



16th Annual Earth Day Cleanup, Saddleback's 50th Anniversary, April 10

The Annual Earth Day Cleanup will be Saturday, April 10th, from 9 a.m. to noon. Please volunteer to help remove litter or dumping sites (depending on your capabilities) at Saddleback Butte State Park and Los Angeles County Wildflower Sanctuaries.



Photo Cecelia Rejas

Our cleanup coincides with California State Parks' celebration of Saddleback Butte State Park's 50th Anniversary! There will be a reenactment of the 1960 dedication ceremony, live band, and many activities.

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves and drinking water in a reusable bottle. Please RSVP (see below), and meet at 9 a.m. at the staging area inside the Saddleback Butte State Park entrance on Avenue J, just east of 170th Street East.

Bicycle Ride Day, May 15: more fun for more riders

Our 14th Annual Bicycle Fun Ride is staging out of Lane Park in Quartz Hill this year, with more fun for more riders. In addition to the long distance ride, there will be short bicycle rides for families, a bicycle obstacle course for kids, and activities in partnership with Los Angeles County Parks, local bicycle clubs and stores, and other local organizations. The event is evolving to better serve the local community, and raise awareness of the importance of bicycling lanes, paths and trails to our quality of life.

ES Day Conference, May 21-22

AV Conservancy will honor Endangered Species Day for the fifth consecutive year. The conference, at Antelope Valley College, will open with a kickoff event on Friday evening, May 21, with the conference panel and breakout workshops on Saturday, May 22. More information will be in our May newsletter, but those who wish to represent an organization on the conference panel, or present a workshop, should contact us now.

To volunteer or participate in any of these events, please call (661) 943-9000 or email avconservancy@yahoo.com.

Director's Corner

By Wendy Reed, MPA, Director

This issue focuses on things to do, for people of all ages. Your participation is important, in the community and the conservancy. Please share your knowledge, write a letter, volunteer a couple of hours, or contribute funds. Without spending a penny, you can help, just by using GoodSearch.com.

And please keep talking about the opportunity—and responsibility—our region has to steward its habitats, watershed resources, and trails for future generations. Help people to understand that this is important, not only for nature, but for our quality of life and our economy. Please ask companies you know to build the Sustaining Endowment, so more offers of donated lands can be accepted. The endowments can bear their name and advertise for them in perpetuity.

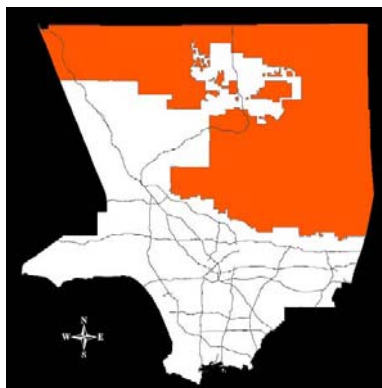
The conservancy directors are feeling a bit like the little engine that could: we thought we could, we thought we could! We share credit for this success with you. You have helped us to build a strong nonprofit corporation; to amass personnel with the requisite biological, legal and regulatory expertise; to engage partnerships; and to put the necessary authorizations and tools in place. (see page 2 for AFWAP news!) With your help, we have built a strong local land trust, and now see our mission in action, our community fulfilling its amazing opportunities.

Thank you for your support, and happy new year!

Shape our Future: Antelope Valley Area Plan Update

If you live, work, or play in the unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley, TOWN & COUNTRY affects you! This effort will update the County's Antelope Valley Area Plan, adopted in 1986, to guide future growth, land development, and conservation throughout the Valley.

The updated Area Plan will recognize the individual needs and identity of each town in the unincorporated areas as well as the collective needs and identity of the Valley as a whole. It will determine where new roads, trails, and bike paths will be built, and it will affect zoning and other regulations on private property. Its success depends on a commitment by residents, property owners, business owners, and other stakeholders to share a common vision for the future.



The planning area is shown in red on the map at left.

Throughout 2008 and 2009, the Department of Regional Planning hosted 19 workshops throughout the Valley to gather ideas for the Area Plan update. This extensive outreach

program received an award from the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Planning Association.

In 2010, the Department will release a Preliminary Draft of the Area Plan update for review and comment, to be followed by additional workshops. There is still plenty of time to get involved and help shape the future of your town and your Valley.

TOWN & COUNTRY has received grants from the Southern California Association of Governments and the County's Productivity and Investment Fund. These grants acknowledge the value of this effort and will allow it to continue in uncertain economic times.

Visit <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc> for more information. To be added to the contact list, email tnc@planning.lacounty.gov or call (213) 974-6476 Monday through Thursday.

AFWAP GIS tool delivered

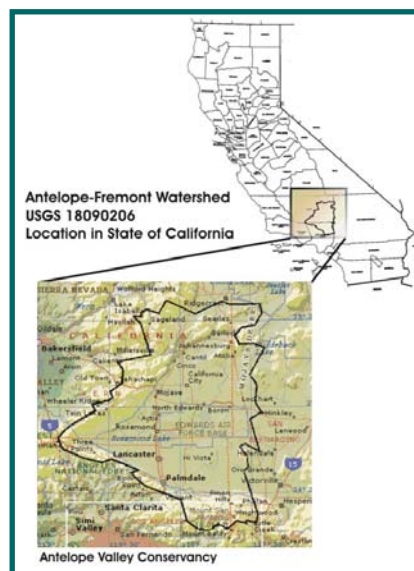
Antelope Valley Conservancy now has a unique Geographic Information System (GIS) tool, made possible thanks to grants from Edison International and ESRI, and the superb work of Pat Atchison and Debbie Turner, Technical Associates International Corp., our own Chief Biologist Ricardo Montijo, and the cooperation of so many of you.

This new Spatial Data Reporting® tool has been developed as part of the conservancy's Antelope-Fremont Watershed Assessment Project (AFWAP) and operates on ArcGIS. It focuses on the Antelope-Fremont Valleys Watershed and upper Santa Clara River Watershed, compiling dozens of relevant GIS layers, including General Plan data of incorporated cities and Kern and Los Angeles Counties, cross-walked for compatibility and comparability.

The tool provides functionalities that reduce processing time from hours to seconds. It increases accuracy and provides reporting and tracking capabilities to inform preservation prioritization and evaluate sustainability of preservation sites.

The tool is particularly timely to inform LA County's Areawide Update and dozens of renewable energy projects implemented through the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative.

The conservancy is grateful to all who are participating in the AFWAP project.



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Help Protect Wild Birds

By Dan Silver, President, Endangered Habitats League

The City of Los Angeles is under pressure to appeal a court decision on feral cat colonies that can lead to better protections for wildlife. Your help is requested, to encourage the City to support the court decision.

For years, the City of Los Angeles has been practicing "Trap, Neuter, and Release" (TNR) of feral cats. Under this program, large colonies of outdoor cats are maintained, preying upon birds and other wildlife, and posing threats of disease transmittal. Conservation groups including Endangered Habitats League obtained a court ruling that requires the City to halt its support of TNR pending CEQA review. Scientific fact-finding, creative solutions, and mitigation measures should emerge from this public process. But supporters of TNR have mounted a campaign to pressure the City into appealing the decision.

We ask bird conservationists and regional residents to weigh in. Please call the Mayor of Los Angeles, (213) 978-0600, and tell him that you *support* an environmental review of TNR, and to please immediately implement the court decision.

For more information, see youtube.com/abcbirds and <http://www.eraptors.org/cats.htm>.

Did you know ... Cats are not native to America. They cause an imbalance in natural settings. The extinction of hundreds of species of American songbirds has been due to cats. Keep cats indoors, or supervise them outdoors.

Do you use GoodSearch?

If you use Google or any other search engine, please try GoodSearch.com to help us build the Sustaining Endowment. Just type "av conservancy" as your charity and Yahoo donates a penny for each search—at no cost to you! Do it now, so you don't forget. Thank you!



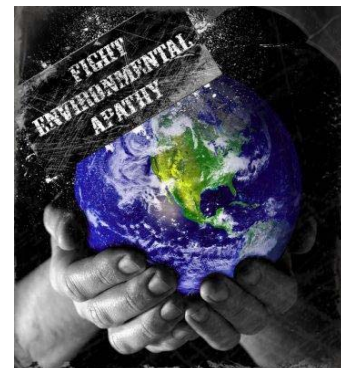
FREE Youth Environmental Leadership Conference

The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC) and Mojave Air Quality Management District are pleased to announce the 5th Annual Youth Environmental Leadership Conference, a free one-day conference open to students in grades 3 to 12. The application for students is posted at www.meeonline.com/students/velc.

There are TWO SITES to choose from this year:

- Saturday, April 10, **Victor Valley College**, Victorville, application deadline February 26.
- Saturday, April 17, **Amargosa Creek Middle School**, Lancaster, application deadline March 5.

This year's theme is "Fight Environmental Apathy." Workshops will include renewable energy, recycling, water conservation, GPS systems, and more. Attendees receive a Conference T-shirt, backpack, and eligibility for grants of \$75, \$150, and \$250.



Edison CTAC Seminars

By Cathy Hart, Region Manager/Public Affairs, Southern California Edison

Southern California Edison's CTAC Energy Center is a source of energy efficiency information for business owners and operators, architects and designers, operations and facility managers, contractors, engineers, or any one wanting to learn about the latest in state-of-the-art technology for saving energy, money, and the environment.

CTAC offers seminars and workshops in an adult-learning setting, demonstrations using displays and exhibits, technical consultations, and program and rebate information. Call 800-336-2822, or register at <http://www.sce.com/b-sb/energy-centers/ctac/>.

What's happening ...

@ WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER

2345 Searl Parkway, Hemet

(951) 791-0033 www.WesternCenterMuseum.org

- 2/18: Old Town Temecula Railroad Turntable
- 3/4: Pandemic: Diseases Go Global
- 3/18: Invasive Insects and the Spread of Disease
- 4/3: Spirit Vessel Gourd Workshop
- 4/8: Our Toxic Food Environment: Industrialization and Globalization of the Food Supply
- 4/15: The Luiseño Place Name Project
- 5/6: Human Trafficking
- 5/20: NASA's Dawn Mission to the Asteroid Belt

EARTH DAY @ EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE

40th Anniversary of Earth Day! Come to EAFB for tons of activities and fun for the whole family. Wednesday, April 21, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. RSVP to (661) 277-7049.

@ THEODORE PAYNE CENTER

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley

(818) 768-1802 www.TheodorePayne.org

“First Saturdays” February 6, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers on the first Saturday of each month to improve and care for our gardens. Bring hat, gloves, knee pads and tools for personal use. TPF provides shovels, trowels, rakes, loppers, hoes, pruners and refreshments.

Workshops. Workshop times and fees are posted on the web site. Call to register.

- 2/6: Native Plant Garden Maintenance
- 2/13: Propagating California Native Plants
- 2/13: **NEW!** Gardeners' Roundtable
- 2/13: Chumash Healing with Native Plants, Part 1
- 2/20: Native Plant Horticulture
- 2/20: The Alchemy of Native Plants
- 2/21: Waterwise Irrigation for Native Plants
- 2/27: **NEW!** Drip Irrigation
- 2/27: Chumash Healing with Native Plants, Part 2

Public hearing in Lancaster

re: Fairmont Buttes Motorsports Park,

Saturday, February 6. 11:00 a.m. at the County Library, 601 West Lancaster Boulevard. Arrive at 10:30 to fill out a speaker card.

A public hearing of the pros and cons of a private race track, nightclub with full-service alcohol, helicopter landing pad, commercial businesses, development in a Significant Ecological Area (SEA), proposed for Avenue D / 150th St. West.

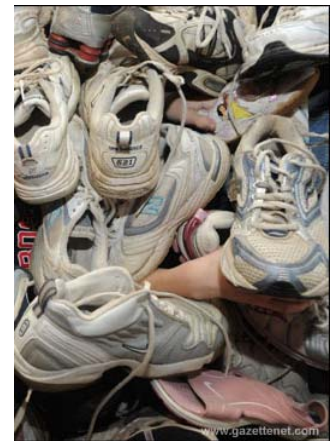


View of Fairmont Butte. Photo: Bruce Blackadar

RECYCLING OLD SHOES

How can we keep millions of pairs of shoes out of landfills? Donate wearable shoes to a local charity or soles4souls.org.

Worn-out athletic shoes—of any brand—can be taken to a Nike store/collection site for Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program, which has recycled the rubber, foam, and fabric into various types of surfacing, such as playground material. See nikereuseashoe.com for more information. AV Conservancy may have collection boxes at our events this year. Stay tuned for more information!



Outdoor Guided Tours at AV Indian Museum

While the Antelope Valley Indian Museum buildings remain closed for remodeling, we are excited to offer Outdoor Guided Tours, every Sunday at 11:00 AM.

Learn about:

- Native peoples of the Antelope Valley
- Desert resources (plants, animals, water)
- 4,000-year-old Antelope Valley trade corridor
- History of the Indian Museum

Tours include:

- A guided walk on the nature trail
- A tour of the historic museum complex
- An outdoor hands-on program

Tours are limited to 15 people, so reservations are recommended. Phone (661) 946-3055.

NOTE: The museum collection and a virtual tour of the museum filmed before construction started can be viewed at www.avim.parks.ca.gov.

Brag About Your Bag

Each year 6 billion single use plastic carryout bags are consumed in Los Angeles County, the equivalent of 600 bags per person per year. Plastic bags comprise 25% of the litter stream and significantly impact our communities and the environment. In LA County alone, local and State governments spend tens of millions of dollars each year to reduce litter.* In 2008 the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors adopted a comprehensive strategy to reduce single use bag consumption and litter. For info, visit www.bragaboutyourbag.com.



* Plastic Bag Staff Report, LA Co. Board of Supervisors (8/07).

Environmental Pride Month

To celebrate Environmental Pride Month in April 2010, residents in the unincorporated County areas of Antelope Valley will have the opportunity to dispose of trash and tires through several County sponsored events.

As part of the County's efforts to reduce illegal dumping, County residents can drop off up to one ton of trash, free of charge, at Waste Management of Lancaster on April 17, 2010. With proof of residency, such as a driver's license, residents can drop off their trash from 8 am to noon. Free Dump Days are held twice a year, in April and October.

Also, all Antelope Valley Residents are invited to bring their old tires to be recycled at the free Waste Tire Collection Event on Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 9 am to 3 pm. at the following five locations:

- Library Parking Lot, 38510 Sierra Hwy, Palmdale
- City Facility, 46008 7th St. West, Lancaster
- County Facility, 4859 W. Ave. L-12, Quartz Hill
- County Facility, 17931 Sierra Hwy., Santa Clarita
- County Facility, 8505 E. Avenue T, Littlerock

The events are conducted in partnership with the Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, and provide an important tool to keep the Antelope Valley clean.

If County residents are unable to attend the Free Dump Day or Waste Tire Collection Event, the following events are also available throughout the year at Waste Management of Lancaster, located at 600 East Avenue F, in Lancaster:

- **Free Bulky Item Drop-off:** County residents can drop off one bulky item per year, such as a sofa, table, mattress, etc., free of charge.
- **Free Waste Tire Drop-off:** County residents can drop off up to four waste tires per year, free of charge.
- **Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center** is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9 am to 3 pm, at 1200 West City Ranch Road in Palmdale, for County residents to drop off Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste.

These programs are brought to you by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the County of Los Angeles, in partnership with Waste Management, Inc. For more information, please call 1(888) CLEAN LA or visit CleanLA.com.

CONTESTS FOR KIDS!

Endangered Species Day Art Contest, Grades K-12

The national Endangered Species Day Art Contest is organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Endangered Species Coalition, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art/ University of New Orleans.

The deadline for entries is March 26. For more information, ideas, and contest rules, visit <http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6014/signUp.jsp?key=1716>

Winners will be chosen in four categories: K-Grade 2, Grades 3-6, Grades 7-9, and Grades 10-12. From these, one national winner will be selected who will be honored with a special trophy designed by a gifted young artist and will also be recognized at a reception in Washington, D.C. in May, 2010.

Endangered Species Day is a celebration of our nation's wildlife and wild places. Started in 2006 by the United States Congress, Endangered Species Day is an opportunity to learn about endangered species and how you can help protect them. The art contest is an integral part of the fifth annual national Endangered Species Day, celebrated on and around May 21, 2010.



"Stop Illegal Dumping"

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Antelope Valley Illegal Dumping Task Force invite teachers and advisors to win cash prizes for their class or club by participating in the 2010 "Stop Illegal Dumping" contest.

As part of the Environmental Pride Month celebration in April 2010, the "Stop Illegal Dumping" contest is being held to get students involved and to keep our valley clean. The winner can win CASH prizes.

Are you submitting to these contests?
 We would be honored to feature your entries at
 Antelope Valley Conservancy's
 5th Annual Endangered Species Day Conference,
 May 21-22, at Antelope Valley College.
 Just mail copies to P.O. Box 3133
 Quartz Hill, CA 93586-0133
 Be sure to include your name, age, and contact
 information. Submissions cannot be returned.

Submissions are only limited by participants' imagination. Possible ideas include: PowerPoint, pictures, drawings, poster boards, taping of a skit/play, etc...

This year's theme: "What can we do to

help stop illegal dumping in the Antelope Valley?"

Entry deadline is Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Visit StopIllegalDumping.com for more information.

Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Graders

The 2010 Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Grade Students is accepting entries until March 1st.

The contest is sponsored by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. See rules at www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest, or call Kay Antunez, Contest Coordinator, at (916) 653-7958.



Supporters

February 2010

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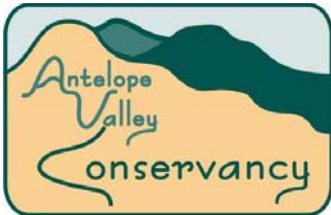
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YES! I want to preserve habitats, watershed, and trails.

My contribution in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Apply my contribution to: Habitat Preservation and Trails
 The Sustaining Endowment
 Burrowing Owl Sanctuary

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The Conservancy NEWS



published by

Antelope Valley Conservancy
P.O. Box 3133
Quartz Hill, CA 93586-0133

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www.avconservancy.org

Wendy Reed, Editor
The Conservancy News incorporates
the AVTREC **On Track** Newsletter
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TIME REMAINING: 17 YEARS

According to the Land Trust Alliance, lands preserved in the next 17 years will be the last lands preserved on earth. This work is critically important to our future and our community, and your involvement is critically important.