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What's New in Alta?

Snowpine Lodge Partners with the National Forest Foundation

– By Amanda Wiebush

The Snowpine Lodge, Cottonwood Canyon's first ski lodge, was built in 1938. This year, it begins a new program in which one dollar per night will be added to each room bill for the National Forest Foundation's Ski Conservation Fund. The fee allows recreationalists to make a difference while they stay, ski, and play in the National Forest. The funds will support projects in the National Forest Foundation's Treasured Landscape site on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, home of Alta ski area and the Snowpine Lodge. These projects will protect watershed health (the Wasatch Mountains supply 85% of Salt Lake City's drinking water) improve wildlife habitat, as well as enhance recreational opportunities on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



The National Forest Foundation empowers people to care for natural resources through collaborative partnerships by matching funds raised at a 50% rate. National forests are home to 60% of U.S. ski areas and skiing is the most common form of recreation on national forests

Nature Nugget: The Porcupine - By Amanda Wiebush

Have you seen a porcupine in the woods near Alf's Restaurant? Don't get too close! The name porcupine (*hystricomorph hystricidae*) translates roughly to "one who rises in anger." Adult porcupines have approximately 30,000 quills, weigh 10 - 30 pounds and can reach a length of two feet. Contrary to belief, porcupines cannot throw their quills; but when a porcupine feels threatened, it will slap its tail both as a warning and as an attempt to embed its quills in the attacker.

Porcupines live in western U.S. and Canadian forests and eat an herbivorous diet of twigs, leaves, and forbs (green plants). Porcupines are nocturnal, and in the winter they do not hibernate--they feast on tree cambium, the inner layer of bark that transports a tree's water and nutrients from the roots. If you see large, rectangular scars on tree trunks, it is likely evidence of a porcupine. Porcupines can, and do, sometimes eat all the way around the trunk, severing the tree's nutrient supply and girdling the tree, giving the porcupine the nickname of "Mother Nature's Timber Harvester." The porcupine-caused tree thinning provides good habitat for moose, bear, rodents and other creatures. In addition, the thinned forest can reduce wildfire risk and can even make for improved tree skiing.



Remember to observe porcupines from a safe distance and never feed wildlife.

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Holiday Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Tips—Be A Good Steward, Santa's Watching!



The holidays are often a time for splurging and over indulging, but they are also a time to be thankful, be good to others and the earth, and to budget. Here are a few tips to keep your wallet fuller and your good deed list long:

Reduce

- Just **1 really good** gift is all many are thankful for.
- Reduce your car driving by grabbing gifts on your way from work, to a party or a night out. Saving you from burning gas and yourself out.
- Eco-friendly gifts with no packaging is all the rage.
- Bring your own shopping bags. It works for gifts, just like groceries.

Reuse

- “Brown paper packages tied up in string...are just a few of my favorite things”. It’s classic and with a pretty ribbon, looks elegant. Just turn your brown paper grocery bags inside out.
- Use last year’s wrapping paper, boxes, bags, ribbons and bows. Just tell folks it’s for the earth. If you don’t have any left over from last year, save this year’s for next year.
- Old holiday cards make great gift tags. Scissors and a hole-punch is all you need.

Recycle

- Recycle all your torn up wrapping paper. It is the easiest thing you can do these holidays! Just keep the ribbons and bows out of the equation.
- Donate all old gifts being replaced by new ones or check with your local recycler for the odd, non-reusables. It takes just a little bit of effort to be a very good steward.
- If you bought a live tree – recycle it! There are many neighborhood green waste programs that have specific drop-off dates and locations after the holidays.

Holiday Sustainability Gift Ideas

We figured there might be a few last minute shoppers out there, so here’s a list of some great, green, local gift ideas. If you’re looking for something fun to do with the family over the holiday break [visit our website](#) for local activities, adults, kids and the whole family.

- **Buy Local First Utah**—directory of local gift retailers, from food to gift baskets and boutiques. www.localfirst.org
- **Albion Basin Art**—Local artist John Blumenkamp’s prints and cards. 50% of proceeds benefit Friends of Alta. www.fineartamerica.com/art/all/albion+basin/all
- **Friends of Alta**—100% organic tee shirts and memorabilia www.friendsofalta.org
- **Recycle Utah**—Gift baskets. www.recycleutah.org
- **Ten Thousand Villages**—Fair trade, artisan folk art, home décor, and gifts from around the world www.tenthousandvillages.com
- **Earth Goods General Store**—Locally produced, socially responsible, and environmentally sustainable supplies for home, office, and lifestyle. www.earthgoodsgeneralstore.com
- **Panda Poles**—100% bamboo ski poles, sustainable and strong, handcrafted in the Wasatch. www.pandapoles.com
- **Patagonia Outlet**—Sustainable outdoor gear. www.patagonia.com



“Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.
— Vesta M. Kelly