EARTH • MATTERS

Where Every Day is Earth Day

BY JOEL W. MARTIN

When Earth Day, a celebration of the wonder and majesty of life on our planet th

was conceived of right here in California, was first celebrated on the Vern
Equinox in 1970, it was hailed as one of the first movements toward recognizi
our role as stewards of the planet's
natural resources. Yet one
California institution had already
been celebrating the Earth and caring for her treasures for more than 90 years.
The Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County has been devoted since its inception to the collection, preservation, interpreta-tion, and stewardship of our natural and cultural worlds. Focusing globally while simultaneously cele-brating life in Southern California, we have built collections that span the globe, represent the past and the present, and build toward the future.
Every exhibit, educational program, and funding campaign ultimately relies directly on the strength of these collections and on the quality of the research that unlocks their secrets for our varied audiences. Small wonder, then, that these collections are recognized as the strength of the Museum, the one firm building block upon which all else rests. We continue to
collect, perform research, and
interpret the wonders of nature; it
is not only our mission, it is our
duty and our calling.
This April, as we celebrate
Earth Day on the one day each spring when day and night are perfectly balanced, we cele also the balance among collections, research, education and exhibits that defines us as one finest natural history museums in the world.

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