

# An Environmental Affair

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October 2001

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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## Los Angeles Zoo Unveils Native Garden

The Los Angeles Zoo once again had reason to celebrate on August 28, 2001 with the official dedication of its new Native Garden for Wildlife. Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Zoo Director, Manuel A. Mollinedo, and District 6 Council Member, Ruth Galanter.



The Los Angeles Zoo Native Garden of Wildlife. Zoo Director Manuel A. Mollinedo and District 6 Council Member Ruth Galanter.

With the recent grand opening of the Winnick Family Children's Zoo (WFCZ) in the early part of August, the Los Angeles Zoo's new exhibit, the Native Garden for Wildlife, successfully mirrored that of its neighboring attraction (WFCZ) by capturing the aesthetic beauty of natural wildlife. The Native Garden was designed with the imagination and creativity of the Zoo Director, staff, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona student Theresa Rosshoff to represent the diverse and natural wildlife found in the largest urban park in the country, Griffith Park.

The Native Garden for Wildlife showcases many of the natural plants and habitats observed in local wildlife. Located on Zoo property adjacent North Hollywood High School's Animal Studies-Biological Sciences Zoo Magnet Center, the three-acre garden incorporates a variety of vegetation that provide food for a multitude of birds and animals. The various plants lure several types of creatures to help diversify the garden, such as tubular flowers attracting hummingbirds with their sweet nectar, Western Redbuds that produce nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies as well as seeds for birds, and the Valley oaks providing acorns for food. Highlighting the garden are blooming wildflowers, shrubs, and swaying brush that provide for shelter, shade, and a safe environment for habiting creatures.

During the school year, students from the Magnet School will care and assist

*"Native Garden" (Continued on page 3)*

*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) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: [info@mailbox.lacity.org](mailto:info@mailbox.lacity.org), or visit our website at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead). You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. 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**

## **EAD's Air Quality Division Announces Staff Changes**

The AQD is proud to welcome their new Director of Air Quality Division, Gretchen Hardison. Gretchen has been a part of the EAD for more than eight years. Another valued member of the AQD, Renee Brandt, has been promoted to Environmental Supervisor II. Renee has been with the AQD for over six years.

Other changes to AQD staff include the arrival of Christopher Patton, who joined the Air Quality Division as an Environmental Specialist and Mike Lubin, who completed a student internship.

*Congratulations!*



## **California Rideshare Week**

**October 1-5, 2001**

Rideshare Week is an annual promotion to heighten awareness about the benefits of using transportation alternatives, including carpools, vanpools, mass transit such as bus or rail, bicycles, walking, and telecommuting. As a way of helping to relieve traffic congestion, improve air quality, reduce stress and save energy and commute costs, the promotion encourages commuters to share the ride. Commuters can pledge to use another way to get to work other than driving alone during the week of October 1-5, 2001.

As an incentive, when you pledge at Southern California Rideshare to share the ride at least once during Rideshare Week, you will be entered into a raffle that includes prizes such as \$1,000 in gasoline or one of 100 \$20 gas certificates. Just think of how far a tank of gas will go when you are not driving alone to work every day! And if that is not enough, there are dozens of other prizes including transit passes, commuter bicycles, portable stereo headsets, and more. All you have to do is pick up an entry form from your employer or pledge online at [www.socalcommute.org](http://www.socalcommute.org). Free pledge cards are available through Southern California Rideshare by calling 1-800-COMMUTE and choosing the "rideshare" option. If you need help finding a rideshare arrangement, call this number or visit [www.socalcommute.org](http://www.socalcommute.org).



The City of Los Angeles through the Commuter Services Office (213-847-0404), offers ridesharing incentives to City employees. For example, the City subsidizes the use of mass transit, operates a vanpool program, and provides incentives to carpool for its employees. Other employers offer pretax deductions from pay checks for such purposes. Besides these, the MTA has the Rideshare Rewards and Club Metro programs. Those currently driving alone and working at a registered site located in Los Angeles County that has fewer than 250 employees qualify for the programs. Eligible employees must rideshare a minimum of five times per month. Rideshare Rewards will reward you \$2 per day in gift certificates from Ralphs, Target or Unocal for every day you rideshare, up to \$120 during one three-month trial period. Additionally, through Club Metro, those who have been ridesharing for at least six months are further rewarded with coupons and discounts for a large number of restaurants and entertainment venues throughout Los Angeles County and surrounding areas. For information, call the Rideshare Rewards/Club Metro Hotline. (213) 922-2811.

**SO DO YOUR PART FOR CLEAN AIR AND LESS TRAFFIC: SHARE THE RIDE**

## EAD TO WALK AGAIN WITH CITY IN AIDSWALK L.A.

The Environmental Affairs Department will again participate in the City of Los Angeles' annual campaign for AIDS Walk Los Angeles (AWLA). One of California's largest fundraisers, AWLA is a ten-kilometer walkathon that raises much-needed funds for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA). The 17<sup>th</sup> annual AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, October 21, 2001, beginning and ending on the "Sky Set" of Paramount Pictures in Hollywood.

The City of Los Angeles was the third highest fundraising team at last year's AIDS Walk, collecting \$47,116 for APLA. Due to the continued diligence of citywide personnel, the City of Los Angeles' team effort ranked third among over 800 corporate, community, and governmental groups. We are even more proud that we regained our top ranking back from the County of Los Angeles as the number one governmental AIDS Walk fundraising team. The County team is not pleased, and has vowed this year to take the title back, but we're just not having it! Needless to say, we're working ever so much harder this year to retain our top ranking. We are very pleased that our friendly competition with our County colleagues has benefited APLA in such a positive way.

EAD is wholeheartedly supporting the City's tremendous effort to surpass last year's accomplishment. With a relatively small department, EAD's team has traditionally been recognized among the City departments as the "tiny giant," having consistently ranked among the top five City departmental teams for six of the last seven consecutive AIDS Walk campaigns. Last year, among the 38 City department teams, EAD ranked 3rd in number of walkers with 21 registered walkers and 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of monies raised by collecting \$2,067.50. This year, EAD is determined to continue its legacy of compassion and greatness, and to sustain our position among the top City teams, but as always, we need your help.

EAD welcomes any of our many friends who are willing to join us for such a worthy cause to participate on our team. Many activities are being planned to make this event an enjoyable and memorable experience for all team members, including team T-shirts, prizes and gifts for the highest fundraisers, and a team social event after the walk.

Those interested in joining or supporting EAD's AIDS Walk Team should contact Dante Henderson, EAD's AIDS Walk Team Leader, at (213) 978-0874. Those interested in contributing to the team's fundraising efforts should send checks made payable to "AIDS Walk Los Angeles" to Dante Henderson at EAD's new office at City Hall. As always EAD, as well as APLA, appreciates your support.

*"Native Garden" (Continued from page 1)*

with the maintenance and responsibilities associated with the Native Garden. With public interaction involved, students will gain firsthand experience in the process of preservation and the restoration of habitat.

"Raising awareness on the importance of wildlife preservation is the message students will learn and pass on to the next generation," said Beth Thomsen, Zoo Education Director. Educating the public is a main concern of this exhibit, and brochures offering guidelines on how to create wildlife habitats or growing native gardens in local communities can be obtained at the Zoo Magnet School or at the Zoo's main entrance.



The Native Garden for Wildlife magnanimously achieves the natural beauty found in Griffith Park and was made possible with a joint effort by the City of Los Angeles's Environmental Affairs Department and the Department of Recreation and Parks, Claremont's Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, North Hollywood High Zoo Magnet School, Pomona's California State Polytechnic University, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and the Sierra Club. EAD funded the purchase of the Garden's plants with a State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant that the department had been awarded to support greening at City parks. For more information regarding Zoo operation, visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org) or call (323) 644-6400.

**\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$**  
**(See the EAD website for other current grant opportunities.)**

**Climate Change Assessment Grants**

Program to conduct assessments of the impacts of climate change and variability on aquatic ecosystems and water quality. State, local, and tribal environmental protection agencies are eligible. Deadline for proposals is October 18, 2001. Contact David Kelley at 202-564-3263 for more information.

**California ReLEAF 2002 Capacity-Building Grant**

California ReLEAF is providing \$120,000 in grant funds for urban forestry projects. Grants are available to community groups throughout the state. Deadline is November 1, 2001. For more info, call (949) 642-0127, email at [elisabeth.hoskins@tpl.org](mailto:elisabeth.hoskins@tpl.org), or visit "What's Hot" at <http://www.tpl.org/cal>.

**2002-03 Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program (EEMP) Grant**

State Program offering \$10 million to local, state, and federal government agencies and nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate environmental impacts for the 2002-03 period. Applications are due by November 16, 2001. For more info, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/eem/> or call (916) 653-5656.

**LEAF-It-To-Us Tree Planting Grant**

A Tree planting grant program established by the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection for school kids to improve their school environments. Grant applicable to schools only. Deadline for applications is November 15, 2001. Call the CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection at (909) 782-4140.

**Pulling Together Initiative**

Provides a means for federal agencies to be full partners with state and local agencies, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. Full Proposal Due Date: November 6, 2001, Notification Date: April 1, 2002. Contact: Gary Kania, [kania@nfwf.org](mailto:kania@nfwf.org), and visit: [www.nfwf.org/programs/rfp\\_2002.html](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/rfp_2002.html).

**Wetlands Conservation Grants**

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act small grants program is accepting grant applications from state and local governments, public agencies, institutes for higher education, and non-profit organizations. The deadline is November 30, 2001. For more details contact Keith Morehouse at 703-358-1784.

**California State Coastal Conservancy**

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

**Economic Development Administration Grants**

The US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will give priority consideration to projects that achieve and sustain economic growth. Visit the website at [www.doc.gov/eda](http://www.doc.gov/eda) 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**

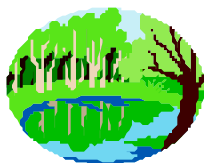
Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund—Provides loans to ensure that drinking water remains safe and affordable. Call EPA's Drinking Water Office: (415) 744-1852 for more information.



# OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## EACH MONTH:

### 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 4:30 pm. on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more info., visit the FoLAR website: [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org), or call Joe Linton: (213) 381-3570.

### 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 info call (818) 756-8166.

### Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours of the facility (located near El Segundo in Los Angeles) are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9 a.m. Contact Felice Kidd: (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.

### Habitat Restoration Days

Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona



Marsh Preserve. You are invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds every second Saturday of the month. Morning maintenance is done from 9 am - noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. Call (310) 32-MARSH.

### Afternoons in the Lab

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific fun. The lab, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro, opens with a different theme each week. The science education afternoon is free. Groups should make reservations. For more info, call: (310) 548-7562.

### Satwiwa Sundays

From 10 am to 5 pm 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 info.

### Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round throughout the County. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com).



"Smart Gardening" and Composting workshops also are held at Griffith Park. Call the Bureau of Sanitation: (213) 473-8228 for more information.

### Nature-Bird Walk

Two walks will take place—one on Saturday, and one on Sunday—both at 10 am. The walks will meander through the Madrona Marsh Preserve, starting at the Natural History Center in Torrance. Call (310) 32-MARSH.



The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://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 website 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.

### Recycling Workshops

Many workshops and seminars are regularly provided throughout the year on source reduction, recycling and composting. For info, please call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228

### Tyke Hike

This hike is scheduled every first Thursday of the month in the Madrona Marsh Preserve and involves looking for animal tracks, listening for singing birds, observing habitat changes and wildflower cycles. A \$5 donation per family is requested for the Natural History Center Education Programs; reservations appreciated. Call Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32-MARSH.



### Baldwin Hills Hikes

These are held by the LA Audubon Society on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For details, see the LA Audubon Society website: [www.LAAudubon.org](http://www.LAAudubon.org) or call: (323) 876-0202.

**THIS MONTH:****October 3****Science at the Seashore**

Take part in activities concerning the local coastal environment at the free

Discovery Lab at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium from 3-5 pm. Explore marine specimens and participate in various weekly activities. Other scheduled lab dates are October 6, 1-3 pm and October 14, 3-5 pm. For more info, visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562.

**October 6****Rescue A Piece of Happiness**

The Amanda Foundation is seeking 20 animal lovers between the hours of 12-2:30 pm to spend some time to walk the dogs, cuddle with puppies and cats, and work with abused animal orphans among other tasks. For more info, contact Megan Wachtler at (310) 374-8958.

**Science at the Seashore**

The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium hosts a free Discovery Lab from 1-3 pm and a Weekend Tidepool Walk from 4:30-6 pm at Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge. Tidepool Walk requires a \$1 fee. For further info, visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562.

**October 8****Science at the Seashore**

Join Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's

educational staff for a series of after school hands-on marine science adventure where you'll be allowed to observe and examine rocky shore animals during a hike along tidepools; delve into the wonders of mud at the salt marshes; get up close with microscopes; take part in fish dissections.



Sessions are open for grades 3-6 and will run each Monday till the 29<sup>th</sup> with a cost of \$28 for the general public and \$25 for members. For more info, visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562

**October 9****Annual Landscape Lecture**

Gain helpful tips on what to put in your native plant garden this fall at California Native Plant Society's annual lecture on landscaping held at Sepulveda Garden Center from 7:30-10 pm. The following weekend of October 13-14 hosts the Annual CNPS Plant Sale from 10 am-4 pm. For more information, call (818) 881-3706.

**October 12-13****Rooted in Community National Day of Action**

Rooted in Community is organizing a national day of awareness to show how youth can impact their communities through various uses of agriculture. For an organizing toolkit or more info, contact Jess Liborio at [jessliborio@aol.com](mailto:jessliborio@aol.com) or call (781) 259-8621.

**October 13****Los Angeles River Walk**

Join Kimball Garrett of the

Natural History Museum's ornithology department at the LA Zoo for an adventurous stroll along the LA River. Activities include exploring native wildlife, ecology, and learning the history of one of LA's hidden treasures. Walk begins at 8:30-11 am. For more information, visit <http://www.lazoo.org> or call (323) 644-4211 ext 0.

**Fifth Annual Global Green USA Sustainability Symposium**

Among other speakers, Mikhael S. Gorbachev will be speaking on confronting climate change in an effort to avert a global environmental crisis. The symposium will be held from 1-4 pm with a \$25 general admission (\$5 student). For info, contact Melissa Sussman of GGUSA at (310) 394-7700 or visit <http://www.globalgreen.org>

**October 13-14****Homes For The Future Tour 2001**

Eco-Home™ Network in affiliation with the American Solar Energy Society is presenting a tour of sustainable living in Southern California. For more information, visit <http://www.ecohome.org> or contact: Allan L. Haskell, tour coordinator at (323) 663-7747.

**October 18****Chaparral Chatter Hike**

Learn about the chaparral environment on this five-hour hike through Stunt-High Trail and discuss observed various native wildlife. Hike from 8 am-1 pm. Call (818) 345-6749 for more info.

**A Visual Display**

Katy Penland and Bernardo Alp's

"Pelagic Birding and Marine Mammals" will be presented along with several slides dealing with the victory for the recovering Gray Whale at the Whittier Area Audubon Society in the Whittier Community Center. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and is open to the public. For more info, contact Jean Beaton (562) 869-6545 or visit <http://www.whittieraudubon.org>.

## October 19-21

### Fall Festival

The Theodore Payne Foundation is hosting several days of demonstrations and seminars with experts providing helpful guides relating to Native plants and the LA River, seeds and seed collecting, snakes in the garden and more. A special fall native plant sale will also take place throughout the three days along with raffles for prizes. For further info, visit <http://theodorepayne.org> or call (818) 768-1802.



## October 21

### Autumn Sea Fair

Come and join in a day of fun-filled events celebrating the sea at Cabrillo Beach. A multitude of activities will be held throughout the day including a sand sculpture contest, carnival games, contests, fireboat water display, live music, exhibits, arts & craft, face painting, buried treasure hunt, beach olympics and much more. The fun begins from 10 am to 4:30 pm. For further info, contact Larry Fukuhara at (310) 548-7562, x5011 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaquarium.org>.

### AIDS Walk Los Angeles

Join the crowd of tens of thousands for the seventeenth annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles starting at Paramount Pictures beginning at 8:30 am. The ten-kilometer fundraising walkathon benefits AIDS Project Los Angeles and other local AIDS



service organizations helping thousands of men, women, and children living with HIV and AIDS. Help fundraise by getting sponsors. For more info, call Erin Harkins at (213) 201-9255.

## October 27-28

### Boo At The L.A. Zoo

Kids are in for a sweet-treat as Treets on Terrace will be transformed into a frighteningly fun place as children trick-or-treat around an area filled with spooky mystery, creepy encounters, and tons of goodies. Event will run from 10 am - 4 pm. Children in costumes receive \$1 off admission. All Activities free with paid admission. For more info, visit <http://www.lazoo.org> or call (323) 644-4211 ext 0.

## October 31

### Halloween

Enjoy a fun, safe, spooky evening.



Happy Halloween!

## SOLAR HOMES/HOMES FOR THE FUTURE TOUR 2001

The Eco-Home™ Network with affiliation from the American Solar Energy Society is gearing up for the Solar Homes/Homes for the Future Tour of 2001. The two-day event that will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 13-14 in the Santa Monica and greater Los Angeles areas will showcase up to 20 homes that demonstrate present day power reducing solutions.

Some of the technological solutions to the power crisis that will be showcased are passive and active solar power as well as energy and water efficient appliances. Other environment-friendly solutions are climate appropriate and energy efficient landscaping, organic food gardening, waste reduction, recycling, non-toxic cleaning and home-improvement products and much more. Eco-Home™ and the American Solar Energy Society hope that tour goers can see for themselves that urban/suburban sustainable living can be an attractive, comfortable and practical means of living. Each of the twenty housing locations will illustrate the diversity, artistry, health and cost benefits of applying energy-smart systems and other sustainable technologies to our homes. This tour is great for all who are interested in helping the environment or just saving money.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ecohome.org> or contact: Julia Russell, Eco-Home Network representative at (323) 662-5207 or Allan L. Haskell, Home For The Future Tour 2001 Coordinator at (323) 663-7747.





## 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) 978-0888, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at (800) 439-4666. You can also visit our website at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead) and click on the Environmental Information Center

### Air Quality

*Calidad del aire*

South Coast 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 Storm Drain Dumping

*Depositos en los drenajes de desagües*

Stormwater Management

(800) 974-9794

### Lead Poisoning

*Veneno de plomo*

National Lead Information Center

(800) 424-5323

### Leaf Blowers

*Sopladores de hojas*

Leaf Blower Complaint Line

(800) 996-2489

### Mosquitoes

*Infestaciones de mosquitos*

L.A. West Mosquito Abatement

(310) 915-7370

### Recycling

*Reciclaje*

City of L.A. Public Works Dept.

(800) 773-2489

### Smoking Violations

*Infracciones de fumar*

Office of the City Attorney

(888) 333-0730

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