



Newsletter

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Micro-Trash

Micro-trash seems self-explanatory. By etymology, it just means little pieces of trash. If you've spent time anywhere outside and seen a cigarette butt, a piece of broken glass, food wrappers, or a bottle cap, you've seen micro-trash. It can also include mini produce stickers, pieces of styrofoam, or bullet casings in hunting areas. But why is it important we separate these little pieces of trash from general litter? Often times these are unintentionally discarded, but they are a major danger to wildlife when ingested. These tiny pieces of trash that can often go unnoticed by humans, is what birds can identify as prey when they are looking for their next meal. This can cause the birds serious digestive issues, usually leading to starvation, and eventually death.



Photo Credit:Rocko Menzyk

At our recent Alta Clean Up Day, Alta was lucky enough to receive specific micro trashcans from our friends at 3Form, the leading manufacturer of sustainable building materials and architectural hardware solutions for the architecture and design industry. They have created a trashcan specific to disposing of micro-trash properly. After receiving help from over 60 volunteers on Clean Up Day this month, Alta is proud to have been apart of such an impactful effort. If you'd like to assist in this effort, a micro trashcan is located here at Alta near the Town Park, and another has been placed at Silver Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon. A little help from a lot of people will make all the difference!



Photo Credit:Rocko Menzyk

Nature Nugget: Moose

The largest member of the deer family, moose are generally gentle giants. They can grow to be over 6 feet tall, not including the massive set of antlers atop of their heads. However, getting too close can threaten them, and they are known to charge. This can be quite frightening, seeing as though they can run up to 35 mph. Otherwise, moose in Little Cottonwood Canyon love to romp through the willow thickets, being better equipped to snack on the branches than having to lower their heads all the way to the ground for moss and lichens.

Male moose, called bulls, tend to find solace in in solitary company. The females, known as cows, are generally smaller than the males and

will travel with other females. The two sexes tend to ignore each other until mating season approaches, near September or October. The males attract the ever-so-elusive females by bellowing loudly, and proving their genetic strength by butting heads with other males, asserting dominance. The cow will give birth to one or two calves each spring. The calves adapt fast after birth, and are able outrun a human at just five days old! They learn to swim and dunk their heads under water to munch on plants living under the surface, and are known to swim for miles at a time. Moose are as nimble in water as they are on land! If you are lucky enough to see one of these big, beautiful animals, admire from afar. If you so happen to run right into one on a hike, it is advised to consider going back or changing directions.



“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 a difference you want to make..” - Jane Goodall



Meet Jennifer Melton

Hello! I’m Jennifer and I am going to be the Operations and Outreach Coordinator for the AEC. I’ll be taking the place of the lovely McKay Compton, and working alongside our director, Maura Olivos. Our job is to keep our community connected and informed with the Alta Environmental Center’s efforts in sustainability. We love this canyon we are lucky enough to call home, and our goal is to protect and promote its well-being. My energy and excitement to be apart of the Alta Team is unstoppable!

Growing up in Southern California, mountain life was not as closely accessible as I would have liked it to be, so as soon as I could, I left behind the traffic and concrete. Now, I enjoy the beauty of the Wasatch every single day,

working at both Snowbird and Alta most days of the week. I couldn’t imagine a life different from this one!

When I’m not somewhere in the forest, you may find me in a yoga class finding my zen, or in the kitchen enjoying the fruits of culinary labor. Spending time with family and close friends is an important aspect my livelihood, and I find myself aspiring to become the wonderful people I surround myself with. If you ever see me along a trail, or taking a lap on Wildcat with a smile, never hesitate to say hello. I am as excited to connect with new people as I am to be in the mountains every single day. Onwards!

August - September Sustainability Events

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

- **Aug 16th- HawkWatch Live Bird Show and Hike:** Learn more about different species of birds followed by a naturalist walk lead by one of our partner organizations. alta.com/the-mountain/events/hawkwatch-live-bird-show-and-hike
- **Aug 20th - Volunteer Day & Community Party:** Join us for summer volunteer days! We will be doing restoration work on the mountain, weed pulling, and willow harvesting and planting from 4-6 PM. Bring your own musical instruments after volunteer day to the Alta Town Park for a community party with music and food from 6-8. alta.com/the-mountain/events/monthly-volunteer-day
- **August 24th– Tree Utah Harvest & Restoration:** We’ll meet at Alta Town Park (park at Wildcat base, the first entrance to Alta) at 1pm for a quick orientation and then head on lifts up the mountain where we’ll dig out seedling trees coming up in ski runs and pot them up for future plantings. If you want to, you can arrive early and picnic/potluck at Alta Town Park before the event. TreeUtah staff will be there at noon with some drinks, basic sandwich materials, and snacks. forms.gle/c71UW1uz6cGAPUBx5
- **September 7th– Tree Planting:** Join us once again to explore the Wasatch Mountains while planting 1,500 native trees! It promises to be a fun and challenging day enjoying the fresh air and giving back to our local environment. forms.gle/tQPzkam9ND27XxDg7

