



# VALL-E-VENTS



## **SIERRA CLUB San Fernando Valley** **Newsletter December 2013**

Monthly Meetings-the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

**Reseda Park Rec. Hall, 18411 Victory Blvd. (Cross Street-Reseda Bl.)  
(Near child's play area), Reseda, CA.** There is a parking lot & street parking. If the Rec Hall parking lot is full, there is ample parking at the One Generation lot, directly east at 18255 Victory Boulevard

[\*View or Print Newsletter Online\*](#)

**See full email at very end of newsletter & press "Show Full Message"**

(See names, phone numbers and emails of our San Fernando Valley Management Committee in the sidebar)



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892  
Angeles Chapter

CLICK TO GIVE ON  
**DECEMBER 3**



### **Celebrate Giving Tuesday with a donation to the Angeles Chapter**

Skip the buying frenzy this Black Friday and Cyber Monday to do something that makes a difference.

On Tuesday, December 3, the Sierra Club

### **Holiday Nature Slide Show Tues. 7:00pm**

**(ADDRESS ON HEADER ON TOP OF EMAIL)**

Angeles Chapter will join in celebrating a day dedicated to giving. Help us commemorate the official launch of the holiday season -- **Please make a donation to help support our efforts** at <http://bit.ly/18KdVMA>.

#GivingTuesday provides an opportunity to celebrate better and give smarter. It's the official launch for the Season of Giving and a way to show that we can do more this year - a philanthropic response and a powerful reminder that the true spirit of the holiday season should be about community, not consumerism.

**We invite you to be part of the celebration by making your year-end tax deductible donation today!**

After you've made your donation, become a #Giving Tuesday Ambassador for the Angeles Chapter - Reach out to your friends on Facebook and Twitter and let them know that you've made a difference by donating to the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter and ask them to join you!

Make your donation online at: <http://bit.ly/18KdVMA>

To donate by check, please make your check payable to "The Sierra Club Foundation" with "Angeles Chapter" in the memo line and mail to: Angeles Chapter Sierra Club, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 660, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

## In Main Column

**Holiday Nature Slide Show**

**Willis Simms Holiday Cartoon**

**Water L.A. Beautifies & Saves Water in L.A.**

**Phone in to Water Committee**

**Drawing & explanation Braunton's Milk Vetch by Carla Bollinger**

**BPA in Food Cartons**

**Change Behavior for Ourselves & the Environment**

**Join us to celebrate the holidays and attend a potpourri of travel, nature and environmental slides from our members and friends.**

**If you are showing slides if possible please bring them to the meeting in a Carousal Slide Tray**

**If you have a digital presentation contact Barry Katzen at (818) 341-8304.**

**Also if you have a digital presentation please bring them on a USB flash drive**

**or E-mail them directly to [barkat@rocketmail.com](mailto:barkat@rocketmail.com) & Barry will load them in his computer**

***There will be socializing and refreshments***



**"WATER L.A." ORG.  
IS TRYING TO HELP L.A. SAVE WATER  
AND  
BE ATTRACTIVE, ALSO.**

***Water L.A. is creating a living laboratory to improve***



## FUTURE PROGRAMS

### Holiday Nature Slide Show

Tues.

**DECEMBER 17, 2013**

Join us to celebrate the holidays and attend a potpourri of travel, nature and environmental slides from our members and friends. To get your special slides on the program contact:

Michael Stevenson at (818) 419-5318.

If you are showing slides if possible please bring them to the meeting in a Carousel Slide Tray.

If you have a digital presentation contact Barry Katzen at (818) 341-8304. Also if you have a digital presentation please bring them on a USB flash drive or E-mail them directly to [tobarkat@rocketmail.com](mailto:tobarkat@rocketmail.com) and Barry will load them in his computer.

*There will be socializing and refreshments.*

**L.A. They are assisting residents in using techniques and technologies that will help L.A. officials evaluate what is the best way to capture our local water and create a healthy environment.**

The following is from "Water L.A." website [www.waterla.org](http://www.waterla.org)

Through a grant from the [California Coastal Conservancy](#), Water LA was established to bring together local experts, residents, and City agencies in an "urban acupuncture" approach to water sustainability in the Los Angeles River watershed.

Our first project area is adjacent to the [Woodman Avenue Green Infrastructure Project](#), ([map](#)) making it ideally situated for monitoring the impact of small-scale and affordable residence-based strategies to decrease urban runoff and recharge groundwater stores.

Since October 2012, we've offered free workshops in the community, inspiring neighbors to design strategies for their homes. May 2013 started the installation phase with a team of professionals assisting in the installation of homeowner plans. Participating homeowners were armed with new information, skills, and ideas about the management of their own mini-watershed- their home.

At the completion of the project in 2014, the Water LA team and our Technical Advisory Committee will have developed city approved standard plans for six in-home Best Management Practices, including raingardens, parkway swales, greywater systems, rain barrels, drywells & infiltration trenches, and hardscape removal. Monitoring stations along the Woodman Avenue median will allow us to gauge the impact of at least 24 installations in the project area, so City agencies will have real data on how these projects affect our local watershed.

The Technical Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, and the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation, Department of Building and Safety, and Department of Planning.

**Are you a Water LA neighbor interested in learning more?** Here's a [brief summary](#) for you. Visit our [Photo Gallery](#) to see what we've been up to in the neighborhood. Come to one of our Studio City [Workshops](#) and learn through hands-on experience. And [join our mailing list](#) so that you'll always be among the first to know about events and projects.



## The Past, Present, and Future of WILDFIRE IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS for both People and Other Living Things

Tues. JAN. 21, 2014

Dr. Robert Taylor, Ph.D. has supported both Resource Management and Fire Programs for the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area since 2002. Come and hear his talk: "The Past, Present, and Future of Wildfire in the Santa Monica Mountains for both People and Other Living Things".

Large, intense weather-driven wildfires have been semi-regular occurrences of the Southern California landscape throughout history. To this day these fires have overwhelmed the best fire suppression forces money can buy. Dr. Taylor, an expert Biogeographer and GIS specialist will tell us what this has meant in the past, what modern fire regimes do to natural resources and human communities today and what packrats, pocket gophers, rabbits and geospatial modeling can teach us about surviving big fires in the future.

*There will be socializing and refreshments*



**Picture showing a curb-cut median on a rainy day.**

This is a median and the picture shows how it works on a rainy day. Because the median soil is lower than the street, polluted water runs into the median at the curb cuts instead of out into the sewers and into the ocean. Healthy soil helps biologically treat pollutants before the water is infiltrated into the ground. This concept is especially good in areas prone to flooding.

## I AM HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME AND LEARNING HOW TO SAVE WATER IN SO. CAL.

**Capture, clean and utilize the rain and runoff that usually flows past your property out to the ocean.**

*By Elaine Trogman*

When I went to my first film/speakers program in the CBS studios I thought it would end there but quite a few films and speakers later I was still being educated and entertained. These programs were presented by a wonderful group named "The River Project" under their program named "Water LA." Most of the films were about water subjects but one film was named "Dirt" and after the presentation the famous Indian environmentalist named Vandana Shiva spoke to a packed audience. The reason for presenting these films was to acquaint people with our finite resource, which is water and help them to appreciate and conserve this valuable substance.

Now the River Project/Water L.A. has moved on to another phase, which consists of putting on demonstration projects and workshops in Studio City and

## What Does a Beyond Coal Future Look Like?

**FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

Jasmin Vargas has organized in Los Angeles to move beyond coal since 2009, first as a volunteer with Green Peace and since the beginning of 2012, as the organizer for Sierra Club's LA Beyond Coal Campaign. Organizing for social and environmental justice movements since 2001, her focus has been to build an environmental movement in California that would strengthen movements around the world and build enough power to challenge the power of the fossil fuel industry.

As part of the national Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign she has worked at all levels of the organization to successfully bring the voices of volunteers and community members to places of decision making and power. This year the city of Los Angeles overwhelmingly voted to support Sierra Club's campaign to get LA Beyond Coal, so now it's our job to envision and gain support for a clean energy future. Come and learn how Los Angeles and the Sierra Club can decide what an LA Beyond Coal future will look like.

***There will be socializing and refreshments.***

## We need your help!

The Sierra Club relies heavily on its volunteers to carry out its Mission. Since you probably have a skill that we need and if you can spare a few hours a month, let us know.

Call Elaine Trogman 818 780-8345

Call Barry Katzen

818 341-8304

### Angeles Chapter needs reception area coverage:

**Mondays: 2-5pm**

**Wednesdays: 10am-2pm**

**Thursdays: 10am-2pm**

Panorama City to show people how they can save money and conserve water. Ordinary homeowners have volunteered their homes for these improvements and workshops.

### ***Native Planting and Curb Cutting on the Parkway, which is a strip of vegetation between the curb and the sidewalk.***

The first event I went to in Studio City was sort of a curb cutting party on a very large parkway. These curb-cut parkways can be retrofitted to capture, conserve and reuse rainwater runoff from driveways, sidewalks and even roads. It can, also, capture water runoff from other people's property on a summer's day. Street trees can be supported with the captured water to help shade the street and walkway. Even if curb cutting is not practical for every property, planting a parkway with native drought tolerant plants and developing depressions, called swales, to catch water can improve the property and save water.



### ***Rain Garden***

### ***Developing a Raingarden instead of a lawn.***

The second event involved removing the lawn in-front of a house. Digging two depressions, swales, on the right and left sides of the lawn area and then digging channels from the two rain gutters on the right and left side to the swales. The idea is to catch the rain coming down the roof to the gutters and then the water empties into the channels and ends up in the swales. These swales will prevent the water from running into the street. On that day they, also, planted native, drought-tolerant plants where the lawn used to be and in the swales.

To get an idea on what they are doing, watch this video:

<http://www.waterla.org/video-gallery/welcome-water-la-video>

TO VOLUNTEER EMAIL:

[jessica@theriverproject.org](mailto:jessica@theriverproject.org)

[www.waterla.org](http://www.waterla.org)

[www.theriverproject.org](http://www.theriverproject.org)

### **"WATER L.A." WILL HAVE A FREE WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATION NAMED**

***"EDIBLE LANDSCAPES, RAIN BARRELS & RAIN CHAINS".***

**Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, 1pm to 4pm**

Put some of that built-up living soil to use growing beautiful edible plants. The secret is planning for the smartest water use. We'll walk through planning & planting, getting the most out of your garden without water waste.

**Fridays: 10am-2pm**

Call Jane MacFarlane at 213-387-4287  
x205  
or [jane.macfarlane@sierraclub.org](mailto:jane.macfarlane@sierraclub.org) about  
these opportunities.

Sign up online for Chapter Office  
Volunteer.

## S.A.F.E Centers: Permanent Collection Centers

The following S.A.F.E. (Solvents, Automotive,  
Flammables Electronics) Recycling and Disposal  
Information is available

**Northridge: Nicole Bernson**  
**SAFE Collection Center**  
10241 N. Balboa Blvd.  
Northridge, CA 91325  
*Hours of Operation:*  
Saturdays, and Sundays  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m  
([MAP/MAPA](#))

**Sun Valley: RANDALL STREET**  
**SAFE Collection Center**  
11025 Randall St  
Sun Valley, CA 91352  
*Hours of Operation:*  
Saturdays and Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m  
([MAP/MAPA](#))

### They accept:

paint and solvents; used motor oil and  
filters, anti-freeze, and other automotive  
fluids; cleaning products; pool and garden  
chemicals; aerosol cans; all medicine  
except controlled substances; auto  
batteries; household batteries.

*E-waste:* computers, monitors, printers,  
network equipment, cables, telephones,  
televisions, microwaves, video games, cell  
phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and  
electronic toys

Transportation limit for chemical related  
items: It is against the law to transport  
more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of  
hazardous waste to collection sites.

Make a reservation at the following website:

<http://waterla.eventbrite.com/>

Reserve here and the specific address will come in an email.

A way to contact Water L.A.: <http://www.waterla.org/contact-us>

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## Email Truncated-for full version

**Press "SHOW FULL MESSAGE" AT END OF EMAIL**

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## From your home, tune-in to the Angeles Chapter's WATER COMMITTEE

If you are interested in water issues in California, & especially So. Calif.,  
we urge you to come or tune into the **WATER COMMITTEE** by  
phone. We have discussions within the committee and we, also, invite  
experts to speak to us.

**Monthly Water Comm. Programs:**

**Dec. 2013- LADWP, Titles and Presenters TBD**

The Water Comm. meets every month on the second Wed. at 7:00pm. If  
you can't make it in person then you can choose to tune-in from your  
home telephone or by video conferencing.

**The no charge phone conference line is available at  
[1-866-501-6174](tel:1-866-501-6174) Code: [1000 400 1892](tel:10004001892).**

**GoToMeeting video conferencing link (no  
charge):<https://www4.gotomeeting.com/join/124173903>**

**GoToMeeting app. (iPhone®, iPad® or Android®)**

**Meeting ID: [124-173-903](tel:124-173-903)**

**Any questions for the Water Committee contact Charming Evelyn. If  
you want to personally attend the Water Committee, contact Charming  
for location. [bcharmz@aol.com](mailto:bcharmz@aol.com)**

**Please pack your waste properly to prevent tipping or spilling of the waste during transportation**

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
SIERRA CLUB  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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Brauntton's Milk Vetch-Endangered Native  
*Astragalus braunttonii*

Endangered species in 1997, Federal: Grows in chaparral, valley grassland, coastal sage scrub, and closed-cone pine forest; endemic to Southern California, Ventura, SFV-Los Angeles, Orange Counties; mountains: Santa Monica, San Gabriel and Santa Ana and Simi Hills. Does not tolerate human-caused disturbances. It depends on extended dormancy and is fire adapted, requiring wildfire or other natural disturbances to thrive. A short-lived perennial with growth up to five feet. Brauntton's Milk-Vetch has rebounded at the SSFL since the 2005 wildfire. Threat: Human interference, loss of habitat (open space in carbonate, lime-containing soils.)

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## **BPA Regulatory Reform Moves Glacially Slow**

**Pregnant women should not wait to protect  
fetuses**

*By Sarah Mosko*

Mothers of infants and toddlers can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that BPA (bisphenol-A), an estrogen hormone-mimicking endocrine disruptor, was banned nationwide from baby bottles and sippy cups last year and from infant formula containers just months ago.

For decades, BPA has been a key component of both polycarbonate baby bottles & cups and the resin lining of most canned goods, including infant formula. BPA can migrate from the packaging into the contents. Literally hundreds of studies in lab animals and humans have linked BPA to such diverse medical problems as breast and prostate cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, miscarriage, low birth weight, reproductive and sexual dysfunction, and altered cognitive and behavioral development.

However, fetal exposure to BPA is far from a thing of the past, as pregnant women - and hence their fetuses - are still routinely exposed to BPA from canned foods & beverages and reusable plastic bottles, as well as thermal cash register receipts. Unfortunately, there seems little chance the federal government will step in any time soon to limit pregnant women's exposure, even though scientists who study the health effects of BPA say there is more than enough scientific evidence to warrant it.

Groups like BCF are urging the public, especially pregnant women, not to wait for industry or government to act, but to adopt practical habits to avoid unnecessary risk from BPA.

### **How to Protect Yourself**

Foremost is electing to eat meals made from fresh ingredients in lieu of canned foods. A 2011 [study](#) from BCF and Silent Spring Institute documented an average 60 percent drop in urinary BPA levels when typical American families avoided canned foods (and eating out) for just three days. But, when canned items are needed, reach for [brands](#) that claim to have already moved either away from BPA-containing can linings &/or to glass jars - Eden Organics, Amy's Kitchen and Annie's Homegrown, to name a few.



Also avoid eating or heating foods in plastics. Avoid especially those labeled with the plastic recycling code #7 which includes polycarbonate plastics. Some pliable PVC products (#3) also contain BPA. Use glass or stainless steel containers for storing foods.

Minimize contact with cash register receipts, and wash hands before eating to eliminate BPA residues.

Lastly, keep the pressure on mainstream food [companies](#) like Campbell's Soup, Heinz and Nestle which claim to be working toward eliminating BPA from all canned foods. The domino effect that will move industry and eventually government begins with the public.

Read the full story on link below:

<http://sarahmosko.wordpress.com/2013/11/15/bpa-regulatory-reform-moves-glacially-slow/>

[Other environmental articles by Sarah Mosko onBoogieGreen.com](#)

## Change Behavior For Ourselves & Our Environment

*By Michael Stevenson*

Recent polling data from Gallup indicate that over 70% of Americans believe that we need to more strongly enforce federal environmental regulations, set higher emission and pollution standards for cars, business and industry and impose mandatory controls on CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases. Yet at the same time our personal and societal behavior is what is primarily responsible for producing many harmful and possibly irreversible changes to our environment. For example, the U.S. represents just 4.6% of the world's population yet according to the [Statistical Review of World Energy](#) we use 25% of the world's fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). We also produce 30% of the world's CO2 emissions and discard as trash 2-3 times as much as the typical Western European.

What accounts for this disconnect between our beliefs about the importance of conserving and safeguarding the environment and our actual behavior? What makes it so hard for us to engage in sustainable behavior and satisfy our needs today, without diminishing the prospects for future generations to do the same?

Think of this problem in terms of two psychological concepts that help explain why we have difficulty changing our behavior. First there are often significant "barriers" that impede, restrict or prevent us from engaging in new more sustainable behaviors. These "barriers" may be internal such as apathy, a fear of change or a lack of knowledge or be external to us and be too inconvenient, too costly or too time consuming. Secondly there are usually "benefits" to continuing in our present more polluting activity.

To successfully change as individuals and as a society to more sustainable behaviors we must decrease barriers while increasing the benefits to these behaviors and at the same time decrease the benefits and increase the barriers to our old more polluting behaviors. For example people are more likely to use public transportation (a more sustainable behavior) than driving alone in their cars as the cost of operating their car increases and public transportation becomes more convenient. Understanding what prevents us from changing our more polluting ways to more sustainable behaviors will play a major role in transforming us to a more sustainable society.

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Sent out twice a month, it features the Club's latest news and activities.

Sierra Club-San Fernando Valley Group  
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