



Newsletter

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University of Utah Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards

The Union ballroom was abuzz on February 15 with the sounds of 104 graduate and undergraduate students from 18 departments presenting research posters. Each spring, the Global Change & Sustainability Center's Environment and Sustainability Research Symposium provides an opportunity for students to explain their interdisciplinary research to the U community. Those who gathered for the annual Environment and Sustainability Research Symposium showcased an array of research on topics ranging from indoor air quality to the ecology of cooking with firewood.

During the event, the Sustainability Office and Alta Ski Area presented nine Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards to members of the campus community. "Alta Ski area realizes we must encourage our future leaders because we need them," said Maura Olivos, the sustainability coordinator at the Alta Environmental Center. "It takes more than passion and smarts to be a leader and maintain effort or progress. Leadership requires honesty, dedication, empathy, courage, communication and a shared vision."

These annual awards honor sustainability leadership in the four areas of research, education integration, community partnership, and campus as a living lab. They include recognition as well as an honorarium. The campus as a living lab award is also supported by the Craig B. Forster fund, a fund established in honor of Dr. Forster, the Sustainability Office's founding director. The 2018 award recipients are:

Research Award: [Richard Forster](#), associate dean in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, professor, Geography and Emily Nicolosi, PhD Student, Geography

Education Integration Award: [Jennifer Watt](#), associate director of Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Community Partnerships Award: Amy Sibul, associate professor, Biology and [Jörg Rügemer](#), associate professor, Architecture

Craig B. Forster Campus as a Living Lab Award: Eric Blyth, Shay Meyers, Matthew Cranney, Julia Warner, students, Architecture + Planning



Andria's Article—By A. Huskinson

Growing up skiing Grand Targhee cultivated my love for skiing. I moved to Salt Lake to attend the University of Utah and started skiing Alta and have never left. Alta has always been a magical place for me. I've been skiing here for 23 years and I'm currently going on my eighth season working for Alta Ski Area.

In college, I met Connie Marshall, the Marketing/PR Director at Alta Ski Area. I decided to major in Public Relations because I could work in an industry I was passionate about. Fast forward to today, I'm the new PR Manager for Alta. One of my goals in this position is to educate Alta skiers on the sustainability efforts the Alta Environmental Center is currently doing now, and any future undertakings.

Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to work with Maura Olivos, from the Alta Environmental Center and learn more about the AEC goals for Alta Ski Area and sustainability. I couldn't believe all the sustainability endeavors AEC and Alta were doing to conserve this magical place I have grown to love over the years. I have been an Alta skier all these years and I am recently learning all of Alta's sustainability efforts. I want this to change for other Alta skiers. *continued next page...*



I do not think the measure of a civilization is how tall its buildings of concrete are, but rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and fellow man.

—Chippewa

Andria's Article continued...

My intention is to inform the Alta skier on the sustainability efforts through social media with the hopes that others, like me, will say Alta is a magical place not only because of the community of people and the powder skiing but also because Alta gives back to its natural habitat we all get to call home. Alta's mission statement says it best, 'We are in the business of providing authentic skiing experiences in a natural mountain environment.'



Photo: Ski Utah, Mountain Mama

What is SKE-COLOGY™?

Maybe you have seen the non-descript green and blue or sometimes white signs off the Sunnyside lift. Have you stopped to check them out? Under each vinyl cover you'll find a different local animal, their tracks, and some great facts about them. These may just seem like some fun informational signs, but they are so much more. They are part of a strategy to help our visitors and employees become more acquainted with their National Forest and protected watershed.

SKE-COLOGY™ was founded in the 1990s in partnership between the US Forest Service and Vail Mountain Resort, and piloted with Alta Ski Area. The program was originally designed to be utilized by ski school groups to help educate youth about mountain ecology in National Forests. In 2010 we worked with the trademarked program and partners to revamp the signs to read more specifically to Alta's ecology, expanded the usage to include summer hiking trails, and correlated it to K-12 Utah Core

Curriculum Standards. In doing this, we kept the vision of the original SKE-COLOGY™ program and framed the updated version to be easily replicated by any other ski area or park throughout the nation. Now the program can be customized to reflect the endemic wildlife of any state or mountainous region while maintaining the message and nomenclature of subjects in watersheds, recreational etiquette, conservation and more. We have the entire program (except for the slopes and snow) available online for free download.

To assist educators or naturalists in using the SKE-COLOGY™ signs we have also partnered up with [Utah Society for Environmental Education](#) (USEE) and [Utah State University Extension—Water Quality](#) to offer a workshop every winter on skis, and summer. The workshop not only goes over SKE-COLOGY™, but includes [Project Learning Tree](#) and USU's Utah specific designed [Streamside Science](#) curriculum. Though the winter workshop has come and gone, stay tuned with us to sign up for a summer workshop.

March-April Sustainability Events

If these highlighted sustainability events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at alta.com/alta-environmental-center.

- **March 23—Free Nature in the City:** Join Tracy Aviary for FREE family outdoor explorations in a city park or open space near you. tracyaviary.org/natureinthecity
- **April 9—Birding on Skis:** It's officially spring and the birds are coming back to breed. Join Tracy Aviary for a pre-winter survey. alta.com/the-mountain/events/birding-in-alta
- **April 14—Alta Earth Day:** Join us for our annual community of fun! We have a whole series of events lined up for you, you see more details at alta.com/the-mountain/events/earth-day:
 - * Snowshoe with a Naturalist at 10am
 - * Birding on Skis at 9am
 - * Eco-minded vendors on the snow all day
 - * Tour with a Ranger at 1pm or 2pm
 - * MiniCHaRM, recycle your skis and old clothes
 - * Après ski, complimentary drinks, snacks and film at 4:30pm



CELEBRATING EARTH DAY EVERYDAY

BUILDING AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION
FOR THE PLACE WE CALL ALTA