

An Environmental Affair

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The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in the city of Los Angeles.

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Plant a Native Wildflower Garden

A spring garden or border filled



with brilliantly colored wildflowers is a wonderful sight to see. It takes

planning and

some hard work but the results are more than worth it. If the flower bed is prepared, then half the battle is done, but if you're planning on turning that "weedy" corner of your yard into a wildflower garden, then your work is just starting.

Here are some helpful tips on how to grow a beautiful wildflower garden:

- Make a plan- decide what plant and color combinations you want.
- Start small- it's easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged; if you start too large, it's easier to expand outward later.
- Clear the area- remove weeds, rocks and other debris.
- Water area thoroughly (before planting)- after seeds have been planted, water enough to keep surface moist.
- Spread seeds and lightly rake- into the surface of the soil- a covering of topsoil or planting



mix is helpful.

- Learn to recognize the weeds – pull weeds at the earliest stage of development possible, don't weed when soil is wet or soggy.
- Let your wildflowers go to seed- let them remain even after they have lost much of their color and brilliance. If you remove them too quickly you'll have to buy more seeds next year.

Here are some suggestions:

Full Sun

- Arroyo Lupine—blue, lavender
- Bird's Eye Gilia—lilac, yellow, purple
- Blazing Star—yellow
- Chia Sage—blue
- Goldfields—gold
- Prickly Phlox—pink

Part Shade or Sun

- Chinese Houses—white, purple
- Fiesta Flower—purple
- Fivespot—blue and white
- Wild Heliotrope—lavender

Good luck with your wildflower garden and enjoy your spring! For more information on native wildflowers, contact California Native Plant Society at www.cnps.org

An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 580-1052.

TDD (213) 977-7062. You can also reach us by fax: (213) 580-1084, e-mail: info@ead.ci.la.ca.us, or visit our Web site at www.lacity.org/ead. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST

**Patricia Villaseñor
Editor**

Congratulations to Councilwoman Ruth Galanter



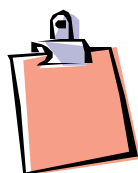
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 presented a certificate and plaque to Councilwoman Ruth Galanter in recognition of her efforts to protect and preserve the environment in 1999. The EPA Region 9 Earth Day Celebration acknowledges demonstrated commitment and significant contributions to the environment in California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and tribal lands. Councilwoman Ruth Galanter was selected from more than 100 nominees received this year from businesses, media, local and state government officials, tribes environmental organizations and citizen activities.

In March 1999, Ruth Galanter introduced new legislation that calls on the City of Los Angeles to adopt building guidelines requiring the use of energy efficient strategies and materials, including building materials with recycled content in public and private commercial projects. She continues to encourage the building industry to join with our City departments that already are developing and implementing programs to help conserve natural resources in order to implement these sustainable development guidelines.

The Environmental Affairs Department was pleased to nominate Councilwoman Ruth Galanter for the EPA Region 9 Earthday Award in recognition of her tireless efforts.

Congratulations

Customer Survey Yields Results



In the February issue of *An Environmental Affair*, a Customer Satisfaction Survey was enclosed and reader's were asked to complete and return the survey by mail, fax or e-mail. Nine questions were asked ranging from satisfaction with the newsletter to what readers would like to see in future issues.

We are pleased to

announce that the majority of responses were positive and satisfied with *An Environmental Affair* and gave the highest scores to the calendar and grants section. Most frequent requests for future issues were: articles and information on air quality, recycling, and watershed protection. Several responses included concerns and the desire for more

information on street and sidewalk care, traffic volume, auto pollution and urban farming.

An Environmental Affair will provide future articles and information in response to these requests. Once again, thanks to all that participated in our survey as we strive to achieve the goals you have set for us.

Grasscycling: What is It?

"Grasscycling" is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings decompose quickly and release valuable nutrients back into the soil. Grasscycling is simple, easy, and effective.

Grasscycling can be practiced on any healthy lawn as long as proper turf management guidelines are followed. Unfortunately, many people treat their grass like a crop: they over water and over fertilize their lawns to encourage maximum growth. The "crop" (grass clippings) is then bagged and transported to a landfill or for green waste recycling by City services. Proper mowing, watering, and fertilizing results in more moderate turf growth yet still produces a healthy, green lawn.

Mowing

Proper mowing is required for successful grasscycling. Cut grass when the surface is dry and keep the mower blades sharp. Follow the "1/3 rule": mow your lawn often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is cut in any one mowing.

In many areas of California, raising the mowing height in the summer encourages deeper roots and protects grass from drought and heat damage.

You can grasscycle with most any mower. The mower collection bag can be removed to allow clippings to drop on the lawn. However, if your mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute contact your local retailer to purchase a retrofit kit.

Watering

Turfgrasses vary in their need for water. Most grasses in California need 1 inch of water every 5-7 days in the growing season and much less during slow growth months. Lawns watered too frequently tend to develop shallow root systems, which may make them more susceptible to stress and disease. Deep, infrequent watering produces a deeper, extensive root system.

The best time to water is early morning, as less water is lost due to evaporation. Try to avoid watering in the evening because it may encourage disease development.

Fertilizing

Proper fertilization is essential in maintaining a healthy lawn. Over-fertilization can weaken a lawn by causing excessive and succulent top growth. For moderate even growth, use a combination of fast act-

Staff Changes in the EAD



In April, Lisa Wunder joined EAD's Air Quality Division as an Environmental Associate. She previously worked in an environmental consulting firm.

The EAD welcomed Carol Armstrong to the Environmental Information Center staff of the Water and Natural Resources Division. Carol is pursuing her doctorate degree at the University of Southern California.

A fond farewell goes to Rachel Campbell, co-editor of *An Environmental Affair*, who will be relocating to San Diego.

ing fertilizers and slow release nitrogen sources. Grasscycling can reduce the amount of fertilizer needed by 15-20 percent because grass clipping return nitrogen to the soil.

For more information on grasscycling and alternatives to lawn care call: (800) 553-2962.



Did You Know? Facts about Planet Earth

- The Earth is 24,902 miles around, at the equator.
- The Sun is 333,400 times larger than Earth.
- Earth is 92,900,000 miles from the Sun.
- It takes Earth 365.25 days to travel once around the Sun.
- The highest point on Earth is Mt. Everest, which is 29,028 feet above sea level.
- The lowest point on Earth is Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, which is 35,800 feet below sea level.
- Earth's total area is 197,000,000 square miles.

Giant Sequoia National Monument

The century old dream of protecting California's Giant Sequoia's has become a reality as President Clinton issued an executive order Saturday, April 15, creating Giant Sequoia National Monument--a 328,000-acre expanse of granite domes and plunging gorges that holds 34 groves of ancient sequoias, among the oldest and largest trees on Earth.

Before this executive order, the U.S. Forest Service policy protected the sequoia trees, but permitted other tree species surrounding the giant sequoia to be logged. Contrary to what most people believed, more than half of the remaining sequoias had no permanent protection. There was no guarantee that future administrations would not return to past policies of cutting and logging.

The order will end commercial timber harvesting within 2 years in the new monument area, which covers about one-third of Sequoia National Forest here in Central California.

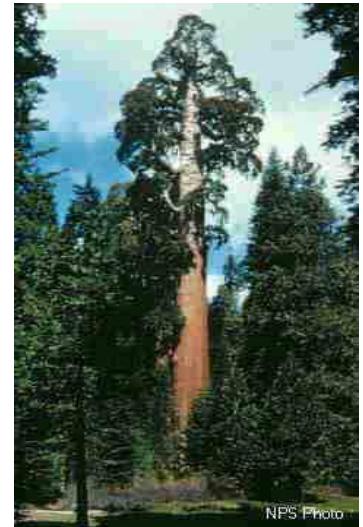
Giant sequoias once thrived across western North America. But now only about 75 groves remain, all on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Of these, 25 groves are protected in Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia national parks.

Certain recreational activities will face new restrictions in the designated monument. After this summer, off-road vehicles and motorcycles will be barred from all trails within the monument. But non-motorized recreational activities--such as hiking, camping, fishing, rafting and horseback riding--will be unaffected, according to administration officials. They said the action preserves access to private lands while allowing "special uses," such as grazing and the continued operation of several summer camps.

The new monument will be in two parcels of Sequoia National Forest, which is about an hour by car north of Bakersfield and about an hour east of Fresno. The northern parcel is bordered approximately by the Kings River system, and the southern parcel roughly by the north fork of the Kern River.

Giant sequoias are of special interest to scientists because their rings contain records of past environmental changes going back thousands of years.

Under Clinton's executive order, the Forest Service is to adopt a detailed management plan for the monument and receive outside expertise from a National Science Advisory Board panel of experts on such issues as fire management.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership Grant – Funds are used to protect and enhance the natural resources of the urban ecosystem of Los Angeles and to make government more effective and responsive to the community through innovative partnerships. Call Chelsea Cochran at (626) 312-4901 for more info.

Deadline: Due May 5, 2000.



National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program – Institutions of higher education, private firms, private foundations, state and local governments and individuals. Call John Unger at (703) 648-6701 for more info. **Deadline: Due May 10, 2000.**

Childhood Blood-Lead Screening and Lead Awareness Outreach for Indian Tribes – Federal recognized Indian tribes or tribal consortiums. Call Joseph S. Carra at (202) 554-1404 for more info. **Deadline: May 23, 2000.**

The Los Angeles Urban Partnership and Los Angeles Conservation Corps – Community based organizations are invited to apply for up to \$5,000 to plant trees in their neighborhoods. Call Chelsea Cochran at (626) 312-4901 for more info. **Deadline: May 15, 2000.**

GRANTS WITHOUT A DEADLINE

California Community Foundation – Support for the rehabilitation, maintenance and beautification of parks and recreation areas. Contact Sr. Program Secretary at (213) 413-4130, or visit the Web site at www.calfund.org for more info.

California State Coastal Conservancy – Proposition 204 funding specifically allocated for LA River Projects that focus on habitat restoration, construction of public access facilities and others. Projects must show linkage to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more info.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Loan program established by the Clean Water Act to local agencies for water quality improvement projects. Call the EPA Water Division at (415) 744-1948 for more info.

Economic Development Administration Grants – The US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will give priority consideration to projects that help communities achieve and sustain economic growth. Visit the Web site at www.doc.gov/eda for more info.

Energy Research Grants – The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is seeking applicants for up to \$6 million in grants to research renewable energy programs. Call the US Department of Energy at (800) 683-0751 for more info.

Jobs Through Recycling – Recycling business development program that seeks to foster recycling/reuse businesses that increase the use of recyclable or reusable materials and contribute to economic development and jobs creation. Call Julia Wolfe with the EPA Waste Management Division at (415) 744-2131 for more info.

Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Provides loans to ensure that drinking water remains safe and affordable. Call the EPA Drinking Water Office at (415) 744-1852 for more info.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

24-hour Wildflower Hotline (818) 768-3533

Sponsored by The Theodore Payne Foundation, callers to the free Wildflower Hotline are directed to when and where to see the best blooms from over 30 locations throughout Southern California. New this year—all information will be posted to www.theodorepayne.org.

Down-by-the-River Walks



Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Sierra Club are sponsoring monthly walks along the banks of the LA River. Join them at **4:30pm. on the third Sunday of each month** for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. Location varies each month and some walks feature brief talks highlighting natural, historical, artistic, or political aspects of the River. The walk is canceled if it's raining. For more information, visit the FoLAR Web site at www.folar.org, or contact Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.

Habitat Restoration Days

Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. Everyone is invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds in this rewarding work project. **Every second Saturday of the month.**

Also, morning maintenance is done

from 9am-noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, call (310) 32-MARSH.

Hyperion Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours are available each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Contact Felice Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for information or to schedule a tour.

Japanese Garden Tours

Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gardens at the D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys are offered



during the day on Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information call (818) 756-8166.

Satwiwa Sundays

From 10am to 5pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Call (805) 370-2301 for more information.



Smart Gardening Workshops



The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program will be holding its Smart Gardening workshops throughout the County during the Spring. Topics covered are backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www.smartgardening.com.

The EAD Web site, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our Web site calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

THIS MONTH:

May 7, Saturday

Sherman Oaks Planting. The community of Sherman Oaks is joining with TreePeople for the third straight year to bring trees to Ventura Blvd. For more info call: (818) 623-4853.

Tales Between the Tides.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium invites children between the ages of 3-5 years old to learn about marine animals, shore sounds and more as they tell stories, move like creatures, and make a take home project. 9:30am-11:30am, RSVP at (310) 548-7562.



Mini-Trip: Fossil Rim, Texas.

May 7-10th. The Los Angeles Zoo is pleased to present an excursion to the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas. May 7-10. The exciting

itinerary includes an overnight stay at Fossil Rim, where you can visit with hundreds of animals from around the world that roam free (except for the carnivores and rhinos) on 1,500 acres of unspoiled countryside. The price for this four-day excursion is \$1,050. For more info call: (323) 644-4708.

May 9, Tuesday

"The Great Sand Waste"

Lecture. The California Native Plant Society will sponsor a lecture by Pete Halloran on the natural history of San Francisco's dunes. 7:30 at Sepulveda Garden Center. For more info call: (818) 881-3706.

May 11, Thursday

Volunteer Gathering. Would you like to be part of environmental solutions? Learn how you can make a difference by volunteering with TreePeople. 7pm- 8:30pm. Call Katherine Robbins at (818) 623-4879.

May 13, Saturday

Water Quality of the L.A. River. From urban runoff to sewage treatment plant effluent, rivers transport pollution from our cities to the ocean. Learn about the quality of our inland waters. Sponsored by FoLAR and Occidental College. For more information call: (323) 223-0585.



Children's Nature Institute's Kid's Festival. Over 20 free activity booths, make live animal friends and more. For ages 1-8

year olds at Temescal Gateway Park, 10am-4pm sponsored by Children's Nature Institute. For more info call: (310) 364- 3591 ext. 6#.

Ocean Plankton Expedition.

Join Mike Schaadt, Director of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Exhibits on a research cruise in search of rarely seen planktonic animals from deep water between the mainland and



Catalina Island. 4pm-10pm. For reservations and information call: (310) 548-7562.

May 14, Sunday

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day Planting. Bring the entire family to Griffith Park to plant native trees and celebrate our beautiful Mother Earth. Sponsored by TreePeople. For more info call: (818) 623-4853.

May 16, Tuesday

Neighborhood Council Plan.

Help define the guidelines for you Neighborhood Council Plan. Arleta, Pacoima, Sylmar, Sunland, Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills, Sun Valley areas: a meeting will be held at Northeast Valley Senior Center, 11300 Glenoaks Blvd at 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more info call: (213) 485-1360. projects. Sponsored by FoLAR and Occidental College. For more info call: (323) 223-0585.



May 19, Friday

Meet a Grunion. Cabrillo Marine Aquarium has special evening programs designed to introduce the public to the elusive grunion fish. If you would like an opportunity to see a grunion "in person" come down to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. 9pm-12:20 am. For more info call: (310) 548-7562.

May 20, Saturday

River Restoration and Downstream Issues: the Ecology of Riparian Systems in an Urban Setting. Two half-day sessions of this annual meeting will be devoted to studies on the L.A. River and the consequences and opportunities for restoration projects. Sponsored by FoLAR and Occidental College. For more info call: (323) 223-0585.

Burbank Blvd. Planting. Citizen Forester Jerome Spruitt will lead the planting of native Oaks and Sycamores along the Sepulveda basin. Sponsored by TreePeople. For more info call: (818) 623-4853.

Sundown Safari. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to camp overnight in the Zoo? Find out during Sundown



Safari, enjoy dinner, breakfast, and a special after-hours tour. Bring your own tent or rent one from the Zoo. Sundown Safari begins at 5 p.m. as the Zoo closes, and ends at 9am the next day. May 20-21, 5 pm to 9 am. For more info and reservations call: (323) 644-4253.

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HOTLINE CONNECTION

The Environmental Information Center (EIC) serves as a referral source to the community. Our hotline connection offers a list of the most frequently requested numbers. If the number you need is not listed, please contact the EIC at **(213) 580-1052**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. You can also visit our Web site at www.cityofla.org/ead and click on the Environmental Information Center Link.

AIR QUALITY

Calidad del aire

Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

ASBESTOS – Asbestos

Environmental Hygiene
(213) 738-4078

BEE INFESTATIONS

Infestaciones de abejas
Vector Control
(800) 233-9279

BULKY ITEM PICK-UP

Recogida de artículos grandes
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942,

ILLEGAL DUMPING INTO STORM DRAINS

*Depositos ilegales en los drenajes de
desagües*

Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

LEAD POISONING –

Veneno del plomo
National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

LEAF BLOWERS –

Sopladores de hojas
Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

MOSQUITOES

Infestaciones de mosquitos
LA West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

RECYCLING – Reciclaje

City of LA Public Works Dept.
(800) 773-2489