



Newsletter

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University of Utah—Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards

Alta Ski Area is and the University of Utah (U) partnered to sponsor and honor the first recipients of the annual [Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards](#).



- **Campus as a Living Lab Award** was granted to **Youcan Feng** a Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate research assistant who completed a guide for green roof configuration, an initiative that has expanded beyond the U in the sustainable building field.

- **Sustainability Community Partnership Award** recognized **Robert Kent** a doctoral student who models the U's commitment to sustainability leadership through his community outreach work in bringing greater efficiency for long-term participant engagement to Salt Lake City's *Clear the Air Challenge*.

- **Sustainability Integration Award** honored Professor **Julia Corbett** from the Department of Communication and her work in successfully integrating sustainability

education into all of her courses ranging from Public Relations Campaigns to Quantitative Research for the past twenty years.

- **Sustainability Research Award** acknowledged Professor **Barbara Brown** and her distinguished research in Family and Consumer Studies for the past thirty years that addresses the interdisciplinary needs of sustainability through neighborhood revitalization, healthy communities, and public transit.

The Ermine - By Amanda Gladback

What's that there in the woods!? It's a rat! It's a squirrel! No, it's an ermine! Yes, the ermine is a member of the weasel family, also known as *Mustela erminea*. Their fur is white over the winter, and during the warmer months of the year their fur molts and grows out a reddish brown. Common to Utah, they tend to live in open woodlands, transitioning between forested areas and fields by water sources, but they are most abundant in thickets, woodlands, and semi-timbered areas. Ermines are occasionally seen during daylight hours, but are primarily active at night. This carnivorous creature feasts upon squirrels, lemmings, rats, shrews, chipmunks, mice, hares, voles and rabbits. They may be predators, but they are also prey to such creatures as coyotes, badgers, fox, owls and wolverines.

The size of an ermine can vary, but males are typically larger than females; measuring 13 to 29 centimeters in length, with a tail length of 5 to 12 centimeters, and weight less than 0.3 kg. Mating occurs in late spring to early summer, and offspring are born between April and May the next year. Giving birth to only an average of 4 to 9 offspring, wild female ermines typically survive for at least two mating cycles, while males generally do not survive this long—less than two years. The number of offspring that each ermine has in its lifetime depends on the amount of food that is available, though they average two litters. With maturation into adulthood, they become muscular, agile and curious. While they may be fuzzy and cute, it's not unheard of for an ermine to attack humans when they feel threatened. Its best not to approach them in wildlife, but rather admire them at a distance.



Photograph by Stefano Unterthiner, National Geographic
[Photo of Day 2/15/15](#)



"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall

U Alta Sustainability Awards continued...

Each recipient demonstrates an "excellence in fostering leadership and commitment to the health of our community and planet through" a comprehensive understanding and action for sustainability (UofU). Co-hosted by the [Environmental & Sustainability Studies program](#) and the [Global Change & Sustainability Center](#) the esteemed awardees were recognized at an award ceremony on March 6th at the U where they each received \$2500 as a congratulations to their efforts.

"Knowing sustainability is not just a singular avenue, we are happy to work with the U in bringing forward a variety of awards that help recognize this fact and promote continued hard work in all walks of life and studies" says Maura Olivos, Sustainability Coordinator for Alta Ski Area's Environmental Center.

To learn more about the Alta Environmental Center and the ski area's sustainability efforts please visit

altaence.com. For more information on the Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards, please contact Karren Nichols at karren.nichols@utah.edu or visit sustainability.utah.edu/



Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



Global Change & Sustainability Center
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

March - April Sustainability Events

Spring is in the air and though the ski season is not over yet, there are many events out there with summer in mind. If these highlighted events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at altaence.com/resources_events.php.

THE 2015 ALTA GALA
APRIL 3RD
LA CAILLE RESTAURANT @ 7-11:30 PM
STELLAR AWARD WINNER - ELFRIEDE SHANE

To purchase tickets, sponsorship options and more information go to altagala.org
\$110 per person if purchased by March 20th | \$130 per person if purchased March 21st - April 2nd | \$145 day of

Opportunity Drawing - Purchase \$20 opportunity drawing tickets in advance of and at the Alta Gala. For an Alta Ski Area 2015/16 season pass OR 1 day of hell-skiing with the Wasatch Powderbird Guides.

Music by Lake Effect and Guitar & Mandoline
Large silent auction with online bidding
"Do not have to be present to participate"

altagala.org

- **March 19 - Climate & Energy Film Series:** Chasing Water: A film about a man who follows the Colorado river from source to sea. Take the journey with Pete McBride and rsvp at <http://utahcleanenergy.org/news-and-events/clean-energy-events/item/235-energy-and-climate-film-series>

- **March 21 - Spring Kick-off Pole Planting:** No better way to start spring than with some tree planting! Join Tree Utah with their spring kick off more info at treeutah.org.

- **March 26 - Love Utah Give Utah:** If any day, this is the day to give to your favorite Utah Non-Profit. Help a non-profit meet their matching funds, or this is your chance to offer a match. Don't just take it from us, visit loveutgiveut.razoo.com.

- **April 3 - Alta Gala:** An annual collaborative fundraiser for Alta Community Enrichment, Friends of Alta and Alta Historical Society. Food, drinks, dancing and silent auction will be the highlight of the Gala. For more info visit altagala.org

- **April 9- Bird Survey:** Join Alta in the Final Bird Survey for the winter season,

more to come this summer, this is the last chance to go birding with skis! More info at <http://www.altaence.com/pdf/14-15WinterBirdSurveyFlyer.pdf>

- **April 17 - Alta Earth Day:** Visit altaence.com/earth-day.php for full details. Here are some highlights of the day.

- * Eco-Friendly Vendors including:
- * Naturalist Ski & Snowshoe Tours
- * Après ski with food, drink, raffle and our feature film
- * Poster By Colleen Shea - Thank you!

ALTA EARTH DAY
APRIL 17TH 2015
BUILDING AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PLACE WE CALL
ALTA. COMMEMORATING APRIL 22ND WITH EARTH DAY EVERYDAY