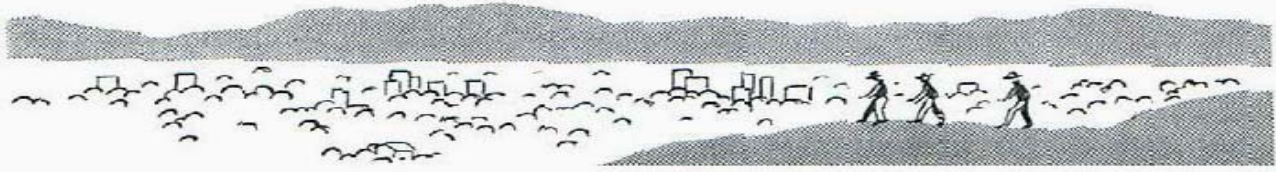




VALL-E-VENTS



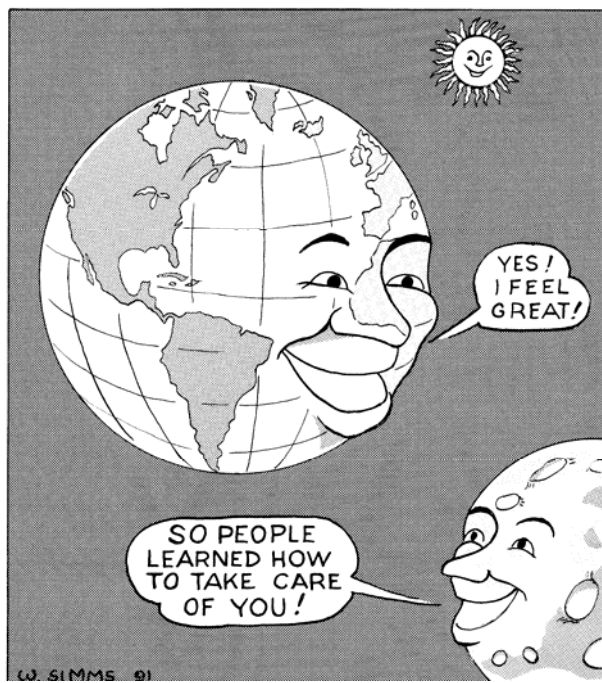
**A Supplement to the January 2012 Southern Sierran
By the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, San Fernando Valley Group
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv>**

Tuesday

January 17, 2012

Presents: Gregory J. Schwartz

Cartoon by Willis Simms



5 Ways to Save the Planet (in your spare time)

Gregory J. Schwartz, a long time Sierra Club member and Cultural Geography Professor at Cal State Northridge, will present "5 Ways to Save the Planet (in your spare time)." The solutions to the globe's biggest problems already exist, so why haven't we enacted them? This galvanizing talk, based on his book, is packed with travel photos and illuminating stories from around the world. He will explain the 5 shifts in beliefs and 5 simple actions that will create global-scale results and allow change to occur.

There will be socializing & refreshments

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SIERRA CLUB GROUP

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.

Tuesday

February 21, 2012



Presents Ed Rosenthal in

LOST

Ed Rosenthal, an avid hiker and long time Sierra Club member, presents "Lost." When hiking alone in the desert on a trail he had hiked many times before, due to his admitted extreme overconfidence and conceit, he took an uncharacteristic risk for him. He attempted a short cut to get back to where he started. He became lost and using all his mental and physical resources found a place 15 miles from his original trail that was protected from heat and cold. He survived here alone without food or water for a week. He was rescued only through a concerted effort of certain parties on the Search and Rescue Team who moved the search around out of the original area and towards where he was eventually found. Come and learn about this amazing cautionary hiking story and the perseverance of the human spirit.

There will be socializing & refreshments

Inside: 

- SFV-SC Group Programs p.1-2**
- Management Committee p. 3**
- Meat Loves Climate Change Guide p.3**
- Desertification p.3**
- LA's Sewage Recycling Program p.4**
- LA Natural Park p.4**
- Newhall Ranch Development p.5**
- Hypermiling for Gas Savings p.5**
- Keystone XL Pipeline Victory p.6**
- Hikes & Outings p.6-8**

Future Programs

Reseda Park Rec.Hall, see page 1 for address



March 20, 2012

Arches & Canyonlands

Come to hear Mike Sappingfield, an outing leader since 1995, Sierra Sage Outings Chair, past Chapter Chair and avid photographer speak about "Arches and Canyonlands." The Arches and Canyonlands are the lesser known and visited of the ABC&Z of Southern Utah (Arches, Bryce, Canyonlands and Zion). Arches is known for it's over 2000 arch formations and Canyonlands contains the junction of the Colorado and Green Rivers with majestic canyon overlooks, mesas, and arches. Come & learn about the geology of arches."



April 17, 2012 Backpacking 101

Katie Heineman, Store Manager of Adventure 16 in Tarzana will present "Backpacking 101." Come and learn the essentials of backcountry life and travel including how to pack your backpack, what gear to bring and tips on how to pack light. A slideshow of favorite back-packing locations will inspire you to get out there. A backcountry cooking demo with taste-testing will show you how delicious freeze-dried meals can be.

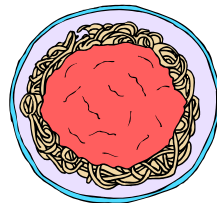


May 15, 2012

Growing A Greener City

Torin Dunnivant, the Community Engagement Manager for TreePeople will present "Growing a Greener City." This environmental non-profit organization works to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment. His presentation will cover TreePeople's history and programs, the environmental needs of Los Angeles and some sustainable changes that we can all make at home.

Delicious Italian Dinner & *Galapagos Islands Program*



JUNE 19, 2012
Tues., 6:30 pm

At Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

**5700 Rudnick Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91367**

Come to hear an exciting and stimulating program and join us for a delicious Italian dinner.

Galapagos Islands program:

David Eisenberg, Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities Editor will present a talk on his National Geographic Expedition to the Galapagos Islands. Come and see this fascinating and rare wonderland where animals have no instinctive fear of humans. His slide show will provide a close up and personal view of many animals including flightless cormorants, marine iguanas and domed giant tortoises. These islands helped inspire the development of Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection presented in "The Origin of Species" that explained how evolution worked.

PAYMENT DETAILS;

Send \$25.00 payable to
San Fernando Valley Sierra Club, mailed
to Julie Szende, 6501 Penfield Ave
Woodland Hills, CA. 91367
818-999-5384, julieszende@gmail.com.
Please include a phone number.

Upon receipt of your check, a confirmation notice will immediately be mailed to you.

Learn About Conservation Tips AT OUR

SF Valley Sierra Club WEBSITE:

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

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. We, also, need volunteers for our Italian Dinner & Program.

Call Elaine Trogman (818) 780-8345

San Fern Valley Management Committee

Chair/Rep to Executive Committee Barry Katzen
818 341-8304 barkat@rocketmail.com

Vice-Chair...Anita Devore 818 705-2301

Treasurer...Gabe Szende 818-999-5384

Outing Chair Gabe Szende 818-999-5384
russianstore@earthlink.net

Secretary...Melba Simms (818) 348-3622

Programs...Michael Stevenson
drmsteve@aol.com 818-419-5318

Co-membership Chair:

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Cartoonist-The Late Willis Simms

Val-E-Vents is a publication provided to inform of local events and to increase awareness of environmental issues. Materials to be considered for submission are welcome and must be received at least two months prior to issue date.

Submit material to: ektrogman@yahoo.com

Or San Fernando Valley Group, c/o (please specify)

U.N. HAD A CONFERENCE ON COMBATING "DESERTIFICATION"

By E. Trogman "The people who live in the arid lands, which occupy more than 40 per cent of our planet's land area, are among the world's poorest and most vulnerable to hunger," United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "Frequently, they depend on land that is degraded and where productivity has shrunk to below subsistence levels." **The aim is to reverse increasing loss of productive lands in the world's dry regions. More than 12 million hectares of productive land are lost to desertification every year.**

Some people think that "desertification" means productive lands evolving into desolate patches of sand. It actually means the reduced ability to grow crops or raise livestock in "drylands", which are arid, semi-arid or dry sub-humid areas. These places are home to 2.3 billion people in nearly 100 countries.

(Information from United Nations website)



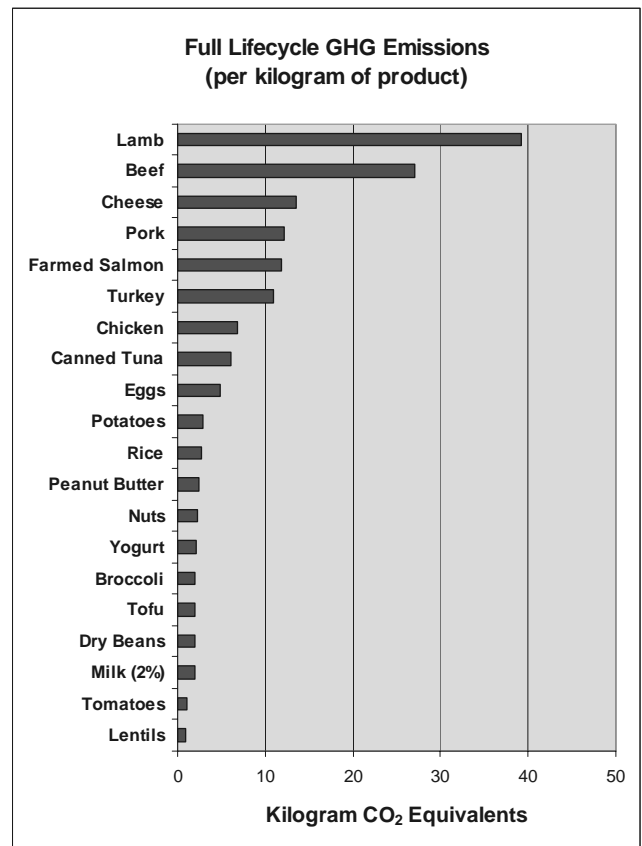
Meat Lovers Guide to a Friendlier Climate-Change Diet

By Sarah Mosko, PHD

Visit www.BoogieGreen.com to read the full article

Choosing chicken, turkey & canned tuna over lamb, beef & cheese reduces global warming gases.

The chart below shows the full lifecycle analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The worst culprits are lamb, beef and cheese, while the least ones are tofu, beans, lentils, nuts, milk 2%, and vegetables.



A study just released by the non-profit organization Environmental Working Group (EWG) and titled "Meat Eater's Guide to Climate Change + Health" reveals that by avoiding just the three worst GHG offenders – lamb, beef and cheese – even hardcore meat eaters can make a sizable dent in their diet's climate change footprint.

However, the EWG report points out a sobering fact, that individual actions like eating less meat will not suffice to stop global warming. If all Americans converted to a vegetarian diet for example, the country's GHG emissions would be reduced by less than five percent. EWG stresses that achieving the necessary cuts in GHG emissions will require bold political actions which trigger comprehensive shifts in national energy policy and put the nation on a resolute path to green energy.

LA's Sewage Recycling Program Garners Awards and Fierce Criticism

By Sarah Mosko, PHD

Visit www.BoogieGreen.com to read the full article.

People flush the toilet maybe five to 10 times a day. Ever wonder where it all goes? Los Angeles (LA) area residents generate roughly 90 gallons per person per day of raw sewage from toilet flushing, bathing, housekeeping and discharging industrial waste into drains. Most of us care not to think about sewage once it's out of sight.

However, thinking about sewage is exactly what wastewater treatment facilities do. The Hyperion treatment plant in Playa Del Ray is by far LA's largest, managing a *daily* wastewater inflow averaging 330 million gallons generated by over four million people in LA and 29 surrounding cities. "Biosolids" are sewage sludge, which has been "stabilized" to reduce odors and pathogens by extended incubation in enclosed vessels at 128°F to encourage anaerobic bacteria to break it down. At Hyperion, the liquid is separated from the solids and incubated so bacteria can digest the disease-causing pathogens before the water is discharged five miles offshore deep into Santa Monica Bay. Sewage sludge is the black slurry left behind.

For three decades through the 1980s, the disposal of sewage from the LA area into the bay created a dead zone, prompting LA to launch its Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) embodying supposedly environmentally sound alternatives. Since 1994, Hyperion has achieved an award winning 100 percent "beneficial reuse" of sewage sludge by converting it into biosolids, which are being used as soil amendment (compost) or as an energy source.

Hyperion produced 650 wet tons of biosolids per day in 2010. Nearly four-fifths were spread on a 4,688-acre farm in Kern County called Green Acres where, because of a local ordinance, only animal feed crops are grown and sold to local dairies. LA purchased Green Acres in 2000 to insure a reliable location for recycling its biosolids. Kern County voters passed an "anti-sludge ordinance" to prevent LA from dumping its biosolids in their county, but it is now in the courts because LA has sued to block the ordinance.

The controversy over recycling biosolids on farmland and gardens has generally heated up following release in 2009 of an EPA survey in which biosolids from water treatment agencies in 35 states all tested positive for, at minimum, several flame retardants, heavy metals and pharmaceuticals. Questions also arise as to what extent contaminants from biosolids build up in soil over time or enter the food chain.

Organic standards already prohibit use of sewage sludge as fertilizer in food production. The Organic Consumers Association and the Food Rights Network object that there is no labeling requirement for compost derived from sewage sludge. They are among the more strident opponents of biosolids recycling programs and want all sewage sludge handled as toxic waste and contained for disposal, which could mean

landfilling or incineration. Hyperion's biosolids undergo monthly testing which exceeds EPA requirements. Proponents of LA's EMS say that there is no proof of anybody being harmed by LA's biosolids and that the level of contaminants is lower than what people are exposed to through interaction with everyday consumer products.

Solution: Homeowners, businesses and industry all must move beyond "out of sight out, out of mind" and give due attention to the toxicity of what is being flushed down drains and in whose backyard that waste ends up. Perhaps a debate over the safety of recycling sewage waste is just the wakeup call America needs to force it to rethink the reckless approach to chemicals regulation which has allowed some 80,000 chemicals into commerce, most without any health or environmental safety testing, let alone plans for how to best handle the tainted sewage that inevitably results.



LA River Natural Park

Save LA River
Open Space

By Elaine Trogman The group Save LA River Open Space is working hard to create the LA River Natural Park. They are focused on protecting water quality along the last remaining unprotected open space for 22 miles of the LA River in the San Fernando Valley, an impeccable link in the 51-mile LA River Greenway. The river front property provides a unique and exciting opportunity to become a showcase for LA River revitalization, helping realize the vision of the City of Los Angeles LA River Revitalization Master Plan.

The group is a non-profit organization allied with the Studio City Residents Association. The property that they are concentrating on is 16 acres, bordering Whitsett Ave. and the LA River. At one time it was considered for condos but that idea hasn't been realized. The property is privately owned and open to the public with a golf driving range and tennis courts. Their goal is to have it purchased from the owners with funds from a combination of federal, state, county and city entities along with private donations. They have the support of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a state agency.

This property is the last 16 acres of unprotected open space along the LA River in the San Fernando Valley. They want to permanently protect it for the public open space and recreational use; to restore natural animal habitat; to provide regional public access to the LA River trail for walking and biking. Their aim is to provide opportunities to naturally clean urban runoff so as to prevent pollutants from contaminating the LA River. Other water quality & recycling projects would be to create a wetland habitat to naturally remove pollutants; store and reused treated water for irrigation and use LA river water during dry seasons.

Volunteers are needed, phone 818-509-0230

Website: www.savelariveropenspace.org

Email at: saveopenspace@slaros.org

Cartoon by Willis Simms
LATEST NEWS TO 400 YRS. OLD OAK

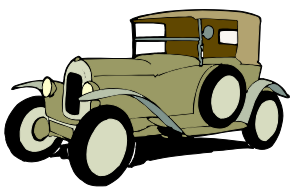


Newhall Ranch—Nature Lover’s Nightmare!

By Elaine Trogman

Friends of the Santa Clarita River say, “The proposed ‘new city’ of Newhall Ranch, near Santa Clarita, encompasses nearly 12,000 acres straddling the river from I-5 to the Ventura County line, would add 21,000 units in a community of almost 70,000 people to the existing urban area. This ‘new city’ would border the best remaining Santa Clara River woodlands, with inadequate provisions for buffer zones around the river.” We need to focus development in already existing communities, so that outlying farmland and open-space remain protected. This development will affect people in the San Fernando Valley because many of the new inhabitants of this Newhall mega-project will drive to work in Los Angeles on the 405 causing more congestion and pollution.

Conservation Corner



Hypermiling
 improves your
 gas mileage

By Michael Stevenson

Want to help the environment by becoming more energy efficient but you can’t afford a newer more fuel efficient car? Don’t despair, become a Hyper-miler!

This technique maximizes your gas mileage by making fuel-conserving adjustments to your vehicle and driving skill. It can be practiced with any car, regardless of its current fuel economy. Use the following guidelines to start learning how to become a Hypermiler.

Better maintain your car: A properly maintained car is much more energy efficient. Keep your car properly tuned. Replace oil and air filters at suggested intervals. Use the recommended grade of motor oil

making sure that it says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol guaranteeing it contains friction-reducing additives. Keep your tires properly inflated. When replacing tires buy low rolling resistant ones, which can increase mileage by as much as 2 miles per gallon.

Drive more cautiously: You can always get better fuel mileage out of your current vehicle by using a device you already have, your right foot. You get a big gain in fuel mileage when you significantly lay off the gas and brake pedals as you drive. Accelerating more slowly away from green lights and stopping more gradually for red lights significantly cuts fuel consumption. Stay under the speed limit. Start out by keeping a conscious eye on how you drive now and you may realize that you've been “hot-rodding” around town for years without ever noticing it. According to Edmunds.com if you currently get 22 miles per gallon a more laid-back driving style could increase your mileage by up to 30%.

Look ahead and anticipate: An ability to drive efficiently depends on being able to spot changes in your driving environment. The way to do this is by constantly scanning well ahead on your intended path. In city driving you should know what’s happening at least 10-15 seconds ahead. On freeways at least a 30 second lead-time is best.

Clean “junk” from your trunk: Don’t store unnecessary items in your vehicle. An extra 100 lb. in your car can reduce your MPG by up to 2%.

Avoid “warm up” idling: Don't idle your engine to warm it up even on a cold day. An idling engine gets zero miles per gallon. Instead start driving slowly as soon as the engine is running smoothly. It's a more efficient way to warm the engine as well as the entire drive train including your tires.

Cycle the A/C if you have to use it: Set the air flow to recirculate and then manually turn the A/C on and off as needed. For greater efficiency, switch it on under light engine loads, i.e. when decelerating and turn it off when under moderate to heavy loads, i.e. when you are accelerating or going up a hill.

In the summer park in the shade: This will keep the inside of your vehicle cooler, which can help you minimize use of your air conditioner.

Stagger your travel time: Try to avoid peak rush hours thus spending less time sitting in traffic wasting fuel.

Test yourself: Calculate your current wasteful gas mileage habits. Fill up your gas tank and reset your trip odometer. When its time to refuel, fill the tank completely, write down the number of gallons it took to fill the tank and your new odometer reading. Divide the number of miles driven by the number of gallons it took to fill the tank. This result is your car’s Miles Per Gallon (MPG) for that driving period. Compare this number to how well you do while Hypermiling. Chart your progress over time and see how much you can improve over your old wasteful ways. You owe it to yourself and the environment.

GOOD NEWS!

Dirty Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline To be Re-evaluated

By Michael Stevenson & Elaine Trogman

Per Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, "The Obama administration announced it would re-evaluate the environmental review of the dirty Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. That means that, despite being backed by all the might and money of Big Oil and its minions, the Keystone XL will not be approved by President Obama this year, if ever." There was tremendous opposition to the pipeline from many environmental groups. In November 12,000 people formed a circle around the White House to protest the Keystone XL pipeline running through the USA.

Canada-USA Keystone XL Pipeline Proposal

The proposed 1,700-mile pipeline called the Keystone XL would carry this acidic tar sands crude oil from Alberta, Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast. Because the proposed pipeline crosses an international border it must be approved by President Obama. The EPA has pointed out that there are many reasons to be concerned about the impact of this pipeline, both global and local. It's been estimated that on a well-to-tank basis tar sands oil is responsible for 80% more greenhouse-gas emissions than ordinary oil. The Keystone XL pipeline will pass through Nebraska's Ogallala Aquifer. This aquifer provides more than 70% of the state's drinking water and 80% of the irrigation water. The chances of a leak are higher as tar sands oil is much more corrosive than ordinary oil.

The entire process of oil sand mining requires much larger amounts of energy than conventional oil extraction techniques. According to Joseph Romm, from his book *Hell and High Water: The Global Warming Solution*, this process generates 2-4 times the amount of greenhouse gases per barrel of oil as the production of a barrel of conventional oil.

The largest deposits of oil sands are in Canada and Venezuela with about 50% of Canada's oil production coming from oil sands. Most of the Canadian oil sands are located in northern Alberta and account for 85% of the world's reserves of bituminous sands and the second largest repository of any type of oil in the world. Production began here in 1967 and in the next decade Canada says they will double current production to 1.8 million barrels a day. That would mean clear cutting 740,000 acres of boreal forest, which act as a natural carbon reservoir. Canada is the largest supplier of U.S. oil, and supplies us with nearly a million barrels a day from oil sand sources.

Michael Brune says, "Now, having won this part of the battle, let's take a deep breath and remind ourselves that we're really just getting started, because we haven't yet defeated the pipeline for good. And defeating the pipeline isn't even our highest aspiration. This movement is much bigger than just about the tar sands. It's about getting off oil as quickly as we can and replacing dirty power with clean energy as soon as possible."

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 Gabe Szende 818-999-
5384 <russianstore@earthlink.net>.

SFVSC Upcoming Hikes

Hike Leaders phone

N. Krupa (818)981-4799, **Pixie Klemic** (818)787-5420
M. Vernallis (818)360-4414, **Gabe Szende** 818-999-5384,
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, and **Virve Leps** 310-477-9664.
Reaven Gately (661)255-8873, **Mimi Knights** (661)253-
3414, **Ted Mattock** (818)222-5581

Come and learn about the local habitat of the Southern California Coastal and inland areas with the San Fernando Valley Group

(SanFern.Valley Group (SFV)WildernessAdvent(WA)

**For all hikes, bring 2 qts water,
lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen.
Rain cancels. Possible \$3-\$5 park fee**



TUESDAY HIKES

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

January 3, 2012 Tapia SP to Malibu Creek SP / Backbone Trail:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 500' gain, 6.5 mile route from Tapia SP to Malibu Creek SP; visit the Rock Pool and Century Lake and return. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Tapia Park. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes Rd exit and go approximately 4 1/4 miles south, passing Malibu Creek State Park. Enter Tapia Park just before Piuma Rd, and park in first parking area in fee lot. Rain cancels. Leader: RITA OKOWITZ Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC

January 10, 2012 Cold Creek, Stunt High

Trail: O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 6 mile 1000' gain hike through 2 beautiful riparian canyons and chaparral, with great sandstone outcroppings in the Santa Monica Mtns. Includes the Cold Creek Preserve with its year-round creek and grotto. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM Stunt High 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 3 1/2 miles, left on Stunt Rd for 1 mile, park on dirt shoulder on right. Rain cancels. Ldr: Pixie Klemic, Asst: Virve Leps

Tues January 17, 2012 Chumash Trail:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 5 mile, 1100' gain hike up the chaparral cloaked Santa Susana Mtns. through wonderful sculpted sandstone rock formations with a series of scenic overlooks. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead. From 118 Fwy take Yosemite Ave exit north 0.4 mile, turn right on Flanagan Dr, continue 0.8 mile to end and park. Rain cancels.

Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: VIRVE LEPS

January 24 Ahmanson Ranch Parklands:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 6 mile hike with 800' gain. Enjoy our recently acquired Santa Monica Mtns Conservancy land at the edge of the Simi Hills. Hike the rolling grassland hills of oaks and coastal sage and visit the old ranch house at Lasky Mesa. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Van Owen trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Valley Circle Bl. exit and go north to Van Owen, about 3 miles. Turn left on Van Owen, go ¼ mi. to gate on left hand side. Park on street. Muddy when wet. Rain cancels.

Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: SFVTuH Comm

February 7, 2012 Paramount Ranch:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 5 mile, 400' gain around the old (and still active) movie set and environs of oak savannahs, Medea Creek, chaparral canyons, including a side trip to the old Reagan Ranch. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Paramount Ranch parking lot. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd exit, go south on Kanan Rd ½ mile, turn left on Cornell Way and veer to right continuing south 2½ miles to Paramount Ranch entrance on right. Rain cancels. Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: SFVTuH Comm

February 14 Calabasas Peak:

O: (WA/SFV) 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! Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. 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. Rain cancels. Leader: PIXIE KLEMIC Asst: SFVTuH Comm

February 21 Cheeseboro Canyon:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 7 mile, 500' elevation gain in the lovely Simi Hills, first through ridge grasslands, then along an old ranch road following a streambed/multiple stream crossings with lovely oak woodlands to Sulfur Springs. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Cheeseboro Rd exit, turn north on Palo Comado Canyon Rd then right on Cheeseboro Rd, and continue 1 mile to park entrance, turn right and follow road to second parking lot at end. Rain cancels.

Leader: RITA OKOWITZ Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC

February 28 O'Melveny Park to Mission Point:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 5 mile 1400' gain/loss hike with great views of SF Valley and way beyond depending on visibility. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead. From 118 Fwy take Balboa Blvd exit north about 2 miles to Orozco St, turn left continuing ½ mile to end, then left on Sesnon, pass parking lot, and go about 4 blocks to Neon. Turn right and park at end of street. Rain cancels. Leader: REAVEN GATELY Asst: PIXIE KLEMIC

The mountain lion is also an umbrella species; meaning that if you save open space for lions you will be saving space/habitat for all other creatures that thrive in that ecosystem too. By Crista Kermode

THURSDAY HIKES

**For all hikes, bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, & sunscreen. RAIN CANCELS.
Possible \$3-\$5 park fee**

Jan 5, 2012 Pt Mugu State Park:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 7 to 9 mile 900' gain hike to Old Cabin Site. Possible short side trip to little waterfall. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Wendy Drive & Potrero Rd parking area. From 101 Ventura Fwy in Newbury Park take Wendy Dr exit, go south 2.8 mi on Wendy Dr to its end at Potrero Rd. Leader: DOUG DEMERS Asst: N. KRUPA

Jan 12 Hummingbird Trail to Rocky Peak:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 9 mile 1700' gain hike in Santa Susana Mtns to Rocky Peak, on beautiful trail through coastal sage scrub and chaparral, then on fire road to peak with great views. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Kuehner Dr trailhead (from 118 freeway in east end of Simi Valley, take Kuehner Dr, exit 30, go north of freeway 100 yards and park off pavement on east side of street beside fence). Rain Cancels. Leaders: ROSEMARY CAMPBELL, MARGARET VERNALLIS, REAVEN GATELY

Jan 19 Malibu Creek State Park:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 8 mile 1000' gain hike including Lookout Trail with great views, Century Lake, and Reagan picnic area. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Cornell & Mulholland dirt parking area (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd, exit 36, south ½ mile, turn left on Cornell and veer to right continuing south 3 miles, past Paramount Ranch, to paved entrance of dirt parking area on east side of street just south of Mulholland Hwy). Rain cancels.

Leader: TED MATTICK Asst: NANCY KRUPA

Jan 26 Newton Canyon Backbone Trail:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 8 mile 1400' gain hike on scenic trail through oak woodlands and chaparral. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM Newton Canyon Trailhead (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd, exit 36, south to paved trailhead parking area on west side just north of Tunnel 1 (3rd tunnel from 101 about 1¾ miles past Mulholland Hwy). Rain cancels. Leaders: NANCY KRUPA, PIXIE KLEMIC

Feb 2, 2012 Placerita Cyn, Pinetos Trail:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 9 mile 1700' gain hike starting in Placerita Canyon Park with shaded oak groves and a willow and sycamore-lined seasonal stream, to Walker Ranch and then up the Pinetos trail to Wilson Canyon Saddle. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Placerita Nature Center parking lot. From Hwy 14 in Newhall take Placerita Cyn Rd, exit 3, and go east 1½ miles to park entrance. Rain cancels. Leaders: MARGARET VERNALLIS, REAVEN GATELY

Feb 9 Trippet Ranch, Musch Trail, Eagle

Rock Loop: O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 8 mile 1200' gain hike in Topanga State Park. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM at Trippet Ranch parking lot (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Topanga Canyon Blvd, exit 27, south to Entrada Rd, turn left (east), go about one mile making two left turns to stay on Entrada Rd, and park along Entrada Rd outside lot or pay to park in lot). Bring \$ for parking. Rain cancels. Leader: TED MATTOCK Asst: NANCY KRUPA

Feb 16 Nike Missile Radar Site:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 8 mile 1100' gain hike with great mountain and valley views. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30AM Caballero trailhead in Tarzana (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd, exit 23, south 2 miles to east side across from entrance to Braemar Country Club). Rain cancels. Leader: REAVEN GATELY Asst: NANCY KRUPA

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Feb 23 Johnson's Motorway to Rocky Peak:

O: (WA/SFV) Moderately paced 9 mile 1700' gain hike on picturesque trail in Santa Susana Mtns. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals. Meet 8:30 AM outside Iverson gate to Indian Springs Estates (from 118 Fwy take Topanga Canyon Blvd south in Chatsworth, turn right on Santa Susana Pass Rd and go about 1 mile to Iverson Rd (just past Rocky Peak Church), turn right, go ¼ mile and park on dirt shoulder outside gate. Rain cancels. Leaders: MARGARET VERNALLIS, MIMI KNIGHTS

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Gabe Sende, **818-999-5384**
Sandra Tapia **818.365.4571**.

SATURDAY

January 7, 2012 Sat Lunch and Valley

Ragtime Stomp: O: (SFV) Do you groove to turn-of-the-century ragtime composers Scott Joplin, Wilbur Campbell, or James Scott? Do you enjoy listening to Duke Ellington's blues? Are you intrigued by esoteric instruments like the melodica? If so, please join us for an afternoon of ragtime music by a group of musicians called Valley Ragtime Stomp who perform monthly at a neighborhood restaurant in Canoga Park. Learn about the music & instruments of that period. Order a sandwich and some coffee and spend a funky afternoon listening to live performers play and sing rags and blues. Host: Gabe Sende. **818-999-5384**

Jan 7 Sat Whitley Heights, the High Tower, and Hollywood Bowl:

O: **Sierra Singles, San Fernando Valley** Join us as we explore parts of historic Whitley Heights, which boast stunning Mediterranean-style homes, many dating from the 1920's where the rich and famous were known to reside. We'll walk to the High Tower elevator and see views of the downtown skyline. Then have a look-see at the Hollywood Bowl. Learn the history of the area. This 4 – 5 mi rt walk involves going uphill and stairs, yet it will be worth it. We will take many breaks to catch our breath and enjoy the views. Afterwards join us for lunch at an eatery on Hollywood Blvd. Meet 9am at Hollywood and Highland Metro Station entrance. Wear appropriate attire; bring water and money for lunch. Rain cancels, light drizzle is a go. Leader: Sandra Tapia 818.365.4571, Co-Leader Elaine Ayala 310.612.3619

Jan 14 Sat Music Box Stairway Hike:

O: San Fernando Valley/Verdugo Hills Join us for a historical stairway walk in Silverlake area. The complete hike consists of 705 steps, 2.5 miles. You are welcome to go at your own pace and return to the starting point at any time. Visit the famous location where Laurel and Hardy made their 1932 Academy Award-winning movie. Learn about a piece of movie history The two comedians carried a piano up a steep flight of steps. Meet at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Parkman Avenue (Thomas Guide 594-C7) at 10AM. If you are interested in public transportation to the meeting place, contact the leader. Wear walking shoes and bring money for optional lunch at one of the charming restaurants in the Silverlake area. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Gabe Sende **818-999-5384**; Delphine Trowbridge

Saturday Feb 4 West Hollywood:

O: Sierra singles, San Fernando Valley 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 window shopping is too expensive, we'll see a land locked blue whale, along with a few other surprises. Learn the fascinating history of the area. 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 310.612.3619

SUNDAY

Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 18, Apr 15,

May 20, June 17 Sunday, Stage Coach Trail

O: Moderate hikers Interpretive hike into history in the Santa Susana Pass State Park, from 3.5 to 5 miles depending on hikers, 400' gain loop hike up the Stage coach Trail. Meet 9AM. Come & learn about the indigenous plants & animals & the area's history. Directions: from Topanga Cyn. Blvd., turn West on Devonshire St. continue to Larwin Ave., turn left and park near Park Entrance on right about 40 yards south of Devonshire. Leader: LEE BAUM, ASST: TMH COMMITTEE Lee Baum (818) 341-1850

Feb 5 Sun Redline Metro Stations Tour:

O: (SFV/Sierra Singles) Join us for a docent-led walking tour of a number of Redline metro stations beginning at Union Station and ending at Universal Station. This is a rare opportunity to study the station interiors, which are decorated with the artwork of some 300 commissioned artists. On the tour the docent will give insights into the art and the artists who created it. The tour is completely free; it takes approximately two hours. At the tour's end we'll take a train to Union Station. From there we can walk to Olvera Street, where we'll have lunch at one of the fine restaurants in the neighborhood. We will visit Pico House, the first three-story building constructed in Los Angeles (1870). You will receive a courtesy pass to ride the Metro free for the entire day. Meet at 9:30AM at the Union Station Information Booth. Wear walking shoes, sun protection, dress for weather. Rain cancels. Ldr: Gabe Sende **818-999-5384**; Co-Ldr: Bob Dean

Feb 26 Sun San Pedro Urban Walk:

O: (SFV/International Community) Join us for an easy-paced 3-mile walk through the Palos Verdes Peninsula and San Pedro. We will start at the Korean Bell of Friendship, then walk down to Paseo del Mar and Point Fermin Park West and stroll along the park bluffs, enjoying the panoramic view of the coastline, with its views of Catalina Island, tidepools, flying aquatic birds and the Pt. Fermin Lighthouse. We'll then continue down Paseo del Mar for a two-mile walk to the White Point Nature Preserve. Learn about this pristine 102-acre parcel, owned by the city of Palos Verdes, dedicated to the cultivation and preservation of native California plants. We will break for lunch in the lively Ports o' Call district of San Pedro. We'll eat at a local seafood restaurant where the fish you choose is cooked and served up to you at tables overlooking the harbor. Meet 10:30AM at the Korean Bell of Friendship in San Pedro. Wear appropriate attire; bring water, sun lotion, and money for a seafood lunch. Rain cancels. Call leader for carpool information. Ldr: Gabe Sende **818-999-5384**. Co-Ldr: Iris Edinger.

JAN. 2012 CAR-CAMP TRIP

Jan 21-23 Fri-Sun Morro Bay Family Car-Camp:

O: (SFV) Join us on our annual Morro Bay carcamp—we'll be spending three days in this beautiful spot. One highlight of our outing will be to view the thousands of elephant seals at Pt. Piedras Blancas. We'll see the pups being cared for by their giant moms, while the hefty male seals fight it out for control of the beach. Come & learn about these wonderful wild animals. We'll hike along the beach bluffs and into the hills behind the campground. Sign up for a tour of **Hearst Castle if you wish**. And bring a camera to snap the plovers, egrets, herons, willets, ducks and geese in the marshes at the Elfin Forest at Morro Bay. Happy hour Saturday night with international potluck dinner to follow. Send \$30 to Ldr: Gabe Sende. **818-999-5384** Co-Ldr: Iris Edinger.