

A SORTED AFFAIR

by Jane Bogner

Sunday, March 9, 2008

Green CA Summit and Earth Day Contest

There is no reason to reinvent the green business wheel. If your business is ready, you have a great opportunity to learn strategies by attending the Green California Summit and Exposition in Sacramento on April 7-9.

This year's theme is "Green solutions for tight economic times." In addition to the environmental benefits of going green, these technologies offer substantial long-range savings.

Keynote speakers include S. Richard Fedrizza, the founding chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council and Hunter Lovins, coauthor of *Natural Capitalism*, the *Climate Protection Manual for Cities*.

There are three days of classes and seminars on subjects such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Project Management, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, Retro-Commissioning: Optimizing Building Performance, Green Affordable Housing, and Downsizing Landfills: Waste Diversion and Source Reduction.

If the workshops are a little daunting or you don't have a lot of time, considering registering for free admission to the Exposition Hall. I attended the Expo last year and came away with information on a waterbroom that our recycling center is using and a nontoxic, odorless cooking fuel made from sugar cane that replaces sterno for heating chafing dishes.

This free pass will also get you into the early morning keynote speaker's address. Go to www.green-technology.org/gcsummit for more information and to register.

Green Chamber Mixer

Congratulations to Touro University for partnering with the local Sierra Club to make their recent Chamber Mixer Green. The Kosher chefs prepared bite-sized appetizers and desserts. Sierra Club provided the Bio Ware: biodegradable plates, glasses, cups, cutlery, napkins and wooden stirrers. At the end of this affair for more than 100 people, there were 18 pounds of Bio Ware and food waste to compost, a trash can full of bottles and cans to recycle, and four pounds of real garbage. My thanks to Robin Gross and her Kosher Kitchen crew for this success.

Local Trails

With this glorious weather and green hills, it's time to get out and hike. Solano Land Trust's Lynch Canyon, located along Interstate 80 between Vallejo and Fairfield, is open Wednesday to Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rush Ranch, located on Grizzly Island Road south of Suisun, is open Tuesday to Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Jepson Prairie Preserve will soon be open on weekends. Check www.solanolandtrust.org for details.

Don't forget the local Bay Area Ridge Trail with trail heads on Ascot Parkway just south of Georgia Street and at Hanns Park. Information is available at 707 644-5190.

Earth Day Contest

Palo Alto is calling it BYOBag. Whole Foods will stop giving out plastic bags by Earth Day. Each year, Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags.

Now you can make shopping fun while helping our planet! Help VALCORE promote reusable bags by designing a shopping bag for our Earth Day contest. Dust off an old shopping bag and jazz it up or make one from scratch using old, found or recyclable materials.

Bring your shopping bag to the Earth Day celebration at Vallejo's Farmers Market on April 19 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and drop it off at the VALCORE table. Judging will take place at 11:00 a.m. and bags can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top shopping bag in each of three categories: Most Sustainable, Most Recyclable, Best Design.

Best of all, you'll have a fun, reusable bag that you can take with you whenever you shop and you'll be doing your part to help save our planet!

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

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