



Newsletter

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Green Team Field Trip: Rio Tinto's Kennecott Copper Mine - By Liz Rocco



You may be wondering why AEC's Green Team kick off meeting was held at an open pit mine so large that you can see it from space. Well, because Kennecott is doing a lot more sustainable actions than many know about and Mike Lewis—Kennecott's Sustainability Coordinator, also a long time Alta employee, and one of the person's responsible for starting Alta's Environmental Center—welcomed his fellow Alta patrons to share all that they are doing.

Our first visit was to their new LEED Platinum Certified building where we got to convene in their very spacious and view-filled conference room for our annual meeting. Mike presented us with an in depth look into the company's environmental and safety policies. It was an informative afternoon, culminating in a drive into the depths of the mine.

There was a lot to learn in visiting a company that devotes much of its sustainability success to safety. Rio Tinto and the Kennecott Copper Mine have made large steps in increasing their safety ratings and also decreasing their carbon footprint, while bettering the quality of life of the Salt Lake Valley residents. The community of Daybreak (which was conceived and created by Rio Tinto) is a high-density community with over a quarter of their land delegated to open green space. The water filtration ponds that dot the landscape throughout the community are effective at cleaning up mine water, as well as providing habitat for wildlife and aesthetic value.

During the meeting the green team reviewed our 2015 and 2020 goals, what each department is doing to make those goals a reality, and of course discussed recycling updates and ideas from each department for the season ahead. With our 2020 goals in view, we have and will continue to make improvements to make those goals a reality. No idea is too large or small to consider, everything from lighting updates to free-air refrigerators. While Alta continues to make strides towards reducing our carbon emissions; preserving the unique qualities at Alta that keep skiers coming back for generations is an ultimate goal. Other news includes: the Albion Grill officially joining Alta's Green Team this season, big changes in how the vehicle maintenance department uses motor oil, and rechargeable and alkaline batteries now being recycled throughout Alta. Please recycle and have a great 2014-2015 ski season!

Utah Business Magazine: Sustainability Awards

This November 2014, Alta Ski Area's very own Sustainability Coordinator - Maura Olivos, was recognized with a Leadership in Sustainability Award by Utah Business Magazine. By highlighting Maura, along with Salt Lake City's Sustainability Director - Vicki Bennet and Overstock.com's Chairman - Jonathan Johnson, and many more eco-striving businesses, Utah Business Magazine hopes to spread the power of sustainability through this annual celebration.

In her role at the Alta Environmental Center, Maura Olivos has become the face of Alta Ski Area's environmental efforts. Through her leadership, the ski area, which is situated on U.S. National Forest land that includes protected watershed, has stepped up its efforts to protect, maintain and restore the sensitive ecosystem it relies upon.

"We've really come leaps and bounds in the past five years in trying to improve our restoration efforts," says Olivos. "We really are committed to maintaining Alta as a natural resource, to maintaining the natural physical environment" so it can support a healthy watershed and diverse ecosystem. Olivos says the Alta Environmental Center serves as a "guiding light" for the ski area as it works to mitigate its environmental impacts. It has also formed valuable partnerships. **Reprinted from Utah Business Magazine November 2014.**





*The most important thing about global warming is this.
Whether humans are responsible for the bulk of climate change
is going to be left to the scientists, but it's all of our responsibility to
leave this planet in better shape for the future generations than we found it.*

Mike Huckabee



Skiing & Trees Success! - By Liz Rocco

TreeUtah's second annual [Skiing and Trees](#) Symposium brought tree-loving skiers together to celebrate our new State Tree the Quaking Aspen. The event started with pre-public skiing shredding Sugarloaf for over an hour, then the crowd converged to over 100 at the Albion Grill. Participants had a breakfast feast, which was then followed by three expert speakers who imparted their knowledge and experience of aspen trees to the well satiated group. Speakers included: Paul Rogers, Professor at Utah State University and Director of the Western Aspen Alliance; John Neuhauser, Trails and Slope Grooming Manager for Canyons Resort; and John C. Guyon II, Plant Pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service. The three different speakers talked on the ecology of Aspen, Forest Health, and Recreational Management.

Much was learned from these speakers, but one simple common act struck home with all the participants. We all know aspens are easy to carve into, having seen thousands of names and artwork engraved into their bark. But, did you know how thin-skinned the aspen really is? And how that small carving can make a tree susceptible to deadly disease? The carving or black scarring on the white bark allows fungi and detrimental boring insects to weaken and even kill the healthiest of aspen trees. Many know that aspens have the amazing ability to regenerate through their root system. An entire stand of trees can be actually one organism because of their ability to send new shoots up from their roots. While this adaptation to regenerate from roots is great for recovering from wildfires, it can be detrimental when that stand is hit by a parasite or disease. Aspens are a beautiful, unique species of tree that needs attention and correct management to sustain their populations. Please think twice before you add your initials into that beautiful white bark of an aspen!

Such a great and educational event, and all supporting [TreeUtah](#), a 501(c)3 non-profit. We hope you join TreeUtah and Alta Ski Area next year for another great symposium!

December– January Sustainability Events

The holiday season is here, and there are so many great local things to do. Check out these sustainability events for the family, friends, and a venture out with that special someone.

- **December 15 - Piano Performance by Shannon Corey** - 6:30pm: Share a night of beautiful music in the mountains with a performance by local pianist Shannon Corey. [ACE](#) is also holding an ugly Christmas sweater contest during intermission! Free.
- **December 20 - Santa Dives with the Sharks** - 11am: Watch him swim with the sharks, sea turtles and stingrays in the Living Planet Aquarium's 300,000 gallon shark tank! You won't want to miss it! For more info visit www.thelivingplanet.com.
- **December 24 - Roar Before Christmas** - 9am: Come to the Hogle Zoo to see the animals unwrap their Christmas presents early, meet some keepers, and help create enrichment for some of our animals! More info at www.hoglezoo.org.
- **December 30 - Snowshoe with a Naturalist** - 10am: Take a short break from skiing and join [Cottonwood Canyons Foundation](#) for fun in the snow and see more of Alta's natural side. info@cottonwoodcanyons.org or 801.466.6411.
- **December 31 - Alta Torchlight Parade** - 5:15pm: Join us on New Year's Eve for a torchlight parade and fireworks. We are requiring a minimum donation of \$5 - 100% of the proceeds will go to the [Utah Food Bank](#).
- **January 12 - Alta Birding Survey** - 9am: Join expert birders from [Tracy Aviary](#) this winter on skis in search of our feathered friends that call Alta home. For more info contact 801.832.1700 or environment@alta.com.

