

Seasons

INLAND EMPIRE



RESOURCE

CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Photo courtesy of Lee Reeder

Celebrate the Importance of Trees!

A day dedicated to the celebration of trees began to form in the late 19th century, in the mind of a man named J. Sterling Morgan. Upon arriving in the territory of Nebraska from Michigan in 1872, Morgan decided that his new home suffered from a lack of trees. His desire to remedy this void soon turned into a passion for communicating the importance of trees to any and all who would listen.

Morgan proposed that the first official day to celebrate trees would occur on April 10th, 1872, and be known as "Arbor Day."

More than a million trees were planted during the first annual Arbor Day in Nebraska and because of its success, the holiday was officially adopted by the state in 1874. Arbor Day is now observed in every state, although the date varies from state to state, depending on the best time of year to plant trees. The holiday is typically observed in the month of April; however, California celebrates Arbor Day during early

March. In 2009, it was observed the week of March 7th through the 14th. Arbor Day is often celebrated in communities and at schools in order to bring volunteers together to plant and celebrate the importance of trees.

Trees are one of earth's vital resources as they provide habitat for wildlife, remove CO2 from the air, and provide shade, which reduces heating and cooling costs. In addition, trees reduce soil erosion as well as provide people with food, wood and paper.

When choosing a tree to plant, it is important to find out if it is a native tree and how much water it uses. Native tree species were in existence in the landscape before the arrival of Europeans. Southern California native trees are accustomed to the natural conditions that exist in our climate and do not require as much water or maintenance as non-native plants. Drought-tolerant plants thrive in well drained soils that receive only summer water; however, not all California natives are capable of surviving in dry conditions.

Coast live oak, western sycamore, western redbud and the strawberry tree are all recommended drought tolerant trees for Southern California. The IERCD educator conducts a "Trees Please" program, during which children plant a western redbud seed and learn how to take care of it. The goal of the program is to teach children the importance of trees as well as how to nurture a seed into a fully developed tree. This program can be taken to any school, community organization, or event within our district boundaries at no cost to the audience.

Numerous Arbor Day and Earth Day events have been scheduled throughout the area. There is a listing of several local community events scheduled to recognize these two holidays on page 4 of the newsletter. IERCD staff hopes to see you at these fun-filled events!



Spring Cleaning Tips

The word "recycling" is generally used in reference to the act of turning used materials into new products; however, it also refers to the re-invention of items into uses beyond their original intended purposes. The latter portion of this definition demonstrates that there are countless opportunities to recycle in our everyday lives in addition to the existing weekly ritual of putting our cardboard, plastics, aluminum, and glass curbside for collection by the city. The following tips for increasing the percentage of household materials recycled are easy to implement, do not require a large financial investment, and can also be helpful to others in the community.

Perhaps the easiest places to begin expansion of your home recycling regimen are your closets, which are most likely brimming with rarely-used items. Clothes in good condition can be given to charity or listed on sites such as freecycle.org that virtually connect community members for

the purposes of gifting or acquiring free items. Unwanted eyeglasses and professional wardrobe pieces are especially valued by charities who specialize in helping those in need get their feet back on the ground. Even your old wire hangers which may be tossed into the trash can be recycled at your local dry cleaners for re-use with other customers.



The bathroom and laundry room also contain items that can be diverted from landfills by being recycled into other creative uses. Old shower curtain liners can be washed to rid them of mildew, and then used as drop cloths while painting or during arts-and-crafts time, or even in place of a tarp while camping. Empty squeezable detergent bottles can be rinsed out and filled with water to keep in one's car to be used to

clean hands after changing a flat tire. Ironing board covers that have lost elasticity can be cut up and fashioned into a variety of useful things, including potholders, oven mitts, or even reusable shopping bags.

In the kitchen, citrus rinds can be used as planters: place one or two seeds in soil on top of rind, wait for sprouting to occur, and transplant into ground or a suitable pot. Old lemon or lime juice squeeze-containers can be rinsed out and re-filled with salad dressing to be packed in with other picnic items for a day in the mountains or at the beach. Glass containers can be put to use storing grains or oats in the kitchen, or small hardware in the garage.

Every item that is re-used or recycled rather than thrown in the garbage has the potential to save money, help someone else, and most importantly, conserve landfill space to slow the process of conversion of open space into waste storage facilities.

U p c o m i n g D u m p D a y s

LOCATION	DATE	DETAILS	CONTACT INFORMATION
SB County, Big Bear Transfer Station, 38550 Holcomb Valley Rd. 1.5 miles North of Baldwin Lake, off Hwy 18	April 11th & October 24th	Free dumping of residential trash from 8 am to 4:30 pm, no hazardous waste, no e-waste, must be driving private vehicle (no uhauls)	San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division (909) 386-8703
SB County, Heaps Peak Landfill 29898 Highway 18 (Between Sky Forest & Running Springs)	April 11th & October 24th	Free dumping of residential trash from 8 am to 4:30 pm, no hazardous waste, no e-waste, must be driving private vehicle (no uhauls)	San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division (909) 386-8703
SB County, Mid Valley Landfill 2390 Alder Avenue, Rialto, CA	April 11th & October 24th	Free dumping of residential trash from 8 am to 5pm, no hazardous waste, no e-waste, must be driving private vehicle (no uhauls)	San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division (909) 386-8703
SB County, San Timoteo Land Fill 31 Refuse Road, Redlands, CA	April 11th & October 24th	Free dumping of residential trash from 8 am to 5pm, no hazardous waste, no e-waste, must be driving private vehicle (no uhauls)	San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division (909) 386-8703
Banning City Residents Repplier Park, 789 N San Gorgonio Avenue	May 2nd	Free dumping of residential trash from 9 am to 2pm, no hazardous waste, no e-waste, must be driving private vehicle (no uhauls)	City of Banning (951) 922-3105
Fontana City Residents West Valley MRF, 13373 Napa Street	April 11th	Free dumping of residential trash from 8 am to 1 pm, must bring trash bill to prove that you're a City of Fontana Resident. No E-waste and No hazardous waste will be accepted (no uhauls)	City of Fontana (909) 386-8703
Redlands City Residents City Corporate Yard ,1270 W Park Avenue	April 18th	City will accept for free from 7 am to 1 pm the following: household waste, furniture, concrete and yard waste. No E-waste or Hazardous Waste will be accepted	City of Redlands Solid Waste Department (909) 798-7529
City of Yucaipa Residents Corner of Ave G and California Avenue	April 11th	Free dumping of categories (1) trash and (2) metals up to 3/4 ton from 9 am to 12 pm, but you must be in line by 11am. No E-waste and No hazardous waste will be accepted, must drive private vehicle (no uhauls)	City of Yucaipa (909) 797-2489

E - W a s t e : e l e c t r i c a l o r e l e c t r o n i c d e v i c e s

New Executive Director for the Santa Ana Watershed Association



There is a new face in the IERCD office once or twice a week. It's Lee Reeder, who has been named executive director for the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA). He is responsible for implementation of policies set by the board of directors as well as annual goals and objectives, and financial, program and administrative management of the Association.

SAWA is a group composed of the IERCD, three other resource conservation districts, the Orange County Water District, and several participating agencies. The major objectives of SAWA run parallel to the IERCD mission, and include invasive species removal, native habitat enhancement and the protection of endangered and threatened species.

Prior to taking this position, Reeder served as associate director and waterkeeper for Inland Empire Waterkeeper, a non-profit environmental organization focused on water quality in the Inland Empire. He has been a volunteer for the U.S. Forest Service and a trail patrol volunteer for the San Geronio Wilderness Association, and served as 2007 president of the Crestline Communities Development Alliance, which beautifies several mountain communities. Reeder is also a nature photographer and environmental author.

"We look forward to a long, rewarding association with Lee as SAWA's executive director," said SAWA Board Chairman Richard Zembal. "His knowledge of the watershed and concern for nature, combined with his leadership experience, will help drive and expand our work."

The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) and partners are dedicated to the promotion of a healthy Santa Ana River Watershed for wildlife and people. SAWA is an action-oriented organization that accomplishes on-the-ground environmental management projects, working collaboratively with a multitude of other agencies, organizations, and private citizens. SAWA implements facets of the Santa Ana River Watershed Program, annually restoring the natural functions and resources of the river.

"I have long admired the work of SAWA and the RCDs in creating tangible environmental results in the Santa Ana River watershed," said Reeder. "It's an exciting opportunity for me to take a leading role in these worthwhile efforts."

FREE EDUCATION PROGRAMS



IERCD offers free educational programs to all schools and organizations within the district. We offer science based programs in Backyard Conservation, Storm Water pollution, Toil of Soil, Trees Please, and Water Use Efficiency, our newest program. Water Use Efficiency is an interactive program that teaches kids about the importance of water and ways to conserve it.

Our Conservation Educator will come to your school or event and provide all handouts, materials, and hands-on activities for you and your students. If you are interested in scheduling a program, please contact our Conservation Educator at (909) 799-7407, ext 107 or at education@iercd.org

FOCAL SPECIES: VIREO

The least Bell's vireo is a small, gray songbird that nests in stream zones in southwestern California and northern Baja. This species was once considered widespread, common, and abundant throughout southern California; however, population numbers had declined so drastically that it was listed as an endangered species by the State in 1980 and by the Federal Government in 1986. The decline was due to habitat loss and degradation, in addition to parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird. The cowbird lays its eggs in nests of other birds like the vireo which raises the cowbird chick; a detriment to the vireo's own young.



vireo population from 300 breeding pairs in Southern California in 1986 to 1000 territories in the Santa Ana Watershed alone in 2007.

The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) is dedicated to the recovery of the vireo and other sensitive species throughout the watershed. SAWA biologists monitor the streams within the Santa Ana watershed. Biologists listen for the songbird's unique call to locate the nest. Vireo nests are small and usually hang from bushes in the stream understory, which can be difficult to locate. Once nest location is accomplished, biologists very carefully check the nest and remove any unwanted cowbird eggs.

This active recovery has demonstrated success by increasing the

While the cowbird control has proven successful, this method may remain in place in perpetuity because cowbirds thrive with human induced changes. As we know, the Inland Empire is experiencing rapid growth, resulting in human impacts to its natural areas. Introduced predators such as domestic cats and Argentine ants have contributed to the vireo population reduction. A direct threat related to the urban edge is increased human intrusion into the habitat such as all-terrain vehicles and paintball activity. In addition, private landowners sometimes remove the understory riparian vegetation, unknowingly destroying vireo and other native bird's nests.

Community-based involvement, through public outreach and educational programs, has the potential to augment the success of our endangered species recovery efforts in this highly urbanized region. IERCD, a partner agency of SAWA assists with these public outreach endeavors and together strives to improve the health of the watershed that can be enjoyed by wildlife and people.

INLAND EMPIRE



RESOURCE

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
April 18, 2009	Green Team Event	10am-4pm	Rim of the World High School, Lake Arrowhead	http://greenteamarrowhead.com/
April 18, 2009	Earth Day Celebration	Contact City of Chino Hills for times	Chino Hills	City of Chino Hills Community Services Department, (909) 364-2710
April 18, 2009	Earth Day	Contact Library for times	Paul Biane Library, Rancho Cucamonga	Rancho Cucamonga Public Library at (909) 477-2720
April 24, 2009	Earth Day Celebration*	9am-2pm	Chino Basin Water District, Montclair	Chino Basin Water Conservation District, (909) 626-2711
April 25, 2009	Earth Day Celebration	Contact Library for times	Feldheim Library, San Bernardino	Feldheim Library, (909) 381-8201
April 22, 2009	Day in the Park	3:30pm-6:30pm	Chino Wetlands Park 6075 Kimball Avenue, Bldg D, Chino	Inland Empire Utilities Agency, (909) 993-1600
May 9, 2009	Education Expo	9am-3pm	Ontario Convention Center	Ontario Montclair School District, (909) 459-2505
May 9, 2009	Water Awareness Day	Contact CVWD for times	Cucamonga Valley Water District 10440 Ashford Street, Rancho Cucamonga	CVWD, (909) 987-2591
May 16, 2009	Iris Festival	Contact City of Yucaipa for times	Yucaipa Community Center	(909) 790-5033

*IERCD will not be participating

Contact Us at 909-799-7407 or at iercd.org to sign up for our email newsletter list or to learn more about the programs and services that IERCD offers!