

An Environmental Affair

Volume 15 Issue 2

February 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.

Greater Los Angeles Auto Show Environmental Cars Make a Big Impact

At this year's Greater Los Angeles Auto Show, held at the Los Angeles Convention Center from January 2 to January 11, 2004, the major automotive manufacturers demonstrated their "green" by the presence of environmentally friendly automobiles in the show. A few trends follow.



The Honda FCX

While hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are not yet available for sale to the general public, they may prove to be the next big thing if testing goes well. To date, Honda, Ford, General Motors, Mazda, Mercedes Benz, and Nissan have developed and are testing vehicles and evaluating them on public roads using hydrogen fuel cell technology. A single fuel cell consists of a membrane electrode assembly and two flow field plates.

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The Great Backyard Bird Count February 13 - 16, 2004

For the seventh consecutive year, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society are planning to count the birds across America February 13th through 16th, 2004. This effort, which Wild Birds Unlimited sponsors, helps define:



- ♦ where birds are living and their populations;
- ♦ their migration patterns;
- ♦ bird habitat needs.

All of this information contributes to wild bird conservation efforts, and it's easy to participate; observers can spend as much or as little time as they like. Birds can be counted in backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges. Findings are reported online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. Join the Great Backyard Bird Count fun! For more information visit www.birdsource.org or call (212) 979-3000.

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, 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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(LA Car Show...Continued from page 1)

Single cells are combined into a fuel cell stack to produce the desired level of electrical power. Furthering Honda's efforts to make hydrogen power a reality, the company has developed its own fuel cell stack and plans to introduce a version of its FCX fuel cell vehicle powered by the Honda FC Stack beginning in calendar year 2005. In a fuel cell, hydrogen, which can be obtained from water and fuels such as natural gas, methanol, or petroleum, combines with oxygen from the air electrochemically to produce electricity to power vehicles. Heat and pure water vapor are the only by-products from the fuel cell's electrochemical reaction.



The Ford FCV

Hybrid electric vehicles are becoming mainstream as their sales in the United States in 2004 are expected to exceed 100,000 units, up from 40,000 sold in 2003. Hybrid sales are expected to climb to nearly 350,000 units by 2008 and 415,000 by 2013. Passenger vehicles utilizing hybrid technology are available today from

Honda and Toyota, and the Toyota Prius has been awarded the 2004 Motor Trend Car of the Year. In 2003, the Chevrolet Silverado and the Dodge Ram pickup began commercial fleet-only sales and will be available for retail sales in 2004. New hybrid vehicles coming in 2004 are the Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, and Toyota Highlander. Expected in 2005 will be the Mercury Mariner and the Honda Accord. The Acura MDX and the Ford Futura will arrive in 2006. By 2008 consumers should expect to be able to choose from 28 hybrid vehicles (10 cars and 18 trucks). Hybrids utilize gasoline-electric hybrid technology that never needs plugging in. These vehicles use both gasoline and electricity that is generated on board the vehicle.



The Toyota Prius

Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (PZEVs) are becoming commonplace in the automobile market with about twenty models currently available. Today, PZEV models are being made by BMW, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo. The California Air Resources Board defines a PZEV as one that is 90% cleaner than the average 2004 automobile. PZEVs run on normal gasoline but have near-zero evaporative emissions, advanced technology and emission control equipment—all combined not only to keep the air clean but also save fuel costs. PZEVs have come to us as a result of changes to California's

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, an integral part of the state's low emission vehicle program crafted in 1990. The ZEV program includes both requirements and incentives for automobile manufacturers to introduce low-emission cars into the California market. More information on the ZEV program can be found at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/zevprog/zevprog.htm>.

Interested in purchasing an environmentally friendly vehicle? Check out the California Air Resources Board's "Buyer's Guide to Cleaner Cars" at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/ccbg.htm> and its "Guide to Zero and Near-Zero Emissions Vehicles" at <http://www.driveclean.ca.gov/> or the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Green Vehicle Guide" at <http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/>. For information concerning alternative fuel vehicles, refer to the Environmental Affairs Department's alternative fuel consumer website at <http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-AQD/AlternativeFuelMobile.htm>

CITY OF LOS ANGELES RANKS AMONG TOP AIDS WALK TEAMS

Congratulations Los Angeles!

Nearly 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS was raised by 25,000 walkers at AIDS Walk Los Angeles to support the services of AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) and other AIDS service organizations!

The City of Los Angeles' laudable effort helped to make the Los Angeles AIDS Walk 2003 consistently one of the largest AIDS fundraising events held in Southern California. Thousands of walkers joined the City of Los Angeles on October 19, 2003 to raise \$2.5 million for APLA. The City of Los Angeles ranked fourth out of the participating teams and raised \$34,195. The money raised will help APLA and other service organizations to provide life-sustaining services for over 10,000 men, women, and children living with HIV and AIDS, while also strengthening important education and advocacy programs. According to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, there are over 54,000 people infected with HIV living in Los Angeles County. Over 46,000 people have died of AIDS in Los Angeles alone since its outbreak in the 1980s. This extreme need is why EAD and others are so motivated to raise money and awareness for the cause.



EAD would like to thank all persons who gave so generously to our campaign effort this year. Together we raised \$2,258.33. We couldn't consistently do so well every year without your continued support. We certainly hope we can count on you again during next year's campaign, because as long as there's a need, we're going to do our best.

Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair

On March 13th, the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation will host its 24th annual Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair (LAEFF) at the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia. The fair will include hands-on activities for children of all ages, science exhibits, ongoing tours, and nature games! The event is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. The Arboretum is located at 301 North Baldwin in Arcadia. More information can be found at <http://www.creec.org/region11/laeef>.

As part of this year's program LAEFF invites teachers to participate in the 2004 Green City Grant Program. The Green City Grant, funded in part through the Oak Tree Foundation, provides up to two 15-gallon trees in containers to schools, clubs or nonprofit youth organizations whose members prepare a plan identifying a place for the planting, as well as the care and maintenance of the trees in an area open for public use. For applications and more information contact Lisa Beach at (626) 821-3222 ext. 222.

The Model Shop Program: A Workshop from DTSC

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will be conducting a presentation outlining criteria for vehicle service and repair shops (VSR) and fleet services to achieve recognition as Pollution Prevention (P2) Model Shops on February 28th and 29th in San Diego (see page 7 of the Calendar of Events). The conference will include an overview of the program's training requirements, P2 alternatives, and cost savings and marketing benefits realized by facilities that complete the process. For details regarding the VSR P2 Workshop, contact the DTSC at (916) 445-2922 or visit the conference website at www.fleetnews.com/conference.htm.

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

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

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SBIR

PROGRAM EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program provides financial support to help small science and technology based firms develop new environmental technologies and ready them for commercialization. The program targets research to prevent pollution, reduce water and air pollution, manage solid and hazardous wastes, and improve environmental monitoring – in each case, addressing priorities that are based on the Agency's Strategic Plan. In 2004, EPA will issue four Phase I Solicitations. There will be three special solicitations – Pacific Environmental Problems, Hazardous Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention – and the regular SBIR Solicitation. **Phase 1 opens March 25, 2004. Closing date for Phase 1 is May 25, 2004.** For more information on the SBIR Program, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir> or call (415) 947-8000.

The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), formed by the Department of Fish and Game and the University of California, Davis, is currently seeking pre-proposals for the 2003-04 funding period. Proposals investigating the direct and indirect effects of oil on wildlife, baseline biomedical studies and improvements to oiled rehabilitation techniques are strongly encouraged. Pre-proposals must be received by **5 pm PST on February 27, 2004**. For more information, contact Lavonne Hull at (530) 752-3854. To download an application, visit <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/owcn/Research.html>.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requests proposals for Innovation Work Group (IWG) Pilots. **Proposals are due April 16, 2004.** IWG pilots will support creative approaches to waste minimization, energy recovery, recycling and land revitalization that may be replicated across various industries, communities and regions. All government, non-profit, and public education institutions are eligible to apply, with \$500K expected to be available. For more information, contact your Regional EPA IWG Manager (<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/iwg/iwgmembers.pdf>) or visit <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/iwg/announcement.htm>.

People, Prosperity, and Planet (P3) Award

Grants The EPA, its 27 partners from industry, non-government organizations, and other government agencies announce their intent to request applications for the P3 Award in early January 2004. P3 highlights people, prosperity, and the planet as the next step

beyond P2 or pollution prevention. The P3 Award provides grants to teams of college students to research, develop, and design sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. In Phase 1, teams compete for \$10K grants. Up to 50 awards are expected. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: Energy production and distribution, green chemistry and engineering, conservation of materials and energy, and water quality and quantity. For more information on this request for applications, visit <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/>.

Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network - "P2 West"

The Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network is a cooperative alliance of pollution prevention (P2) programs throughout EPA Region IX. The network focuses on regional P2 issues through researching, consolidating, and disseminating P2 information. The network increases P2 effectiveness by providing P2 programs with timely, accurate and useful information and resources, including grant information. For more information, contact Dr. Marc Siegel, WRPPN P2 listserv manager, at (858) 484-9855, by e-mail at Siegel@ittn.org, or visit <http://www.wrppn.org>.

Tribal Preservation Program The purpose of this program is to provide grants for tribes to protect their significant cultural and historic resources. Grant awards are made in five categories: Locating and Identifying Cultural Resources: A) Survey and Inventory of Historic or Significant Places projects are designed to be the first step toward protecting historic places by locating them through a survey. B) Survey of Traditional Skills and Information projects aim to determine the community's cultural needs in transmitting skills and traditions between generations. Preserving a Historic Property: A) Project Planning will be funded to research and plan the physical preservation of a site. B) Repair work on historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places will also be funded under this category. Comprehensive and Land-Use Preservation Planning projects will focus on planning for the preservation of previously identified cultural resources. Oral History and Documenting Cultural Traditions projects will focus on preserving culture for future generations. Education and Training for Building a Historic Preservation Program projects will focus on the development of a sustainable preservation program. For more information, visit the National Park Service site at <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tribal/>.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Reforestation Activities with the TreePeople

TreePeople is seeking volunteers who want to help replant areas burned in recent fires. Volunteers will also collect native seed to raise new seedlings in both TreePeople's nursery and the nurseries of other forestry agencies. Volunteers will learn how to better understand local ecology and how to appropriately and effectively plant young seedlings. Beginning January 31, 2004 training sessions will be conducted at their Coldwater Canyon headquarters. Future trainings will be held near Big Bear, Wrightwood and Crestline. To sign up for volunteer training and projects, telephone the TreePeople Mountain Forestry Hotline at (818) 623-4871.



and a take-home nature craft activity. Saturday afternoons at the Arboretum begin at 2 pm. Fee. For more information, contact the Education Department at (626) 821-4623 or e-mail Jill.Berry@arboretum.org.

The Theodore Payne Foundation

hosts monthly native plant garden design workshops. An expert will provide help as you design or update your native garden. For more information contact the Theodore Payne Foundation at (818) 768-1802 or visit their website at www.theodorepayne.org.



THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

All Month Long

Monthly Beach Cleanup

sponsored by Heal The Bay on the third Saturday (February 21st) in Marina del Rey. Meet in the parking lot at Pacific and 62nd at 10 am. For more information visit www.healthebay.org or call (310) 453-0395.

The Los Angeles County Arboretum sponsors Saturday afternoons of family fun! Each Saturday will have a different theme relating to nature or the environment, and will include a variety of activities such as a short story or talk, a walk to a special part of The Arboretum,

Whale Watch Excursions The season is in full swing! The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium will be hosting tours now through the end of March. Call Teddy at (310) 548-8397, Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 am-1 pm for more information. Cost runs \$12 to \$14 per person. Trips run on weekdays and weekends.



IMAX Theater Presents Volcanoes of the Deep Sea

Travel deep beneath the surface of the sea, to environments of crushing pressure, extreme temperatures and toxic water,

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.

where strange communities of life are thriving. The film is the result of the largest effort ever undertaken to film the creatures and habitats of these extreme depths. Plays at the IMAX Theater located at the California Science Center at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 744-7400. Shows through March 25, 2004.



Sun to Wed, Feb 1-4

National Biodiesel Conference and Expo 2004 Sessions will cover subjects from a research perspective; aspects of fuel handling and quality; biodiesel distribution; state and federal regulatory developments, including outcomes of the energy bill, status of executive orders and other federal programs and state legislative developments; market applications for biodiesel including policy and regulations. The conference takes place



THIS MONTH CONTINUED:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

in Palm Springs. Pre-conference sessions are available. Sponsored by the National Biodiesel Board. For more information and registration, visit the National Biodiesel Board's website at www.biodiesel.org, or call their headquarters at (800) 841-5849.

Fri, Feb 6**Free Evening at the Norton Simon**

Enjoy a tour of Indian and Southeast Asian masterpieces, relax in the gardens and enjoy one of the premiere art museums in the world. Admission is free from 6 to 9 pm on the first Friday of each month and always for children and students. For more information visit www.nortonsimon.org or call (626) 449-6840.

Sat, Feb 14**Portuguese Point/Abalone Cove**

Hosted by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy this moderate 2-hour walk will go along Palos Verdes Drive South past the famous Wayfarer's Chapel to Portuguese Point to enjoy the view over the ocean to Catalina Island and the rugged shoreline below. The hike will also lead down to the rocky shore (wear good hiking shoes) and tide pools. Meet at 9 am. Cosponsored by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Free. For more information contact the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at (310) 541-7613, or visit their website at www.pvplc.org.

Venice High School Learning Garden and Tree Planting

Join TreePeople and Agape International Church to plant new trees and gardens at Venice High School. For more information and meeting time call (818) 623-4843 or visit www.treepeople.org.

**Thurs, Feb 19****Interfaith Summit on Air Quality**

hosted by South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). SCAQMD will host civic leaders, educators, clergy and leadership from various faith for an educational forum on environmental stewardship and responsibility, and to explore opportunities for partnership and empowerment. The event takes place at USC Davidson Conference Center from 8 am until 12:30 pm. For more information, call Kevin Murray or Sylvia Palafox at (213) 891-2965.

Sat Feb 21**Keep Trash out of the Storm Drain**

Join Santa Monica Baykeeper as they Clean-up Lincoln Boulevard in Marina del Rey. Meet at 3100 Washington Boulevard at 9 am. For more information call (310) 822-4522 or visit www.smbaykeeper.org.

Sat Feb 21 and Sun Feb 22**Black History Month Celebration**

Journey into the heart of Africa with this year's Black History Month Celebration at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. On February 21 and 22,



special self-guided tours will focus on African plants and animals in the Zoo's collection; guests will also enjoy a vibrant array of entertainment and activities. Musical festivities include performances by gospel, blues, and jazz groups as well as African drumming demonstrations. Sample different foods and try your hand at special arts and crafts. Come celebrate the rich diversity of African-American culture and the wonderful variety of African flora and fauna. All activities are free with paid Zoo admission. Visit www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4200.

Camp Seeley Family Outing

The City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation leads outings for families, single parents, friends, individuals, senior citizens, and small groups. This program is designed to include all ages in activities that relate to nature, the environment, to each other, and that encourage meeting new friends. The facility includes 65



cabins, a large kitchen and dining hall, a rustic lodge, modern restroom and shower facilities, playing fields, a game room, and children's area. The fee includes the scheduled program, one night's lodging in a comfortable, heated cabin, and four family-style meals served in a rustic dining hall. You must provide your own transportation to camp, along with bedding and any personal items. Reservations are required and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment in full is required. Adults 13 and up are \$35, youth age 7 to 12 are \$27, youth age 2 to 6 are \$20. Visit www.laparks.org or call (213)

485-4853 for more information. Camp Seeley is located at 250 N. Highway 138 in Crestline.

conference see the conference website located www.fleetnews.com/conference.htm.

The event takes place from 11 am to 4 pm. The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Wed, Feb 28 and Thu, Feb 29

Sat, Feb 28

Pollution Prevention Workshop

The State Department of Toxic Substances Control presents the Vehicle Service and Repair Pollution Prevention Workshop for those wishing to become a



"model shop" for pollution prevention. Discussion topics will include an overview of the program's training requirements, pollution prevention alternatives, conducting the P2 opportunities assessment and checklist, and cost savings and marketing

benefits realized by facilities that complete the process. DTSC also plans to participate as an exhibitor at the conference and distribute hydrophobic mops, VSR P2 Toolkits, training videos and workbooks, and other vehicle maintenance pollution prevention resources. The conference takes place in San Diego from 7 am to 7 pm. For additional information on the workshop contact DTSC: Natalie Marcano, (916) 445-2922, or by e-mail at nmarcano@dtsc.ca.gov; or contact John Ison at (916) 322-4233 or by e-mail at jison@dtsc.ca.gov. For further information on the

Lake Cleanup by Canoe City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks asks you to help improve the environment by joining the lake cleanup volunteers. First time canoe participants can take advantage of to become a

a basic canoe lesson and borrow a required safety vest. Fun for all ages. There is no fee for this activity. Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, 25820 S. Vermont Avenue. Call (310) 548-7515 or visit www.laparks.org for meeting time and more information.



Sat, Feb 28 and Sun, Feb 29

African Cultural Heritage Weekend

Travel around the globe for the Natural History Museum's African Cultural Weekend! Explore wild African animals and insects from the deserts of the Sahara to the island of Madagascar, and learn how to play African instruments and hear tales from Kenya. For more information, call the Natural History Museum at (213) 763-DINO, or visit their website at www.nhm.org. Free with Museum admission.

Sat, Mar 6 and Sun, Mar 7

"Water: Creating a Sustainable World" Second Annual Environmental Writers and Book Festival

The Aquarium of the Pacific will be hosting its second annual Environmental Writers and Book Festival featuring presentations and workshops led by renowned authors. In between the workshops, participants will enjoy lunch while listening to a guest speaker. There also will be an environmental book sale in the Aquarium's Great Hall that will be open to all Aquarium guests. The event takes place from 9 am to 6 pm. For more information, visit the Aquarium of the Pacific's website at www.aquariumofpacific.org, or contact them at (562) 437-FISH.



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Recycle That Plastic Loose Fill!

Recycling packaging materials not only keeps them out of landfills, but it saves energy and raw materials since new packaging does not have to be created. **The Plastic Loose Fill Council** was founded in 1991 to promote the reuse of polystyrene loose fill, commonly known as "packing peanuts." The Council was created by the major US manufacturers of polystyrene loose fill packaging. It established the "Peanut Hotline," a national 24-hour consumer hotline, (800) 828-2214, to refer callers to local businesses that accept plastic loose fill for reuse. Call the hotline, or visit their loose fill recycling locator at <http://www.loosefillpackaging.com/search/default.asp>.



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*.

ONE CALL TO CITY HALL 3-1-1

Access to 1,500 City Services
English y Español
Also Toll Free (866) 452-2489

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
(866) 557.7368

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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