

CRESCENTA VALLEY VIEW

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Sierra Club's Crescenta Valley Group Newsletter

Mar - April 2024

http://sierra club - los angeles/crescenta_valley_group

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“Walk With the Animals”

The Crescenta Valley Group of the Sierra Club presents “**Walk With The Animals**,” an in-person program held by local tracking expert Jim Lowery at the **La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta, CA 91214 at 7 p.m. March 5, 2024**. This presentation will be an intimate conversation about techniques for tracking animals and what might happen at the "point of contact" with the trail, where tracks express behavior, biology, mood and personality. Ultimately, the tracker will be challenged to engage a different mind-set to "walk with the animal."



BIOGRAPHY OF JIM LOWERY

Jim Lowery is a leading tracking instructor and author in the U.S., having taught tracking skills to thousands of students through his school, Earth Skills since 1987. He has trained field biologists, naturalists and rangers and has led many specialized workshops in tracking technique as well as on tracking specific mammals including black bear, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, badger, antelope and kit fox. Jim has been an expert consultant for mammal research studies at Edwards Air Force Base and annually trains State of California field staff on the Central Coast in snowy plover nest predator track interpretation. He is the author of *The Tracker's Field Guide* (Globe Pequot 2006, 2013 and 2022) and *Walk with the Animal* (2013) and *How To Walk with the Animal* (2019) as well as many monographs and newsletters about tracking methodology and mammal biology. Jim has also taught wilderness survival skills, native plant uses and traditional skills, and with his wife Mary has led vision quests for 27 years.

Crescenta Valley Group Management Committee			
Chair	Fred Dong	Ex Com Rep	Cathy Kissinger
Vice Chair	Jeffrey Wilson	Membership	Silvia Darie
Secretary	Cathy Kissinger	Outings	Silvia Darie
Treasurer	Jerry Burnham	Conservation	Bettie Pearson
Publicity	Cathy Kissinger	Newsletter	Bettie Pearson
Programs Social Media	Pat Kramer	Webmaster	Chuck Gooley

Upcoming:

Event	Location	Date and Time
Program: “Walk with the Animals”	La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta	Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7 p.m.
Career Exploration Fair	Crescenta Valley Park at Dunsmore Ave/Honolulu Blvd	Saturday, March 16, 2024, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Earth Day participation	Crescenta Valley Park at Dunsmore Ave/Honolulu Blvd	Saturday, April 20, 2024 – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Tree Watering Day Sunland/Tujunga	Parking lot behind Sunland/Tujunga Library	<i>(Tentative)</i> Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9 a.m. – 11:30
Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet	Friendship Auditorium 3201 Riverside Dr, Los Angeles	Saturday, May 18, 2024 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Fundraising Activities

From Elizabeth Neat, Chair of Chapter Fundraising Committee

- **March 5th and/or 7th Letter Addressing at the Angeles Chapter Office plus lunch. We need help addressing 750 envelopes as part of our springtime appeal to donors. Lunch will be served!**
- April 13th & 14th - Angeles Chapter Fundraising Committee hosts a lovely weekend up at Harwood Lodge
- April 27th & 28th - Join us for a weekend up in the Eastern Sierra
- May 18th - tickets are now on sale for the Angeles Chapter Annual Awards Banquet and Celebration. Early Bird Pricing!

Sierra Club National Scene

The Sierra Club is one of other environmental groups are seeking legal remedies to prevent potentially harmful logging projects on federal public lands in California.

Three environmental groups filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California seeking to stop post-fire commercial logging projects proposed by the United States Forest Service on 13,000 acres within Giant Sequoia National Monument that burned in the 2020 Castle Fire and the 2021 Windy Fire, which killed significant numbers of giant sequoia trees.

If the projects are allowed to proceed, the heavy machinery involved would inflict substantial environmental damage on a protected federal landscape, including critical habitat for endangered and threatened species. The Pacific fisher, California spotted owls, and a recently discovered wolf pack rely on these landscapes, and disrupting these ecosystems through substantial logging would threaten their ability to survive. It would also allow timber companies to profit off logging in a region where commercial logging is meant to be prohibited.

Nepal Wildlife and Cultural Adventure

Sun, Oct 27, 2024; 8:00 AM - Mon, Nov 11, 2024 8:00 AM (Time is tentative.)

Join us for a 14 day non-traditional adventure to see the wildlife & culture of Nepal. This takes the best of our previous trips and we have added a lot more sights. The 14 day trip encompasses observing wildlife in Nepal's premier national park, seeing the highest Mountains in the world, experience the culture and history of Nepal and the wildlife visiting many UNESCO World Heritage Sites or nominated Sites. You will also learn about the religion and culture of the Nepalese.

The tour includes sightseeing in old Kathmandu visiting the Durbar, temples, markets, and other places in the capital which are UNESCO world Heritage sites. This includes visiting the famous Boudhanath, and Swayambhunath temples, all UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We will visit the old city of Bhaktapur, a UNESCO site, seeing the Durbar, temples, markets, and other interesting sights. We will visit the third royal city of Kathmandu Valley, Patan, another UNESCO site, including visiting the Durbar, temples, and streets of the old historic part of the city.

We will also visit some small historic villages and towns near Kathmandu. These include the towns and villages of Kirtipur, Bungamati, and Khokana. These are old Newari villages and towns, where we will visit some of the temples and other historic areas built in medieval times. We will also visit Bandipur who one travel blogger has described as the crown jewel of Nepal. The Newari town of Bandipur is one of central Nepal's hidden gems. It combines traditional village architecture, epic Himalayan views, lovely countryside walks where will explore for a day.

We will spend five days in Chitwan National Park looking for wildlife. Chitwan is a UNESCO world heritage site where you may see elephants, rhinos, gaur, deer, various types of monkeys, possibly a tiger, as well as numerous bird species. There are 543 recorded bird species sighted in Chitwan. We stay in lodges for this trip.

Cost includes bus, Nepal plane flights & land transportation, hotels/lodges, most meals, park and admission fees, most hikes & walks, airport transfers. It costs \$2,150 for those who sign up by March 9, 2024; \$2,250 starting March 10, 2024 Non-members of Sierra Club add \$100 to per-person cost. **SIGN-UP EARLY. LIMITED SPACE. International Airfare is extra.** Sign-up, send e-mail address, home and work phone numbers, Sierra Club membership number and check to Sierra Club for full amount to: Co Leader: Stephanie Gross, PO Box 423, Montrose, CA 91021; (818) 545-3878. Leader: Fred Dong, madelinesdad@earthlink.net.

You can add our 14 day Bhutan trip whose schedule is integrated with the Nepal trip, so you can end one trip and start the next trip without delay. The Bhutan trip is normally \$4,700 (\$4,600 if you sign-up before March 9, 2024), but if you combine the trips you can take off a total of \$300 making the combined Nepal-Bhutan trip \$6,450 if you sign-up before March 9 or \$6,650 you sign-up after March 9, 2024 for a combined trip of almost one month. Internal airfare in Bhutan & roundtrip airfare from Nepal to Bhutan is an additional expected \$800.



Bhutan Cultural & Festival Tour

Sat, Nov 9, 2024; 8:00 AM - Sun, Nov 24, 2024 8:00 AM

Join us for a 11 day, 10 night tour of the mysterious Kingdom of Bhutan with an additional 3 nights and in Kathmandu. This is a more extensive tour visiting new places from our previous tours. You will get an in depth tour learning about the culture, meeting some Bhutanese families, seeing beautiful and historic buildings and religious temples, beautiful mountain and countryside scenery on this small tour of Bhutan. A visit to Bhutan is like stepping back in time. We are limiting the tour to 16 participants!!! We are traveling in November which is one of the best times for photography and viewing the dramatic scenery.

You will see two different festivals, Jambey Lhakhang Drup Festival & Prakhar Duchhoed Festival, have traditional dance, song, and music in Bhutan in two different areas. You will see lots of Bhutanese in traditional costume and playing traditional instruments. The Jambay Lhakhang Festival is held in honor of Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) and to commemorate his visit to Bhutan in the 8th century. One of the unique aspects of the Jambay Lhakhang Festival is the “Mewang” or “Fire Blessing.” Participants walk over a large fire as a form of spiritual purification, symbolizing the dispelling of obstacles and impurities. The Prakhar Duchhoed Festival is celebrated to honor Lama Thukse Dawa, one of the sons of the 15th century Buddhist master, Terton Pema Lingpa.

You will see many of Bhutan’s UNESCO nominated world heritage sites. You will also learn about the religion and culture of the Bhutanese. We will have family visits with a couple of Bhutanese families including at least one farm family visit. You will travel between numerous sites in and around Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Trashigang, Tongsa, Bumthang, and other areas.

You will see the famous Buddhist Tiger’s Nest Monastery that is dramatically perched on the side of a mountain. Numerous Dzongs and castles which are Buddhist monastery and fortress that houses the district Monastic Body and government administrative offices including the ones in Paro, Rinpung, Punakha, Tongsa, Jakar, Trashigang, and Mongar. Four of the Dzongs are UNESCO nominated world heritage sites. You will see some of the craftspeople make the beautiful Buddhist religious paintings (thangkas) and their fine weaving at our visits. We will be visiting crafts and weaving villages in Eastern Bhutan.

Cost includes bus, land transportation, hotels/lodges, most meals, park and admission fees, most hikes & walks, airport transfers. It costs \$4,600 plus \$800 Kathmandu to Bhutan & Return airfare internal air within Bhutan for those who sign up and pay in full by March 9, 2024; \$4,700 plus \$800 airfare starting March 10, 2024. Non-members of Sierra Club add \$100 to per-person cost. **SIGN-UP EARLY. LIMITED TO 16 PARTICIPANTS.** International Airfare is extra. Sign-up, send e-mail address, home and work phone numbers, Sierra Club membership number and check to Sierra Club for full amount to: Stephanie Gross, PO Box 423, Montrose, CA 91021; (818) 545-3878. Leaders: Fred Dong, madelinesdad@earthlink.net.

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