

An Environmental Affair

Volume 18, Issue 4

Celebrate Earth Day: Sunday, April 22, National Park Week: April 22-29

April 2007

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 Message from EAD General Manager



City of L.A. Environmental Affairs
General Manager Detrich B. Allen

Thirty seven years ago, on April 22, Americans demonstrated in streets, parks, and auditoriums to take action for a healthy and sustainable environment. Coast to coast, volunteers gave their time to organize Earth Day rallies. In colleges and universities, thousands of students protested against the deterioration of the environment. People from all walks of life who fought against polluting factories, raw sewage, toxic dumps, and the loss of open space suddenly realized that they shared strong common values.

This first Earth Day was a pivotal step forward in the history of the United States environmental movement. Earth Day 1970 led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. With these laws, we have strived to curb pollution, promote sustainable design in construction building, promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles, the use of alternative modes of transportation, and conserve wilderness.

For those of us at the Environmental Affairs Department, we are continually reminded about the significance that grassroots actions can have. We have been lucky to work with enthusiastic community partners and outstanding

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EAD Schools Students on Climate Change Impacts

With almost daily news coverage, the successful release of the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," international conferences and reports, and the passage of historic legislation here in California, is it any wonder that the topic of climate change is on everyone's minds?

About a dozen students from the Ánimo Film and Theatre Arts School, a Green Dot school, decided that climate change should be the focus of their independent study project. Green Dot Public Schools, a non-profit organization, operates successful charter high schools in the highest



Air Quality Division Director Gretchen Hardison (left front) and Environmental Specialist Jennifer Pinkerton (left back) meet with Green Dot students.

(Climate Change...continued on page 11)

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: ead.info@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.

National Arbor Day is April 27!

Arbor Day is America's National Tree Holiday, a day set aside to plant ceremonial trees, as well as educate people of all ages about the important roles that trees play in our daily lives. Celebrate the joys that trees bring us by attending the

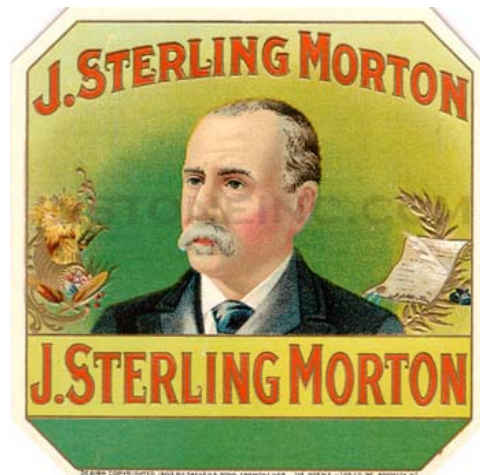
City of Los Angeles' 2007 Arbor Day Festival on Saturday, May 12 from 11am-3pm at the Park Center Picnic Area at Griffith Park

This **free** festival focuses on raising public awareness of the environmental importance of trees. Activities include demonstrations of tree and pole climbing, crosscut and chainsaw use, hands-on arts and crafts with a nature theme, educational booths, a zoo mobile, music, urban camping, and food. Trees will be planted at the park in support of the Mayor's Million Tree Initiative.

For more information call 1-888-LA PARKS (527-2757), or visit <http://www.laparks.org>.

The History of Arbor Day

In 1854, a large number of pioneers immigrated to the Nebraska Territory, including a man by the name of J. Sterling Morton from Detroit, Michigan. Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Using journalism as a medium, he communicated agricultural information and his personal enthusiasm for nature to the readers of his newspaper. Nebraska was a treeless land at the time, and although trees were missed by pioneers for their aesthetic beauty and shade, most importantly, they were needed as windbreaks to keep soil in place, as well as for fuel and building materials. He advocated the planting of trees by individuals and civic organizations, and when he became Secretary of the Nebraska Territory, he was able to take advantage of his prominence to further the cause.



On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed on April 10, 1874. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance. During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882. Today the most common date for the state observances is the last Friday in April, but a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south, to May in the far north. (March 7-14 for California).

Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world, from Australia to Yugoslavia. For more information on Arbor Day, visit the National Arbor Day Foundation at <http://www.arborday.org>.

EPA Rule Slashes Toxics from Gasoline and Vehicles

Toxic fumes from gasoline, vehicles, and fuel containers will decrease significantly, further reducing health risks, under tough new standards signed by EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. By 2030, EPA's new Mobile Source Air Toxic (MSAT) regulations and fuel and vehicle standards—already in place—will reduce toxic emissions from cars to 80 percent below 1999 emissions.



The MSAT rule toughens benzene standards for gasoline, sets hydrocarbon emissions standards for cars at cold temperatures, and tightens fuel containers to prevent the evaporation of harmful fumes.

Once the new standards are fully implemented in 2030, they are expected to reduce emissions of mobile source air toxics annually by 330,000 tons, including 61,000 tons of benzene. EPA estimates annual health benefits from the particulate matter reductions of the vehicle standards to total \$6 billion in 2030. The estimated annual cost for the entire rule is about \$400 million in 2030.

The new MSAT standards will take effect in 2011 for gasoline, 2010 for cars, and 2009 for fuel containers. A copy of this final rule is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/toxics.htm#regdocs/>.

Spring Cleaning and Environment Greening

Spring is officially here, and it's time to start cleaning out your house or apartment. But wait -- don't throw all of that stuff in the trash! Recycle it if you can!

The City of Los Angeles manages a comprehensive recycling program that annually collects over 240,000 tons of recyclables and 480,000 tons of yard trimmings. Curbside collection and both permanent S.A.F.E. Centers and mobile drop-off centers are available to collect a variety of recyclable materials. The Bureau of Sanitation has developed and implemented effective and economically feasible source reduction, buy-recycled and reuse programs, activities, and policies for its residential, businesses, and institutional users and customers.

The most familiar type of recycling is blue-bin curbside recycling. At the curb you can recycle the following items: clean dry paper, cardboard boxes (folded-down), aluminum, tin and metal foils or cans, glass bottles or jars (rinsed), empty plastic containers, and all plastic bags. However, such items as Styrofoam, contaminated paper, broken glass, clothing, and hazardous materials, cannot be placed in a blue-bin for curbside pick-up. All hazardous waste such as batteries, aerosol cans, light bulbs, paints, chemicals, and electronic-waste, should be dropped off at a S.A.F.E Center, or brought to the next household hazardous waste round-up event.

For more information on recycling, visit <http://www.lacity.org/SAN> or call 1-800-773-2489, from Monday through Friday, between 7:30 am and 4:45 pm. To dispose of hazardous materials please call: 1-800-98-TOXIC.

National Park Week: Explore, Learn, Protect April 22–29, 2007

National Park Week is an annual Presidentially proclaimed week for celebration and recognition of our National Parks. National Parks are living examples of the best this Nation has to offer - our magnificent natural landscapes and our varied yet interrelated heritage. Parks can provide recreational experiences, opportunities to learn and grow, and places of quiet refuge. This year, take a moment, an hour, or a day to visit a national park. For more information, visit the National Park Service's website at www.nps.gov for parks near you.

Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant: Keeping Our Water Clean



Before the Hyperion Treatment plant was built, wastewater from Los Angeles was conveyed from the center of town (today known as El Pueblo) through natural waterways to the ocean. The raw sewage posed a problem for swimmers as it was discharged through near-shore waters. When the Los Angeles' population continued to grow, the City constructed and began operating the first treatment facility at the Hyperion site in 1925. What was to begin as a simple screening plant would eventually grow to become among the first treatment facilities in the world to capitalize on the energy values of bio-gas and protect the Santa Monica Bay from wastewater pollution. Such qualities led the Hyperion Treatment Plant (HTP) to be named one of the Top Ten Public Works Projects of the 20th Century by the American Public Works Association.

How does HTP manage to process the 450 million gallons of wastewater a day that it receives from 4 million people throughout Los Angeles?

The collection system itself is a staggering 6,500 miles in length, collecting sewage from houses, as well as sewage and industrial waste from commercial and industrial facilities. The process begins by filtering out the most noticeable of materials from the wastewater, such as wood, plastic, and sand. The rest of the wastewater then proceeds through underground tanks the size of football fields for primary treatment, during which chemicals are added to help suspended solids filled with microorganisms settle to the bottom. Oil and grease are removed, and the water flows into secondary treatment.

During secondary treatment, the wastewater moves through an oxygen reactor to remove or digest organic materials left in the wastewater after primary treatment. After the organics are depleted by microorganisms, the water flows into clarifying tanks, where it stays for 4 hours while biological solids settle to the bottom. At this point, approximately 90-95% of the solids have been removed, and the treated wastewater is clean enough to enter Santa Monica Bay or to be recycled as reclaimed water. It exits into the bay through a pipeline that extends 5 miles from shore to a depth of 190 feet, to ensure that the water does not return to shore. About 6% of the cleaned water is pumped to a water reclamation plant to be run through another level of treatment and used to irrigate parks and to provide industrial water to local businesses.

The solids that were removed from primary and secondary treatment are then pumped into large, totally enclosed tanks called digesters. Bacteria and other micro-organisms that live without oxygen, thrive there. It takes about 15 days for the micro-organisms to eat half of the bio-solids, destroy disease-causing pathogens, and release natural methane gas that has tremendous energy value. The remaining decomposed bio-solids have a value as well. They are transported to the City Farm where they are used as valuable fertilizer.

Methane gas that is produced during digestion is captured and piped to a nearby power plant. In exchange for the gas, Hyperion purchases power from the power plant at a reduced price. In a sense, Hyperion is powered by its own bio-solids!



For more information about HTP, and to find out how you can schedule a free tour of the facility, visit <http://www.lacity.org/SAN/htp.htm>.

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

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

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

honors nominees that are between 8 and 18 years old who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people, animals, or the planet. Nominations are accepted on an annual basis and \$2,000 awards are given every Fall. To nominate a young person, submit a completed nomination packet and references form. The packet must be received by **April 30, 2007**. For more information visit <http://www.barronprize.org>.

The Home Depot Foundation makes grants to 501(c)3 tax exempt public charities in the United States. Preference is given to proposals that result in community engagement that incorporate the strategic use of trees and landscape to strengthen neighborhood infrastructure and reduce utility bills. Citizen education and engagement concerning the importance of trees to the health, economics success, and social well-being of communities is also key. For more information, visit <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org>. Applications must be received by **May 15, 2007**.

The Rose Foundation seeks to nurture positive interactions between communities, the economy and the environment. The foundation places emphasis upon protecting Southern California coastal watersheds and forming community-based pollution prevention and environmental stewardship initiatives. Grants range from \$5,000-\$20,000. For more information visit <http://www.rosefdn.org/grants>. Full proposals must be postmarked by **May 31, 2006**.

Lifecycle Building Challenge strives to change how people think about, design, construct and deconstruct buildings. It is a competition to design a building while encompassing the idea that buildings are stocks of resources for future buildings. By creating building components that can be easily recovered and reused, materials are kept at their highest value, which reduces energy and resource consumption. The competition has both a professional and a student tier. Winning entries will be presented at the 2007 West Coast Green Conference in San Francisco. Applicants must submit a registration form before **April 15, 2007**. All contestant entries must be received by e-mail by the submission delivery deadline of **May 15, 2007**. For more information visit <http://www.lifecyclebuilding.org>.

The California State Parks Foundation (CSPF)

is a statewide membership organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and advocating for the California State Parks System. CSPF offers grants ranging from \$200-\$6,000 to benefit our State Parks System. Qualified non-profit groups, as well as California state park units and park agencies are encouraged to apply. Grants target four main areas: Volunteer Efforts and Recognition; Education and Interpretation; Natural and Cultural Resource Protection; and Capacity Building for cooperating associations. For additional information on the four main areas of grant dispersal, and to fill out the grant application online, visit <http://www.calparks.org/programs/competitive-grant/>. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

The Richard and Rhonda Goldman Fund funds grants that are focused on reducing the impact of industry on the environment within California, or on a national or international level. They support programs that protect natural resources from extraction processes, reduce pollution, toxics and waste from production processes, encourage laws, policies and corporate behaviors that support sustainable, sensible and sound industry practice, and/or stimulate large-scale market shifts toward recycled materials, alternative inputs and conservation. For information visit <http://www.goldmanfund.org>. Letters of inquiry are accepted throughout the year.

The Sea Grant Program at USC embraces environmental education as an important tool to manage the impact of urban population on the marine environment. Sea Grant provides teaching resources in English and Spanish, helps educators teach marine science and environmental stewardship principles to urban youth, and encourages teachers to adopt novel techniques that foster a sense of environmental awareness among urban schoolchildren. They sponsor workshops and conferences, and provide curriculum materials for marine education. For more information about USC Sea Grant, visit <http://www.usc.edu/org/seagrant>. For a catalog of available materials please contact the Sea Grant Office in the Allan Hancock Foundation on the USC Campus at (213) 740-1961 or at seagrant@usc.edu.

APRIL 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Hyperion serves a population of over 4 million, treating an average of 450 million gallons of wastewater a day, that travel through the 6,500 miles of the collection system. Ever wonder how it is done? Well, satisfy your curiosity by taking a free public tour. Tours are typically scheduled each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 9 am and 1 pm and take between 1.5 and 2 hours. To schedule a tour, call Nancy Carr at (310)648-5363.

Volunteer for the LA Conservation Corps

The LACC is looking for volunteer Aquarists or Marine Educators for their SEA Lab, a hands-on, marine-tour program that explores science from an ocean point of view. They will train you to interact with sea creatures, help maintain an aquarium and provide informative tours to students. Anyone who is at least 14 years old may apply. For more details, please call Stefanie Miller at (310) 318-7458 or download a SEA Lab volunteer application at <http://www.lacorps.org/help.html>.

Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum

Enter a world of free-flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the museum's south lawn. Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm through the month of September. The museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd in Los Angeles. \$9 adults, \$6.50 seniors/students/children 13-

17, \$2 children 5-12, free for children under 5. For more information, call (213) 763-3399 or visit <http://www.nhm.org>.

Community Clean-up and Restoration of Ballona Northeast

Have some fun and exercise while meeting great people on the second Saturday of each month from 9 am to 4 pm, by helping to clean and restore the Ballona Wetlands. Wear gloves, closed-toe shoes, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and sun protection. Bring water and snacks depending on how long you plan to participate. For information and directions, call (310) 264-9468 or visit <http://www.ballona.org>.

Teacher Training and Lesson Development

LADWP annually holds 50 workshop sessions in conjunction with the Los Angeles Unified School District, UCLA, and other organizations. The workshops emphasize science and technology subjects related to water supply, conservation and quality, as well as electric safety, energy sources, generation, transmission and distribution, and basic electricity; Green LA subjects including energy efficiency, solar power, renewable energy, tree planting, recycling, and air quality are also addressed. Workshops emphasize hands-on instruction, and include hands-on kits and other lesson materials available to teachers at no cost. For upcoming classes and additional information, call (213) 367-1342 or (818) 763-4861, or visit <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp002019.jsp>.

The UCLA Hannah Carter Japanese Garden

covers just

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.

over one acre and is located in the community of Bel Air about one mile from the UCLA campus. The garden was inspired by those in Kyoto, with many of the garden's structures having been constructed in Japan. The grounds include a garden house, bridges, a shrine, a five-tiered pagoda, as well as symbolic rocks from Japan. The garden is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 3 pm by reservation only. To make a reservation, call (310) 794-0320 or email the_m_a_t_gardens@support.ucla.edu.

Make Your Tree Count Did you plant a tree recently or are you planning to plant one or more? Well, congratulations on making Los Angeles a better place to live! Now make your tree count, as part of the Million Trees LA Initiative. Just go online at <http://www.milliontreesla.org> and register your tree. The City of Los Angeles thanks you!

La Brea Tar Pits Visit one of the world's most famous fossil

locations in discovering the rich history of Rancho La Brea that began 25,000 years ago. It has the largest and most diverse assemblage of extinct Ice Age plants and animals in the world. Visitors can watch bones being cleaned and repaired, and life-size replicas of several extinct mammals are featured in the park outside. The museum is open Monday–Friday, 9:30 am to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free on the first Tuesday of the month. For more information visit <http://www.tarpits.org> or call (323) 934-7243.

Community Dinners for a Healthy Planet Join new friends at the El Dorado Nature Center for a vegetarian potluck and celebration of community. Bring your own place setting and food for five. Tuesday evening from 6 pm to 9 pm. The next dinner takes place on April 24. The El Dorado Nature Center is located at 7550 E. Spring Street in Long Beach. For more info, call (562) 570-1745.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Thurs, April 5

Echo Park Improvement Association (EPIA) The EPIA meets the first Thursday from 7 pm to 8 pm every month to discuss local issues in the community. Meet neighbors and work toward improving the community. Meetings are held at Barlow Hospital, Williams Hall, 2000 Stadium Way. For more information, call (323) 882-4835.

Fri-Sun, April 6-8

Big Bunny's Spring Fling The Los Angeles Zoo celebrates spring with three days of rabbits, funny bunny ears, crafts, and special entertainment for the whole family. From 10am-4pm. Free with paid admission, \$10/adults, \$5/children. The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Dr. in Los Angeles. For more information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit <http://www.lazoo.org>.

Sat & Sun, April 7-8

Warner Park Fine Arts and Crafts Show One hundred artists will display their original work in the beautiful outdoor setting of Warner Park. Work on display will include acrylics, oils, watercolors, sculptures, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, turned wood, and many other mediums of fine crafts. Takes place from 10 am to 5 pm. Free. Warner Park is located at 5900 Topanga Cyn. Blvd. in Woodland Hills. For more information call (818) 709-2907.

Fri, April 13 & Sat, April 28

Compost Bin Sale Event Looking to get into composting? Buy a compost bin at a reduced price from the City of LA Dept of Public Works. Events will be held Friday, April 13 from 9 am to 1 pm and Saturday, April 28 from 10 am to noon at the Griffith Park Composting Education Facility. The events also include free smart-gardening classes. For more information call (213) 485-2260 or visit <http://www.lacity.org/san>.

Saturday, April 15

Blessing of the Animals Olvera Street in Downtown Los Angeles has celebrated the Blessing of

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

the Animals since 1930, and will continue the tradition on Saturday, April 15 from noon to 5 pm. Brightly adorned animals and their human companions will assemble in the historic Plaza. At 2 pm, a procession led by Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony and the merchants of Olvera Street will wind its way up the street and past the platform where the Cardinal will bless each animal as it goes by. In the past, cows, cats, dogs, snakes, pigs, sheep, goats, donkeys, horses, opossums, hamsters, birds, monkeys, llamas, camels, chickens and peacocks have graced Olvera Street. You are invited to bring your own animals and pets to take part in this colorful procession and to receive a blessing. For more information visit their website: <http://www.olvera-street.com>.

Fri & Sun, April 20 & 22

Multi-Cultural Expo The event

THIS MONTH: (continued)

features live entertainment, health, safety and career exhibitors, and a kids' zone. A special area of the event will be dedicated to cancer information, health, fitness, and education, with activities for children and their families. Free. Takes place from 10 am to 5 pm at Ted Watkins Park. The park is located at 1335 E. 103rd St. in Los Angeles. For more information call (323) 756-8434 or visit their website at www.onechildourvillage.org.

CNI Nature Walk Leader Training Share your love of nature with young children, their parents and teachers. The Children's Nature Institute (CNI) trains you to lead interactive nature walks for infants through 8-year-olds at trails near your home. Trainees learn about local flora and fauna from professional naturalists, basics of early childhood education, and age-appropriate interpretive techniques from seasoned leaders. After the training, new docents are assigned mentors and have the opportunity to attend trail-specific enrichments. No previous experience necessary -- only a

passion for nature. For more information and locations, call CNI at (310) 860-9484.

Sat, April 21

Earth Day Fair Join others at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium for a morning beach clean-up, followed by a day of free fun for all ages, with activities for children, guided walks to the nearby Salinas de San Pedro salt marsh, entertainment, displays, and information from a variety of local and national environmental groups and government agencies. Vendors will offer food, environmentally-conscious items, books, and more. Free. The event takes place from 8 am to 4 pm. The aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Dr. in San Pedro. For more information call 1-888-LA-PARKS (527-2575) or visit <http://www.laparks.org>.

SouthLA Earth Fest This event promotes environmental ways to reduce waste, energy consumption, and increase water efficiency, as well as healthy living choices among residences of South Los Angeles. The SouthLA Earth Fest highlights the beginning of spring community activities for South Angelenos with a variety of cultural music, dancing, and many other artistic tributes to Mother Earth. Free. The Fest

takes place from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information visit www.californiagreenworks.org.

Education Fair at Sycamore Grove Park. This is an opportunity for local public, private and religious schools, and nearby educational institutions on all levels to present their programs to area families. There will be workshops available for children. Free. The Fair takes place from 11 am to 6 pm. The park is located at 5301 N. Figueroa St. in Sycamore Grove. For more information call (626) 831-7970.

Rollin' Down the River-Earth Day Cleanup Join the El Dorado Nature Center staff and volunteers as they explore the wildlife of the San Gabriel River by bike and descend into the channel to help cleanup the aquatic ecosystem. Takes place from 1 pm to 3 pm. Free. Rain cancels. Bike recommended, but not required. The El Dorado Nature Center is located at 7550 E. Spring Street in Long Beach. For more information, call the Center at (562) 570-1745. Pre-registration required.

Raising Readers: A Literacy Festival This festival at Santa Monica College focuses on children's language and literacy

3rd Annual Environmental Education Week April 15-22, 2007

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the single largest organized environmental education event in U.S. history. EE Week hopes to increase the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, along with fieldtrips to nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums.

National EE Week will involve thousands of educators and millions of students. It is coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation in cooperation with hundreds of outstanding schools, environmental education organizations, education associations, state and federal agencies.

To participate as a partner for National EE Week or for more information visit <http://www.eeweek.org>.

THIS MONTH: (continued)

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22nd Celebrate the Earth!

development. Storytellers, theatre groups, and musicians emphasize the joy of reading. There will be lots of snacks and fun for children. Free. Noon to 4 pm. The college is located at 1900 Pico Dr. in Santa Monica. For more information call (310) 452-3325.

Used Book Sale, Storytime and Puppet Show at Central Library Find bargain children's books for sale at Central Library's Rotunda, from 10 am to noon. Then get ready to growl and roar with wild stories, songs, poems, and puppet show in "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!" Grrr. The wild madness takes place at the KLOS Theater at 2 pm. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Downtown LA. For more info, call Central Library at (213) 228-7000 or visit <http://www.lapl.org/kidspath/events/childlit.html/>.

Sat & Sun, April 21-22

Earth Day at the Aquarium Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for a weekend of family fun celebrating Earth Day while learning simple, everyday tips to protect our environment. Visit booths from various earth-friendly organizations and participate in hands-on learning demonstrations for people of all ages. Free with aquarium admission. From 9 am to 5 pm. The aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information call (562) 591-3100, or visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org>.

Earth Day Expo The LA Zoo's

Earth Day Expo will be filled with entertaining and educational activities such as crafts, recycling and conservation information booths, games, and interactive activities. Zoo staff will show kids how to make recycled crafts, and will highlight their recycle program with visits from Rascal the Recycle Raccoon throughout the weekend. Free with paid admission, \$10 Adults, \$5 Children (2-12). The zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Dr. in Los Angeles. For more information call (323) 644-4200 or visit <http://www.lazoo.org>.

California Poppy Festival This festival presents musical entertainment on four stages featuring Jazz, Celtic, Country, Rock 'n Roll, and Latino groups. Farmers and flower markets, museum exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, a youth carnival, children's crafts, food vendors, helicopter rides, and colorful artwork all focusing on spring and the California poppy are featured. Adults \$7, Seniors/Children \$4. Located at Lancaster City Park at 3011 N. 10th St. West. For more information call (661) 723-6077 or visit their website at <http://www.poppyfestival.com>.

33rd Annual Feria de Los Niños / Celebration of the Children Celebrating the wonder of youth, this event offers families a festive atmosphere with exciting activities featuring boat rides, tortilla making contests, an inflatable obstacle course, ethnic food, and entertainment. There will be an outdoor amphitheatre and dance pavilion highlighting popular Latin music as salsa and

merengue, and more. Free. Saturday from 10 am to 9 pm, Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm. Located at Hollenbeck Park at 415 S. St. Louis St. in East Los Angeles. For more information call 1-888-LA-PARKS (527-2757), or visit their website at <http://www.laparks.org>.

Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival The Cherry Blossom Festival provides a glimpse into Japanese culture through its program of cultural entertainment, traditional Japanese dancing, taiko drumming, martial arts, a kimono fashion show, a tea ceremony, children's crafts, and more. Patrons may also visit the marketplace to purchase products and food with an Asian flair. Free. Saturday from 11 am to 7:30 pm, Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. Located at Barnes Park at 350 S. McPherrin Ave. in Monterey Park. For more information call (626) 307-1588, or visit <http://www.ci.montereypark.ca.us>.

Sun, April 22

26th Annual Great Rendezvous Hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club and activist for California's wilderness, was born April 21, 1838. Celebrate John Muir's birthday by joining one of five Sierra Club hikes which converge at Trippet Ranch in Topanga State Park, and join in on a birthday party celebration for Muir from noon to 1 pm. Help decorate and consume the Great Rendezvous John Muir/Sierra Birthday Cake. Bring water and lunch for your hike.

THIS MONTH:

(continued)

The hikes take place at various times. For more info, call the Sierra Club at (310) 559-3126 and for directions. Free.

Annual Heritage Day Celebration Visitors will go back in time to the 1880s for a fun-filled day of experiencing the activities that filled people's lives in the late 19th century. The General Phineas Banning residence will open its doors for self-guided tours. Free. From 11 am to 4 pm. Located at the Banning Residence Museum at 401 E. "M" St. in Wilmington. For more information call 1-888-LA PARKS (527-2757), or visit <http://www.laparks.org>.

Children's Earth Day at the STAR Eco Station From 10 am to 4 pm, enjoy a wild day of earth education & celebration at the biggest & best Earth Day for families in Southern California. Enjoy live performances, celebrity guests, crafts, food, and games at this tropically themed outdoor festival! The STAR Eco Station is located at 10101 W. Jefferson Blvd. in Culver City. For more information call (310) 842-8060 or visit <http://www.ecostation.org>.

Sun & Mon, April 22-23

2007 Baldwin Hills Earth Day Festival Come and join others in a celebration that

connects surrounding cities within the Los Angeles Area. Highlights include vendors, art & crafts, a "green-car" show, children's activities, exercise programs, holistic health workshops, and "Earth Dance" programming. The event is free with paid park entry fee (\$4), and is located at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area at 4100 S. La Cienega Blvd, in Los Angeles. For more information call (818) 556-4356 or visit www.thegreatnessfoundation.org/2007_earthday.html.

Sat, April 28

Annual Arbor Day Festival Held in conjunction with the annual celebration of trees, this festival focuses on raising public awareness of the environmental importance of trees. Activities include demonstrations of tree and pole climbing, crosscut and chainsaw use, hands-on arts and crafts with a nature theme, educational booths, a zoo mobile, music, urban camping, and food. Trees will be planted at the park in support of the Million Tree Initiative. Free. The festival takes place from 11 am to 3 pm. Located at Sycamore Grove Park at 4702 N. Figueroa St. in Los Angeles. For more information call 1-888-LA PARKS, or visit www.laparks.org.

Sat & Sun, April 28-29

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books As America's largest literary event, the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books is where

book lovers of all ages take home all kinds of great stories - from actual books to lasting memories. Free. Parking \$8. Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Located at the UCLA campus in West Los Angeles. For more information call 1-800-LATIMES x7BOOK, or visit <http://www.latimes.com/events>.

Native Plant Garden Exhibition The Theodore Payne foundation is hosting its 4th Annual Native Plant Garden Exhibition, a self-guided tour through 31 of the most beautiful Los Angeles area gardens containing at least 50% California native plants. On the evening of Saturday, April 28, all ticket holders will be treated to a free lecture on host plants for butterflies by Chris and Trish Meyer of Wildscaping.com. The Exhibition takes place from 10 am to 4 pm. The cost is \$20/person. Purchase your tickets by phone at (818) 768-1802 or at their website at <http://www.theodorepayne.org>.

"All Over Town, All Weekend Long": Big Sunday Weekend Last year close to 35,000 people participated in the spirit of benefiting community. This year Big Sunday will be held two days, to help address community needs, provide public education and strengthen partnerships. For more info, visit www.bigsunday.org. Many events from which to choose. Show your community spirit by participating this year.

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department participates in community events through outreach. Department staff provide important environmental information about the City and its programs, and hand out free outreach materials for children and adults. If you would like the City of LA Environmental Affairs Department to participate at your next community event, contact the Department at (213) 978-0888, or drop us an email at ead.info@lacity.org.

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

residents toward our goal of planting a million trees for LA's urban forest. We have brought together community organizations and businesses to limit hazardous and toxic materials. We have assisted the revitalization of communities through our Brownfields program. We have talked to local business owners who have committed themselves to pollution prevention. We have organized meetings for residents wanting to improve the air quality in their districts. We continue to meet with community leaders regarding our City's landfills, and we have enlisted community involvement in Prop O. We continue to encourage sustainable efforts in the City such as green roof innovations, and are updating the City's Climate Action Plan to address the serious issue of global warming.

Los Angeles counts on the participation of people who live here. It is our responsibility as residents to fulfill new visions and accelerate our environmental progress. In celebrating Earth Day, we celebrate the actions of people wanting a better world for our generation and for those that would follow. With each Earth Day, we have the opportunity to come together again and unite around new initiatives.

There are many ways to be a part of Earth Day history. Volunteer with a community group or gather at one of the many events listed in this issue's expanded calendar. Discover a way to build upon the meaning of Earth Day, and shape a cleaner, healthier world for generations to come.

(Climate Change ... Continued from page 1)

need areas of Los Angeles.

To learn more about climate change in general, as well as its possible impacts on the natural environment, human health, and wildlife, the students met with the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) to receive a briefing on the issue and obtain answers to specific questions. The timing was fortuitous, as EAD staff has been working on the update to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). EAD staff explained that everyone contributes to global warming through daily activities. The Los Angeles population consumes electricity that is produced through the combustion of fossil fuels; they drive and ride in vehicles, which also use fossil fuels; and they consume water, which requires pumping that is powered by electricity.

The students then asked about the primary causes of global warming as well as significant impacts:

- How will local weather be affected?
- Will California's beaches and mountains be damaged?
- Which animal species may become endangered or extinct?
- How will my daily life be impacted?

Though already familiar with general concepts, the students were shocked to learn about impacts predicted in the Governor's Climate Action Team 2006 Report:

- The Sierra snowpack, which accounts for approximately half of the surface water storage in the State, could decline by 70% to as much as 90% over the next hundred years.
- Climate change will slow progress toward attainment of air quality standards.
- The number of days with weather conditions conducive to pollution may rise by 25% - 85% in the high ozone areas of Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley by the end of the century.
- Rising temperatures will increase electricity demand, especially in the hot summer season. By 2020, this would translate into a 1% to 3% increase in electricity demand.

The meeting ended with a discussion of how each LA resident could reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions to help fight global warming. Suggestions included taking mass transit, driving fuel efficient cars, replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, installing drought-resistant landscapes, and setting thermostats a few degrees higher in summer and lower in winter. EAD commends the students for their interest in climate change, and looks forward to learning about efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the Ánimo Film and Theatre Arts School.



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

South Coast Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

Bees

Vector Control
On Private Property: (562) 944-9656
On Public Property: (800) 825-3400

Bulky Item Pick-up

Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Extra Trash Bin Request

Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Free Trees

Dept. of Water & Power
(800) 473-3652

Graffiti Removal

Bureau of Street Services
311

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

Illegal Trash Dumping

Bureau of Housing Inspection
(626) 430-5200

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

Leaf Blowers Complaints

Dept. of Public Works
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

Odor Complaints

LA Dept. of Public Works
(866) 996-2489

Recycling Question

Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Spaying/Neutering Pets

City of L.A. Animal Services
(888) 452-7381

Tire Recycling

Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

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