



newsletter

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Alta's Sustainable 2010 Summer Projects

Every Alta summer brings wildflowers and barely enough time to get some big projects done. Below are just a few of the projects the Alta Environmental Center will be tackling this summer: The Center will also be collaborating with the Friends of Alta for tree planting events and working with ski school to revive the SkeCology program.

Alta Ski Area Clean-Up! This summer the Center is partnering up with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation (CCF) to conduct a post-snow-melt trash clean-up of the ski area. Every winter skiers open their pockets to reapply chapstick or grab their water bottle, and every winter skiers forget to zip their pockets back up and items fall into the deep abyss of snow only to be discovered in the summer. This specific project was requested last year by Alta Ski Area (ASA) employees and the Environmental Center is pleased to make such a fine project happen. **If you want to participate in the 1st "Alta Ski Area Clean-Up" contact CCF at 801.733.2667 or email volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org. Participants will meet at the Wildcat Parking Lot at 12:30 pm, Friday, July 9th.**



Implementing a Disturbance Protocol: This year the Center will be working with revegetation crews to document treatments at disturbed sites, maybe try a few new treatments, determine level of disturbance (continual or discrete), and create a post revegetation access process for all departments. The Disturbance protocol is simply a system to help ASA document what they do at a site in order to evaluate short-term and long-term progress based upon different treatments and help recovery preservation. For example: Let's say Paul had a new idea for revegetation, he applies it and writes down what was done. Twenty years later and after Paul has retired, a new generation of ASA workers note areas that have recovered and those that could use some help. Thanks to documentation, they

can view the treatments applied at different sites, find whether it was a continual or discrete disturbance, and decide what might work best for quick recovery at a new site. Let's say Paul's experimental area has fully recovered and you can't even tell a pipe was placed just beneath. If the team wanted to replicate Paul's revegetation treatments, they can because the documentation of what was performed will be available. The treatment is so good it is then called "Paul's Greening" and a legend is born. Similarly, they can avoid the treatments Paul tried that didn't meld well with a site. The overall goal of this protocol will help the U.S. Forest Service and ASA better ascertain quick recovering revegetation methods that can help the ski industry as a whole improve high altitude-land management practices

Ecological Restoration: This summer Alta Ski Area is joining forces with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation (CCF) to focus on restoration within the ski area in high visual and traffic areas. The first project will be the highly visited Catherine's Trailhead Parking Lot. The area has thousands of visitors each summer, and beyond the summer booth, it the primary stop for many visitors. The point beyond the parking lot and gun tower has been highly devastated and has very little beyond non-native weeds growing. CCF and volunteers will help set a perimeter path of the point, designate visitor viewing and resting points, transplant native plants, reseed, water and put up a short perimeter fence around the revegetation zone to prevent people from walking on the revegetation. **Volunteers are needed Wednesday, July 28 thru Friday, July 30th, 8am-noon, 1-4pm or all day! To help out on this project, contact CCF at 801.733.2667 or email.**



Utah Native Planting Class: Tuesday, July 6th, 5:30-7pm, OLS, Alta – FREE

The Alta Environmental Center collaborated with ACE and Friends of Alta to bring you our 2nd annual Utah Native Planting Class. The class will be lead by Matthew Utley, Conservation Horticulturist extraordinaire, from Tracy Aviary. He will show you the dos and don'ts of planting natives: planting, storing, collecting and germinating from seed; and recommend his favorite techniques, books, and plants. There will be an outside demonstration and a short flower identification stroll. All attendees will receive a complimentary native seed packet from the Alta Environmental Center and the newly published "A Brief Guide to Native Planting".

Tip of the Month: Clean the Air Challenge! By Jack Lasley from SLC Green e2 Business

Did you know that at least 50% of our air pollution (both winter and summer) comes from personal motor vehicles? This is where you – and the 2010 Clear the Air Challenge – come in. As we saw last year, small changes when combined with thousands of other dedicated residents can equal some pretty impressive savings. Last year during the six-week challenge, participants kept over 1.7 MILLION pounds of total emissions out of the air (and out of our lungs). That translates to over \$580,000 dollars saved in total vehicle costs and 110,720 trips saved. We can do just as well – or better – in 2010. Who will be the winning SLC team this year??

The 2010 challenge starts July 1st and runs through July 31st – so get your team together, sign up (or simply log in if you participated last year) and set your goals for the summer! If you have any questions, please contact Kate Lilja at (801) 535-7755 or kate.lilja@slcgov.com or go to <http://cleanteairchallenge.org>.

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