pelicans normally weigh up to 10 pounds, and stand about 4 feet. Their wingspans cover 7 feet. Sick birds have been found by the dozens along the coast and wildlife groups are collecting them for treatment.

Pelican covered in oil and grease. The birds are dried, warmed up, and fed. As they recover they undergo a bath using liquid dish soap to remove the filth from their feathers.

The whole process takes a week, and costs about \$500.00 per bird.

The pictures shown are from Marie Travers at the International Bird Research Rescue Center

After his bath, ready to go!

Posted by Green Man in General at 08:24

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Organic Farming And The Swath of Death

The future of organic farming may be playing out in a tiny town in California.

Alan Bornt farms organic spinach on 450 acres near the town. He uses no pesticides or herbicides.

The problem? Gnats.

Gnats, average size of 1/16 to 1/8 inch long, black bodies, clear wings, are a type of very small fly.

The 550 residents of Jacumba say the gnat population is out of control. Millions of the intensely irritating creatures swarm the town and surrounding areas. They make life miserable, flying into eyes, ears, swarming around everything. Sitting outside to relax and read the paper, or to sip a beer, is impossible, the residents claim.

The residents place the blame squarely on Bornt and his organic farm.

One of California's major universities studied the problem and concluded that Bornt's farm was responsible for more than 80 million gnats. The county required him to place over 1,000 gnat traps, but the traps haven't worked as well as expected.

Now a new plan has been formulated: alternating rows of alfalfa and corn forming a 100-ft "swath of death" for the gnats. The alfalfa and corn will adjoin the organic spinach crop. But they will be sprayed with conventional pesticides. The alfalfa and corn will lure the gnats and the pesticide will kill them.

The plan was conceived by James Bethke, who serves as a farm adviser with the University of California.

For Bornt, the stakes are high. If the plan doesn't work, the county is threatening to shut down his organic farm for good.

Posted by Green Man in General at 02:48

Friday, January 22, 2010

Eels Gone From The Thames?

Where have the Thames eels gone?

The Thames River at one point was full of eels. The eels originate from the Sargasso Sea, and then migrate to European rivers like the Thames. They spend 20 years in the rivers before returning to the Sargasso Sea to spawn and eventually die.

Scientists regularly trapped 1,500 or more Thames eels in yearly studies. But last year, only 50 eels were caught. The eel population, according to the scientists, has dropped 98% in the last 5 years.

The migrating eels are either not coming to the Thames anymore, or are not surviving once they arrive. Scientists are not sure which, but either way the absence of the eels could have a disastrous effect on other species that depend on them as food.

The Thames Estuary was considered a "biological dead zone" in the 1960s, but has made a comeback. It now supports over 120 species of fish, 350 species of invertebrates, plus hundreds of thousands of migrating wildfowl each year. The North Sea fishery depends upon the estuary as an important nursery ground for many species.

Knocking out the eels from the food chain might start a chain reaction with other species. In fact, when the Thames estuary was first coming back to life in the 1960s, it was the eels that were first to re-colonize the waters.

To explain the eels' disappearance, scientists are looking at possible changes in oceanic currents, man-made structures such as dams, and perhaps the presence of diseases and parasites.

Posted by Green Man in General at 08:20

Thursday, January 21, 2010

A Giant Coming Down At Last

Photograph by Robert F. BukatyIn Yarmouth, Maine, a towering elm tree is coming down.

It's no ordinary tree.

Scientists say the massive elm was standing in the days of the American Revolution. It may be over 240 years old, but the exact age won't be known until the tree rings are counted.

But Dutch elm disease has finally killed the great tree.

Surprisingly, the tree has withstood 14 bouts with Dutch elm disease before. Over the last fifty years the tree was lovingly cared for by Frank Knight, who is now 101 years old himself.

Wood from the tree will be given to craftsmen and artisans who will make furniture and other products with it.

Posted by Green Man at 15:07

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Last Decade Was Warmest On Record

We've had a hot start to the new millennium, researchers say. Years 2000 through 2009 made up the hottest decade on record. The second warmest decade, in case you were wondering, was the previous decade: 1990 through 1999.

In 2009 global temperatures were 1.01 degree above average, which tied for the fifth warmest ever. Overall, the last decade averaged .96 degrees hotter than normal.

2005 was 1.11 degrees above normal.

In the United States during the last year the temperature averaged .3 degrees above normal. It was also the 18th wettest year on record, averaging nationwide 33.8 inches.

Other U.S records were set this decade, including:

- 1) A 10th consecutive summer of above normal temperatures in the Northwest
- 2) A record winter drought in Texas
- 3) The most active tornado season in Louisiana and Alabama
- 4) New snowfall records for Spokane, Washington, and International Falls, Minnesota.

The Green Man Blog is written to spread environmental awareness and appreciation of the natural world around us. Thank you for visiting! Stay green, support the organic movement, and be sure to visit www.greenmantshirts.com or www.robjuszak.com for the best in organic cotton and bamboo t shirts!

Posted by Green Man in General at 18:54

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Would Hemingway Recognize It Now?

Kilimanjaro is a snow-covered mountain 19,710 feet high, and is said to be the highest mountain in Africa. Its western summit is called the Masai "Ngaje Ngai," the House of God. Close to the western summit there is the dried and frozen carcass of a leopard. No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude.

-Ernest Hemingway, preface to the short story, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro."

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Posted by Green Man at 01:05

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Favorite T-Shirt Designs Episode 2

We were just a little late on our second t-shirt review video; but hey, we never said we were brilliant cinematographers.

(No one has ever said that about us, actually).

But anyway, here it is. As before, the designs we liked are pictured below with the relevant links.

If you happen to be one of the designers we featured, feel free to drop us a line. Weâ€™ll print your response here if youâ€™d like. See you next month with another review!

Newcastle by low winter sun.

Bike Girl by Niki Fisher.

Bull's Eye by presh.

Posted by Green Man in Videos at 13:25

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Dolphin Slaughter in Japan

The photo at right is from the movie, *The Cove*. The water you see is not colored by dye. It is colored by the blood of dead and dying dolphins: speared, slashed, and beaten to death by fishermen.

The Cove documents the annual brutal slaughter. For years, the Japanese in the town of Taiji have attempted to hide this from the public. Now the world knows.

Dolphin meat, unfit for human consumption because of its high mercury content, was nonetheless sold to an unsuspecting public as a delicacy.

The Japanese government repeatedly lied to its own people and to international organizations about what was happening in Taiji.

More information about this issue can be found at: <http://www.thecovemovie.com/>

The movie is well worth watching, but we have to warn you: it is graphic and there are scenes that will alternately horrify you and break your heart.

Posted by Green Man in General at 19:45

Saturday, January 9, 2010

Oceanic Trenches

Guest article by Bispo Barbosa

The Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench adjacent to the Philippines is the deepest place on earth, reaching 10.7 km below the surface, a vertical relief greater than that of Mount Everest.

The Puerto Rican Trench reaches a depth of 8.4 km. The 5,900 km Peru-Chile Trench is the longest; it is bordered by volcanoes on South America.

It was not until the modern concept of plate tectonics was developed that an understanding of how oceanic trenches form was established. These trenches are associated with both earthquakes and volcanic activity and are the result of the interaction of two crustal plates, one sliding under the other and descending. As the underlying plate moves downward at a steep angle into hotter regions of the earth (a process known as subduction), pulled by convection currents and gravity, a trench is formed where one plate slides below the other. Subduction produces additional heat by friction. Heat causes the plate to melt, and the resulting molten material (magma) rises to the surface, erupts, and builds volcanoes. The downward movement also causes earthquakes. Where two oceanic plates converge, a volcanic island arc system of basaltic rock develops in the direction of the downward-dipping plate, such as occurs in the Aleutian Islands. An oceanic-continental interaction creates mountains as sea sediments are squeezed and raised upward, and volcanoes as a result of the melting of the inclined plate. In this situation the molten material rises through the mountains, is contaminated by the surrounding rocks, and erupts high on the mountains to form andesite volcanoes. Trenches are relatively steeper on the landward side and gentler on the ocean basin side. Sediments accumulating in the trench derived from the erosion of the adjacent continent tend to be thicker on the landward side. The oceanic trenches are home to famous hydrothermal vent faunas.

You can find more in:

pandora bracelets

pandora beads

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bispo_Barbosa

<http://EzineArticles.com/?Oceanic-Trenches&id=3405765>

Posted by Green Man in Guest Articles at 20:46

Friday, January 8, 2010

The Population Growth

Look at the chart at right: the U.S population has grown by half again every thirty years.

If this trend continues, in another thirty years weâ€™ll have a population exceeding 450 million people.

And thatâ€™s a conservative estimate. Experts say weâ€™ll pass the half-billion mark by then. Are we prepared for this? How do we house, clothe, and feed a half-billion people? What demands upon our resources will be made?

And if our resources are not sustainably managed, what then?

Posted by Green Man in General at 05:31

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Whales, Japan, and Liars

The recent clash between a Japanese whaling ship and the *Ady Gil*, a small craft deployed by the Sea Sheppard, highlights the controversy over illegal and questionable whaling practices.

Since 1986, there has been a moratorium on commercial whaling. The idea was to allow whale species a chance to recover from the devastating effects of mass whaling all around the world. Most countries have adhered to the moratorium, but some have been aggressive in seeking ways around it.

Japan and Norway, for example, have continued whaling operations. They have found loopholes in the moratorium that allow whaling under the guise of "research." Between the two countries, Japan is by far the most aggressive.

Japan kills over 1,000 whales annually under their Japanese whale Research Program in the Antarctic (JARPA).

But many people have seen through Japan's flimsy attempt at disguising whaling as "research." In 2007, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) became alarmed at Japan's whaling activities in the Southern Ocean, which had been previously declared a whale sanctuary.

The IWC issued this resolution:

Resolution 2007-1

RESOLUTION ON JARPA

WHEREAS paragraph 7(b) of the Schedule establishes a sanctuary in the Southern Ocean;
RECALLING that the Commission has repeatedly requested Contracting Parties to refrain from issuing special permits for research involving the killing of whales within the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, has expressed deep concern at continuing lethal research within the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, and has also recommended that scientific research involving the killing of cetaceans should only be permitted where critically important research needs are addressed;

CONSCIOUS that the Scientific Committee last year convened a workshop to analyze the results of JARPA 1, which is reported in SC/59/REP 1;

NOTING that the Workshop agreed that none of the goals of JARPA 1 had been reached, and that the results of the JARPA 1 programme are not required for management under the RMP;

FURTHER NOTING that the Government of Japan has authorised a new special permit programme in the Antarctic, JARPA II, in which the take of minke whales has been more than doubled, and fin whales and humpback whales have been added to the list of targeted species;

CONCERNED that fin whales in the Southern Hemisphere are currently classified as endangered, and that humpback whales in the JARPA II research area may include individuals from depleted breeding populations overwintering in the waters of certain Pacific Islands;

CONVINCED that the aims of JARPA II do not address critically important research needs;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION CALLS UPON the Government of Japan to address the 31 recommendations listed in Appendix 4 of Annex O of the Scientific Committee report relating to the December 2006 review of the JARPA I programme to the satisfaction of the Scientific Committee;

FURTHER CALLS UPON the Government of Japan to suspend indefinitely the lethal aspects of JARPA II conducted within the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

The key words to this resolution are: "Convinced that the aims of JARPA II do not address critically important research needs." In bureaucratic-speak, that's about as strong as language can get when calling a country a liar.

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Yet, without a means to enforce the resolution, the ICW and the rest of the world can do nothing about Japan's illegal whaling. The Sea Sheppard has been harassing the Japanese whalers for years as they conduct their whaling operations, and the Ady Gil is just the latest in a long line of clashes. Many of these clashes have been documented on the Animal Planet show, Whale Wars.

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Posted by Green Man at 08:38

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

13 Billion Years Ago

The photo at right is the earliest image ever taken of our universe.

It represents looking back in time 13 billion years. The picture was taken by the Hubble telescope.

The universe is about 13.7 billion years old, and scientists want to see far enough out in space to catch images of the first galaxies and stars formed after the Big Bang. To achieve this, a new telescope—the \$4.5 billion James Webb telescope—will be launched in about 4 years.

If successful, the James Webb telescope will be able to see across time to the very earliest years of the universe, perhaps within a few million years of its creation.

Our question is: what existed before the Big Bang?

Posted by Green Man at 03:04

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Upcycling?

We have all heard of recycling, but what is upcycling?

It's a new term used to describe the process of recycling materials to make something more valuable than the initial materials.

For example, a scientist from Argonne Labs has developed a way to make a component of lithium-ion batteries from ordinary plastic bags. These components, called carbon nanotubes, are a critical part of the batteries which are now used to power everything from cell phones, laptop computers, and even cars.

The process involves "cooking" the bags at over 700 degrees Celsius. Combined with cobalt acetate, this process causes the carbon in the bags to grow as nanotubes on the cobalt particles.

One plastic bag creates enough nanotubes to power an ordinary cell phone.

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Posted by Green Man in General at 07:50

Monday, January 4, 2010

Top Reasons to Conserve Energy and Go Green

The following is a guest article by Brent Crouch:

Every year, newspapers and magazines crown one word or phrase the official buzzword of that year. Often times, the winning phrase comes from a movie or television show, but this year, the phrase on everyone's mind has been "going green."

Thanks to outrageous fuel costs that have made everything from heating our homes to driving our cars a trial, there is a genuine movement within the United States to head towards renewable, clean energy like never before. The election of Barack Obama as President also sends a signal to the rest of the world that the US is finally ready to take issues like climate change and renewable energy seriously. So, why go green? Let's take a look at just a few of the reasons why.

One of the biggest arguments against going green, whether it be on a state-wide level or at home, was cost. Solar panels were just too expensive to install in a home and wind farms were too costly compared to coal plants or nuclear power. Now, with new technology pioneered by companies around the world, the first low cost solar panel has hit the market.

Home wind generators are now extremely affordable and more and more power companies from coast to coast allow you to sell back your excess energy for a credit. If you have been waiting for costs to come down before going green, then now is the time to act.

Why go green? You'll save a bundle!

There is an old saying in the world of politics that says all politics are local. This means that the biggest, world changing movements begin in neighborhoods with one or two people. The same can be said for going green. All it takes is one or two people going off the grid and before you know it, every home in that area is outfitted with solar panels and wind generators. None of these people set out to be trailblazers, they simply want to help Mother Nature and lower their expenses, but good ideas have a way of catching on.

Why go green? Because you may be the first domino that could change an entire region!

When most of us think of going green, we think of our home, but there is so much more to living a green lifestyle than that. We can drive energy efficient cars or better yet, not drive at all. We can do our part to ensure that our workplace is as green as can be. Often times, when environmentally conscious individuals begin to make green changes around work, the response they get from those around them is, "We never thought of doing it that way before."

Why go green? You can change the way business gets done around the world!

Going green means different things to different people. For some it may be replacing old light bulbs with energy saving fluorescents. For others it may be installing solar panels and wind generators. No matter what steps you take, going green gives you a feeling of accomplishment like no other.

Why go green? Because you are doing the right thing!

Keep up with the latest alternative energy news from HowToSaveElectricity.net.

Article Source: Top Reasons to Conserve Energy and Go Green.

Posted by Green Man in Guest Articles at 19:54

Conserving Public Lands

Many states have set aside substantial portions of their land for public enjoyment. For example, New Hampshire has set

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aside 30% of its land, and Vermont 22%. A few years back, Maine had 6% of its land set aside, but has now tripled that to 18%.

These lands are set aside and protected from future development, and serve as a wilderness haven for wildlife and enjoyed by avid outdoorsmen (and women).

This growing trend reflects the public's™ interest in preserving at least part of the land that, in theory, belongs to all of us. Overall, 15% of the land in the United States is under some type of conservation program.

The Nature Conservancy works worldwide to protect and conserve our remaining wilderness and wildlife. For information about its work in the United States, [click here](#).

Posted by Green Man in General at 09:18

Friday, January 1. 2010

Tasmanian Wolf x1933

Dave: This design is our tribute to an animal wiped out in 1933. We played around with the idea of graffiti about nature: sort of giving the legendary Green Man a can of spray paint and letting him vandalize the urban environment. The irony of "out of stock" of course is that we cannot reorder, ever.

Posted by Green Man in T-Shirt Information at 17:47

Happy New Year!

Posted by Green Man in General at 10:44