

# The Beach Doctor Is In

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Lifelong Montecito resident, Tim Kirshtner started a small beach cleaning business called Beachdoctor in the late eighties. For many years he volunteered his time after school or on weekends. Tim has been called "The man who hates trash," by Jim Buckley of the Montecito Journal when he was featured years ago. Tim made an effort to educate people about the problems with our packaging. Tim says, "Recycling, and composting kitchen and yard waste are great for preserving our resources. If we need not to mine further from the Earth, and reduce our need to move material around then we will pollute a lot less. I am more concerned than ever because of population. As for the convenience one-time-use packaging, it would be wonderful if the garbage would break down quickly without polluting our water." Tim was hoping as a young man that somebody of influence and power would start to think about reducing the size of packaging, and to use non-petroleum based material for our temporary product holders. Tim says, "It would be incredible to see landfills basically shrink with the mainstream use of easily compostable product holders. I am very appreciative to see the efforts to improve the health of our environment." Tim learned through the years that if you tell people what to do they will react with stiff resistance to being told what to do. He is not perfect either but he tries to make better choices each day. Tim is very happy to see that there are people who try and who care. There are companies making an effort to reduce the size and type of packaging, even if it affects their marketing. Bigger and flashier products have always made the product seem better. How about a bag full of air with a few chips in it?

Through the years since he was a pre-teen Tim would earnestly clean the beach to keep our immediate coastline: beach, parking areas, and pathways as free of garbage as he possible could. "There is a lot of unsightly garbage out there, some of which is hazardous. I want to keep our beaches, parking areas, and pathways maintained."

Tim would be using a reinforced screen door to filter broken glass, styrofoam, nails, sharp metal, cigarette butts, charcoal from beach fires, and dog poop, basically anything that is not purely the beach. If he sees dead mammals or birds, burying them will keep the rotting smell away, and people's animals from rolling on them. All seaweed and driftwood shall remain.

Once again Tim is seen caring for the beach at one local Montecito beach, Hammond's Beach. Tim says, "Montecito is an unincorporated town which means that it has to be community maintained. I seek to purify and detail the beaches from Summerland to the border of Santa Barbara." Tim is interested in supervising a small crew utilizing the high school's work experience program. "I want to give a young person a job, and to get them thinking about what they want to do with their life in the

future. It is also a possibility to use Santa Barbara City College's work experience in environmental studies. A little extra summer money, and short hours after school, as to not get in the way of their studies. " He will work alongside his one to three person crew utilizing a rake, shovel, rolling container, and screen door. We will restore the beach!" Tim would like to see that the beach is safe and clean. The beach is worth treating with respect because we all enjoy the relaxing and therapeutic purpose.

Thanks to several donors Tim was finally paid for his effort years ago! Thank you to the Haley McGuire fund. Later Bill Foster ensured funding from the Butterfly Beach Association, and finally Alan Hughes and The Music Academy of The West all took their turns to help Tim be compensated.

Once again, Tim, The Beach Doctor is seeking funding to thoroughly and consistently keep it beautiful, and to educate others about reducing our waste, and ways to clean in up. You may reach Tim at [beachdoctor2001@hotmail.com](mailto:beachdoctor2001@hotmail.com) or by phone (805) 252- 6261.