

# An Environmental Affair

Volume 15, Issue 4

\*\*\*CELEBRATE EARTH DAY: THURSDAY, APRIL 22\*\*\*

April 2004

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.

## Earth Day Greeting from EAD General Manager

Thirty-four years since its inception, Earth Day remains a critical day to reflect on where we are and what we have done. Through tough financial times and changes all around, the Environmental Affairs Department continues its work for the environment, making the City of Los Angeles a better place for today and tomorrow.



EAD General Manager  
Detrich Allen

With neighborhood councils and community groups, the Department has planted thousands of trees around our city. We have brought gardens to city schools, and have taught schoolchildren the need for recycling. The Environmental Affairs Department does everything it can to green our city: we find places to plant trees, we find grants to pay for the trees, and we work with communities to care for the trees. Driving down tree-lined portions of Exposition or Crenshaw Boulevard, I am reminded of the more than 20,000 trees

(Earth Day Greeting...continued on page 10)

## California Island Foxes Listed as Endangered

Although much has been done to protect endangered plants, animals and their habitat, biologists are working hard to address the continuing need to save species from extinction. Locally, one such species is the California Island Fox, *Urocyon littoralis*, which inhabits Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Catalina islands. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as Endangered in March because of its declining numbers and threats to its survival. Officials plan to breed some foxes in captivity while removing their predators in the wild. With careful and diligent work, the foxes may once again roam the islands in large numbers.



The history of the Island Fox goes back at least 16,000 years when the Channel Islands were connected as one super island due to lower sea levels and geologic activity. Santa Cruz Island split off around 11,500 years ago and San Miguel and Santa Rosa followed suit around 2,000 years later.

(Extinction...continued on page 11)

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*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: [eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org](mailto:eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org), or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>. TDD (213) 978-0899. 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**

## TMDLs Impacting the City of Los Angeles

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act requires waters of the United States that do not meet water quality standards to be identified and considered to be impaired. Water quality standards are the designated beneficial uses for the waterbody, such as swimming and fishing, and the scientific criteria to support these uses. A TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load, which is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, is to be developed for these waters.



Trash in Ballona Creek taken near Lincoln Boulevard. Photo courtesy of Santa Monica Baykeeper.

A legally binding Consent Decree, which became effective in March 1999, identified 92 groupings of impaired waters and pollutants in the Los Angeles Region and established a schedule for TMDLs to be developed to address these pairings by March 2012. Over 60 of these TMDLs, addressing wa-

ter bodies including the Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek, Marina del Rey, Santa Monica Bay, and Los Angeles Harbor, will impact the City of Los Angeles. These will target cleaning up a variety of pollutants including bacteria, metals, organic compounds, and trash. The cost to the City of complying with these TMDLs has been estimated at \$2 to \$10 billion dollars.

Several of these TMDLs have been developed and adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). These include trash TMDLs for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek, bacterial TMDLs for Santa Monica Bay Beaches and Marina del Rey, and a nitrogen/nutrient TMDL for the Los Angeles River. The latter TMDL is designed to reduce the excessive growth of algae in the river. The bacterial TMDLs will result in cleaner, healthier waters for swimming. The trash TMDLs will yield numerous benefits, including beautifying our water environments. TMDLs to reduce metal pollution in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek are nearing completion, as are Bacterial TMDLs for Ballona Creek and Los Angeles Harbor/Cabrillo Beach.

The City of Los Angeles is committed to supporting a clean environment, and City employees are working to find cost-effective and creative ways to achieve this and comply with these TMDLs. The City will do its part, but your help is needed also. The very best way to reduce pollution is to not create it in the first place or to clean it at its source. We all have a role to play in this. The effort required to comply with the trash TMDLs can be greatly decreased by reducing litter, so don't litter and clean up litter when you see it. Likewise, the effort required to comply with the bacterial TMDLs can be greatly reduced by people picking up pet droppings, so use the pooper-scooper. We can all help to comply with the nitrogen/nutrient TMDLs by not over fertilizing our yards and gardens. Do not let oil, paint, and other compounds wash off your property and into the street because it will eventually wash into a storm drain and pollute some water body. Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash so the water does not flow into a storm drain.

In general, you can help reduce water pollution and help comply with these TMDLs by reducing the amount of water that flows off your property and into storm drains because that water picks up and carries pollutants with it. Be part of the team, please tell your friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and make them part of the team also. For more information please visit <http://www.lacity.org/SAN/wpd/index.htm>.

## Gardens for Kids L.A. Program Continues To Be a Huge Success

With the onset of spring, many people are starting to think about planting a garden. Here at the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), we think about planting gardens all year. This year, the program has been especially successful, as we have received over fifty applications from schools eager to join the program! Nineteen schools have been accepted into the program so far, and EAD continues to evaluate additional schools. EAD plans on creating gardens in at least thirty-five schools this year!



Above-ground garden bed

The Gardens for Kids L.A. program provides schools with above-ground garden beds made of recycled plastic lumber, soil, compost, tools, hoses, seeds, seedlings, gardening books, and curriculum assistance to start and maintain a successful gardening program. In the first four years of the program, EAD created gardens at one hundred twenty-five schools. EAD's partners in the Gardens for Kids L.A. program are LAUSD Nutrition Network, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, UC Cooperative Extension Common Ground Garden Program and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

For more information about EAD's Gardens for Kids L.A. program, contact Julie Van Wagner at (213) 978-0860.

## Learn about More Energy-Efficient Choices in Transportation

Are you interested in finding out about alternative fuel vehicles available to your local government? Join the Environmental Affairs Department in attending the **National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Odyssey Fair** on Thursday, April 8, 2004, co-sponsored by the Southern California Association of Governments Clean Cities Coalition, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and Honda Motor Company, Ltd., with support from the City of Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition.



Automakers from around the world are designing alternatively fueled vehicles, such as this hydrogen powered Honda FCV

This free and informative event will be held in Diamond Bar from 8 am until 3:30 pm and will showcase alternative fuel vehicles, current and proposed air quality regulations, and the impacts of air quality on public health. The SCAQMD will host the event at its headquarters, located at 21865 E. Copley Drive in Diamond Bar. For more information, please visit [www.the-partnership.org](http://www.the-partnership.org).

### Fun Fact:

By the year 2002, Californians were using more than 76,000 alternative-fueled vehicles; that's more than 28,000 more vehicles than Texas - the state using the second highest number of alternative-fuel vehicles.

## Saturday, April 17th is the Second Annual International Cache In Trash Out Day!

Attention all geocachers! Groundspeak Inc., a manufacturer of Global Positioning System (GPS) Technology, is sponsoring this opportunity for all geocachers to help clean up parks and other cache-friendly places. Cache In Trash Out Day is designed to rid parks and natural open spaces of trash and debris as geocachers find and bag trash while looking for their sought-after geocache. For more information on Cache In Trash Out Day, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

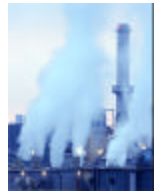
## Celebrate Arbor Day on April 24th

The City of Los Angeles' Arbor Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 9:30 am to 1 pm at Cheviot Hills Park, located at 2551 Motor Avenue. Arbor Day is an internationally recognized, tree-planting holiday and a great opportunity to green Los Angeles. Arbor day has been celebrated since 1872 when J. Sterling Morton began the push for a holiday to honor tree-planting and civic greening. Today the tradition is observed by millions around the globe. This year at Cheviot Hills Park, thirty trees will be planted to increase the biodiversity of the park and improve the sustainability of the existing tree canopy. City professionals from the Departments of Recreation and Parks, Public Works, Environmental Affairs, and Water and Power (DWP) will be available to answer questions relating to individual tree care and urban forest issues.

DWP also will hold a workshop for its Trees for a Green LA program. This program provides free shade trees for DWP electric customers to plant in their yards to help reduce their energy use, among other benefits. Workshop attendees will learn proper tree selection and planting techniques as well as draft a site-specific plan so that their trees can provide the greatest benefit. The workshop will take place from 10 am to noon. Space is limited. Call 1-800-GreenLA to RSVP.

## Draft Model Air Quality Element for Local General Plans

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has been holding public consultation meetings over the past month for the public to discuss a draft Model Air Quality Element for consideration by local jurisdictions in the adoption or amendment of their general plans. This draft document has been developed as part of AQMD's Environmental Justice program. It contains a wide range of options for local governments to meet their particular needs and is entirely voluntary.



A general plan is the foundation for local planning and development, and can be an important tool for implementing policies and programs beneficial to air quality. Communities may choose to adopt a separate air quality element or may integrate air-related strategies in other elements of their general plans. Accordingly, this proposed Model Air Quality Element is not prescriptive. Rather, it is a resource for city and county governments to use, as a means of integrating air quality and public health considerations into land use decisions in a manner tailored to fit the unique circumstances of each area.

The final meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 15, 2004** at 10 am at Kellogg Room B in the Norman F. Feldheim Central Library, located at 555 West Sixth Street in San Bernadino. For more information, or to submit comments relevant to the draft Model Air Quality Element, contact Lisha Smith at (909) 396-3203 in the SCAQMD Public Affairs Division, or by e-mail to [lsmith@aqmd.gov](mailto:lsmith@aqmd.gov).

## UC Davis Southern California Ecosystem Health Project Releases Information on Human-Puma Shared Habitat

For three years the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center's Southern California Puma Project, a program of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, has tracked 20 pumas in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County. As a result of a hiker being attacked at this park in 1994, the study was undertaken for the Center for the California State Parks (CSP), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), other agencies and the local community that were interested in understanding how mountain lions and people were affecting each other. In January, the Project, led by Walter Boyce, Director of the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center, made assessments and recommendations that included continuing and expanding education programs on pumas, from reducing chances of a negative encounter to proper animal husbandry practices when living in a puma habitat. More on the Project can be read online at [www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/scp/mnt\\_lion.htm](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/scp/mnt_lion.htm). The Project's website also gives valuable tips on puma habitats and information on California puma laws.



## \$ \$ \$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$ \$ \$

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

### **Administration for Children and Families' Mentoring Children of Prisoners' Program Grants**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families is offering grants for its Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program. The purpose of this program is to make competitive grants to applicants in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal populations with substantial numbers of children of incarcerated parents and to provide mentoring services to these children. The closing date for submission of applications is **April 23, 2004**. For additional information and application materials, please visit the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) grant opportunities site. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2004-ACF-ACYF-CU-0001.html>.

**Lawrence Foundation Grants** The mission of The Lawrence Foundation is to make a difference in the world by providing contributions and grants to organizations that are working to solve pressing educational, environmental, health and other issues. Grants are awarded twice a year. Letter or inquiry required. Letters of inquiry are open to any organization that wishes to be considered for a grant that meets the grant guidelines. Submit letter to:

The Lawrence Foundation  
530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 207  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

For more information, call the Foundation at (310) 451-1567, or visit their website at [www.thelawrencefoundation.org](http://www.thelawrencefoundation.org), or e-mail the foundation at [info@thelawrencefoundation.org](mailto:info@thelawrencefoundation.org).

**Acorn Foundation Grants** Established in 1978, the Acorn Foundation supports projects dedicated to building a sustainable future for the planet and to restoring a healthy global environment. The Acorn Foundation is particularly interested in small and innovative community-based projects which preserve and restore habitats supporting biological diversity and wildlife; advocate for environmental justice, particularly in low-income and indigenous communities; and prevent or remedy toxic pollution. The Acorn Foundation makes grants in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range to grassroots organizations. Grantees are asked to submit year-end reports, and Acorn will consider renewal grants to organizations that have fulfilled its

reporting requirements. For application information and guidelines, visit the Foundation's website at [www.commoncounsel.org/pages/foundation.html#acorn](http://www.commoncounsel.org/pages/foundation.html#acorn).

**Kodak American Greenways Grants** The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program, a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. Grants may be used for activities such as: mapping, ecological assessments, surveying, conferences, and design activities; developing brochures, interpretative displays, audio-visual productions or public opinion surveys; hiring consultants, incorporating land trusts, building a foot bridge, planning a bike path, or other creative projects. In general, grants can be used for all appropriate expenses needed to complete a greenway project including planning, technical assistance, legal and other costs. For any questions or comments, contact:

American Greenways Program Coordinator  
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2156; by telephone at (703) 525-6300; by fax at (703) 525-4610; or e-mail the coordinator at [greenways@conservationfund.org](mailto:greenways@conservationfund.org)

**Ben & Jerry's Foundation Grants** Foundation Grants focus on, but are not limited to, activities and strategies an organization uses for creating social change in any number of areas. The Foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are organizing for systemic social change. The Foundation supports programs and projects that are examples of creative problem-solving. Grant applicants need to demonstrate that their projects will lead to societal, institutional and/or environmental change; address the root causes of social or environmental problems; and lead to new ways of thinking and acting. For more information, contact:

Ben & Jerry's Foundation  
30 Community Drive  
South Burlington, VT 05403;  
by telephone at (802) 846-1500, or visit their website at [www.benjerry.com/foundation](http://www.benjerry.com/foundation).

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### EACH MONTH:



#### IMAX Theater Presents Coral Reef Adventure

MacGillivray Freeman Films' *Coral Reef Adventure* brings the sights, sounds and stirring emotions of the South Pacific's coral reefs to the seven-story IMAX screen. In vivid detail, the giant screen adventure reveals the vast array of unusual creatures that inhabit the reef and introduces everyday heroes hoping to save this threatened habitat. Using the awesome scope, visual power and incredible detail of the large-screen format, the entire production team dedicated itself to creating a film that would give audiences the visceral experience of an underwater voyage while inspiring in them a new love for the world's coral reefs. Fees for IMAX are based on age. For more information, call the IMAX Theater at (213) 744-7400, or visit their website at [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org). The IMAX Theater is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park.

### THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

**Sat, Apr 3**

#### Roots and Shoots Festival

Jane Goodall, the renowned primatologist, conservation activist, and U.N. Messenger of



Peace will celebrate her birthday at the Huntington Library, Museum and Botanical Gardens on Saturday, April 3, as guest speaker at the "Roots & Shoots" family festival. The day-long event is designed to increase young people's awareness of their role as the Earth's caretakers. The festival provides local Roots & Shoots groups with an opportunity to exhibit their environmental projects to Goodall and the community, to be acknowledged for their active participation, and in turn to inspire others. Featured will be live world music and dance, storytellers, craft activities, and live animals. For more information, call the Huntington Library, Museum, and Botanical Gardens at (626) 405-2100, or visit their website at [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org). Fee.

#### Native Plants Medicines Class



The Theodore Payne Foundation will host Jan Rutiz, herbalist and ecologist, in a presentation about working with plants in wilderness and garden environments. Fee. The class takes place from 10 am to 1 pm at the Theodore Payne Foundation. For more information, contact the Theodore Payne Foundation at

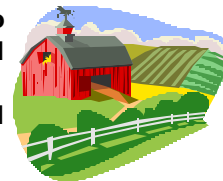
The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://www.lacity.org/EAD), contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be 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.

(818) 768-1802, or visit their website at [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org).

#### Bus Trip to Tierra Miguel CSA Farm

Tierra Miguel Foundation Farm and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an 85 acre Certified Organic Farm (CCOF) in beautiful Pauma Valley, located in North San Diego County. Tierra Miguel is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of demonstrating and developing sustainable agriculture and related education. Tierra Miguel Farm will have a farm tour, presenters, and a panel discussion. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. For more information about times and pick-up locations, contact Wiep de Vries at (626) 798-1592, or e-mail at [wiepfrog@cs.com](mailto:wiepfrog@cs.com). For more information about the farm, visit the Tierra Miguel Farm web page at [www.tierramiguel.org](http://www.tierramiguel.org), or contact them at (760) 742-1199.



## THIS MONTH: (continued)

### Sat, Apr 3 (continued)



#### Jardin del Rio Community Gardening Grand Opening Celebration

Join volunteers in a celebration of the Elysian Valley's first community garden. The event takes place from noon to 2 pm. The new community garden is located at 2363 Riverdale Avenue, one block southwest from the Los Angeles River and east of the I-5 freeway, just off of Riverside drive. For more information, contact David De La Torre at (310) 628-2546.



#### Women's Health Festival

Try yoga, get a mini massage and attend panel discussions on women's health issues at the Women's Health Festival: *Making Healthy Choices*, a one-day free celebration featuring celebrity guests, health experts, resource providers, performance artists and a host of health-related special activities geared toward inspiring women and their families to explore key health and well-being issues. The festival will be held at the California Science Center, and coincides with the opening day of *The Changing Face of Women's Health*, an informative and fun hands-on traveling exhibit developed by the National Health Sciences Consortium. For more information, contact the California Science Center at

(323) SCI-ENCE, or visit their website at [www.casciencectr.com](http://www.casciencectr.com). The California Science Center is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park.

### Tues, April 6

**Animal Heart** Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for a lecture by nature writer and novelist Brenda Peterson. Her latest novel, *Animal Heart*, explores the topics of sonar use in the oceans and mass strandings of marine mammals. Although a work of fiction, this book has been lauded as an account that brings the casualties of acoustic weapons testing to light. 7 pm. Cost: \$4 for members, and \$7 for the public (includes Aquarium admission). For more information contact the Aquarium of the Pacific at (562) 590-3100, or visit their website at [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org). The Aquarium's address is 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

### Thu, Apr 8

**Odyssey Fair** See Page 3 of this newsletter.

### Sat and Sun, Apr 10-11

#### Wildflower Show

The Los Angeles Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) will host their Annual Wildflower Show from 10 am to 4 pm. The show is at Malibu Bluffs Park on the ocean side of the intersection of Malibu Canyon Rd. and Pacific Coast Hwy.. Wildflower walks will be at 1 pm both days. The Society will have beautiful native flowers on display and plants, books, posters, and art work for sale.



Call Snowdy Dodson for further information at (818) 782-9346.

### Sat, Apr 10



#### Forrestal Property

This spectacular 2.5-hour, strenuous walk features the 160-acre parcel preserved by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Conservancy in 1996. The property has some of the best coastal sage scrub habitat on the Peninsula, and white Mariposa lilies bloom at this time of year among the flowers of the red Indian paintbrush, California bush sunflower, and wild blue hyacinth. The walk is moderate with some steep sections, so wear good hiking shoes and bring your walking stick. This is a nice walk for children as there may be an opportunity to look for fossils. Park at the Ladera Linda Community Center or on Forrestal Drive. Cosponsored by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy. Free. The walk begins at 9 am. For more information, call the Conservancy at (310) 541-7613, or visit their website at [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

#### Descanso Gardens Big Easter Egg Hunt on the Main Lawn

Join the fun at Descanso on this festive day before Easter. Children, armed with baskets and high expectations, will join the popular Easter Egg Hunts on the Main Lawn every 45 minutes, starting at 9:30 a.m. A chance to grab a basket and join the hunt still costs only \$3. Tickets will be sold that morning on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call Descanso Gardens at (818) 949-4200.



## THIS MONTH: (continued)

Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive in La Cañada.

**Fri-Sun, Apr 9-11**



**Big Bunny's Spring Fling at the LA Zoo** It's that time of the year again, time to hop on over to the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens for some wild fun for the whole family at Big Bunny's Spring Fling. There will be bunny ear crafts and bunny face painting along with musical entertainment. You can plant your own carrots, pet plenty of bunnies, and visit the Zoo's Egg-ucation Station. All Big Bunny activities are free with paid admission. For more information, contact the Los Angeles Zoo at (323) 644-4200, or visit their website at [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org). The Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles.

**Wed, Apr 14**

**Dragonfly's Tale at the Southwest Museum** In this week's read-aloud program, you can hear *Dragonfly's Tale* by Kristina Rodanas, a story that reveals the original Zuni storytellers' kindness and respect for nature's gifts. Takes place from 11 am to noon. \$3 for children and \$7.50 for adults. The Southwest Museum is located at 235 Museum Drive in Los Angeles. For more information, call the Museum at (323) 221-2164, or visit their

website at [www.southwestmuseum.org](http://www.southwestmuseum.org).

**Thurs, Apr 15**

**"The Good, the Bad, and the Unwanted"** An audio-visual program presented by Martin Byhower, at the monthly meeting of the Whittier Area Audubon Society, will illustrate how introduced birds and animals have affected the environment. Free. The meeting will take place at the Whittier Community Center, near Washington Avenue and Mar Vista in Whittier. For more information, contact Jean Beaton, Program Chair, at (562) 869-6545. Visit their website at [www.whittieraudubon.org](http://www.whittieraudubon.org).



**Sat, Apr 17**

### Poppy Day Open House

Calling all plant lovers! The Theodore Payne Foundation is once again holding its Seed and Plant Sale from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Don't miss this free opportunity to participate in plant talks and propagation demonstrations. To obtain additional information, please e-mail the Foundation at [info@theodorepayne.org](mailto:info@theodorepayne.org), go online and visit their website at [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org), or call them at (818) 768-1802.



**Cache In Trash Out** See page 3.

**City of Pasadena Greening the Earth Day** Held at Memorial Park in Pasadena, 85 East Holly Street (Southeast corner of

Walnut St. and Raymond Ave.), from 10 am to 2 pm. Sponsored by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works and Department of Water and Power. An environmental fair with lots of information and booths. For more information, call (626) 744-4721. Free.

**Thurs, April 22  
is EARTH DAY!**

For more Earth Day Events, visit EAD's website at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead), and click on "Announcements and Events" for local Earth Day celebrations!



**Sat, Apr 24**

### Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) Earth Day Celebration and Beach Clean-Up

Celebrate our ocean planet with a beach cleanup from 8 am to 10 am. Then stay for activities that include music, children's activities and displays and information from a wide range of local, national environmental groups, and government agencies in the CMA courtyard from 10 am to 3:30 pm. The day will include guided walks to an adjacent salt marsh, drawings for prizes, vendors offering food and drink and a variety of environmental items and books for sale. Admission to the Fair and Aquarium is free. Beach parking is \$7 per car. Catch the trolley, share a ride, walk or bike it! Be sure to visit the EAD table. For information, contact the Aquarium at (310) 548-7562, or visit their website at [www.cabrilloaq.org](http://www.cabrilloaq.org). The Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro.





**Sat, Apr 24**



## Earth Day Celebration

Learn what you can do to help our ocean planet. Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for a weekend of family fun celebrating Earth Day while learning what we can do as individuals for the environment. Visit booths that will provide information on a variety of Earth-friendly topics, such as the importance of recycling and keeping trash off our streets. Guests of all ages will enjoy music, face painting, and an array of arts and crafts. Representatives from over one dozen "green" organizations will be available to share information and answer questions about their missions, products, and services. EAD will also be present at this event. This year's celebration will highlight National Marine Sanctuaries, including the local channel islands. Be a part of this annual event honoring our beautiful planet Earth. For more info call the Aquarium at (562) 590-3100, or go online and visit their website at [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org). Fee.

**LA Arbor Day Event** See Page 4 of this newsletter.

**Sat & Sun,  
Apr 24-25**

**LA Zoo Earth Day Celebration** Join the zoo and various environmental organizations in celebrating Earth Day on both days, from 10 am to 4 pm. Free with Zoo admission. For more information, contact the Los Angeles Zoo at (323) 644-4200, or visit their website at

[www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org). The L.A. Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in the City of Los Angeles.

**Fri and Sat,**



**Apr 30 and May 1**

**The 15th Annual Great LA River Clean Up** takes place two days from 9 am to noon to restore more than 10 LA River sites stretching from San Fernando Valley to Long Beach. Sponsored by the Friends of the Los Angeles River. Fee Free. For additional information, visit FoLAR's website at [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org) or call clean up coordinator Jill Hill at (562) 591-5980, or call FoLAR at (323) 223-0585.

**Fri thru Sun,  
Apr 30 to May 2**



## Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Presents Spring 2004 Conference "Teaching Outside the Lines"

Environmental Education Conference held at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. There will be more than sixty workshops on topics of interest to environmental and outdoor educators throughout the weekend. Professional Development Credit will be available. For more information or to register, visit the Association's website at [www.aeoe.org](http://www.aeoe.org), call Helen de la Maza at (714)838-6257, or e-mail her at [delamazah@earthlink.net](mailto:delamazah@earthlink.net).

**Sat, May 1**

**Arbor Day Celebration** Help out Madrona Marsh Preserve with

their planting project from 10 am to noon. Free. To sign up, call the Madrona Marsh Nature Center at (310) 782-3989. The Madrona Marsh is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance.



**Tues, May 4**

**The Polar Bears of Hudson Bay**, a visual journey will be coming to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Churchill, a small town located on Canada's Hudson Bay, is famous the world over for its polar bear population. In



October and November of each year, hundreds of polar bears begin to dot

the landscape waiting for the first ice to form on Hudson Bay. But warming temperatures over the last several decades are giving these animals less time on the ice to build vital fat reserves that must last them the rest of the year. Learn how our actions thousands of miles away are pushing the boundaries of their superbly adapted physiology to the limit. Join Michael Goodyear, the executive director of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, as he gives a visual journey to the far north to meet these polar bears and the other Arctic animals that survive in this unique ecosystem. Discover why these bears are some of the most studied in the world, and what they are telling us about the future of the Arctic habitat. \$7 for the public (includes Aquarium admission). Program begins at 7 pm. For more information, contact the Aquarium of the Pacific at (562) 590-3100, or visit their website at [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org).

(Earth Day Greeting...continued from page 1)

that EAD has planted citywide. EAD has made these accomplishments because we envision a greener city, and have committed our time and resources to realize our greening plan.



Finding ways to reduce air pollution from motor vehicles is another major focus for the Department. Our Air Quality Division has purchased over 500 bicycles for the City's police bicycle patrols, and already has plans to purchase another one hundred. Recently, we reviewed the proposed 2003 Air Quality Management Plan, coordinated comments from City departments, and presented a Citywide policy position and technical comments for City Council and Mayoral approval and submittal to the Air Quality Management

District. EAD continues to bring funding from outside agencies to City departments for the purchase of over 1,000 alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure. Over this past year, the Air Quality Division prepared and submitted applications for over \$1 million in grant funds for Citywide clean air programs.

One of the largest challenges still facing Los Angeles is transforming polluted and abandoned industrial facilities, "brownfields" as they are commonly called. The Environmental Affairs Department leads one of the most successful Brownfields programs in the nation; we have worked on over seventy sites and removed blight and revitalized neighborhoods. The program has leveraged \$10.2 million in City funds to generate \$77.6 million in Federal grants and loans for brownfield projects. EAD's undertaking has allowed brownfields to be transformed into parks, housing, and community facilities for our neighborhoods. In recognition of our accomplishments, the Environmental Affairs Department has received \$500,000 in funding from US EPA, and has a full-time US EPA employee in the office partnering with us to assist on many exciting projects.



Through recycling and waste reduction programs partnered between the Bureau of Sanitation and the Environmental Affairs Department, we have reduced waste going to landfills and increased materials we reuse and recycle. Through our Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), EAD provides necessary and cost efficient regulation and oversight of trash hauling and landfills and we have met all our inspection goals — *exceeding state expectations*. We have integrated community concerns into local permit conditions, and we have provided the expertise and logistics to hold community meetings to hear what concerns exist about solid waste in our city. This work is critical both to reducing waste and to finding innovative methods for even more reduction.



One of the unique aspects of the Environmental Affairs Department is our outreach to small businesses. Our Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services Division (EBNS) recognizes that many businesses want to follow regulations, but may not know how to go about doing so. The combination of Federal, State and local regulations can be confusing, but with EAD, businesses learn what the rules are and how to best work within them. EBNS Division also staffs a free hazardous and toxic materials telephone help line that handles calls dealing with everything from storage and disposal of materials to green

alternatives and incentives. We have worked with industry and the public on alternative dry cleaning methods, sustainable building and pollution prevention. Recently, EAD worked with the Mayor's Office and Department of Water and Power to create *A Guide to Environmental and Resource Efficient Business Practices*, a guide that explains how to save valuable resources and gain tax incentives as a bonus.

EAD also has taken the message of protecting and improving our environment to community events

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*(Earth Day Greeting...continued from page 10)*

throughout the city, attending dozens of community clean-ups, festivals and gatherings each year. When residents take time more frequently to report pollution, or call in their environmental concerns to EAD, then we know positive change is happening throughout Los Angeles.

While I am proud of all that the Department has accomplished, we have much more to do. As we move into another year, EAD will continue to secure an environment for Los Angeles in which everyone can breathe clean air, enjoy healthy neighborhoods, share equal access to unpolluted rivers and ocean water, vibrant parks, and precious natural habitats. Accomplishing these goals requires diligent effort from government, business, communities, and most importantly, individuals. A big part of that is spreading the word about keeping our environment clean, another is doing small things each day to improve our city. For Earth Day 2004, I hope that you will take the time to engage in one of the many activities and celebrations that are being held throughout Los Angeles. We have listed many of these events in the Calendar section of this newsletter, and an expanded version is posted on our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>.

On behalf of the Environmental Affairs Department, I want to thank everyone who has worked with us to make our city a clean, safe, beautiful and growing city. Please accept my most sincere wishes for a productive and rewarding Earth Day.



EAD staff attend outreach festivals held for communities throughout the year.

*(Extinction...continued from page 1)*

Isolated from mainland California and the other islands, the foxes on each island evolved into highly unique sub-species. Isolated islands often produce very unique species, a fact used by Darwin and later scientists in discovering the forces of evolution. While the four subspecies have subtle differences, all the Island Foxes are small, three to five pounds in weight, and red and gray in color. Their bodies measure 23 to 31 inches long plus a tail of five to eleven inches.

California's Chumash Indians kept Island Foxes as pets more than three thousand years ago. Mostly solitary animals, the foxes can be active both during day and night, usually foraging for food in the early morning and again in the late afternoon and early evening. The foxes are omnivores, eating small mammals, snails, insects, manzanita fruit, toyon, prickly-pear, and other plants. The foxes are incredibly adaptive, able to find food in bushes within the island interior and also in the intertidal zones of the shore. Foxes give birth to two or three pups usually in April or May, and the young foxes are independent by early September.



The population of Island Fox has been in precipitous decline for decades but there is no single cause for biologist to address. Instead, the island foxes have suffered from a combination of problems that cumulatively threaten their survival. The recently introduced golden eagles are predators for which the fox has no defenses. Also, canine distemper from domestic dogs has ravaged the fox population, and an overall loss in habitat has contributed to the fox's decline.

The San Miguel subspecies has suffered the worst. Its population has declined from a historical 450 to a current 15 with only five males in existence. The National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and United States Navy are all working together to improve the fox's numbers and secure its long-term survival as a species. Consider a visit to the Los Angeles Zoo to see Island Foxes and to learn more about them. More information about the zoo can be found at <http://www.lazoo.org>.



### 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 <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

#### Air Quality

*Calidad del aire*  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
(800) 288-7664

#### Asbestos

*Asbestos*  
Environmental Hygiene  
(626) 430-5440

#### Bulky Item Pick-up

*Recogida de articulos 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

#### Housing and Building Complaints

*Las quejas del construccion y albergar*  
Housing Code Enforcement  
(213) 367-9411

#### Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

*Depositos en los drenajes de desagües*  
Stormwater Management  
(800) 974-9794

#### Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

*Aire interior ó preocupaciones de moh o*  
Environmental Hygiene  
(626) 430-5440

#### 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*  
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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Environmental Affairs Department  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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