



SIERRA CLUB  
BULLETIN *March*  
1953

# Miscellany

On the cover: Juniper on Seavey Pass, by Philip Hyde.

*Dinosaur prints.*—Philip Hyde's photographs of Dinosaur National Monument (*SCB*, May 1952) are much in demand, and their display is helping to persuade people of the desirability of establishing a Green River Canyons National Park in that area. A set of the pictures is on exhibit during March at the John Crerar Library in Chicago, one of the nation's best known scientific libraries. Future displays: At the Seattle Public Library, April 15 to May 15, and for the following month at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Another honor for our Honorary Vice-President Joel H. Hildebrand is the Willard Gibbs Medal, one of the highest awards in the field of chemistry. Bestowed annually by the Chicago section of the American Chemical Society, the medal will be received by Dr. Hildebrand in Chicago on September 25.

*Public opinion.*—"I do not think that public opinion would stand for material damage to The Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire, Vermont or Maine. I think the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs or the Sierra Club

would be able to stop any attempts to destroy the major trail routes in Washington, Oregon or California. I do not feel quite so secure about the rest of The Appalachian Trail outside of the national forests or national parks.

"I hope that whenever attempts are made to destroy wilderness or wilderness trails all conservation groups and trail clubs will stand together in a determined effort to make sure that the over-all public interest is fully considered in the final decision."

—John Sieker, Chief, Division of Recreation and Lands, U.S. Forest Service, in an address at Twelfth Appalachian Trail Conference, Skyland, June 1, 1952

*Calling all navigators:* Foldboating on streams and lakes is winning many enthusiasts. A correspondent informs us trips were made last summer down the Sacramento, Russian and Feather rivers. He wants to assemble information on the sport in California, and asks owners of boats and others who are interested to send him their names and addresses, as well as any available data on California stream navigation. Write to Bruce B. Grant, 6255 Chabot Road, Oakland.

**THE SIERRA CLUB**,\* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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\*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



# Sierra Club Bulletin

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... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

## For the March Record

### *Your Eyes and Ears*

Many members express special interest in the conservation work of the Sierra Club and a desire to take part in that program directly. We appreciate all possible help in this field. A Conservation Committee is never likely to be too large. It may crowd our meeting rooms, but that is a minor matter. What we shall always need, I think, is more keenly interested and informed manpower. Our job is a continuing one, and one which can never be filed comfortably away as completed business.

The Conservation Committee is a fact-finding body primarily. A problem comes up which perhaps the Club should be concerned about. Often the pooled information available from the members of this large group is enough to warrant our making a recommendation to the Board of Directors, which, of course, determines policy. More often, the Committee needs much more information. Members volunteer to investigate and later bring in their findings well documented for discussion by the Committee. Decisions are eventually reached which may or may not lead to presentation to the Board. We are very often assigned investigative tasks by the Board; we must be their eyes and ears in the broad field of conservation of wilderness.

The Committee is also a valuable clearing house for information among the members. It keeps us all reasonably well informed; from us information gets passed on to a widening circle. Our job thus becomes one of informing ourselves so that we may

pass on the information. I have found the meetings very educational for myself and I think to all of us who attend. In addition to this function of self-education we have the Subcommittee on Education. That and other subcommittees will need recruits for carrying on the various programs that need our attention.

The Club's committee meets in the Bay Area, but it has a subsection in southern California and there are conservation committees in the chapters as well. Visitors are always welcome. Meeting dates can be learned from the various committee chairmen or at the San Francisco office.

HAROLD C. BRADLEY

### *Scouts Wanted*

The Knapsack Section of the Sierra Club Outing Committee is laying long-range plans to run additional trips both in California and out of the state at times to fit your vacation needs. To do this it must build up a backlog of scouted trips. There are many regions suitable for knapsacking about which those of us who must plan the trips know little. Scouting parties are relatively few and can cover only a fraction of the possibilities. Private parties, on the other hand, cover much territory each year. They are a virtually untapped source of information.

If you are one of those planning a private wilderness trip, you can help to strengthen the Club outing program by keeping your eyes open for outstanding areas and by gathering the pertinent facts. A checklist of things we need to know is given for your

convenience. You need not have seen the *entire* area to give us most of the information we want.

1. Name, location and brief description of the area. (Note grazing, lumbering or mining operations.)

2. Possible routes for a one- to two-week trip. On trail and cross-country routes, how much of the route you saw, roadheads for entering the area, and whether a car shuttle is required.

3. Time of year for best weather.

4. Names and addresses of packers, Forest Service men, and other local sources of information.

5. Maps which cover the area.

6. The best highway route for reaching the roadhead, driving time, distance, and condition of roads.

7. Whether you have taken pictures (both black-and-white and colored) that could be used for publicity.

8. Names and addresses of members of the group who may be reached for information.

If you have questions to ask before you go on your trip, write Edwin L. (Bob) Braun, 2444 Spaulding Street, Berkeley 3. Information on potential trips may be sent to the same address.

BOB BRAUN

## For Ski Tourers: An Outstanding Wax

During the past three winters I have been testing a considerable variety of ski waxes for the United States Army. In this I have had the help of young colleagues in the Department of Chemistry of the University of California, men who know far better than the average layman how to plan and perform a valid experiment. We have been having an interesting time.

One result of our experience has been to reveal the outstanding character of the Swedish "Swix" touring waxes, particularly the two "klisters." They are, in the first place, practically colorless, and unlike the old-fashioned pine tar klisters will not stain the clothing in the event that you tumble and manage to scrape the bottom of your

ski over your costume. Next, they are more "hydrophobic"; water does not adhere strongly and consequently they run well on wet snow and are less subject to icing if you break through a crust into snow below freezing. I believe the wax is made of one of the new artificial plastics. Third, they have just the right degree of plasticity to accord with the theory of a klisters briefly stated in my chapter on waxes in *The Manual of Ski Mountaineering*. They become rough enough when walking on granular snow or crust to permit amazing static friction for climbing, and they smooth out so rapidly when one begins to slide that after running fifty feet I have kept up with other skiers running on hard, racing lacquers.

There are two varieties in collapsible tubes, with red and blue labels for snow of different textures. A wooden strip is provided as an applicator, but I advise a spatula for use in case one wants a thinner coating. One should experiment for the right thickness.

The other "Swix" waxes are also very good. The one in a red can is particularly suitable under conditions prevalent earlier in the season, such as new snow, not very cold.

Monte de Gierre, at the Jim Davis store, Telegraph Avenue between Bancroft and Durant, Berkeley, stocked these waxes at my suggestion. I mention this because few dealers now stock any but hard, downhill waxes and lacquers. Most people nowadays take no pride in cultivating the art of going under their own power. They go only where they can be pulled by electricity and gravity. They have a hard time even to work up from the end of the line to the rope tow or chair lift. I do not write for them but for the ambitious, all-round skiers who scorn being limited to the merry-go-round of skitow and packed slope. March and April are grand months for cutting loose and touring to Peter Grubb, Ostrander Lake or Pear Lake!

JOEL H. HILDEBRAND

"*Driving* is a good time for thinking, since the human eye can't *observe* anything when traveling over three miles an hour . . ."

—Ben Shahn, in *Portrait of the Artist as an American* (Harper 1951)

## Directors' Actions, February Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, at its regular quarterly meeting on February 28, 1953 in San Francisco,\* considered the following conservation matters and took action as indicated:

### Dams in Parks, Monuments

The basic Act of Congress (1916) establishing national parks and monuments provides that their fundamental purpose is "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This was reaffirmed by amendments to the Federal Power Act (1921, 1935) expressly prohibiting permits for storage of water or development of power within the national parks and monuments. Similar policies apply to wild, wilderness and primitive areas in the national forests.

Nevertheless, many attempts are currently being made to invade parks, monuments and wilderness areas with dams for various purposes. Examples are within Cloud Peak Wild Area, Dinosaur National Monument, Glacier National Park, Grand Canyon National Monument, Grand Canyon National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Mammoth Caves National Park.

The Sierra Club recognizes the urgent need for efficient use of our water resources, but believes that greater public values will be realized if these resources are developed outside of the outstanding scenic areas, with park, monument and wilderness watersheds retained in their natural condition to provide effective, natural and inexpensive regulation of water flow.

The Congress and the President were

therefore urged to reaffirm the national policy that parks, monuments and formally dedicated wilderness areas shall be held only for their primary purposes as set forth by law, so that they may be passed on in their natural condition "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

### Green River Canyons Park

National park status was strongly supported for the area of the present Dinosaur National Monument with the exception of approximately 10,000 acres at Browns Park reclamation site. Sierra Club representatives have studied the area in detail and feel that the canyons of the Green River and the Yampa are as striking and as important for national park purposes as any of the "canyon" parks of the Southwest. The area combines superb scenic quality with exceptional geologic and archeological interest.

The Executive Director was instructed to represent the Club at public hearings to be held by Congress in March, and a strong campaign will be made by the Club for recognition of the high park value of this area.

### Yosemite National Park

A continuing inquiry was approved into the Yosemite Valley situation, with the intention of publication in the 1954 annual of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* of an appropriate presentation of the problems now confronting public use of the valley.

### Mount Duncan McDuffie

Recommendation of the Committee on Place Names was adopted, that the Club recommend to the Board on Geographic Names of the U.S. Department of Interior that Peak 12,371 on the Black Divide, just south

\* Directors Adams, Bernays, Bradley, Brower, Clark, Crowe, Farquhar, Hildebrand, Johnson, Kimball, Leonard, Mauk, Nilsson and Robinson were present; Kehrlein was excused.

Honorary President William E. Colby was present, as were Honorary Vice Presidents Newton Drury, Francis Farquhar, Joel Hildebrand, Walter Starr, and William Wright.

Eight chapters were represented by their chairmen; Atlantic and Los Padres chapters were excused.

Others attending the meeting included John R. Barnard, Conservation Committee secretary; Cicely M. Christy, Membership Committee chairman; and John A. Linford, Winter Sports Committee chairman.

of Muir Pass in Kings Canyon National Park, be named for Duncan McDuffie. The discovery of this route from the San Joaquin River into the Kings Canyon drainage was one of the highlights of the early explorations by Duncan McDuffie, and the Directors feel that this peak is appropriate to commemorate his splendid part in the preservation of this magnificent region.

## State Park Commission

The Club opposes any major revision of responsibilities under the State Park Act, pending study of the governmental and administrative problems involved. The President was authorized to appoint a committee to study this problem for future action.

It was recommended that the State Park Commission be authorized to waive matching of funds for acquisition of park lands, where it appears that funds are not available, or where expenditures are either for additions to existing parks or for lands included in master plans of the respective counties.

It was noted that Guilford Whitney had been appointed as a commissioner to replace George A. Scott.

## Roads in State Parks

Traffic conditions on the Redwood Highway, U.S. 101, have reached a point approaching capacity. The Division of Highways has decided that the entire route, as far north as Eureka, must be converted to four-lane standard.

In the numerous redwood groves in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, the State is holding in trust, not only for California, but for the nation and the world, the finest examples of the world's most magnificent forest type. The trees reach their best development on the narrow flats and benches along the South Fork of the Eel River which are traversed by the Redwood Highway. Half the purchase price of these lands has been furnished by the State from park bond issue funds, and half has been donated by private individuals and organizations like the Save-the-Redwoods League. Most of the private contributions have been in the form of memorials.

In view of these circumstances, it is un-

thinkable to advocate or permit the indiscriminate widening of the present highway to four lanes through Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Not only would many of the small but impressive groves on narrow flats be virtually eliminated, but also the opening of a wide cut through the timber would cause many trees to blow down, since the species is shallow-rooted and not wind-firm, and the unaccustomed light admitted by the wide cut would greatly alter the physical and biological adjustment of the whole forest community. These far-reaching disturbances would constitute a wholesale violation of our trust to those who contributed funds to preserve these forests inviolate.

Nearly \$10,000,000 has been invested in the redwood parks. Humboldt Redwoods Park alone represents a \$5,000,000 expenditure at the time of purchase and much more at present values. Millions travel the Redwood Highway to see these forests. It is unthinkable that in providing a highway to the redwoods, the redwoods themselves should be destroyed.

The Directors therefore requested a study by the Division of Highways, in cooperation with the Division of Beaches and Parks through allocation of Park funds, on the feasibility of alternate routes for Highway 101 in the redwood parks region.

## Hunting in State Parks

The Directors strongly opposed any plan to open our State parks to sport hunting. Legislative action requiring the Park Commission to open the parks to licensed public hunting would be very unwise. The parks have been selected to preserve for the use of the general public areas of scenic and historic interest, and the Commission is responsible for preserving these areas in as natural a condition as is compatible with human recreational use. Natural conditions include both plant and animal life. Local conditions may arise which make artificial regulation of animal population desirable, but decisions on when, where and how animal populations are to be controlled can only be intelligently made in each case after careful study by the park administrators. Control by legislative action would be far too inflexible.

## Mitchell's Caverns

The State Park Commission and the Division of Beaches and Parks concur that Mitchell's Caverns is of park calibre, it was reported. The Directors continued their support of the movement, under the leadership of the Riverside Chapter, to acquire the area as a State park.

## Roads in National Parks

The Directors reviewed their statement in September, 1949 of desirable standards for roads within national parks. They adopted this more complete declaration of policy:

National Park roads:

(a) Should be constructed only when required for park purposes, i.e., access and display, and not primarily as through highways.

(b) Should be laid out to minimize the impact on scenic values and afford the maximum enjoyment and preservation of scenic features, i.e., routing should be with regard to optimum scenic display and minimum scenic and ecological damage and not with regard to minimum distance; also, careful consideration should be given to avoiding road scars visible from the road itself, from other roads and trails, and in outstanding views from wilderness areas.

(c) Should incorporate standards in respect to curvatures, widths and gradients in each case in accordance with topography to meet moderate-speed park traffic requirements presently existing and probable in the foreseeable future in locations where such standards do not result in significant damage to scenic values.

(d) Should restrict road standards to the following maxima where higher standards would result in increased permanent scenic damage, unless truly unusual or important presently unforeseeable considerations make an increase over the maxima imperative:

1. No scenic values shall be sacrificed for the purpose of permitting travel at speeds in excess of the 35 m.p.h. speed limit now in general use in national parks. Road standards limiting speeds to as low as 20 m.p.h. shall be considered adequate in mountainous topography where higher standards would increase damage to the natural scene and except where very heavy traffic is assured. Hazards from abrupt changes in standards can be avoided with suitable transition sections and warning signs.

2. Maximum curvatures in these locations should be

Type	Speed	Light traffic*	Heavy traffic
Flat	Park limit	410 ft. radius	520 ft. radius
Rolling	30 m.p.h.	230 ft. radius	320 ft. radius
Mtn.	20 m.p.h.	100 ft. radius	160 ft. radius

\* Normal peak load per hour of not more than 30 cars.

3. Gradients as low as 7 per cent may be considered in these locations providing a significant amount of travel is probable under conditions involving ice or snow on the portion of road in question, otherwise gradients lower than 14 per cent shall not be required for light traffic, or lower than 12 per cent for heavy traffic in mountainous topography.

4. Maximum width of pavement plus shoulders under these conditions, exclusive of drain gutters, should be 18 feet for light traffic and 22 feet for heavy traffic. Trees in good condition shall not be cut back beyond the necessary road excavation.

5. The use of two one-way, single-lane roads, with necessary provision for passing, should be seriously considered whenever they would result in less total road scar than one two-lane road in the location in question.

6. Most of these specifications are more liberal than the minimum standards listed by the AASHO in their publication entitled "A Policy on Design Standards" (1950).

## Olympic National Park

It was reported that on January 6, 1953, President Truman had added 48,000 acres to Olympic National Park, virtually completing the enlargement of the park to the size originally authorized by Congress in 1938.

## San Jacinto State Park

The Forest Service expected to start advertising on March 2, 1953, the proposal to exchange the south half of Section 12 to the Winter Park Authority, it was reported. Thus there would be time until April 1 for filing of protests against the exchange. The Club is preparing a full brief to present to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management objecting to such an exchange as being against the national interest.

*The foregoing has been extracted from the detailed minutes compiled by Richard M. Leonard, Secretary. Complete minutes are on file in Club and chapter headquarters.*

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## Business Transacted at February Meeting

Business transacted at the February 28 meeting of the Board of Directors included the following:

*Executive Director:* Action of the Executive Committee on December 5, 1952, in retaining David R. Brower as Executive Director of the Sierra Club was confirmed, as was the action of ten members of the Board on the same date in accepting the resignation of Brower as fifth member of the Executive Committee, and electing in his place Alex Hildebrand.

*Conservation Conferences:* The Executive Director was instructed to represent the Sierra Club at these meetings, all to be held at Washington, D.C., between March 8 and 13: Natural Resources Council of America; North American Wildlife Conference; National Wildlife Federation; Chief Forester's Wilderness Meeting, and Congressional hearings on Park and Forest Service bills.

*Tehipite Chapter:* The Directors approved formation of the tenth chapter of the Club—the Tehipite Chapter, with headquarters at Fresno and membership residing in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa and parts of Kings and Tulare counties. The chapter thus includes permanent residents of Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks and the forest areas between, besides a rich and growing agricultural region. The southern boundary was established by agreement with Kern-Kaweah Chapter, which received congratulations for its initiative and cooperative spirit in helping to form the new chapter.

*Uniform By-Laws:* The revised draft of uniform chapter by-laws, satisfactory to all ten chapters of the Club, was approved by the Directors, who recommended adoption by the chapters within twelve months. The Executive Director was authorized to approve each chapter's by-laws as adopted.

*Conservation Education:* The Directors

learned that Long Beach State College is offering a series of workshops in conservation and outdoor living at the Idyllwild School of Conservation and Natural Science, on Mount San Jacinto, starting June 22, 1953. They supported the program and authorized the Southern California section of the Conservation Committee to participate in aiding the program.

*Commendations:* Strongly commended were Chairman Harold C. Bradley and Secretary John R. Barnard for their thorough and effective program of administration of the Sierra Club's Conservation Committee. Dr. Edgar Wayburn was also commended for the success of his Conservation Committee of the San Francisco Bay Chapter in handling an important program of chapter conservation problems.

*Miller Estate:* It was reported that on February 17, 1953, the court had ordered distribution of the residue of the John Miller estate to the Sierra Club and the Tamalpais Conservation Club, to be used at their joint discretion for the acquisition and improvement of state park areas in Marin County. The residue was appraised at approximately \$7,800.

*Membership Follow-up:* The Executive Director presented the results of his recent follow-up mailing to the relatively small 6% of Club members who dropped their membership last October. Within two weeks, about 10% of these had reinstated their membership.

*Atlantic Chapter:* Phil Bernays reported on his excellent meeting with members of the Atlantic Chapter while in the East. He presented to the Club an album of the Harriman expedition to the Muir Glacier with John Muir in 1899. The Board again expressed its regret that distance made it impractical for the Atlantic Chapter to be represented.

This was Phil Bernays' last meeting as a member of the Board of Directors, and the Board expressed its sincere appreciation for his long and useful service to the Club.