



newsletter

**Our
mission is
sustainability**



Join us!



**November
2013
Issue 42**

2013 – 2014 is the Season for Sustainability



November 7, 2013 Green Team Field Trip to RAMP Sports – Yeti made from ski scraps, just one of many art exhibits at RAMP.

Team Kick-Off Field Trip to inspire and inform our team of how one's commitment to sustainability will benefit, protect and improve our environment ski industry and community. Visiting our ski partner [RAMP Sports](#) and our glass recycler [Momentum Recycling](#) showed us that sustainability is challenging, but can be done to be economically, socially and environmentally responsible. The final product is skiing some sweet local boards at Alta and knowing that your après beverage bottle is being recycled responsibly.

We plan on continuing the season by increasing our recycling efforts, decreasing our energy consumption, improving our UTA ridership, growing our awareness, and sharing our story and knowledge with our skiers, community, and partners. Pray for Snow!

Sincerely Your Sustainability Coordinator – Maura Olivos

Welcome back Alta Skiers! It is time for another season of what we know best - skiing and sustainability. We had a great summer of planting 4000 tree seedlings and 2000 flowers, pulling over 4000 pounds of weeds, and working with over 500 volunteers. We hope to have an even better winter with over 500 inches of snow and continuing to work toward our 2020 goal of decreasing our carbon footprint by over 600 tons. With the help of over 450 Alta Ski Area Employees and 250,000 Alta Skiers we are geared with the means to meet our goal.

This season we are started off with a Green

An “Off” Season – By Jayne Thompson

This summer I got to experience Alta's “Off” season as the Alta Environmental Center (AEC) Intern. I had never seen Alta in the summer, and only knew it as a location for world class skiing and a Utah powder-dumping ground. Since my internship, I have realized that the summer season isn't the “Off” season at all; in fact it's the heart and core of Alta. It's a critical part of the resort and town from an environmental, sustainable, and social aspect.

During my internship I have learned how these two seasons connect, and how Alta strives to be sustainable and preserve its mountains, lakes, trees, wildflowers, and everything in between (including people and moose) I realized that sustainability is such a broad term and embodies the whole community of Little Cottonwood Canyon, and it isn't confined to one season. Like the Butterfly Effect, everything is impacted by actions even if we don't see it.

Without the summer operations and efforts like placing Verbinone (insecticide) on trees, re-vegetating bare soil, and taking plant surveys, the mountain would depreciate. This made me realize that it's what's behind the scene that keeps our ski area beautiful and functioning in the winter.

I had the privilege of working in several different areas of Alta this summer. I appreciated the native vegetation and gained an...





Photo Courtesy of Kristine Ereneta

An "Off" Season continued...

understanding of several non-native weed species (like Cheat Grass). I got to see the connections AEC makes between people and their environment. Events like the Wildflower festival were my favorite because you could really see the connection happening.

Working at the AEC has given me an idea of what a leader in ski area sustainability and sustainability in general looks like. I enjoyed every moment of my internship. It has been an eye opening experience and has helped me realize what I want to do for a job in the future. I want to thank Maura Olivos for being

the most independent, hardworking, best boss, and smartest gal around...you truly inspired me! And I want to thank T for keeping me company on the slopes and teaching me the ropes of Alta.

It has been a great summer. Hopefully I'll see you all when the snow flies ... and who knows, maybe I'll come back to work a winter season. The only catch there is that we all know one season may turn into twenty! Cheers!

Upcoming Sustainability Events

Looking for some fun events for the family, friends, a date, or something to fill your day off? Here are a number of great opportunities that do that and support great causes.

Tracy Aviary - Winter Wednesdays

On Wednesdays, November through March, admission is only \$1! That dollar goes entirely toward conservation efforts to help ensure the continuation of endangered species protection programs, so you're not only getting to visit Tracy Aviary; you're also getting to help save the birds! Open 9am – 5pm. 589 East 1300 South, SLC.

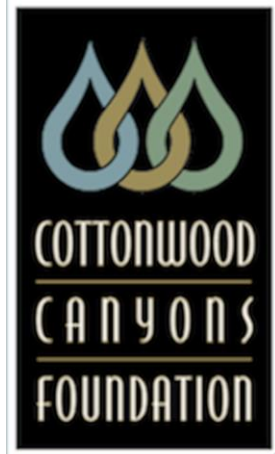


Utah's Hogle Zoo - ZooLights! - Nov 30 to Dec 31

See the holiday attraction everyone is talking about with over one million sparkling holiday lights in the trees, around railings and over 250 animated light displays! View glittering animated animals made out of lights, warm up under heaters and enjoy savory seasonal treats along the way. Weather permitting – take a ride on the Carousel! **Sunday - Wednesday 5:30 pm to 8pm / Thursday - Saturday 5:30pm to 9pm**

Wasatch Community Gardens - Green City Growers - Applications Due Dec 15

SLC is committed to fostering the development of a vibrant, sustainable and equitable local food system capable of providing healthy food to all City residents. To accomplish this goal, Salt Lake City has partnered with Wasatch Community Gardens to start "Green City Growers" - a program that provides residents with access to community gardens on City-owned land. Apply today before they are all gone!



Cottonwood Canyons Foundation – Monthly Alta Snowshoe Tours

Join us in tracking animals in the snow, the changes Alta's trees go through in the winter, and just have fun getting a little exercise! This is perfect if you need a little break from skiing, but not from Alta. To sign up call the Public Lands Information Center at (801) 466-6411 or email info@cottonwoodcanyons.org. All snowshoe tours start at 10am. Tour Dates: **Dec. 26 (Thu), Jan 11 (Sat), Feb 15 (Sat), Mar 8 (Sat), Ar (TBD)**

Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Utah Avalanche Center & REI - Snowshoe Backcountry 101

Snowshoeing in the backcountry is safer and more fun when you understand avalanches, knowing when you can go big and when to dial it back. Nobody wants to be that partner that can't make informed decisions or be counted on in a rescue. Spend an evening in a classroom and a day on the snow with the pros to learn how to get out in the backcountry, have fun and come home ready to do it again. For more info visit:

www.cottonwoodcanyons.org/calendar/winter/backcountry101.php. Pre-registration Required. **Thursday Dec 5 at REI Salt Lake and Saturday Dec 7 at Spruces Campground - \$80.00**

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children"
Chief Seattle