



**SIERRA CLUB San Fernando Valley**  
**Newsletter February 2014**

**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

**Learn About Conservation Tips AT OUR SF Valley Sierra Club WEBSITE:**

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvq/>

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

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## FUTURE PROGRAMS



**MARCH 18, 2014 TUES. 7:00pm**

**Sex and Mischief at the Los Angeles Zoo**

Muriel Horacek has been an Earthwatch volunteer on 35 Expeditions spanning six continents. You may remember her as our speaker last June covering many of these wonderful Earthwatch trips at our fund raising dinner. But she is also a Docent at the L.A. Zoo and this time will present "Sex and Mischief at the Los Angeles Zoo".

Come and learn about the very active program at our local zoo to save endangered species through a world-wide Species Survival Plan, i.e. a matchmaking plan for animals. It's a Family Tree listing every animal's address and their relatives. Come and learn about the various interesting animals and their offspring that Muriel has come to know.

[View or Print Newsletter Online](#)

## Join Us!



**L.A.'s coal-fired plant in Utah**



**Renewables such as solar In L.A.'s future**

The left hand pictures shows where much of our power comes from, which is from coal fired plants in Utah and Arizona. Notice the emissions coming from the smoke stack, which can only hurt our fantastic national parks in both those states. The right hand picture represents a cleaner future by going with solar instead.

## What Does a Beyond Coal Future Look Like?

**TUES., FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 7:00pm**

**(See address & directions at the top of this email.)**

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.*

**QUESTIONS CALL: Joe Phillips , 818 348-8884,  
[recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com)**

*There will be socializing and refreshments.*



**APRIL 15,  
2014 TUES 7:00pm**

## **Water LA: Urban Acupuncture for a Resilient Los Angeles**

Melanie Winter is the founder and director of The River Project, a non-profit dedicated to watershed-based planning in Los Angeles. She has been involved in water and land-use policy efforts for nearly two decades, securing hundreds of millions in funding for and bringing attention to the LA River.

Come and hear her talk: "Water LA: Urban Acupuncture for a Resilient Los Angeles". Los Angeles is in the midst of a drought while at the same time the San Fernando Groundwater Basin is only ten years away from being drained dry. What rain we do get is treated as a liability and sent speeding to the ocean. Our current approach to water and land are unsustainable. We can no longer hope to solve our water supply and water quality issues with major infrastructure fixes. Instead we need "Urban Acupuncture" - a property-by-property solution that works in partnership with nature's services to move LA towards 21st century climate resiliency. Come and learn how we can do this.

*There will be socializing and refreshments*



**MAY 20, 2014 TUES.**



## **Mormon Canyon**

### **Environmentally Disastrous Gated Community Given First City Green Light in Browns and Mormon Canyon Core Habitat, Santa Susana Mountains (Hidden Creeks Estates Project)**

*By Paul Edelman of Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA)*

Hidden Creeks Estates is a Texas-based company's proposed luxury housing development that, if built, would eliminate more than 186 acres of core habitat from the Los Angeles River watershed in unincorporated Chatsworth. The proposed gated community requires extending four-lane Mason Avenue three-quarters of a mile through a mountainside (at a depth an 18 story building) into the wildest part of the Santa Susana Mountains above Porter Ranch. The project would effectively extend urban development deep into Browns Canyon that anchors the 12,000 contiguous acres of public open space associated with Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch. The project proposes to sandwich 188 homes and a private equestrian center on a 150-acre landslide complex between the two premiere perennial streams on south-facing slope of the mountain range.

Stabilizing the site requires over 7 million cubic yards of grading (37,235 cy per house) and 3,000-foot-long by 350-foot-tall (35 story building height) fill slopes.

The down slope foundation of this grading is proposed on over nine acres of Porter Ranch Development Company-owned habitat mitigation land in Mormon Canyon. That landowner has never granted permission for such an incursion. The Final EIR and staff report make zero mention of this egregious breach of this decades-ago-required habitat mitigation. This riparian corridor must first be offered to the City of Los Angeles when Porter Ranch Development Company soon seeks to record one of the final tract maps of its 1,500-plus-acre 1980's approved project. It is imperative that public outcry prevent the City from granting permission to the Hidden Creeks project to conduct mass grading and drainage work on this future Department of Recreation and Parks open space that harbors an existing phenomenal trail and shaded perennial stream. Such an act would violate the public trust and interest at a magnitude never seen before.

Unfortunately, the project is plowing through the City approval process cloaked with a turnkey, active public park with ball fields. Besides the usual "we must sacrifice this expendable piece of the mountains for short term job growth pitches," the applicant's outreach espouses fire protection for existing Porter Ranch residents by locating the Hidden Creeks community as a sacrificial island of new development that would burn first. The local equestrian community is unanimously against the project. Nineteen local biology professors have signed a letter saying the project would result in unavoidable significant adverse ecological impacts to the Santa Susana Mountains ecosystem.

Environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, SFV Audubon Society, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and other conservation groups are opposed to this development.

In November the Citywide Los Angeles Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend certifying the Final EIR and approving the project to the City Council. The Final EIR reenters the pre-California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) dark ages by concluding that 7 million cubic yards grading, extending a four-lane road three-quarters of a mile into core habitat, and eliminating over 400 native trees is a mitigatable biological impact. The Conservancy, the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, and at least 19 PhD biologists are on record in strong disagreement. The Final EIR contends that the whole 150-acre landslide has to be excavated 100-feet-deep and put back in place in order to develop the site. The Texas developer full well knew that when they bought the land, which now happens to be zoned for just 33 homes.

The environmental documentation for the Hidden Creeks Estates Project (ENV-2005-6657-EIR) is unforgivably flawed. How can grading more than 150 acres of the Santa Susana Mountains and Upper Los Angeles River watershed not be considered a significant impact?

The next step is a hearing in early 2014 before the City's Deputy Advisory Agency (DAA) to consider

7:00pm

## Let's Not Frack Our Valley

Dr. Tom Williams is a Sierra Club Life Member and the Co-Chair of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Fracking-Oil and Gas Committee. He has a doctorate in Geology and Zoology and worked for 30+ years as an Environmental Specialist, Geologist and Engineer with Parsons (Pasadena) and URS Corporation. He also worked for 10+ years for the Dubai-UAE Government. In the 1970's he was Conservation Chair for the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Come and hear his talk "Let's Not Frack Our Valley". Around the world hydraulic fracturing or fracking is changing the entire oil and gas industry as a method to produce gas and oil for us to burn. Come and learn about the history and the FUTURE of fracking, what it is and how it works. Most importantly learn what the environmental, health and seismic effects of fracking are and will be and what actions Sierra Club members must take to mitigate its effects and to help those in the Valley and the State Legislature. There will be Q & As, socializing and refreshments.



## Italian Dinner & Program

**June 17, 2014  
Tues., 6:30 pm**

**At Prince of Peace  
Episcopal Church  
5700 Rudnick Ave.,  
Woodland Hills,  
CA91367**

**THE PROGRAM IS:  
Down Under:  
Seeing Australia From  
An Environmentalist's**

approval of the tract map (with grading dependent on Porter Ranch biological mitigation land). Given the clear, bright green light on the project from the City staff and Planning Commission, it is safe to say that Conservancy will be appealing a DAA tract map approval back to a hearing of the Citywide Planning Commission some time in 2014. Unless the Planning Commission reverses its unanimous support for the project, the next hearing would be before the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee of the City Council. Because the project is an actual annexation from the County into the City, a final City Council vote is necessary.

There really could not be an ecologically worse or Planning 101 worse project than Hidden Creek Estates. Why the Citywide Planning Commission and Councilmember Mitch Englander think a gated 188-home community in the hydrological and ecological sweet spot of the southern Santa Susana Mountains is worth ruining the experience of 12,000 acres (costing millions of public dollars) making up the Antonovich Regional Park open space is beyond our comprehension.

links to area maps #1 & #2

map #1 link [http://www.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment3683\\_Map%201.pdf](http://www.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment3683_Map%201.pdf)

map #2 link [http://www.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment3683\\_Map%202.pdf](http://www.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment3683_Map%202.pdf)



## COYOTE LOVE

*By photo & article by Carla Bollinger, SSMPA*

Human beings have moved further into animal habitats causing the loss of many populations. Not so for coyote. Coyotes not only survive human's invasion, often they thrive. Southwestern-Western Native Americans revered coyote; many legends refer to them as "tricksters" and shaman because they are smart, use their wiles to survive: wandering, hunting, thinking and outsmarting their prey. Coyotes even watch for traffic, looking both ways at roadsides, to avoid getting hit.

Coyotes can run 40 miles per hour and jump 8 to 10 foot barriers/fences. They often travel in packs and will call large dogs out, surround the dog, then attack. We need to respect this intelligent animal. Here are precautionary things to do:

- Close garbage lids.
- Do not leave pet food out.
- Keep kittens/cats and small dogs inside the house unless you are outside to watch them. Keeping kittens/cats inside also protects birds; one to three billion wild birds are killed by cats in the United States each year.
- Keep your dog on a leash when walking in the open space areas; coyotes will work in packs to lure a dog away from the owner.
- Bring a whistle and walking stick to intimidate the coyote when walking.
- Do not leave small children unattended outside in areas known for coyote sightings. Coyotes are aggressive and will attack when an opportunity exists.
- Do not bait coyotes or other wild animals (they are not pets.)

Why should we like and even revere coyotes? They keep the small critter population down: rodents, rabbits, squirrels, and even reptiles. Coyotes are important in keeping this balance of nature.

For all of humans' fear of the coyote, pit bulls cause more maiming and horrible deaths to humans and other pets than coyotes. And sadly, daily newspaper reports numbers of humans killing and

## Perspective

Michael Stevenson, a long time Sierra Club member and the Program Chair for the San Fernando Valley Sierra Club Group will present: "Down Under:

Seeing Australia From An Environmentalist's Perspective". Come and learn about the original Australian's, the Aboriginal people who were thought to have arrived on the continent during the last Ice Age, at least 50,000 years ago. See Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock), a site sacred to the Aboriginal owners.

See and learn about the diverse range of habitats from semi-arid to tropical rainforests and the unique animals that occupy these places (more than 80% of these plants and animals are unique to Australia). See the spectacular southern sea coast off Melbourne. Visit the Great Barrier Reef, the largest structure on Earth built by living organisms. And finally learn about how "Climate Change" is effecting Australia and what they are going to have to do about it. Come and support the Sierra Club, get something to eat or as they say in Australia "Grab A Feed" and learn about one of the most interesting places on earth.

**Make your reservations by sending \$25.00 payable to San Fernando Valley Sierra Club, mailed To Belen Katzen, 9543 Rudnick Ave Chatsworth, CA. 91311. 818-341-8304, barkat@rocketmail.com**  
**Include a phone number & address or email.**  
**Upon receipt of your check, a confirmation notice will immediately be mailed or emailed**

maining other humans; all too often children are the victim. Yet, when there is a rare report of a coyote attack, there is a knee-jerk reaction to hunt and shoot coyotes. **We need to respect the coyote and all wildlife. There should be a moratorium on urban sprawl into wildlife corridors to protect and maintain a healthy eco-system for humans and animals to survive in the present and future.**

Coyotes are part of our western culture. Their howl is a lonesome sound that makes our heart ache ... a song of the desert and mountains.

**If you are interested in Coyotes you might want to attend the following:**

**Monday, February 17, 2014 [Coyotes Amongst Us](#)**

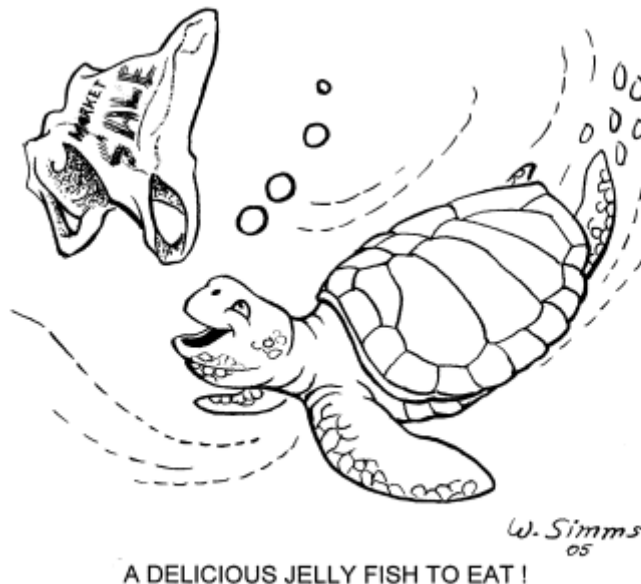
Santa Susana Mountain Park Assn. presents

Presenter: Mike Kuhn, Executive Chair Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

*Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311*

*(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)*

Mike Kuhn, an avid hiker for decades, often hiking in the evening hours, will present his knowledge and personal observations about the resourceful coyotes. He notes that: "Despite the fact that coyotes have faced more lethal force than any other predator, they have been highly successful and have rapidly expanded their range. They have become denizens in our cities." Mike will present technical data on results of radio-collared studies. He will cover his personal encounters to illustrate coyote society, and causes of their death in our area, diet, predation on cats and dogs, and attacks on humans.



*"A floating plastic bag resembles a jellyfish, which might explain why plastic bags are found clogging the digestive tracks of dead sea turtles and marine mammals like whales and dolphins. "*

## Plastic Carryout Bags Are Now Banned In L.A. City

*By Sarah Mosko, Phd*

The "City of Angels" just joined a growing web of dozens of California jurisdictions banning single-use, plastic carry-out bags. As of January 1, 2014, retailers began dispensing only paper bags and are charging a fee of 10 cents per bag to encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags.

In May of 2012, the L.A. City Council cast a near unanimous vote to ban the flimsy "T-shirt" style carry-out bags and to phase in a 10-cent fee on paper bags. An earlier proposal also included a ban on paper bags, but the council decided instead to consider after two years whether a ban on paper was needed depending on whether enough people had switched to reusable bags, the real goal of the plastic ban. The ban will not include the plastic bags used for fresh produce or meats.

The L.A. Bureau of Sanitation estimates that the city uses 2.3 billion plastic bags and 400 million paper bags a year and that the bag recycling rate is only 5% for plastic and 21% for paper. The rest end up in landfills or, worse still, as litter.

In March, L.A. County's 2010 ordinance banning plastic bags and placing a 10-cent fee on paper bags was upheld in Superior Court. A California Supreme Court decision in July 2011 eased the way for local plastic bag bans by ruling that the City of Manhattan Beach, because it is a small community, did not have to complete an environmental impact report (EIR) about disposable paper bags before barring retailers from dispensing plastic ones. EIRs are costly, and the plastic bag industry has used them to block municipalities from enacting a local bag ban by suing when a report has not been completed. Among ban supporters, hopes are high that the ban in L.A., the state's

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

largest city, will tilt the scales toward a statewide ban.

A bill proposing a statewide ban failed in 2010, even though it was supported by the California Grocers Association on the basis that the patchwork, city-by-city bans create confusion for both retailers and shoppers (AB 1998). If California had passed a ban, it would have been the first of its kind in the nation.

Plastic bag litter is not only an eyesore on land but also fouls waterways and kills marine animals who mistake the bags for food. A floating plastic bag resembles a jellyfish, which might explain why plastic bags are found clogging the digestive tracks of dead sea turtles and marine mammals like whales and dolphins. Plastic bags are a significant source of ocean pollution because they are made from natural gas, a non-renewable resource, and do not biodegrade. They fragment over time into bits of plastic thought to persist in the ocean environment beyond any meaningful human timescale.

The Long Beach-based Algalita Marine Research Foundation has measured the buildup up of plastic debris in an area of the Pacific twice the size of Texas and dubbed the "Pacific Garbage Patch" which, in 1999, already contained six times more plastic than zooplankton. Analysis of ocean samples collected a decade later indicates that the ratio of plastic to plankton has risen six-fold.

Even here right off the coast of southern California, Algalita has found plastic debris at all ocean depths in amounts sometimes twice that of zooplankton. California should join the 40 nations of the world that have already banned them.

**Other environmental articles by Sarah Mosko on [BoogieGreen.com](#)**

## 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.

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.

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

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

**Meeting ID: 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)

## It is dangerous to throw compact flourescent lights in the garbage. You can recycle the lights at HOME DEPOT

### 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**

## SEE BELOW FOR HIKES & BEAUTIFUL PICTURES

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
SIERRA CLUB  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**Chair/Rep to Executive  
Committee**

Barry Katzen  
818 341-8304

[barkat@rocketmail.com](mailto:barkat@rocketmail.com)

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**Cartoonist**

The Late Willis Simms

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# HIKE SECTION



**Sierra Club Santa Monica Mountains Taskforce (SMMTF) is largely responsible for many of the major trails in the Santa Monica Mountains.**

**Mary Ann & Ron Webster are founding members of the SMMTF. When hiking on the Musch Trail in Topanga Canyon (and many other trails) you can thank them and their trail crews.**

**The SMMTF website is below:**

**The website is: <http://smmtf.org/>**

**To see the trail crew dates & Tues. hikes choose "Calendar"**

The Trail Crew of the SMMTF still maintains a strong program of building and maintaining trails that support recreational use throughout the Santa Monicas and in adjacent parkland. They have a need for volunteers. Use the graphic below to sign up.



**<http://smmtf.org/volunteer.php>**

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**SEE MORE PICTURES IN HIKE SECTION  
BELOW**





## WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

COME TO OUR PROGRAMS AND PICK UP OUR SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES through JUNE 2014. The schedules have programs and hikes in the San Fernando Valley area.)

See programs and hikes thru JUNE 2014 from our San Fernando Valley Sierra Club website. Use this link below to start:  
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/>

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### CALLING ALL HIKE LEADERS OR TRAINEES FOR SATURDAY OR SUNDAY HIKES

Help people who work to get exercise  
and learn about nature.

Call or Email Outings Chair

Joe Phillips 818 348-8884 [recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:recreationbyjoe@yahoo.com)

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## SATURDAY & SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, April 26, 11 am Sierra Singles, SFV**

**O: Pasadena Doh Dah Parade:**

Join us for this fun activity. We'll meet downtown Union Station where we'll catch the subway to Pasadena then journey to the parade route to watch this wacky parade known as the twisted sister of the traditional Rose Parade. The Doo Dah began as a grassroots event in 1978 to gain national attention for its eccentric and, often, irreverent satire. The parade, which has spawned numerous off-beat replicants across the country, was named by Readers Digest as America's Best Parade, and was recently featured in the book 50 Places You Must Visit Before You Die! Bring an easy chair or not, money for subway, and lunch back downtown. Meet 10:15am Union Station information booth Leader: Sandra Tapia 818.365.4571, co-leader Gerrie Montooth.

# SUNDAY ACTIVITIES



**Sun., Feb. 23, 2014 Sepulveda Basin hike**  
*See write-up in Sunday activities below:*  
**Photo by Sierra Club Member Gayle Dufour**

## **Experience A Tour of the Red Line Metro Stations February 2, 2014**

**(This is a private outing.)**

San Fernando Valley/International. On this docent-led walking tour we intend to visit a number of Red Line Metro Stations. This is a rare opportunity to see these stations, which are decorated with the artwork on some 300 commissioned artists. On the tour the docent will give insights into the art, as well as the artists who created it. The tour takes about 2 hours and is free of charge. After the tour we will all receive a courtesy pass to ride for the entire day on the different Metro lines: the Orange, Red, Gold, Blue, and Green. After the tour, we can choose between spending time walking on Hollywood Boulevard, visiting Olvera Street, or shopping at the Grand Central Market. Please note that we'll take public transportation from the San Fernando Valley to meet the docent. Children and families welcome. For more information, call or email Gabe Sende at (818) 999-5384 or gabsende@yahoo.com.

## **Sepulveda Basin Beginners Walk Sunday, February 23, 2014**

O: Sierra Single/SFV 4.5 to 5.5 mi rt, at slow to moderate pace on walking trail. Newcomers welcome. Learn about the many activities this urban recreational area and restored natural habitat has to offer; fishing lake, bird watching, native plant garden, golf courses and a few other surprising elements. Join leaders after walk for optional late breakfast or early lunch at Monterey at Encino restaurant. Meet 9am parking lot in front of the Encino golf course Restaurant Monterey @ Encino (16821 Burbank Blvd, Encino) by the landmark Encino Glen sign. Bring good walking shoes, water, hat, and money. Poodles permitted(hypoallergenic). Rain or extreme Heat (+90) cancels. Ldr: Sandra Tapia. Co-Ldr: Gerrie Montooth

## **West Hollywood Sunday, Mar 9, 2014**

Sierra Single/SFV Join us on a 4.5 to 5 mile walk that is mainly flat with a bump or two. We'll see 2 small intimate parks, some old courtyards; go in elite areas where the window shopping is too expensive, we'll see a land locked blue whale, along with a few other surprises. Meet 9:30am at the corner of La Cienega & Santa Monica. The real adventurous can join me at the N. Hollywood subway station where we'll get off on S/M for a bus ride to La Cienega. Bring water, money for rides, optional lunch, and dress appropriately. Rain cancels. Please call leader for meeting time if being adventurous. Leader: Sandra Tapia 818.365.4571. Co-Leader: Elaine Ayala

## **Griffith Park Walk: Sunday April 6, 2014**

O: Sierra Single/SFV Join us for a morning walk. We meet at 9:50 am at the corner of Vermont and Sunset to catch the 10 am GP Dash (\$), which drops us off right in front of the Observatory. We'll climb a mountain (600ft), 3 - 4 miles rt, where we'll have several beautiful city views weather permitting, at the top of the mountain we'll enjoy our snacks. After we'll descend the mountain we'll go to the Observatory for a light lunch (optional) at their small café or pack your own. After we finish we'll head back to our starting point via Dash. Wear appropriate attire, bring water, snacks, lunch \$ (optional), and Dash fare. Rain within two days cancels or extreme heat +90 degrees. Please call leader for confirmation. Leader: Sandra Tapia 818.365.4571, Co-leader: Elaine Ayala

## **Orcutt Ranch Sunday, May 25th**

O: Sierra Singles/SFV Orcutt Ranch Picnic: Join us for a picnic to start the summer. We'll meet at The historic Orcutt Ranch. We'll enjoy our lunch, bring something to share, than take a docent lead tour (permitting). The historic Orcutt Residence is surrounded by 24-acres of gardens and a citrus orchard. The gardens include heritage oaks trees, wandering garden paths, formal flower beds, and a variety of interesting specimen trees, exotic shrubs, and flowering plants. There are several significant oak trees on the property; one of the largest is more that 33' in circumference and is estimated to be more than 700 years old. This stand of oaks was commemorated with a plaque on October 2, 1948, by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society. Meet at 11:30 am at the ranch located 23600 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills, 91304. Lunch, drink and item to share. Rain cancels. Leader: Sandra Tapia 818.365.4571, co-leader Gerrie Montooth.

# **MON & TUES HIKES & ACTIVITIES**

## *Monday*



**If you are interested in Coyotes,**

you might want to attend the following:  
Santa Monica Mountain Park Assn.

### **Monday, February 17, 2014 Coyotes Amongst Us**

Presenter: Mike Kuhn, Executive Chair Rancho Simi Trail Blazers  
Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)

Mike Kuhn, an avid hiker for decades, often hiking in the evening hours, will present his knowledge and personal observations about the resourceful coyotes. He notes that: "Despite the fact that coyotes have faced more lethal force than any other predator, they have been highly successful and have rapidly expanded their range. They have become denizens in our cities." Mike will present technical data on results of radio-collared studies. He will cover his personal encounters to illustrate coyote society, and causes of their death in our area, diet, predation on cats and dogs, and attacks on humans.

## *Tuesday*

***Moderate Easy Paced 4-6 Mile.***

**For all hikes, bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen.  
RAIN CANCELS. Possible \$3-\$9 park fee**

Hike Leaders phone #

**Nancy Krupa (818)981-4799, Pixie Klemic (818)787-5420, M. Vernallis(818)360-4414, , Marcia Harris.310-828-6670,**

**Charlotte Feitshans (818)818-501-1225, Peter Ireland 310-457-9783 (w)**

**Sandra Tapia 818.365-4571, Rosemary Campbell (818)344-6869,**

**Doug Demers( 805)419-4094, Richard Pardi (818)346-6257.**

**Dotty Sanford 805-532-2485, Rita Okowitz 818-889-9924,**

**Virve Leps 310-477-9664. Reaven Gately (661)255-8873,**

**Mimi Knights (661)253-3414, Ted Mattock (818)222-5581,**

**Joe Phillips 818 348-8884, Stephen Beck 818-346-5759**

Hikes sponsored by Wilderness Adventures  
These hikes are included as a courtesy.



**Tues, Feb. 4, 2014 Newton Canyon hike**  
*See write-up in Tues. activities below:*  
**Photo by Sierra Club Member Gayle Dufour**

### **February 4, 2014 Newton Canyon (W) / Backbone Trail:**

O:(WA) Moderately paced 5 mile, 800' gain, hike into Zuma Canyon on a scenic trail through oak woodlands and chaparral. Meet 8:30 AM Newton Canyon Trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd exit, go south on Kanan Rd appx. 8 mi. to paved trailhead parking area on west side just north of Tunnel 1 (3rd tunnel from 101 about 1¾ miles past Mulholland Hwy; 4 ½ mi. north of PCH). Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.  
Leader: RITA OKOWITZ Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC

### **February 11 De Anza Park to Liberty Canyon:**

O:(WA) Moderately paced 6 mile, 800' gain. The trail follows Las Virgenes Creek to the Talapop Trail overlooking Liberty Canyon to see an old adobe in Malibu Creek State Park. Lots of trees, views of the mountains and interesting plants. Meet 8:30 AM at De Anza Park, Calabasas. Exit 101 Fwy at Lost Hills Rd., turn south. (Left if coming from the Valley) Proceed 1 mile to parking lot on the right in De Anza Park. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.  
Leader: CHARLOTTE FEITSHANS Asst: DOTTY SANDFORD

### **February 18 Calabasas Peak:**

O:(WA) Moderately paced 4 mile hike with 950' elevation gain to the top for great multi- Valley views at one of the highest peaks in the Santa Monica Mtns. Wonderful rock formations and flowers; waterfalls after rains, too! Meet 8:30 AM at Stunt Road trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Valley Circle/Mulholland Dr exit south, turn right on Valmar Rd (becomes Old Topanga Cyn Rd), right on Mulholland Hwy for 3½ miles, left on Stunt Rd for 1 mile, park on dirt shoulder on right. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.  
Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: RITA OKOWITZ

### **February 25 Caballero Canyon and Bent Arrow Trail:**

O:(WA) Moderately paced 5 mile loop hike with 900'elevation gain up a typical SM Mtn canyon onto old dirt Mulholland, then briefly into Topanga State Park. Chaparral and valley views. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Caballero trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd exit, turn south and go 2 miles, street parking. Trailhead is on east side across from Braemar Country Club entrance. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.  
Leader: MARCIA HARRIS Asst: STEPHEN BECK

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# THURSDAY HIKES & ACTIVITIES

Hike Leaders phone #

Nancy Krupa (818)981-4799, Pixie Klemic (818)787-5420, M. Vernallis(818)360-4414,, Marcia Harris.310-828-6670,  
Charlotte Feitshans (818)818-501-1225, Peter Ireland 310-457-9783 (w)  
Sandra Tapia 818.365-4571, Rosemary Campbell (818)344-6869,  
Doug Demers( 805)419-4094, Richard Pardi (818)346-6257.  
Dotty Sanford 805-532-2485, Rita Okowitz 818-889-9924,  
Virve Leps 310-477-9664. Reaven Gately (661)255-8873,  
Mimi Knights (661)253-3414, Ted Mattock (818)222-5581,  
Joe Phillips 818 348-8884, Stephen Beck 818-346-5759



**Thurs., Feb. 20, 2014 Chumash Trail to Fossils**

*See write-up in Thurs. activities below:*

**Photo by Sierra Club hike leader Pixie Klemic**

***Thurs Moderate Paced***

**For all hikes, bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen.**

**RAIN CANCELS. Possible \$3-\$9 park fee**

Hikes sponsored by Wilderness Adventures  
These hikes are included as a courtesy.

## **Feb 6 Caballero Canyon to Eagle Rock:**

**O:** Moderately paced 8 - 10 mile hike in northern Topanga State Park. Meet 8:30 AM at Caballero trailhead in Tarzana (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd, exit 23, go south 2 miles to east side across from Braemar Country Club entrance). Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Leader: REAVEN GATELY Asst: NANCY KRUPA

## **Feb 13 Exploratory of newer trails, Santa Clarita area:**

**O:** Moderately paced series of short trails from two nearby trailheads off Placerita Cyn Rd. Three Golden Valley trails heading North total 5.4 mi and three East Walker Ranch Trails to the South of the road total 3.6 mi, giving a total of 9 mi in these rolling hills. Meet 8:30 am at the Golden Valley parking area. From the #14 freeway, exit at Placerita Cyn, turn R to go East for 3.5 mi to the marked Golden Valley parking area on the North side of the road. Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: ROSEMARY CAMPBELL, MARGARET VERNALLIS

## **Feb 20 Chumash Trail to Fossils:**

**O:** Moderately paced 8 (optional 10) mile 1500' gain hike in rolling hills of Santa Susana Mtns. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead. From 118 Fwy take Yosemite Ave, exit 29, north 0.4 mile, turn right on Flanagan Dr, continue 0.8 mile to end and park. Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Leader: REAVEN GATELY Asst: NANCY KRUPA

## Feb 27 Towsley Cyn, Santa Clarita Woodlands:

**O:** Moderately paced 7 mile 1350' gain (optional 5 mile 1050' gain) hike with great vistas, a chilly narrows, diverse plant life and tar seeps. Meet 8:30AM at Ed Davis Park in Santa Susana Mtns. Take Calgrove Blvd, exit 166, from Interstate 5, turn west under the freeway and take the Old Road south ½ mile to Ed Davis Park on right, drive past Santa Clarita rideshare parking area outside entrance, go through gate and park in large dirt parking area 100 yds beyond the gate. Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Leaders: MIMI KNIGHTS Asst: NORM STABEC



**Thurs., Feb. 27, 2014 Towsley Canyon**

*See write-up in activities above:*

**Photo by Sierra Club hike leader Pixie Klemic**

## King Gillette Ranch



**King Gillette Ranch**

*See write-up on activities below*

**Photo by Sierra Club hike leader Pixie Klemic**

## **King Gillette Ranch Directions & Info.**

From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes Rd/Malibu Canyon exit, go south approx. 3.5 miles to Mulholland Hwy. Turn left on Mulholland and then right to enter the long eucalyptus alleé driveway for Ranch.

## **Parking**

Visit the King Gillette Ranch Visitor Center & Store Free Parking for 2 hours  
Other Ranch parking is \$7.00. (There is an iron ranger at the parking lot entrance where visitors can pick up an envelope and make their payments.) All programs and activities are free unless stated on the event write-up.

## **Allow time to visit the Visitor Center and Store then take a hike.**

The visitor center is a very enjoyable experience with many hands on exhibits regarding the Santa Monica Mountains. There is, also, a fun short hike up a hill with great views in all directions. The photo above was taken from this hill.

## **King Gillette Interpretive Programs & Misc**

### **Western National Parks Assn. events at King Gillette Ranch**

#### **Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center & Store**

26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302 Open 9 – 5 Daily

Event Info/Reservations: 805-370-2302 General Info: 805-370-2301

Questions for these events below contact Sophia Wong, Store & Events Manager

Western National Parks Association

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

King Gillette Ranch

26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas CA 91302

805-370-2302 direct/ 805-370-2301 general, 818-880-6550 fax

[samo@wnpa.org](mailto:samo@wnpa.org), [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

### **Below are the Western National Parks Assn./National Park Service events at King Gillette Ranch**

#### **Lecture Series - Three Magical Miles Sat, Feb 8, 10 am & 2pm**

Find out how Frankenstein, racing cars, Elvis Presley, and a 1915 post office are all related. Brian Rooney, author of the best-selling local history book, "Three Magical Miles" presents a dynamic program about the fascinating history of the area encompassing Malibu Lake, Calabasas, Malibu Creek State Park, the Malibu Mountains, Agoura & Agoura Hills. Book signing follows. Limited seating - first come, first served for each program. 1.5 hours. Meet inside the Visitor Center.

#### **Outdoor Skills Workshop - Survival Skills: Firemaking, Edibles, Shelters Sat, Feb 22 9:30 am - 12 noon**

Learn and practice the Survival 4 Priorities focusing on fire-making, wild edibles, and survival shelters with well-known outdoor skills instructor and naturalist Rob Remedi. We'll also cover pre-outing preparedness, 10 essentials, and the "Do's and Don'ts" of the outdoors. Great for adults and children age 9+. Free program. Reservations required. Meet inside the Visitor Center.

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## **King-Gillette Interpretive Programs & Misc**

### **Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) events at King-Gillette Park sponsors the events below:**

These programs below are a project of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in cooperation with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California State Parks, and National Park Service. Come visit their visitor center at King Gillette Ranch.

If you have questions on these programs below call: (818) 878-0866 x228 RAIN CANCELS \$7.00 parking  
26800 Mulholland Hwy. Calabasas, CA 91302

**Sat, February 1, 2014 at 3pm**  
**Livin' in the Sticks**

Meet the Dusky-footed Woodrat on his own turf. Go on a tour of the neighborhood where they build elaborate nests that are both a home and a time capsule. 1 mile walk. Meet at parking lot to the left of the pond. 2 hours.

**Sat, February 8th at 2pm**  
**Capture a Nature Moment**

Nature offers the best photo opportunities, but can be a difficult model. Learn the tricks of nature photography on an easy walk. Bring your camera. Meet at Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center. 2 hours.

**Sun, February 9th at 10am**  
**Innovation in the Golden Era**

King Gillette Ranch was home to early MGM Director Clarence Brown, who made films and threw star-studded parties. Take a story-filled walk through this still active filming location. Meet at parking lot to left of pond. 1.5 hours.

**Sat, February 22nd at 2pm**  
**Walk into the Chumash World**

Discover how local Chumash Indians have used the natural resources of their environment for thousands of years to create a sustainable way of life. 1 mile walk. Meet at parking lot to left of pond. 2hours.

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