

An Environmental Affair

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September 2006

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.

Do Your Part for California's Coastline: Take Part in the 22nd Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day Saturday, September 16, 2006



California's Coastal Cleanup Day is a volunteer event focused on the cleanup of debris from our coasts and inland waterways throughout the state. Over 50,000 volunteers turn out at over 700 cleanup sites statewide to conduct what has been hailed by the Guinness Book of World Records as "the largest garbage collection" (1993). Since 1985, over 650,000 Californians have removed more than 10 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast. Organized by The Ocean Conservancy, and taking place on the same day as the International Coastal Cleanup, California Coastal Cleanup Day is part of one of the largest volunteer events of the year. The event is sponsored by the California Coastal Commission.

Coastal Cleanup Day is a way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of the fragile marine environment, show community support for shared natural resources, and learn about the impacts of marine debris and how we can prevent it. Coastal Cleanup Day is also the kick-off event for Coastweeks, three weeks of coastal and water-related events for the whole family. For more information, call (800) COAST-4U, email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or visit the California Coastal Commission's website at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/>. Events take place on Saturday, September 16, from 9 am to noon. Be a part of the solution to marine pollution!

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Toxic Levels of Household Pesticides Found in Urban Streams

A recent study by the University of California, Berkeley, Southern Illinois University, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has spurred the re-evaluation of pyrethroid pesticides after evidence that run-off from suburban residential lawns is adversely affecting insects and crustaceans in urban streams. Pyrethroid product use has skyrocketed in the last few years as U.S. consumers and exterminators look for less-toxic alternatives to the dangerous pesticides that already have been banned.



The compounds used are prevalent in lawn products, household and pet sprays, as well as insecticides used by exterminators and farmers. Additionally, many cities and counties spray pyrethroid products for mosquito abate-

(Pesticides...Continued on page 7)

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<http://www.lacity.org/ead/>.

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National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) September 18-24, 2006

The 2006 National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W), sponsored by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Cal/EPA, and U.S. EPA, gets underway this month to promote public health, environmental quality and economic vitality.

Since 1993, the DTSC has dedicated an entire week to educate the public, businesses, schools, and industry associations about pollution prevention, which is an effective tool in protecting the environment, and in helping the industrial economy recognize that pollution is best eliminated or reduced at the source. The goal is to have businesses, government agencies, citizens and consumers become more aware of the opportunities to avoid pollution and provide the resources and information to successfully implement prevention. Activities for recognizing pollution prevention take place statewide. For more information on NP2W, visit <http://www.p2.org/p2week> or the DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/index.cfm>



or call (800) 72-TOXIC. DTSC resources for teachers and students on pollution prevention can also be downloaded at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Education/index.html>. The City's Environmental Affairs Department also maintains the Hazardous and Toxic Materials Office and Hotline, which can be reached at (213) 978-0891, or by visiting <http://www.lacity.org/ead/EADWeb-EBA/htmofc>.

Carpool to School with Help from Metro

Is the traffic around your campus getting out of control in the mornings, causing traffic and safety issues? Metro has a solution to reduce the traffic congestion and shrink parental stress. At no cost to the school or parents, Metro School Pool matches parents who are interested in carpooling with other parents who have kids attending the same school.

It's easy to get started. Once your school is enrolled in Metro School Pool, interested parents can find carpool partners. All they need to do is sign up, and they will receive a list of telephone numbers of other parents who are interested. Parents then call one another and determine if they want to start a carpool by discussing the students' schedules and driving responsibilities. It is completely voluntary and there are no obligations.

Students benefit from being in a carpool. They learn to become responsible for being on time, they can check homework, and they can make friends. To learn more about the Metro School Pool, call Metro Commute Services at (213) 922-2811.

EAD Welcomes New Member to EBNS Division

The Environmental Affairs Department welcomes Susanne Marczak, Student Professional Worker, to the Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services (EBNS) Division. Susanne currently is entering her third undergraduate year at UCLA, and is majoring in both Ecology and Economics.

Congratulations Susanne!



Why good air quality is important...

Adopt-A-Beach!

Have you been looking for a way that your group, club, or organization can get more involved in helping the environment? Why not adopt a beach through the California Coastal Commission's "Adopt-A-Beach" program?



Every day, our coastlines are impacted by the amount of marine debris that collects on our beaches and in our oceans. Trash on sidewalks and streets accumulate in the gutter and get swept into the storm drain system – often flowing directly to the ocean. Plastic marine debris affects at least 267 species worldwide. Common items like fishing line and six-pack rings can hamper the eating, breathing and mobility of marine animals. Also, animals often mistake plastics for food. Plastics take hundreds of years to break down and may continue to trap and kill animals year after year. Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, one of their favorite foods. Even gray whales have been found dead with plastic bags and sheeting in their stomachs.

Adopting a beach is simple and rewarding. Groups are committed to cleaning the beach three times per year, although school groups can fulfill their obligation with a single cleanup. Groups are encouraged to re-adopt at the end of the year. The Adopt-A-Beach program fosters feelings of pride and ownership as volunteers begin to care for "their" beach.

For more information on how you can adopt a beach of your own and obtain educational resources concerning marine environments, contact your local beach manager, or the Adopt-A-Beach Program at (800) COAST-4U.

It's Official! Los Angeles Named "America's Birdiest County" for 2006

In this year's America's Birdiest City/County Competition, Los Angeles has won the distinction of "America's Birdiest County." For the competition, several dozen birders combed L.A. County's varied habitats during the three-day count period (April 28-30) and located 265 bird species. This exceeded runner-up San Diego County's total by four species.

The purpose of the America's Birdiest City/County contest is to see which cities and counties in the various categories can document the highest count of bird species during a selected 72-hour period within its city (or county) limits during the months of April or May. The key success in the competition is to have as many birders in the field as possible. The event began three years ago at the hands of the San Diego Audubon Society, but is conducted almost entirely by amateur birders, informed by birding websites newsletters, and e-mail lists.

Below are the city and county results for the number of species identified:

City Categories

Large Coastal City: Corpus Christi, TX 247
 Large East Coast City: New York, NY 193
 Large West Coast City: San Diego, CA 179
 Large Inland City: San Antonio, TX 195
 Small Coastal City: Dauphin Island, AL 170
 Small Inland City: Duluth, MN 147

County Categories

Coastal County: Los Angeles, CA 265
 Coastal Gulf County: Nueces County, TX 255
 Coastal Atlantic County: Richmond County, NY 160
 Inland County: Kern County, CA 247
 Inland County, Central Flyway: Bexar County, TX 205
 Inland County, Atlantic Flyway: (all Eastern entries were coastal)

For more information on the competition, visit the San Diego Audubon Society's webpage at <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/>.

\$ \$ \$ **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** \$ \$ \$

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

Community-based Habitat Restoration Project

The National Marine Fisheries Service is inviting the public to submit proposals for available funding to implement grass-roots habitat restoration projects that will benefit living marine resources under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program. Projects will be expected to have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources as well as educational and social benefits for people and their communities. Program priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - Protect, Restore, and Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management. Those selected will receive between \$30,000 and \$250,000. For more information, visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=9889&mode=VIEW>. Applications are due **September 28, 2006.**

Captain Planet Foundation Grants The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the Foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.captainplanetfdn.org/. The application deadline is **September 30, 2006.**

Youth Garden Grants Program

The National Gardening Association awards Youth Garden Grants to 200 schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs. Priority will be given to programs that emphasize such elements as nutrition, environmental awareness and education, entrepreneurship, and social aspects of gardening such as team-building, community support and service learning. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden in 2007 with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp>. Applications must be postmarked by **November 1, 2006.**

SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Award

The Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks will recognize the outstanding efforts of K-12 students and teachers across the country who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment by providing school and community groups with a monetary award, national recognition and some well-deserved fun at one of their parks. Eight winning groups are selected each year to win \$10,000. One environmental educator/leader each year receives \$5,000. For more information visit <http://www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/index.htm>. The application deadline is **November 30, 2006.**

Angel Soft's 'Angels in Action' National

Awards Program The Angel Soft Angels in Action Awards Program aims to recognize youth (ages 8-18) who are performing exemplary acts of community service. Georgia-Pacific, the maker of Angel Soft toilet paper, invites teachers, parents, guardians and friends to submit nominations to honor ordinary kids who are doing extraordinary things to help improve their communities. One outstanding youth will be awarded \$15,000 for "Program of the Year." Two grand prize winners (one from each age category) will receive \$10,000 and 10 finalists (five from each age category) will receive \$1,000. The age categories are: 8-15 years old and 16-18 years old. To nominate someone you know, visit <http://www.angelsoft.com/>. The deadline is **October 1, 2006.**

Fund for Wild Nature The Fund for Wild Nature provides grants ranging from \$1000 to \$2500 for campaigns to save and restore native species and wild ecosystems, including actions to defend wilderness and biological diversity. They fund advocacy, litigation, public policy work, development of citizen science, and similar endeavors. The Fund supports biocentric goals that are premised on effective and intelligible strategies, giving special attention to ecological issues not currently receiving sufficient public attention and funding. For more information visit <http://fundwildnature.org/proposal.html>. The application deadline is **November 3, 2006.**

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Nature Hike to Eaton Canyon Falls



Need to cool off? Take a hike to the waterfall on the fourth Sunday of every month from 9am to noon. The hike is geared toward anyone who is comfortable hiking 3.5 miles at a moderate pace, boulder-hopping, crossing the water several times, and doesn't mind getting wet. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a hat are recommended. Bring a snack for afterward. Free to the public. The Eaton Canyon Nature Center is located at 1750 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena. For more information call the Eaton Canyon Nature Center at (626) 398-5420 or visit their website at <http://www.ecnca.org>.

IMAX Theater Presents Hurricane on the Bayou

In this new film from IMAX, viewers are taken on a breathtaking tour of one of the most vibrant places in America, the Louisiana bayou and the city of New Orleans. Poetically told through the sounds of some of New Orleans' greatest musicians, *Hurricane on the Bayou* dramatically illustrates the importance of nature conservation by bringing into focus the startling loss of Louisiana's rapidly disappearing coastal wetlands. For movie times call (213) 744-7400 or www.californiasciencecenter.org/IMAX. The IMAX theater is located at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles.

Interpretive Nature Tours at The Ballona Wetlands Tour

On the second Sunday of each month, join the Friends of Ballona Wetlands for an exciting, informative nature tour. Explore the wonders of nature right in the middle of urban Los Angeles! Enter the Wetlands through the gate located in the parking lot behind Gordon's Market at 303 Culver Boulevard in Playa del Rey. Tours will begin at the restoration trailer at 10 am and end at 11 am. For more information visit <http://www.ballonafriends.org>.

Restoration Party at the Ballona Dunes

Come help restore the last coastal wetland habit in Los Angeles County on the fourth Saturday of every month. Volunteers get a hands-on experience planting native plants and removing invasive non-natives, while learning about wetland ecology. Meet at the entrance gate to the wetlands, located at 303 Culver Blvd. in Playa del Rey at 9:30 am. For more information visit <http://www.ballonafriends.org>, or call (310) 306-5994.

Roundhouse Aquarium Sea Story Time

Every Sunday at 11:30 am, enjoy a story about sea life, create a craft to take home, and touch some live animals or cool artifacts that relate to the story. Activities are for all ages, and are free to the public. The Roundhouse Aquarium is located at the end of Manhattan Beach Pier. Visit their website at <http://www.roundhouseaquarium.org>, or call (310) 379-8117 for additional information.

Archaeology Adventures Every Sunday from 12 pm to 3:30 pm, come by the Skirball Cultural Center to experience archaeology

The EAD website, 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 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.

City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission Meetings

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC) meets the third Thursday of each month in City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street in Los Angeles. The General Public is invited to attend. Commission agendas, minutes, meeting times and places are posted at http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-NewsEvents/updateagenda_&_minutes.htm

Commissioners:

Misty Sanford—President
Alina Bokde—Vice President
Maria Armoudian—Member
Teresa Villegas—Member
Joyce Perkins—Member

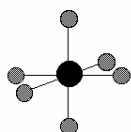
hands-on. Learn about the history of ancient Egypt, the methods for excavating a site, and the importance of preserving archaeological artifacts. Free with museum admission. The Skirball is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. Call (310) 440-4500 or visit www.skirball.org for more information.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Mon, Sept 4**LA's 224th Birthday!**

There's no better way to celebrate the founding of our great City than by joining in the Pobladores' historic "Walk to Los Angeles" re-enactment from San Gabriel Mission to El Pueblo Historical Monument at 6am. There will be a post-walk celebration from 9:30am – 5pm, including entertainment, birthday cake and more. All for free! For more information call (213) 485-8372 or (213) 485 – 9769, or visit <http://www.lacity.org/ELP>.

**Tuesday, Sept 5****Molecules in the Mud**

Come join the fun at 7pm at the Aquarium of the Pacific to listen to distinguished professor and researcher of oceanography and pharmaceutical sciences, Bill Fenical discuss the possibility of new cancer treatments derived from deep-sea bacteria. Cost is \$7 for the public, \$4 for general members, and free for Pacific Circle Members. The aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information or to RSVP call (562) 590-3100 or visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.com>.

Thurs, Sept 7**Coldwater Canyon Full Moon Hike**

Come and explore Coldwater Canyon Park at night during this hour-long guided hike. Just after the hike, enjoy a taste of entertainment in the S. Mark Taper Foundation Amphitheatre. We will meet in the amphitheatre at TreePeople's headquarters at Coldwater Canyon Park, located at 12601 Mulholland Drive in Beverly Hills. Please wear layered clothing and sturdy shoes. Bring a flashlight and water. Free to TreePeople members, \$5 for nonmembers. The event is from 7pm-9:30pm. Contact Katura Reynolds at (818) 623-4866 for more information or to RSVP.

Sun, Sept 10**Bees at Madrona Marsh**

Los Angeles County Vector Control will be presenting a program at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center from 2pm-4pm concerning the life cycles and roles of bees in our environment. The fee for the program is \$5/person or \$10/family. The Nature Center is located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in Torrance. For more information call (310) 782-3989.

Sat, September 16**California Coastal Clean Up Day**

Participate by finding an event close to you. Call 1 (800) COAST 4U.

Mon, Sept 18

Sustainable Business Training
Come to the UCLA Faculty Center

for a one-day, research-based introduction to the new guidelines and best practices for communicating your vision of sustainability to employees, customers, and investors. The seminar includes new research on market-based sustainability indicators as well as how to prepare a Sustainability Report. For more information on how to register for this and other upcoming courses, visit www.cleanerproductions.com.

Sat and Sun, Sept 23 and 24

Moompetam Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for their annual Native American festival, *Moompetam: Gathering of the Salt Water People*, a celebration of indigenous California Indian maritime cultures. Native American artists will provide presentations of cultural materials, and a special display will feature the ethno-botany and plant life that sustained the indigenous people for thousands of years. Free with Aquarium admission. For more information, call the Aquarium at (562) 590-3100, or visit the museum website <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/>.

Wed, Sept 27**David Carle at the Aquarium of the Pacific's Coffeehouse Author Series**

David Carle, California State Park Ranger and environmental writer, will talk about his latest book *Introduction to Water in California*, and will share the story of California's most precious resource, tracing the journey of water in the state from the atmosphere to the snowpack to our faucets and foods. Free. 7pm, Reservations recommended, Call (562) 590-3100, extension 0.

(Pesticides ... Continued from page 1)

ment in order to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus. Los Angeles County however, does not, using instead products containing methoprine.

As recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), toxicity tests were conducted on small, shrimp-like creatures called amphipods. A relatively sensitive group of animals, amphipods have shown that sites where tests were conducted are reaching toxicity levels that could be lethal to sensitive species such as stoneflies and mayflies. In a follow-up study, sampling from three streams in the rapidly growing residential community of Roseville in Northern California, where there is little agricultural activity, was done. It was found that nearly all of the creek sediments studied were toxic to amphipods and contained pyrethroid concentrations at levels known to kill such crustaceans. With the lack of agricultural activity in the area, the toxicity levels are attributed to suburban runoff.

Notices are being sent out this month by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) to pesticide manufacturers in order to inform them of the state's decision to re-evaluate their usage, which could culminate in new regulations and possibly bans on some products within California. Such a step would be the biggest regulatory initiative ever in California involving pesticides and surface waters.

A lot of urban pesticide use may be unnecessary, and the answer lies in changing practices and changing the mentality of pesticide applications in the urban environment. Many suburban users of pesticides do not realize that the chemicals do not lie stationary within their lawns – they run off from their properties into the local waterways, affecting the aquatic environment.

For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov>.

Learn More about Pyrethroids and Pyrethrins...

Consumers can do their part to reduce their impact on water systems by identifying pyrethroid in products that they use. Pyrethroids are compounds that can end in the suffix "-thrin" on pesticide labels, and encompass a diverse class of more than 1,000 powerful, broad-spectrum insecticide poisons.

Pyrethroids are synthetic pesticides based on the chemical structure of pyrethrin, a natural compound which is found in chrysanthemums. Pyrethrins are biodegradable when exposed to air and light, whereas pyrethroids are designed to be more stable in the environment. However, the natural pyrethrins are contact poisons which quickly penetrate the nerve system of any insect. A few minutes after application, the insect cannot move or fly away. The natural pyrethrins are swiftly detoxified by enzymes in the insect. Thus, some pests will recover from being "knocked down." Therefore, to delay the enzyme action so that a lethal dose is assured, other toxic pesticides such as organophosphates, carbamates, or synergists may be added to the pyrethrins.

The key solution for most homeowners (who are caught between using chemicals and wanting to prevent a pest problem) is to eliminate the types of environments certain pests like to inhabit, and to then use safer alternatives to pesticides. Below are some organizations and agencies which have information regarding specific pest problems, and how you can safely manage your situation without damaging the environment.

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) — www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html.

National Pesticide Information Center — <http://npic.orst.edu/pest.htm>.

University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program — www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.



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**. 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) 430-5100

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes

L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste/e-Waste

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 moho

Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo

National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323
Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

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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