

STEVE COHEN

Go wild for Earth Day

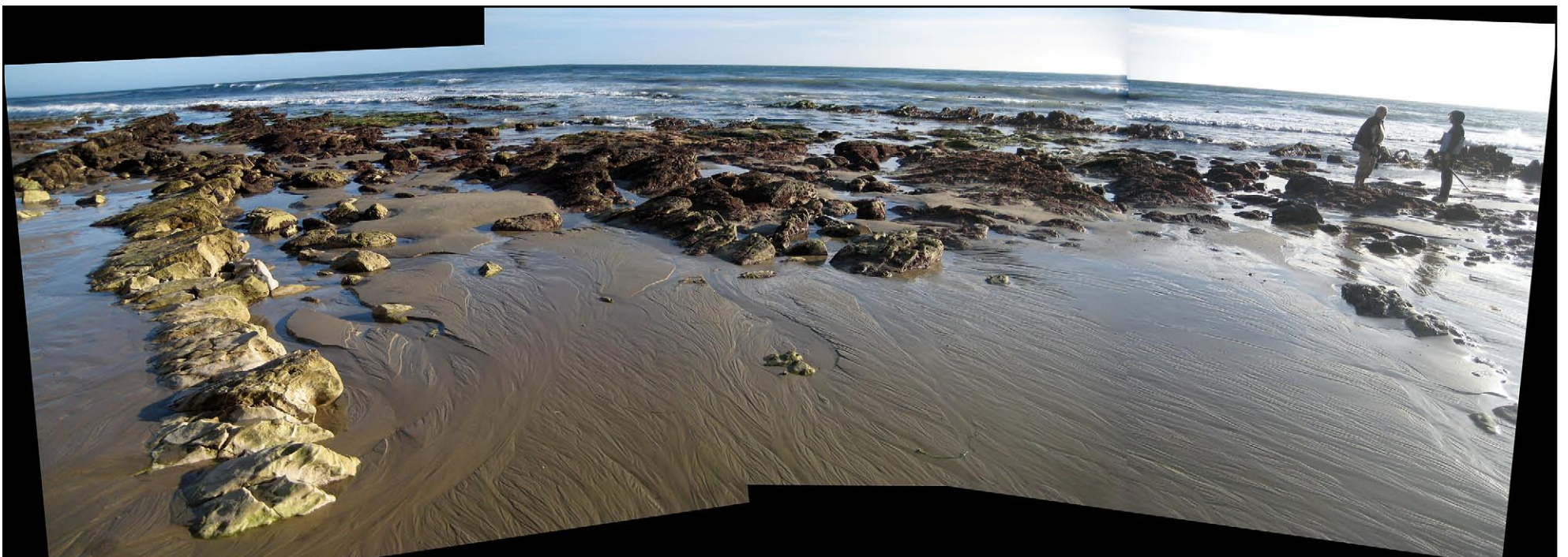


ALLAN DER

Don't recognize these places? They're part of Southern California's spectacular backdrop.

Don't know where to go for Earth Day? Check out our picks for the best places to connect with Mother Nature.

Page 6-7



JOAN SCHIPPER

Why build houses in the middle of an oil field? Good question.
—Page 3



Make the Swiss Alps part of your summer adventure.
—Page 9



Join our first trip to Bali.
—Page 9

Clean energy: Why natural gas doesn't make the cut

By Michael Brune
SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have you ever had to turn away millions of dollars? It sounds crazy, but here's why the Sierra Club chose to do exactly that.

In 2010, soon after I became the organization's executive director, I learned that beginning in 2007 the Sierra Club had received more than \$26 million from individuals or subsidiaries of Chesapeake Energy, one of the country's largest natural gas companies. At the same time I learned about the donation, we at the Club were also hearing from scientists and from local Club chapters about the risks that natural gas drilling posed to our air, water, climate, and people in their communities. We cannot accept money from an industry we need to change. Very quickly, the board of directors, with my strong encouragement, cut off these donations and rewrote our gift acceptance policy. Let me tell you how it came about.

In the fall of 2005, Sierra Club staff and volunteer leaders agreed to make the enormous challenge of climate disruption the Club's highest priority. By that time, we had already begun to have great success with our Beyond Coal campaign, which had started in 2002, and which had already stopped the construction of several dozen new coal-fired power plants.

This Beyond Coal initiative has continued to have unparalleled success working with literally hundreds of other organizations, small and large, and using grassroots power to



LORI EANES

stop more than 160 new coal plants and prevent 500 million tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere. Sierra Club activists are now fighting Big Coal pollution in all 50 states and on college campuses nationwide. Today, the Sierra Club is not just focusing on stopping new plants from being built but is also accelerating efforts to retire old and dirty coal plants nationwide.

As this campaign was gearing up, the Sierra Club board of directors, working with the best science at the time and with extensive input from staff and volunteers, determined that natural gas, while far from ideal as a fuel source, might play a necessary role in helping us reach the clean energy future our children deserve. It was also during this time, in 2007, that the first contributions to the Sierra Club were made from entities or individuals associated with Chesapeake Energy. The idea was that we shared at least one common purpose — to move our country

Exempting the natural gas industry from environmental protections was a terrible idea. It looks even dumber today, when the real risks that natural gas drilling poses to water supplies and critical watersheds are that much more apparent.

away from dirty coal.

The big challenge, however, is what follows coal. How do we stop the lights on as we move quickly to an economy powered by clean, renewable energy? During the period that the Sierra Club first started receiving donations, several of our local chapters were becoming increasingly alarmed by dangerous and disruptive natural gas industry practices in their communities — particularly horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," a technique where millions of gallons of water, laced with other ingredients (including, often, toxic chemicals) are pumped into rock to release gas deposits. Gradually, more and more legitimate questions were raised about the risks that fracking poses to our air, water, communities, and indeed our climate.

By the time I assumed leadership of the Club in March 2010, our view of natural gas had changed — so I made sure our policy did, too. We created a strong natural gas campaign comprised of staff and volunteer leaders. Some chapters sought to establish tough safeguards at the state and federal level to protect their air and water; others sought to suspend fracking completely until those stan-

dards were in place. By mid-August 2010, with gas industry practices and our policies increasingly in conflict, I recommended to the Board, and it agreed, to end the funding relationship between the Club and the gas industry, and all fossil fuel companies or executives.

Our position today could not be more clear: We still need to move America beyond coal, as quickly as we can while taking care of the workers in the mines and at coal-burning utilities. And as we retire these coal plants, we'll need to replace them with as much clean energy as we possibly can. In the process, we'll use as little gas as possible and work to ensure that the gas that is used is produced as responsibly as possible.

It's time to stop thinking of natural gas as a "kinder, gentler" energy source. What's more, we do not have an effective regulatory system in this country to address the risks that gas drilling poses on our health and communities. The scope of the problems from under-regulated drilling, as well as a clearer understanding of the total carbon pollution that results from both drilling and burning gas, have made it plain that, as we phase out coal, we need to leapfrog over gas whenever possible in favor of

truly clean energy. Instead of rushing to see how quickly we can extract natural gas, we should be focusing on how to be sure we are using less — and safeguarding our health and environment in the meantime.

The Sierra Club opposes any natural gas development that poses unacceptable toxic risks to our land, water, and air. We insist that the volume and content of all fracking fluids and flowback should be disclosed, and that all toxics should be eliminated. There should be proper treatment, management, and disposal of both fracking fluids and toxic flowback. Fracking should not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that drinking water is protected and that all cumulative impacts can be mitigated. And, of course, many beautiful areas and important watersheds across this country should be off-limits to drilling.

Exempting the natural gas industry from environmental protections was a terrible idea. It looks even dumber today, when the real risks that natural gas drilling poses to water supplies and critical watersheds are that much more apparent.

Ultimately, the only safe, smart, and responsible way to address our nation's energy needs is to look beyond coal, oil, and gas, and focus on clean, efficient energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal. It's clear to countries around the world that the most successful 21st-century economies will be based on using energy that is safe, secure, and sustainable. Let's get to work building that economy right here at home.

Climate change and blue-green jobs

By Tom Politeo

The tug-of-war over the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline sets the stage for an archetypal battle of tree-huggers against the economy. This is, of course, exactly the way Big Money and Big Oil hope to frame the debate, capitalizing on an economy that has been staggering along on shaky legs.

President Obama in January decided the 1,700-mile pipeline from Canada to the U.S. would not be in the nation's interest and denied a federal permit for the project strongly opposed by the Sierra Club. But since then, the plan has started gaining new momentum in Congress and likely will resurface.

Pipeline developers have already begun to ballyhoo the need for construction workers to build the project, casting themselves as job creators. If oil interests get to write the script, they will villainize the environmental movement as a bunch of radicals who would callously take palpable jobs away from workers in dire need of a paycheck.

Big Oil doesn't care if their script writers are producing a work of fiction—they'll keep pumping well-gouged gasoline profits into repeating the message until it takes root, truthful or not. Every time we shell out our hard-earned dollars to fill our gas tanks, we help pay for their lies.

So the bigger issue is not jobs vs. the environment, but what kind of jobs we want to create. We need jobs that help sustain the entire

nation, not ones that enrich a few oil companies and bring as much harm as the tar sands project would. It's labor's efforts that helped establish a middle class whose members have the time, education and financial resources to fight for what's right, even when it runs contrary to the selfish interests of huge corporations.

This all boils down to a pretty simple formula: good jobs, green jobs, close to home.

The heart of the issue is sustainability. Sustainability, by its nature, runs across the board and hitches diverse issues together, including how wisely the nation uses debt, how natural resources are maintained, how we educate the next generation, how we reduce poverty and discrimination and cut carbon emissions quickly enough to keep up with climate change. The nation can't be sustainable if any one component — the environment, the economy, the natural resources or the social fabric — fails.

Restoring America to full employment, especially raising the lot of the working poor, is essential to achieve our environmental goals. Urban poverty is itself at the root of urban blight, urban flight and urban sprawl. The poverty and blight cycle reinforces new patterns of segregated housing—now spread across distant jurisdictions in Southern California—that lead to long commutes, bulldozing undeveloped land for housing, far more carbon emissions and lots of lost human time.

Poverty expresses itself not just in economic terms, but in terms of free time. Like the working poor, many middle class and upper middle

class families also suffer time poverty, from a mix of long days at work topped off with epic commutes. When parents can't spend the time they need to raise their children, more social problems follow. More environmental problems will inevitably follow those as will a greater drain on government services.

We want a system of employment that leaves us time to spend with our friends and families

Come to the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference in L.A. on March 15-16. To register, see story on Page 4.

and keeps a roof over our heads. We want the kind of jobs that don't harm the environment and, with some good planning, help improve it.

It's time to vie for the whole package—not just pieces of it. And that's what the tar sands jobs are, job scraps—jobs that will soil the environment and make climate change worse. They will saddle us with many additional costs as a result, which we will all pay for, as taxpayers or consumers and possibly with our health. Over time, these will derail prosperity and drive us to the poorhouse.

Every time the economy ticks up a notch, energy prices sneak up too. Unlike abundant energy from the sun, fossil fuels are a limited resource quickly growing scarcer in supply. This is what makes stopping solar, propping up oil, and denying climate change so attractive to

Letters

"What Makes the San Gabriels So Special?" (Jan-Feb 2012 Southern Sierran) was a nice review of the federal report San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study of the National Park Service.

However, there is an error in the rate of uplift. It is much less than 2 inches per year or 32 miles (167,000 feet) per million years. The authors of the report and the review are confusing the figure for right-lateral motion along the San Andreas and San Gabriel subparallel faults for the vertical motion. Though there is obviously substantial vertical uplift, it is nowhere near this figure over geologic time intervals.

Nor should such a figure be confused with upward motions during an individual earthquake, which can be much greater than or less than the long-term average motion per year.

—Derek Wallentinsen, Torrance

Earth Day images

Members of the Chapter's Camera Committee contributed most of the photographs for the Southern Sierran's Earth Day issue.

On the cover are (from top) a false-color, infrared panoramic of L.A. by Steve Cohen; pinnacles at Trona, Calif., by Allan Der; and Point Dume tidepools by Joan Schipper.

Club websites.

Advertisers: To advertise, call 213-387-4287, ext. 212. Deadline for the May/June issue is April 5.

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JOBS/PAGE 11

Oil and development don't mix in Montebello Hills

Sierra Club task force works to stop houses from being built in an oil field. The plan would destroy the hills and continue drilling in the newly built residential area.

By Yvonne Watson

The Montebello Hills are riddled with old oil wells, and one company intends to keep drilling at a proposed hillside development of 1,200 homes; but are oil and homes really a good mix? The Sierra Club's Save the Montebello Hills Task Force says no, and is working to stop the housing project.

The developer, Cook Hill Properties LLC, is aggressively marketing a plan to build homes in the middle of the working oil field. The land is south of the 60 Freeway near the Montebello Hills Town Center mall. The plan would irretrievably damage the last remaining open space hills, which are listed in the city's general plan as a scenic resource.

First, the highest elevations in the hills would be reduced by 100 feet. Then the canyons on the southern edge of the hills would be filled in to raise them by 110 feet, negatively impacting the prestigious La Merced neighborhood adjacent to the hills. The city would no longer have "hills." Instead there would be three large plateaus densely packed with housing.

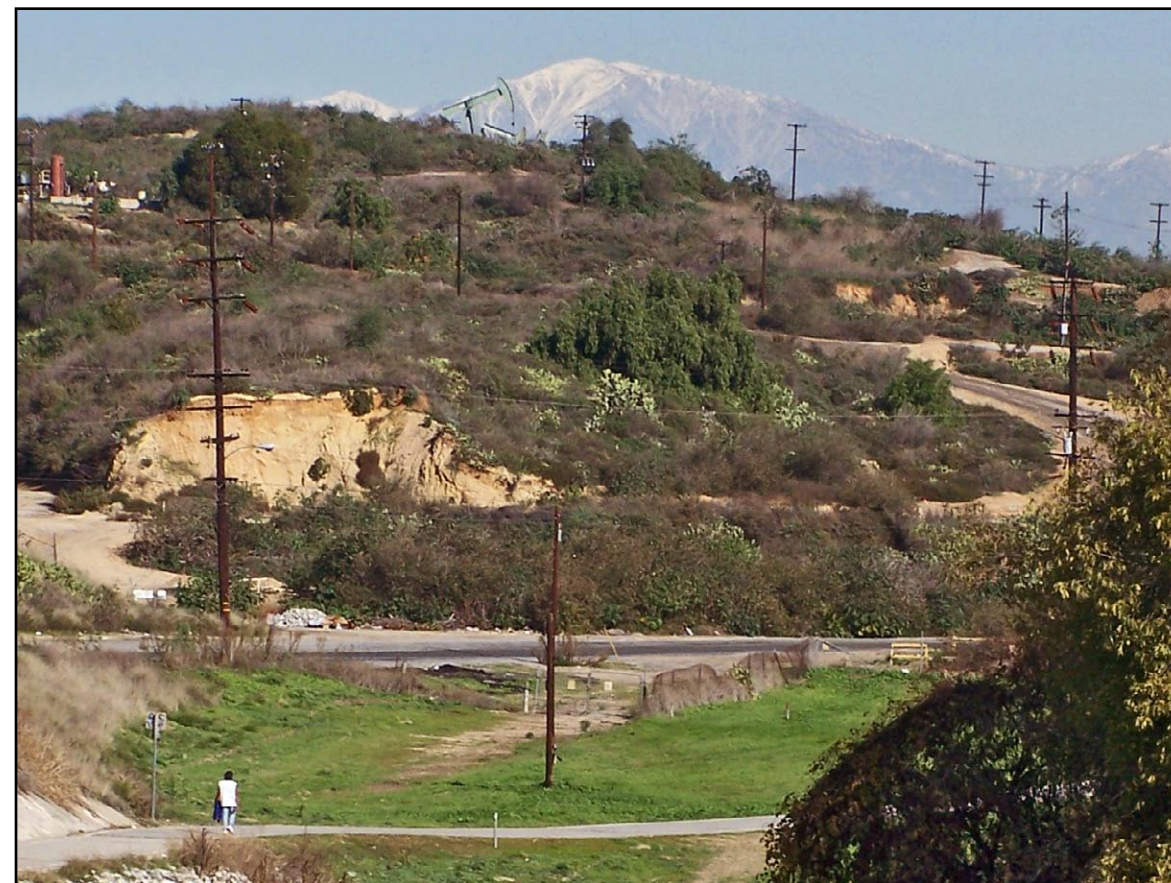
Creating this new "flattened-hills" configuration would take 10 years and involve moving 6 million cubic yards of dirt. The air quality and noise issues are obvious.

Even more troubling is that proposed homes would be built on top of the active oil field. The developer claims the wells will be on the east side of the property, away from the housing tract; but half of them would be as close as 150 - 170 feet from the nearest residences. Transformers for each well pad would also be in close proximity to residences.

Support facilities for oil production include a gas plant, stock tanks and wash tanks. The gas plant, which processes highly flammable gases produced on site, would be located as close as 730 feet from the nearest residences. It is worth noting that a safety video produced by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board featured a re-creation of an explosion involving a nearly empty oil field storage tank which resulted in the tank's lid being thrown 750 feet.

The developers pie in the sky claims regarding the alleged financial benefits to the city of their plan are speculative and self-serving at best. A prior fiscal impact analysis prepared for the developer showed a net deficit to the city's general fund. Of the proposed 1,200 homes, 756 would be attached dwellings commonly known as "condos."

The presence of this housing tract could negatively impact housing values in nearby neighborhoods. In addition, all hillside developments



JEFF YANN

A developer hopes to build homes and continue to drill for oil at this Montebello Hills site.

bring long term maintenance costs even without the occurrence of landslides, fires and earthquakes to which properties such as this are vulnerable.

Additional concerns regarding this proposed project include traffic impacts, fire safety, earthquake risks, methane gas migration, exposure to

cancer-causing chemicals from oil production, water supply issues, wildlife corridor impacts, destruction of critical habitat, changes in the "micro-climate," the presence of both a hazardous liquid and high pressure natural gas pipeline in close alignment to each other, and the project's proximity to a superfund clean-up

site. The project also would have an adverse effect on a core population of California gnatcatchers, the small songbird listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Then there is the problem with oil spills.

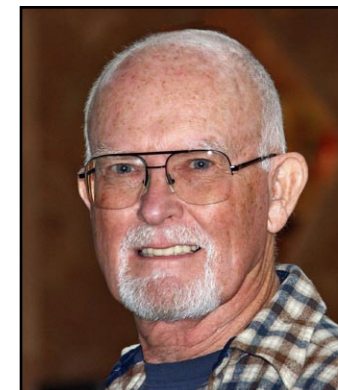
Houston-based Plains
MONTEBELLO/PAGE 11

Annual Awards Banquet

Sierra Club president to give keynote address



Donna Specht



Phil Wheeler



Bob Siebert

By Mary Morales

Sierra Club President Robin Mann will be the keynote speaker at the Angeles Chapter's Annual Awards Banquet on May 6. The event recognizes the outstanding efforts of volunteers and staff members who have shown extreme dedication and commitment to the Chapter and its important mission.

Mann, a longtime environmentalist, most recently served as the Club's national vice president for conservation and led the organization's national water campaigns for several years.

The awardees are listed below. For a complete list of their accomplishments, go to www.angeles.sierraclub.org and click on "Chapter Awards."

Weldon Heald Conservation Award: Bob Siebert, a longtime activist in Orange County, helped develop the Orange County Global Warming Committee, worked with Plug-in America to hold the "Tailgates without Tailpipes" meet-up for electric vehicle owners last year, and has served as chair of the Orange County Conservation Committee numerous times. Siebert is also a solar energy expert and presenter at many Club events.

Phil Bernays Service Plaque: Donna Specht is a leader who has made a significant impact on the financial health of the Chapter by organizing fund-raising trips and leading the Membership Committee and newcomer/member events in L.A. and Orange counties. She has held management positions in OC Sierra Singles, was elected to the Chapter's Executive Committee for three

The Annual Awards Banquet will start at 5 p.m. May 6 at the Brookside Country Club (inside the Rose Bowl area) at 1133 Rosemont Blvd. in Pasadena. The evening begins with a social hour, then proceeds to dinner, presentation of awards and speakers. As always, there also will be a silent auction. Tickets cost \$40 each.

To reserve dinner seating mail a check (payable Angeles Chapter) to Banquet Reservationist, Cathy Kissinger, 10541 Oro Vista Ave, Sunland CA 91040-2853. (Indicate vegetarian fare or special dietary restrictions.) For more information, contact Kissinger at ckissinger105@verizon.net or (818) 352-3361.

terms, won a National Sierra Club Award in 2010 and serves as the Chapter liaison to the national Club for international trips.

Chester Versteeg Outings Award: Phil Wheeler is singled out for his extensive service to the Chapter Safety Committee and the Leadership Training Committee as well as his decades of service to the entire Chapter outings program. Wheeler has overseen completion of a new Chapter Safety Policy and spearheaded implementation of quick-turnaround outings approval and associated website publishing. He was instrumental in the launch of the Chapter's new

Outdoor Activity Registration System (OARS). He is an I-rated leader and has been chair of the Chapter's Safety Committee since 2008.

Lifelong Service Plaque: Bob and Maureen Cates

Linda Hoyer Staff Award: George Watland, Chapter conservation coordinator

Irene Charnock Office Service Award: Jacquelin Ruben, Chapter librarian

Political Service Plaque: Joan Jones Holtz

Citation of Merit: Water Committee, which created a "Water Conservation Measures Scorecard" ranking local cities based on their ordinances that mandate water conservation, address water use, prevent water waste and prescribe water-efficient business practices.

Additional certificates will be given to Sierra Club members who deserve special recognition for noteworthy service they rendered to the Chapter for the following:

Conservation Service: Kate Allen, Hillary Gordon, Gary Headrick, Ron Schrantz, Yvonne Watson, Gabrielle Weeks, Dave Wiggins.

Outings Service: Melody Anderson, Adrienne Benedict, Mars Bonfire, Bob Draney, Matthew Hengst, Jack Kieffer, John LaRue, Roxanna Lewis, Ed and Helen Maurer, Jose Mendez, Sofia Mohaghegh, Bill Simpson, Gerald (Jerry) Trager, Pat Vaughn, Lois Vile.

Special Service: Sandy Burnside, Charles Geller, Carol Henning, John Kaiser, Bill Lavoie, Frances Sparky Sotcher, Graeme Whitaker, Jeff Wilson.

Incentive for homeowners to reduce energy use

By Lore Pekrul

Incentive programs are one way to change the way people think about how they use energy. Energy Upgrade California aims to do just that: reward homeowners with rebates for taking a holistic approach to their home energy use.

In collaboration with the Chapter's Green Building Committee, the Angeles Chapter Foundation has been designated an Energy Champion, which allows it to earn funds based on the number of Sierra Club members and their friends who take advantage of the energy upgrade program.

Here's how it works: Single-family homes are assessed for general energy efficiency, carbon monoxide, gas leaks, etc., energy bills are analyzed and changes and upgrades are suggested to save energy and money on utility bills.

If a homeowner makes significant changes — like reducing energy use by a whopping 40 percent via the upgrades — he or she may receive as much as \$4,000 in rebates from Los Angeles County and \$4,000 from Southern California Edison, the Southern California Gas Co. or the city of Long Beach Gas & Oil. (In Orange County the rebate offer is set at up to \$4,000.

The Angeles Chapter Foundation receives up to \$500 for each upgraded home.

For more information on the program, contact Lore Pekrul at (310) 529-2026 or Lore.Pekrul@gmail.com and check out the link energyupgradeca.org.

News briefs

Villaraigosa and Hoffa join lineup for L.A.'s green jobs conference



Now in its fifth year, the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference — the nation's leading forum for sharing ideas and strategies to build a green economy and create good, green jobs — arrives in L.A. on March 15 and 16 to showcase the unique opportunities in building a cleaner, job-creating economy.

Featured speakers will be L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; James Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Sierra Club Treasurer Allison Chin; and Phil Angelides, chairman of the Apollo Alliance Project and the BlueGreen Alliance.

From the manufacturing of solar panels and wind turbines, to the retrofit of commercial buildings and the weatherization of homes, to the production of cleaner, safer chemicals, the green economy is emerging in cities and towns across the country.

The conference features two days of exciting speakers and informative workshops, bringing together community leaders, union members, environmentalists, business leaders and elected officials to discuss how each region is, block by block, building the foundation for a green economy.

Register to choose the workshops that best fit your interest in the green economy. This conference features more than 40 workshops on topics ranging from Infrastructure and Cleaner, More Efficient Transportation, to Workforce and Economic Development to Clean Energy Manufacturing.

The two-day events costs \$195 for both days at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. For information, go to www.green-jobsconference.org/los-angeles.

Mt. Whitney lovers: Lottery for permits goes online

If you want to hike up Mt. Whitney this summer, get in line — and online. The Inyo National Forest has changed the way it issues wilderness permits for the ever-popular Mt. Whitney Trail as well as the John Muir, Ansel Adams and Golden Trout wilderness areas.

Under the old system, hikers and backpackers would contact the forest's permit office

The envelope, please! Ask for it on your next hike

We're adding something new to the hikes this year that gives all hikers a chance to help keep the Angeles Chapter's outdoors program vibrant and to protect the places where we like to hike. Every year, Chapter volunteers lead thousands of free, day hikes and walks, open to Sierra Club members and non-members alike.

For the first time, after a hundred years of leading hikes, Chapter leaders will pass around a contributions envelope in a pilot Outings Donation Program. Feel free to bring a few dollars and slip it in the envelope at the hike, but don't worry if you forget or can't; day hikes are free and the contribution is voluntary.

The hikes are supposed to be a fun reprieve from the daily grind, and we want to keep this contribution program lighthearted and fun as well. Where does the money go? You'll be helping the Chapter keep its activities programs alive and its environmental mission up and running.

All those little contributions will add up, big-time. That's because we lead thousands of hikes a year with tens of thou-

sands of participants. Multiply that across all the activities we lead, and we could raise a tidy sum -- one the Chapter very much needs to raise.

Like almost every nonprofit during this recession, the Chapter is working on ideas for new ways to bring in money. We're lucky to have such a robust outings program that makes the ask easy — and with so much opportunity for success.

So when you next come on a hike, look for the contribution envelope. If you don't see it, feel free to ask for "the envelope please." If nothing else, think of it as a program to recycle a few of your greenbacks into something good for you and the environment.

Here are some FAQs about the new program:

- The program is fully voluntary on the part of leaders and hikers.
- No one is required to donate any money, but they may do so if they wish.
- Those leaders who participate simply pass an envelope around to collect contributions.

in Bishop to reserve wilderness permits. Now online reservation service Recreation.gov will conduct the lottery and issue reservations for Whitney permits, which cost \$15 each. Permits are awarded on a lottery basis, applications are accepted until March 15 and lottery winners will be notified April 1. The online service also issues overnight permit reservations for other wilderness areas for \$5 per person.

So why does it cost more? Every permit issue tacks on a \$6 transaction fee and, in the case of Mt. Whitney, you pay the charge whether or not you are successful in getting a permit in the lottery. There also are rules about how and when changes and refunds are handled. Go to the forest service's website for details on the permit process (www.fs.usda.gov/inyo). Then go to Recreation.gov (www.recreation.gov); (877) 444-6777.

—Mary Forgiione

The bears like us! UCLA Democrats honor Angeles Chapter

The Bruin Democrats, one of the largest and most active college democratic chapters in California, selected the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter as the organization of the year for its environmental and political work in Southern California.

Senior Chapter Director Ron Silverman

accepted the award held at UCLA in early February. Other honorees included former presidential nominee Michael Dukakis, California Secretary of State Debra Bowen and California Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell.

—Mary Forgiione

Sierra Club goes Hollywood (a little) with Warner Bros.

Thirty-one people, two leaders and one beautiful evening marked the second year of a community partnership between the Angeles Chapter and Warner Bros. Entertainment. Employees at the Burbank studio in January were escorted on a private 3-mile hike from the Griffith Observatory to the top of Mt. Hollywood.

At the top, leader Joe Young pointed out the dazzling views of the L.A. Basin, the Hollywood sign and Catalina Island (which co-leader and Senior Chapter Director Ron Silverman pointed out as Hawaii).

In 2011, Warner Bros. selected the Chapter as a designated charity for Impact, the company's giving program. The idea: Get employees around the world invested in their local communities and encourage them to stay involved. Impact donated \$30,000 to the Chapter last year and is expected to donate the same this year.

The Chapter honored Warner Bros. and its employees with — what else? — a hike so they could experience firsthand places the Club works to protect and save. "We are beyond proud to be recipients of the Impact program," Silverman said. "It's a way for employees to give and really learn the difference they make in supporting the Sierra Club."

GMOs in California: Coming soon to a food label near you?

Polls show that more than 90 percent of the public want to know if their food was produced using genetic engineering. Some examples: potatoes altered with bacteria genes, corn altered to produce pesticide, "super" pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes, etc.

The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act would require companies to label genetically engineered foods. The initiative requires 504,760 valid signatures by April 12 to qualify for the November ballot. Sierra Club California voted to support the food measure.

Fifty countries, including China and the entire European Union, require the labeling of genetically engineered food. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with the determination of their safety left up to the manufacturer and no toxicology testing by the Food and Drug Administration required.

Get more information and read the initiative at www.labelgmos.org. To get involved in the campaign, contact Cynthia Denny of Sierra Club California at labelgmos12@gmail.com; 650-520-7954

—From the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter reports

Ansel Adams comes to Venice

"Ansel Adams: Open to the Public" at G2 Gallery in Venice is an exhibition that explores photographer Ansel Adams' desire to have his work accessible to the public at large vis-à-vis his work to promote the national parks as common ground for Americans.

All proceeds from art sales during the exhibit will be donated to the Sierra Club.

The show runs through May 13 with a reception on March 10. G2 Gallery is at 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice; (310) 452-2842 or e-mail info@theg2gallery.com

Activists work to create new Montrose Preserve

Eight acres might not sound like much, but in La Crescenta, it's the difference between another hillside development and a crucial piece of open space.

Sycamores, mature oaks and California walnut trees sit on this parcel at the top of Rosemont Avenue at Pine Glen Road north

of the 210 Freeway. The Crescenta Valley Group of the Angeles Chapter is working with a local land conservancy to save what's now being called the Rosemont Preserve.



FRED DONG

Join a free hike to see the proposed preserve on March 18.

The idea is to keep this riparian canyon (Goss Canyon) wild. In mid-January, L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich pledged \$350,000 in Prop. A funds to buy the land.

The Crescenta Valley Group has offered a matching grant of \$3,000 for Sierra Club members to help save the land, which would provide a vital point of access to the wilderness that surrounds La Crescenta. Beyond these commitments, the community needs to raise an additional \$100,000 to preserve the land that's home to mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, bears, coyotes and Arroyo toads as well as at least 31 bird species.

Come on an easy hike of the property at noon March 18 and learn about the land and the campaign with a biologist, paleontologist and geologist as well as other Sierra Club members. Park at Two-Strike Park (5107 Rosemont Ave., La Crescenta), and walk two blocks north to the top of Rosemont Avenue.

To learn more, contact leader Fred Dong at madlinesdad@earthlink.net; (818) 545-3878 or check out the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy at www.arroyosfoothills.org.

—Fred Dong

Chapter endorsements for national Club elections

The Angeles Chapter Executive Committee reviewed the submissions of the candidates for the Sierra Club Board Election in 2012. This review took place at the an Executive Committee meeting on Jan. 29.

How does City Hall's garden grow? (We hope sustainably)

The Angeles Chapter's Water Committee urges L.A. officials to adopt a drought-tolerant agenda in its new landscaping effort.

By Charming Evelyn

Three years ago, a young Water Committee of the Angeles Chapter wrote a letter to City Hall to suggest removing turf and replanting the area with drought-tolerant landscaping and a demonstration garden that would serve as an educational tool for visitors.

This all happened in the midst of one of the longest droughts in Southern California.

Only Councilman Paul Koretz responded and met with the committee. In May 2010, the committee was notified that City Council had planted some California natives on the corner of First and Main streets on City Hall

Come to The Magic Castle

What: Amazing magic shows and a buffet brunch
A fundraiser for Inner City Outings (ICO)

Where: The Magic Castle
7001 Franklin Ave.
Hollywood 90028

When: June 3, 2012
10:45 a.m.

Why: To support hikes, camping trips, tide pooling, and snow trips for underserved urban youth

Cost: \$75 for adults and \$60 for children 6-10 yrs. old

Pay online at <http://angelesico.org/> Valet parking is \$8

Water Wise Garden



MARY FORGIIONE

The Sam Merrill Trail to Mt. Lowe is part of the burn area from the devastating 2009 Station Fire.

Post-fire tree-planting in the Angeles requires a sound plan

Sierra Club outlines criteria for responsible restoration.

By Ginny Heringer

The Sierra Club regularly participates in trail repair and removing non-native plants in Southern California forests and mountain areas. But an issue arose last fall over the Angeles National Forest's restoration plans after the devastating Station Fire of 2009: Do we need to plant trees? And, if so, what kind?

The fire burned about a quarter of the forest. Since then, the Angeles Chapter has been participating in a variety of restoration efforts. The Forest Service plans to plant 3 million trees, about 300 trees per acre on 10,000 acres, over the next five years. The plan has generated concern among local biologists who point out the forest would recover naturally on its own with appropriate tree species.

Concerned that the plan may be going down the wrong path, the Natural Science Section and Conservation Committee brought the issue to the Chapter's governing body and a resolution was passed that provides clear criteria for responsible tree-planting.

But back to the Angeles National Forest plan. It indicates that it largely complies with the California Native Plant Society's policy statement on tree planting but also mentions the possibility of using species not native to the area if sufficient seed stock is not available.

Conservation Committee members also pointed out the poor past record of adequate watering efforts, citing the frequent sight in the forest of dead seedlings in their protective wire cages.

As a result, the Chapter's resolution recommends that groups and sections be cautious in participating in tree-planting efforts and check to be sure that any trees to be planted are appropriate to the area and will get adequate

care. The resolution, which includes a summary of the California Native Plant Society criteria, is as follows:

"The Angeles Chapter encourages participation in Station Fire recovery efforts to reconstruct trails, restore facilities and signage, and remove exotic species, etc. However, groups, sections, and committees are cautioned about participating in tree-planting projects in the burn areas of the Angeles National Forest. Before participating, the organizer of the work party should verify the following:

- The tree species exists, or existed, in the area chosen for planting.
- The seeds or planting stock were gathered from local sources, or can be shown to be genetically identical to local sources.
- The planted species should represent a full range of species that are found naturally in the area.
- The planted species should be appropriate to the stage of plant community development at the site.
- The planting will not have an adverse effect on rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species.
- If the first five conditions cannot be met, but a significant advantage can be claimed through the planting of a non-native species, then only non-invasive species should be used."

(The complete California Native Plant Society Policy Statement on Tree Planting is available at www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/policies.php)

To participate in trail repair and removal of non-native species, look online or in the schedule for the Trails Restoration and Weed War events sponsored by the Forest Committee and other chapter entities.



property — a small step, but a victory nonetheless.

Now, committee members again are meeting with officials about the City Hall lawn, but this time at the city's invitation. Thanks to Occupy L.A., which left the slopes at City Hall bare of any turf whatsoever, the city has an opportunity to do something different in landscaping the grounds.

When the lawn became a hot media item, the water committee sent off another letter, reiterating its hopes for a drought-tolerant solution. (Read it at angeles.sierraclub.org/water). This time the committee received a prompt response with an invitation to discuss what the "new" grounds should look like.

Chapter staff member George Watland and I received a tour of the grounds, which are now closed off

to the public, and met with city staff and community members to discuss options. There were three initial options:

- basically do nothing and return the site to its former glory;
- reduce turf by 58%, replacing it with drought-tolerant plants and decomposed granite;
- reduce turf by 80%, replacing it with more permeable pathways, drought-tolerant plants and decomposed granite.

The plans also stipulate that all trees are to remain as is on the property. The consensus of most of the group, which included landscape architects and Native Plant Society members, was the second option — with Sierra Club voting for the third (less turf, more plants and paths). The plans were unveiled to the neighborhood council for discussion in early January.



TOM POLITO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

An example of a drought-tolerant garden at the South Coast Botanic Garden on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

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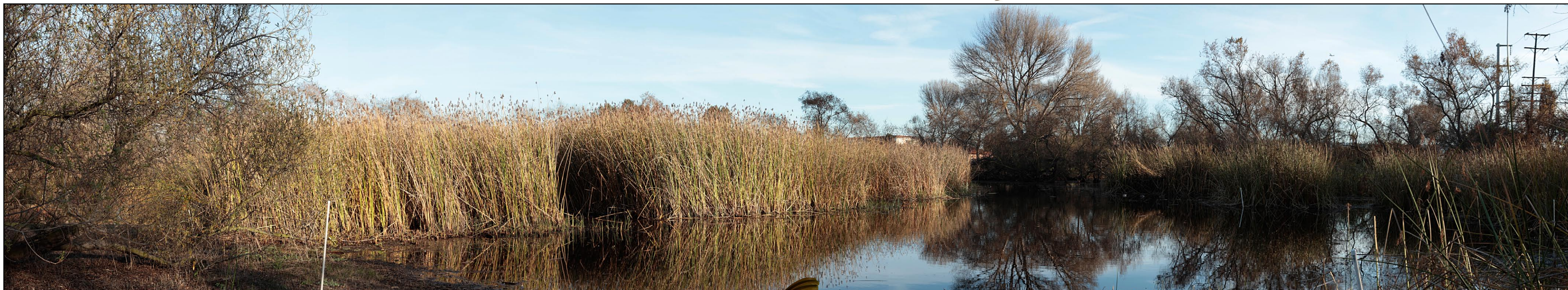
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Wild ideas for Earth Day 2012



Explore and enjoy

There are so many ways to find adventure in Southern California's wild backyard - from the San Gabriel and Santa Monica mountains, to deserts in the east and coastal habitat in the west. Then there's the vast Sierra and points north to explore.

Here are our top Earth Day picks that will help you connect with nature, learn a new skill, help a new conservation campaign and develop a greater appreciation of everything around you. Don't know where to start? Right here.

April

Spread the word: Raise your hand to represent the Sierra Club in numerous Earth Day events. The Angeles Chapter receives lots of requests throughout the month of April to provide outreach at schools, fairs and other venues. Staff information booths for Earth Day (and other times of the year) to spread the word on the good work the Club does and how others can help. To lend a hand, contact Jennifer Robinson at jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org or (213)387-4287 Ext. 204 or George Watland at george.watland@sierraclub.org (213)387-4287 Ext. 210.

March 16-18

Get a closer look at nature: **The Winter Ecology Workshop** at June Lake includes two days of snowshoeing, tracking and learning about nature in the Mammoth-June Lake area. (Trip fulfills Natural Science requirement for leaders seeking an I rating.) \$75 includes naturalist instruction, breakfasts and trail lunches and accommodation in local Sierra Club members' homes. Sponsored by the Natural Science Section. Contact: Leaders Mei Kwan [mkwand@sierraclub.org or (626) 355-1708], Pat Arredondo; naturalist Jean Dillingham.

March 31-April 1

Take the kids camping: Placerita Canyon in nearby Newhall is a site where gold was indeed found in 1842. Will we find gold? Well, maybe just some golden poppies. Come on this close-to-home getaway for parents and little ones to become acquainted with camping and the outdoors. Activities include a 2-mile hike along a stream lined with willows, sycamores and shady oaks with a waterfall and wildflowers. Learn about the rich history of the area and the local plants as well as sit 'round the campfire with 'smores. Adults and children 12 and older cost \$15 each for Sierra Club members (\$20 for non-members); children 2 to 12 cost \$10 each; kids younger than 2 go free. The price includes camping fees, light snacks, Sunday breakfast, crafts and a hike. Sponsored by Little Hikers and the Crescenta Valley Group. Contact: Leaders Silvia Darie [outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net], Jeff Wilson and Karen Buehler

April 14

It's time to come clean: Come help at the **Earth Day Cleanup in Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve** that's right in our urban midst. The San Fernando Valley reserve covers 60 acres of bird

habitat north of Burbank Boulevard on the Sepulveda Basin's east side, south of Victory Boulevard. Volunteers are needed to spend a half-day to clear out Styrofoam, plastic and metal debris. Meet 8 a.m. for this event sponsored by the Sierra Club's Verdugo Hills Group, the Friends of the L.A. River and the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. Contact: Jan Kidwell at (818) 506-8731 or Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796 or go online to SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org.

April 14

Lead on! The Angeles Chapter sponsors about 6,000 adventures (hikes, backpacks, tours, canoe trips, cycling events, etc.) each year thanks to hundreds of leaders who volunteer their time. How do you become a qualified leader? Start by taking the **Leadership Training Seminars** offered twice a year. The next session is offered April 14 in Costa Mesa and costs \$25. You must register by March 31. Contact: Leadership Training Committee Registrar Steve Botan at lcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org, (714) 321-1296.

April 21

Get your green on: Check out the **Earth Day Expo in Deukmejian Park** with activities such as nature crafts, exhibits, displays and short hikes. There's much to learn here about different environmental groups and programs too. And it's a perfect event for the whole family. The event lasts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at George Deukmejian Park, 3429 Markridge Road, La Crescenta. It's sponsored by the city of Glendale with the Crescenta Valley Group, Verdugo Hills Group and Little Hikers too. Contact: Leaders Silvia Darie [outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net], Jeff Wilson, Bobcat Thompson, Bruce Hale

April 21

Know where Muir Peak is? Find out on a set of rendezvous hikes that offers easy and strenuous ways to the top of the peak named for the Sierra Club founder. Learn more about the history of the man and the mountains north of Altadena. For start times and details, go online to the Pasadena Group's website at angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/index.htm and click on "Outings."

April 22

Birthday cake for John Muir: **Five hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains lead to one place: Trippet Ranch.** Start off from Garapito Canyon, Los Liones Canyon, Hondo Canyon, Santa Ynez Canyon or Dead Horse Trail to meet up at noon for cake and festivities. Hikes start at various times to arrive at Trippet by noon. For details, contact Mary Ann Webster at mawebster1984@sbcglobal.net.

April 28

Snap it up! **The Chapter's Camera Committee leads a workshop how to photograph hummingbirds.** Use of flash, shutter speeds, focal lengths and backgrounds will be covered. Bring a camera with a zoom or medium-long lens and a small hotshoe flash (optional). The workshop will be held at Huntington Central

Park in Huntington Beach. Cost is \$15; enrollment is limited. Contact: Instructor Allan Der, ader_sc@allan-der.com, (714) 892-4857, and leader Joan Schipper

April 29, May 6 and 20, June 2 to 3

Have you ever wanted to escape the crowds and learn how to backpack safely in the backcountry? **Beginning Backpacking Class in the Redwoods** covers three Sundays and culminates in a trip to the Sierra in June. Learn what to take, what gear you need and what to do before you leave L.A. Backpacking equipment giveaways at classes too. Contact: Leaders David Meltzer, Fred Dong [(818) 545-3878]

May 8-10

Come island-hopping in Channel Islands National Park: Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Islands National Park and the pristine waters of the marine sanctuary in spring when the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. Marvel at whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. The trip is sponsored by and benefits the Angeles Chapter political program. Cost is \$590 per person, which includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages and ranger/naturalist. Contact: Leaders Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, at (626) 443-0706 and jholtzhl@aol.com

May 12

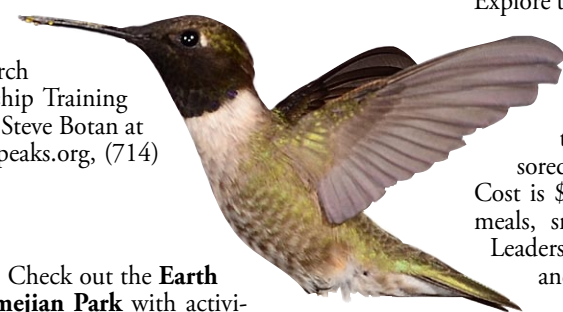
Sierra Club training for new volunteers Activism doesn't just happen. Volunteers of all stripes - whether you've been elected to a formal role in the Club or are looking for new ways to be an effective volunteer - are welcome to attend the Chapter Leadership Academy training day May 12.

A full schedule of individual workshops will include training for key roles in Angeles Chapter entities, including chairs and vice-chairs, treasurers, membership chairs, outings chairs, communications-internal and external, conservation, diversity, recruiting volunteers, new member outreach, political activism, fund-raising and more.

The event is free and open to the public. It runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on May 12 at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center (1750 N Altadena Drive) in Pasadena. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

Look for the complete agenda on the Angeles Chapter's website www.angeles.sierraclub.org. Space is limited so pre-register to save a spot. For more information contact Jan Kidwell, chair of the Chapter Leadership Academy, at (818) 506-8731 or jankidwell@sbcglobal.net.

—Mary Morales is an at-large member of the Executive Committee.



The other parkland plan: Rim of the Valley Corridor

The Jan.-Feb. 2012 issue of the *Southern Sierran* profiled a study of the San Gabriel Mountains as the centerpiece of a new national parkland. Here's another area under consideration that puts valley areas on a similar track.

By Mary Patterson

There's another national parkland plan for a mountain corridor surrounding the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo valleys. The study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, as its known, started in 2010 and will have the final report to Congress in 2014.

How does this new study relate to the San Gabriel National Recreation Area study? Each was authorized through separate legislation at different times and for different geographic areas. But the basic purpose of each study is the same: to determine whether any study areas are eligible to be designated as a unit of the national park system.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor study would include the Verdugo

Mountains, the Santa Susana Mountains, the Simi Hills and the La Crescenta valley area. Many scoping comments underscored the need for conservation of wildlife corridors. The study is seen as a significant opportunity to enhance ecological connectivity to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The connections would link the Santa Monica Mountains, the Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains and the Los Padres National Forest across the Santa Clara River. Corridor connections could improve the survival rates of mountain lions and other species throughout the region.

Least Bell's vireo, California coastal gnatcatcher, California condors, and southern steelhead trout are species present in the corridor. Burrowing owls, ring-tailed cats and jackrabbits have also been seen in the area.

Natural resources such as foothill canyons, which provide a buffer between the Angeles National Forest and the urban areas from La Crescenta to Altadena, are important for access, drainage and wildlife.

In the San Fernando Valley area,

the Chatsworth Reservoir, O'Melveny Park (second largest city park in L.A. after Griffith Park) and Sepulveda Basin (wetland area, migratory stop for birds) act as a buffer too. The Santa Susana Mountains cover the Santa Clarita Woodlands, including East and Bee canyons. They contain a unique mix of conifer, oaks, ash, and walnuts. Vasquez Rocks/ Agua Dulce (Pacific Crest Trail route is a wildlife crossing) is within the Santa Clarita Valley area.

There also are many cultural resources within this area: Griffith Park, Santa Clarita Woodlands, Beale's Cut, Butterfield Stage route, Jet Propulsion Lab, Mt. Wilson Trail, Chantry Flats, Tujunga Canyon, Placerita Canyon, and Mt. Lowe and its Echo Mountain Railway.

Aside from the wildlife and ecosystem benefits, the area provides good recreational use too. Many supporters of the Rim of the Valley Corridor plan favor a multi-use (hiking, biking and equestrian) continuous trail system throughout the study area. Others want trails split between those users to avoid conflict, and still others



MARY PATTERSON

A waterfall in the Simi Hills is part of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, which is under consideration as a new national parkland.

seek an overall increase in the number of trails, including neighborhood trailheads. Of special concern is the need to provide access to parks and open space for all people to improve

quality of life and have healthy connections between people and nature.

Mary Patterson is an Angeles Chapter outings leader who lives in Granada Hills.

Free law seminar for legal-eagle activists

One key tool every good activist needs to use: the law. If you don't know how to use it, here's an opportunity to learn from the pros.

"Coastal Protection, Land Trusts & Conservancies, Urban Oil" is a free seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 17 that provides a legal toolbox for environmental activists. This is the fifth in a series of legal workshops presented by Sierra Club and the Loyola Law School Environmental Law Society.

The workshop is designed to provide non-lawyers with legal tools to use in their conservation campaigns. "Environmental laws are extremely complex and difficult even for attorneys to understand, let alone master," says Dean Wallraff, vice chair of the Chapter's Legal Committee. The session promises to be full of information and topics that are geared toward the lay person.

attorney Mark Massara)

- Private Coastal Act Enforcement (lawyer Victor Otten)
- Land Trusts & Conservancies (lawyer Dean Wallraff)
- Strategies for Opposing Development on Urban Oil Sites (NRDC attorney Damon Nagami)
- Oil Pollution Act (lawyer Stefan Blasig)

Lawyers and speakers who present will incorporate case studies into the lectures to show how the law applies to real-world situations activists are likely to encounter.

The workshop takes place at Loyola Law School's Robinson Courtroom (919 Albany St., L.A.). It's free (\$3 for parking) but RSVPs are recommended. Contact: Dean Wallraff, dwaenv.org, (818) 679-3141.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

Landfill's toxic past concerns residents

By Joan Davidson

The Chapter's South Bay Open Space Task Force wants to see three steps taken to protect homes adjacent to the Palos Verdes Landfill. So far, regulatory agencies have been unresponsive to the task force's concerns, and the task force would like your help to reach out to decision-makers.

The Palos Verdes Landfill was first opened in 1952—two decades before the U.S. EPA was established. The landfill received more than 47 billion pounds of hazardous waste well before it was shutdown in 1980—before the federal and state government estab-

lished adequate safety and environmental standards for how landfills should be operated.

The landfill poses health and safety risks to nearby homes. The agency that now runs the landfill, the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and the agency which oversees these operations, the California Department of Toxic Substance Control, have largely turned a deaf ear to concerns voiced by the Sierra Club and residents over the past decade.

Under contemporary federal standards, the landfill lacks a liner and

LANDFILL/PAGE 11

Earth Day images

The Madrona Marsh Preserve (top) is one of Southern California's last remaining vernal marshes. Photo by Tom Politeo.

Photos of Anna's hummingbirds by Susan Manley. See the listing for the April 28 hummingbird photography workshop on Page 6.

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Lessons learned (and earned) on the mule pack trail



CAROLE SCURLOCK

A string of mules lugs the gear for campers on a Chapter trip to Virginia Canyon last August.

By Lynn Lively

As a backpacker, I pride myself on being Tough. I sleep on the ground, wear the same filthy clothes for a week, eat jerky and string cheese meal after meal, and have survived for seven days with just the thirty-five pounds on my back.

But last year in the Sierra my travels took me by a campsite where the people were sitting (be still my heart) on chairs! They had a lantern for light and (heavy) cans of food were lying around on a table. The lovely ruby color of cheap wine sparkled in plastic cups. The tents were big. Clothes were hanging on a line.

How did all this gear get to camp? "Mules," they told me. "Mules are the secret."

Fast forward to my friend, Sarah Korda, telling me about a Sierra Club trip sponsored by the Angeles Chapter's Mule Pack Section to Clark Lakes last July. We paid our \$330 each and we were in.

What fun to prepare for the trip. Instead of 35 pounds, our limit was 55 pounds of personal gear. And even that was increased when the time got close. And that weight didn't include the group dinners, group toilet, stoves, etc. Packing was a joy. Big tent? Take it! Second set of nylon pants? Make it three! Camp shoes? But of course.

The trip was wonderful. Leaders Laura Joseph and Sandy Burnside did an excellent job of managing the camp and us. The hikers were compatible, and a good time was had by all. Do I recommend mule packing? Absolutely.

Here are a couple of tips from my first-timers perspective.

Rent a second bear canister from the Forest Service for \$7 per week. That way you have plenty of room for toiletries and crunchy goodies. What do you care? It only weighs two pounds! Throw it in.

Consider signing up with a buddy if at all possible. On our trip, the days were not organized. Most of our group wanted to scramble and do cross-country work that didn't particularly appeal to me as a retired climber. But luckily I had my compatible buddy, Sarah, along. We had a blast exploring the trails and our deepened friendship is one of my fondest memories of the trip.

Be aware that your six day trip may require seven days of your time. It is usually possible to drive home dead-tired the day you hike out, but an early morning hiking start may

require traveling to your meeting point the day before. It did for us.

By the way, I never saw the mules. We left our gear at the Silver Lake packing station early on a Sunday morning, hiked seven miles in, and when we arrived the gear was waiting in a pile. Same thing on the way out. A few biodegradable offerings along the trail were the only trace they were ever there.

Summer Trips

Want to try a mule pack trip of your own? The Chapter's Mule Pack Section has seven trips planned this summer for those ready to ditch their backpacks and let the mules lug their gear. Check the Schedule of Activities or go to angeles.sierraclub.org/fundraising/chaptertrips.asp for details.

Aug. 19-25: Saddlerock Lake, 20 miles west of Bishop, Calif., with opportunities to hike Mt. Agassiz, Chocolate Peak, Mt. Goode, Clouddripper Peak and lake-hop along the trail to South Lake, Long Lake, Bull Lake, Chocolate Lakes and more. \$300 per person.

Sept. 3-8: Big Pine Lakes, where you camp overlooking Fourth Lake and explore the area, including the Palisade Glacier and miles of scenic streams, peaks and lakes. \$180 per person.

Why connecting with nature, especially for kids, should be a high priority

By Jacqueline Ostfeld

In four years, the National Park System will be 100 years old (almost as old as the Sierra Club). America's Summit on National Parks was held in late January to discuss the future of what Ken Burns has called (and I agree), America's Best Idea – the National Parks.

Speakers, ranging from Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to National Park Director Jon Jarvis to REI CEO Sally Jewell to Sierra Club volunteer and Natural Leaders Network Coordinator Juan Martinez helped paint a vision for the parks in the second century.

For those of you concerned about the growing divide between kids and nature, you are not alone. The alarming trend towards indoor-ism has the leaders of our parks systems concerned, too. Who's going to care for our parks and public lands in the future when today's kids spend only minutes a week in nature-based activities?

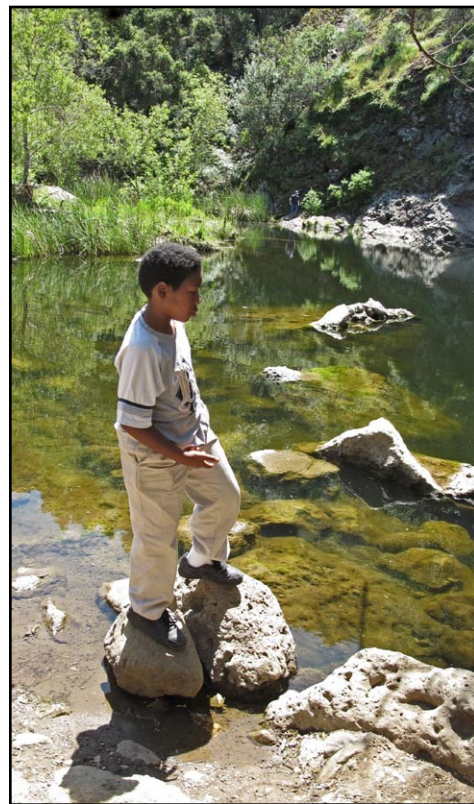
Salazar said one of the agency's priorities is to get youth back outdoors through service, education, recreation and by making the outdoors more accessible. With more than 80% of Americans living in urban areas, investments in close-to-home parks must be part of any plan to reconnect our kids (and adults) with nature.

During his keynote address, Salazar re-emphasized the importance of park accessibility. Last year, as part of the America's Great Outdoors initiative, Salazar announced the park service would be working with the local community to establish the largest urban park campground in America at Floyd Bennett Field in New York City.

But there are additional efforts to bring the parks to the people. In San Francisco, Crissy Field was established following a massive community outreach effort that would lead to an attractive and useful urban park with historic, cultural and natural features.

There's also from a small but important program – the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program – that partners with communities to support neighborhood greening initiatives. The program also might provide assistance to turn a brownfield into a greenfield, or plant trees along a route from a school to a park. It recognizes that greening initiatives within a community are the first step towards connecting people with nature and our parks and public lands more broadly.

Getting people outdoors where they live is not just good for our parks and green spaces. Famed pollster Gallup now has a well-being index that has begun looking into access to the



outdoors and health. During a panel presentation, Gallup revealed some of its findings: People who live near parks have fewer headaches, lower obesity rates and as many as 25% fewer heart attacks.

Getting outdoors is good for people and good for the planet. The "Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement" released last August says the national parks' second-century "connects people to parks and helps communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability."

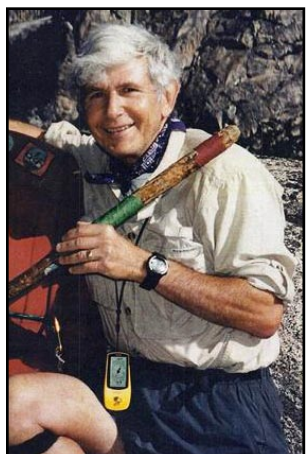
Over the next hundred years, if we want to reverse this growing divide between people and nature, agencies and organizations will need to do more to bring the people to the parks AND the parks to the people.

Jacqueline Ostfeld is a National Youth Representative for the Sierra Club and wrote this for the Club's Building Bridges Blog.

A student reflects on nature during a hike led by the Chapter's Inner-City Outings program. ICO regularly brings children from the city nearby wild places.

SHIRLEY HICKMAN

Obituaries



Howard Kayton, leader, outings chair

Howard Kayton, Sierra Club member, treasured friend, leader and Outings Chair for the Santa Monica

Mountains Task Force died of pancreatic cancer Sept. 4 at the age of 74. Howard was the ultimate volunteer and the driving force behind our successful outings programs in the Santa Monica Mountains.

As Outings Chair, he did an incredible job for many years of organizing hikes, doing the paperwork and spending countless hours recruiting new hike leaders and discovering new routes in the Santa Monicas.

Howard likely will be best remembered for the many hikes he led and the encouragement he gave to members who would become new leaders. He also was a consistent, strong supporter of the task force's environmental activities. Howard leaves behind a loving family and a large community of Sierra Club

friends.

—Mary Ann Webster

Bonnie Sharpe, leader, conservation activist

Bonnie Sharpe, known as a feisty, long-term activist with a passion for the environment and a skilled Sierra Club trip leader, died Feb. 3 of cancer.

During her long tenure with the Club, Bonnie led the Chapter's Executive Committee, the Conservation Committee and Sierra Club California. She was a representative to the Club's National Council of Club Leaders, the entity that advises the national board of directors about grassroots concerns.

Bonnie also was an outstanding leader and one of the "stars" of the national Sierra Club outings program. Her

service trips to Chaco Canyon from the late 1980s to the early 2000s followed others to the Red Rock art region near Sedona, Ariz., were always over-subscribed.

Bonnie was a Sierra Club leader in the fashion John Muir modeled and intended: someone who drew on the experiences of enjoying the outdoors and nature and then took that love into the political and community organizing realm through her unyielding support of many activists and campaigns.

Bonnie held a Master's degree in archeology and built up a wonderful relationship with archeologists at the National Park Service as well as Universities of Arizona and New Mexico; many joined the trips to share their expertise. Bonnie's trips were learning

experiences as well as service trips for most of the volunteers, many of whom returned year after year to spend another week in Chaco or Sedona.

On the Chapter level, Bonnie helped protect land at the Ballona Wetlands during her tenure as Chapter chair. "We protected 600 acres of land at Ballona on the Los Angeles coast in significant part due to Bonnie's support," Hanscom says. "I am so grateful to her for those times when her cunning mind were put to good use for the Earth."

—Marcia Hanscom and Chuck Buck

Joe Vogel, outings leader

Joe Vogel, who worked on forming the Chapter's Crescenta Valley Group in the

1970s, died in December. He was 75. During the 1970s, Joe worked to form the new valley group and led hikes for a decade with the group and the Hundred Peaks Section for almost 10 years.

Joe, his wife and children Julie, Marty, and Michael (who were 9, 7 and 6 respectively, at the time) earned the Hundred Peaks emblem as a family.

The times spent with friends in the Sierra Club were among the happiest memories he and his family shared.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and stepchildren Kim Williams and Michael Nolan and four grandchildren. The funeral and interment was held in Arizona.

—Mary Ann Lower

Adventure Calendar

What will your postcard say? Join us on these adventures

These fund-raising trips sponsored by the Angeles Chapter are open to Sierra Club members and non-members alike. Each one presents a value for participants and raises funds for the Chapter. For more details and how to sign up, go online to angeles.sierraclub.org/fundraising/chaptertrips.asp.

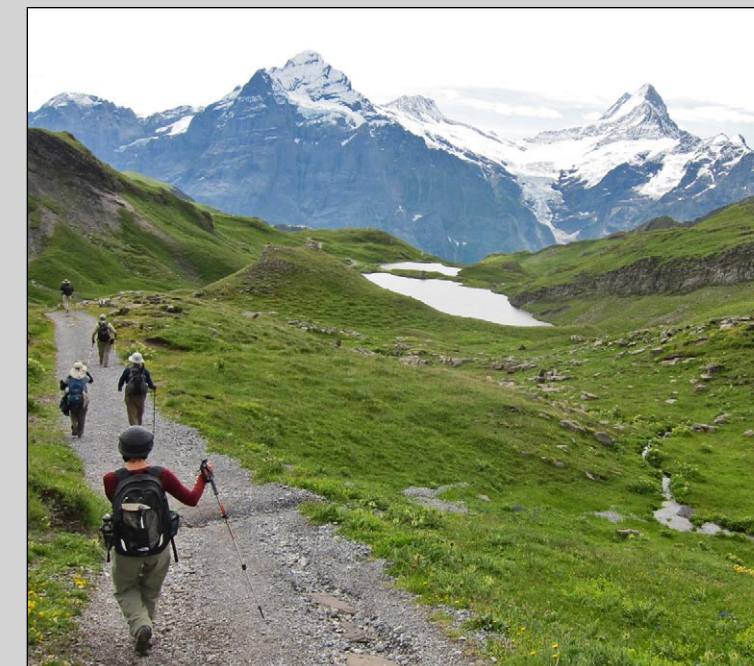
Arizona Slot Canyons and Native American Sites,

March 31-April 7, O-rated: Visit Sunset Crater, Antelope Slot Canyon, Monument Valley and Native American sites including Wupatki National Monument, Navajo National Monument with optional hike to Betatakin Cliff Dwelling, Canyon De Chelly, Hopi Cultural Center, Montezuma Castle and the Heard Museum. Hikes involve 3 to 5 miles round-trip with up to 1,000 feet of gain. Price includes transportation in Arizona, snacks, 7 nights accommodations (2 per room/2 beds), some meals, all admissions; airfare and most meals not included. Price is \$1,250 per person for Sierra Club members, \$1,350 for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter, Sierra Sage Group, Verdugo Hills Group. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) and David Eisenberg.



Moderate Walks in the Swiss Alps, July 28-Aug. 4, O-rated: Base camp is lively Interlaken, the center of the Jungfrau Region whose mountains and valleys have enthralled visitors for centuries. Daily moderate walks in unsurpassed scenery, wildflowers, gastronomy and Swiss efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Choice of 4-star hotel or self-service holiday apartments. Depending on housing options, the trip costs \$1,400 to \$2,000 per person for Sierra Club members; \$1,500 to \$2,100 per person for non-members. The price includes accommodations, ground transport, all breakfasts and dinners, guides. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and Orange County Group. Contact: Leader Ed Maurer (balois@cox.net) or go online to tinyurl.com/interhikes.

Wish you were here in the Swiss Alps!!



CHARLES LEE

Hike the Jungfrau Trail in the Swiss Alps, Aug. 4-16, O-rated: Experience the best the Alps have to offer by hiking to mountain hotels dating back to the 1800s, explore wild valleys in the Jungfrau UNESCO World Heritage

area and enjoy Swiss hospitality, fabulous trails, incredible scenery, and new friends. The hikes, some strenuous, take between 5 to 6 hours daily. The cost is \$3,200 per person for Sierra Club members; \$3,400 per

person for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and the Orange County Group. Contact: Leader: Ed Maurer (balois@cox.net) or go online to tinyurl.com/interhikes.



Wish you were here for our first trip to Bali!!



O-rated: The Chapter's first trip to peaceful Hindu Bali and Flores Island, home to the famous komodo dragons. Highlights include Bali and the island of Flores, spending varying number of days in each location. Trip includes transportation (planes, boats, and coaches) as well as accommodations (based on double occupancy),

some meals/happy hours, all park/museum entrance fees, guides, tours and more. The price is \$1,695 per person plus discounted group international and domestic airfares. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leader John Lajeunesse at lajeunes@pacbell.net (use subject line "Bali").

Bali Island and Komodo Dragons Sept. 9-24

Arches and Canyonlands in Utah

May 5-11, O-rated: Spend seven days/six nights on a fly-and-drive excursion to eastern Utah to explore Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park with the deep canyons of the Green River and the Colorado River as they join to form the majestic Colorado. Fly into the Grand Junction, Colo., and then drive in vans to Moab, Utah. The trip costs \$1,250 per person (double occupancy). The price includes park admissions, special fees, breakfasts and three lunches; all other meals and airfare to and from Grand Junction are not included. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter and Sierra Sage Group. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) and Sylvia Stevenson.

to Whittier, Alaska, on the Coral Princess. Visit the pioneer ports of Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway and join leaders' rainforest hikes and frontier saloon explorations and onboard activities. View maritime mammals and massive glaciers in Glacier Bay National Park and College Fjord. Cruise fare includes stateroom, gourmet meals, entertainment, exercise opportunities. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter, OC Sierra Singles. For information, contact Gabriela Melgarejo at Iberoamericana@8888477-8669 or e-mail Gabriela@iberamericanatravel.com or contact Cruise Coordinator Donna Specht (donnaspecht@juno.com or (714) 963-6345). Additional leaders: Ana Cadez, Todd Clark, Sylvie Cote

Denali, Alaska, the Last Frontier

May 21-27, Angeles Chapter, OC Sierra Singles, O-rated: A 7-day extension to the Voyage of the Glaciers or meet us in Anchorage, Alaska, for this land trip. Experience the Call of the Wild on a seven day/six night fully escorted charter coach trip to

Talkeetna, Denali National Park and back to Anchorage. Relaxed pace to enjoy beautiful wilderness lodging, adventure, spectacular scenery and wildlife. Price \$1,175 includes: lodging, bus, transfers, happy hours, some meals. Add three more days to Seward/Kenai wildlife/glacier cruise price \$1,775. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, OC Sierra Singles. For information, contact Leader Donna Specht (donnaspecht@juno.com or (714) 963-6345). Additional leaders: Gwen Sharp, Virgil Talbott

South Dakota Black Hills Adventure

June 23-30, O-rated: Explore Custer State Park, known for its buffalo herds, pronghorn antelope, prairie dogs, elk, deer, wild burros, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Highlights include a jeep safari to see buffalo followed by a chuckwagon BBQ; visits to Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Jewel Cave and/or Wind Cave, Devil's Tower, Harding Peak; and optional trip to the Badlands National Park. The trip includes 7 nights lodging; trans-

portation from Rapid City to the Black Hills and return; transportation in the Black Hills; admission fees, happy hours. Cost is \$1,250 per person for Sierra Club members, \$1,350 for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and Sierra Sage Group. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) and Patty Sappingfield.

Colorado, National Park and Monument Sampler

July 21-29, O-rated: Spend nine days of hiking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Monument, Arches National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Yucca House National Monument, Great Sand Dunes National Park and a tram ride to top of Pike's Peak. Spend three days in Estes Park, Colo., hiking, wildlife viewing and sightseeing in Rocky Mountain National Park and three days learning about early Native American civilizations. Trip begins and ends in Denver and costs \$1,450 per adult and \$900 for children under 13 staying in parents' room. Price includes, lodging (double occupancy), bus, park admissions and more. Airfare isn't included. Contact: Leaders Fred Dong [(818) 545-3878], Stephanie Gross

Mongolia-Gobi Desert, Mountain and Steppe Adventure

Aug. 17-Sept. 1, O-rated: See seldom-visited sites and experience the culture of Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. Stay mostly in traditional Mongolian "ger" camps, which are tents camps with hot cooked meals, hot showers and flush toilets. Explore national parks on easy hikes to see the rare Mongolian wild horse, gazelles, camels, ibex, deer, possibly snow leopard and birds. Other trip highlights: Karakorum, the ancient Mongolian capital, many old Buddhist monasteries, and Neolithic ruins; the largest sand dune of the Gobi; and the Flaming Red Cliffs. Optional Beijing extension after the trip. Cost is \$2,800. Price includes transportation in Mongolia, 4-star hotels, ger camps, most meals, admissions, guides; international airfare

is extra. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact Leader Bruce Hale, (818) 957-1936.

Historical Virginia And Nearby Areas

Sept. 23-30, O-rated: Tour Williamsburg; Jamestown, the first English settlement in America; and Yorktown Battlefield where George Washington won the climatic battle of the Revolutionary War. Other highlights include Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered; Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; the Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian Trail; and more. Trip includes lodging, airport transfers, admission fees, breakfasts (lunches, dinners, airfare to and from Washington, D.C., are not included). Trip cost per person is \$1,250 for Sierra Club members/\$1,350 for non-members. \$500 deposit to reserve, balance due July 1. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net), Mary Morales, Patty Sappingfield.

Thailand Cultural & Wildlife Adventure

March 14-April 2, 2013, O-rated: See the cultural gems and wildlife of Thailand on sightseeing and easy hiking adventures. Itinerary includes Bangkok to the mountainous areas of the north: 3 days in Bangkok visiting the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew, reclining Buddha in Wat Pho temple, boat trip in Bangkok canals, Thai theater performance, National Museum, Royal Barge Museum and more. Also Sukhothai; historic capital at Ayutthaya; wildlife viewing at Khao Yai National Park; temple complex of Si Satchanalai; birding at Doi Inthanon; Chiang Mai; Chiang Rai and more. Optional add-on tour to Phuket. Price includes hotel, bus transportation, most meals, airport transfers, most hikes or walks, and more. Domestic and international airfare is extra (group airfare available for additional price). Sierra Club members \$1,895 before August 31; then \$1,995. Non-members add \$100. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leaders Fred Dong [(818) 545-3878], Stephanie Gross, Maew Suchin

Calendar

Zen Adventure in Japan & Mt. Fuji Climb



July 15-27

Zen Adventure in Japan & Mt. Fuji Climb, C-rated. Spend 7 days in Kyoto, cultural capital of Japan and sample historic temples and gardens. Day trips to Hiroshima, Nara, Miyajima, Chikubushima, Hikone and then to Mt. Fuji for a climb to the summit with a day at Lake Kawaguchi. Trip ends with 2

days in Tokyo. Participants walk about 7 to 12 miles daily. \$2,995 for members (non-members add \$30) which includes hotel (double occupancy), breakfast, 7-day rail pass. Airfare is extra. Contact: Leaders Roxana Lewis, (310) 532-2933 or roxtlewis@aol.com, Linda Woolldridge

Fund-raising Events

March 24
Mardi Gras Fund-raiser for Verdugo Hills Group: O-rated. Join in a celebration of Mardi Gras with New Orleans' cuisine, wine tasting, optional costumes, revelry, masks and murder. Who will be the victim? Positively an enchanting evening! Where's the party? La Crescenta, but the details are a mystery. Contact: Delphine Trowbridge, (818) 558-7722.

June 3
A Night at the Magic Castle Fund-raiser for Inner City Outings: O-rated. Come to the Magic Castle, a world-famous club featuring internationally known magicians in an ornate, 1908 mansion. Enjoy buffet with Champagne or mimosa and amazing magic shows. \$75 for adults, \$60 for children 6 to 10 years old. The Magic Castle is at 7001 Franklin Ave. in Hollywood. Pay online at anglesico.org; valet parking is \$8 extra. Your participation will support day hikes, trips, snow trips and tide

pooling for underserved urban youngsters. Contact: Shirley Hickman at shirley.hickman@sbcglobal.org or (323) 255-2290.

Events

March 13
The Wildlife Waystation presented by Jean Cassidy, who will describe the venue that houses wild and exotic animals that have been abandoned. Live animals will be there too at the Crescenta Valley Group meeting. Meet 7:30 p.m. at L.A. County Public Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Contact: Wayne Fisher, (818) 353-4181

March 13
"Off the Path, Native Plant Adventures in the Wilds of Orange County" presented by Ron Vanderhoff of the California Native Plant Society. Meet 7:30 p.m. at the REI Tustin Marketplace for this Orange County Group meeting. Newcomers welcome! Contact: Bob Siebert or go to angles.sierraclub.org/orange

March 20
"Historic Stamps with Environmental Messages" will be presented by Bill Slaninko and Bill Stone at the East San Gabriel Valley Group meeting. Conversation and refreshments at 6 p.m., program starts at 6:30 at Covina Public Library (234 N. Second Ave.). Contact: Joan Jones Holtz at 626-443-0706.

March 22
"Wonderful Wildlife at the L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens" will be presented by Stacy Hagreen, web editor and docent with the Greater L.A. Zoo Assn. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. at the L.A. Zoo. Contact: Jeanne Karpenko, (818) 244-0733 or jkarpenko@earthlink.net

Day Trips

March 18
Beachwood Canyon Staircase Walk: O-rated. Explore beautiful Beachwood Canyon on a 2-mile walk along scenic narrow streets and six staircases. Highlights include views of the Hollywood sign, Griffith Park Observatory and more. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Meet 9:30 a.m. on the southwest corner of Beachwood and Belden drives. Contact: Leaders Arlene Bernstein (lutsvedona@gmail.com), Elaine Ayala

March 23-25
Winter Sports and Sightseeing in Mammoth Lakes, March 23-25, I-rated: Daily guided backcountry ski tours with at least low-intermediate skills and daily guided snowshoe tours; non-skiers welcome. Ski downhill or snowboard Mammoth Mountain, check out Tamarack Nordic Center. Price includes motel lodging (two persons, two beds), free shuttles, continental breakfast, happy hour. Cost is \$195 per person for Orange County Sierra Singles members; \$210 per person for non-members. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles and Wilderness Adventures. Contact: Reservationist-Leader Carol Tucker at hikergirl50@yahoo.com.

March 24
Multicultural Downtown L.A. Walk: O-rated. Explore downtown on a 4-mile walk through Chinatown, Olvera Street and other historic and cultural sites. Includes a short ride on the Gold Line and optional lunch. Meet 9:30 a.m. at information booth at Union Station,

Barbara with a glass of wine before returning by train. \$68 for members, \$88 for non-members. Sponsored by Verdugo Hills Group. Contact: Leaders Roxana Lewis, (310) 532-2933 or roxtlewis@aol.com, Bruce Hale

March 25
Santa Monica Architectural and Historical Walk: O-rated. Easy 3-mile walk along Santa Monica Pier, Palisades Park and residential areas to discover highlights of the city's history. Meet 9 a.m. on the pier near the Santa Monica Police tower. Sponsored by Sierra Singles and West L.A. Group. Contact: Leaders Roslyn Wilkins, Elaine Ayala (elaïneayala@verizon.net).

March 31
San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary: O-rated. Join us for a 11/2 hour walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Audubon Society naturalist Sally Menzelwill teach the group about the many birds in this unique habitat. Meet 9 a.m. at the Audubon House off Riparian Way. Sponsored by the Orange County Group. Contact: Leaders Ron Schrantz (rschranzscce@yahoo.com), Jay Matchett

April 7
Trippet Ranch to Eagle Rock in Topanga State Park: O-rated. Take a 5-mile hike with 900 feet of gain with spectacular view of the ocean, the valley and the canyons. Meet 10 a.m. in the Trippet Ranch parking area. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Contact: Leaders Randall Krause (randallcoach@yahoo.com), Gloria Stuntebeck

April 9
Newcomer Night: Come find out everything the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter has to offer — from events with Little Hikers to the 20s and 30s activities section to hiking, conditioning hikes, backpacking, Inner-City Outings, adventure destinations and conservation opportunities. Be a part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. and join for just \$15 — and receive a free gift. Meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Community Center. Sponsored by Sierra Singles and Orange County Group. Contact: Donna Specht, (donnaSpecht@juno.com).

April 10
Monthly Meeting and Program: Helen and Ed Maurer, "Sierra Club Afoot and Afield in the French Alps 2011". The Maurers will also introduce their Angeles Chapter trip to the Swiss Alps summer 2012. Meet REI Tustin Marketplace, 2962 El Camino Real at 7:30 p.m.. Newcomers welcome. For information contact Bob Siebert. angles.sierraclub.org/orange

April 10
The Phoenician Ship Expedition presented by Danielle Eubank, who served as expedition artist on a replicated 600 BCE sailboat. The Crescenta Valley Group meets 7:30 p.m. at L.A. County Public Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Contact: Wayne Fisher, (818) 353-4181.

May 7
Newcomer/Member Information Night: Come discover the Sierra Club with different entities: the Orange County Group, Sierra Sage, OC and LA Sierra Singles, Hundred Peak Section, Wilderness Training Committee, Mule Packs and other Club representatives. Learn about the Club and the many activities and adventure outings available. Table displays, exhibits, refreshments. Join the Sierra Club with special \$15 membership — and a free gift. Meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Community Center. Contact: Chapter Membership Chair Donna Specht, (donnaSpecht@juno.com)

MONTEBELLO/PAGE 3



JEFF YANN

The plan would develop hillside land south of the 60 Freeway.

Exploration & Production (PXP) operates 96 producing wells and 46 water injection wells in the Montebello hills. According to a report filed with the California Emergency Management Agency, PXP spilled "10 barrels of produced water and 40 gallons of crude oil" on April 19, 2011. Any spill of more than 42 gallons - which equals one barrel of oil - must be reported to the state agency. The spill contaminated a storm drain outlet and small pond connected to the Rio Hondo River.

Members of the Save the Montebello Hills Task Force notified local media about this spill, and news reports appeared in EGP News and the Los Angeles Times. The Task Force also provided evidence to the media that this was not the first spill in this area.

Official records obtained by the Task Force revealed that an estimated "2 to 3 barrels of oil" contaminated the same storm drain in September 2010. This spill was unreported until discovered by a vector control officer inspecting the river for mosquitoes. This past August, the L.A. County District Attorney's Office filed charges against PXP for allegedly failing to report the 2010 spill.

Why do these seemingly small spills matter? The Rio Hondo River flows into two separate ground-water

recharging structures, the conservation pool behind the Whittier Narrows Dam and the Pico Rivera Spreading Grounds below the dam. Henrietta Salazar, a newly elected director of the Pico Water Board, said she was "very concerned" about the threat of crude oil contaminating the underground aquifer which provides drinking water for the city of Pico Rivera.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, "All oil spills cause environmental damage, regard-

less of size. Oil is toxic to the environment and the damage starts as soon as the oil hits water. A single quart of oil has the potential to foul more than 100,000 gallons of water."

The Montebello Hills Task Force members are resolved to educate the public and elected officials about the inherent risks of this proposed housing development and the many benefits of preserving the hills as open space. They attend all Montebello City Council meetings and regularly speak on these issues.

LANDFILL/PAGE 7

A bright spot in the landfills operation began in 1975 when a Getty subsidiary opened a pioneering system using pipes to collect methane gas produced by the landfill and sold it to the Southern California Gas Company. In 1985, these operations were taken over by the sanitation district. Since 1986, a new energy center built on the site provided enough energy to power 10,000 homes according to the sanitation district. Together, gas and energy sales brought more than \$25 million in revenue to the district.

Such a buffer further helps protect residences from chemicals and bacteria that can be released by a landfill. Unfortunately, in some sections, the only buffer is a 10- to 15-foot wide service road separating the landfill from homes.

Originally the site of a diatomaceous earth mine, the underground, honey-combed tunnels used by the mine were left in place when it was abandoned and landfill operations began. Though some of these tunnels were later removed, not all were. The remaining tunnels pose a concern for migration of toxic waste in the landfill.

In October 2011, the county shut-down the last vestige of the gas to energy collection system. Installation of one new flare at the landfill relies on six antique back up flares built in the 1970s to burn off gases.

The old flares exceed cancer risk guidelines set by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Since toxic gasses released by the

landfill may be odorless, the task force proposes three safety requirements to ensure the public health and safety:

- a 24-hour, on-site staff trained in the oversight of the facility,
- a carbon monoxide monitor to detect landfill fires, a common occurrence on landfills, and
- a continuous ambient air monitoring to cover other air quality issues.

The landfill is far out-of-compliance with modern standards. That's why the task force believes these modest and prudent requests of the sanitation district should put in place as quickly as possible.

You can help by contacting Joan Davidson at j135cooper@yahoo.com or Chapter conservation coordinator Jennifer Robinson at jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org.

CALENDAR/PAGE 10

April 21
Exposition Park, Natural History Museum, USC Campus: O-rated. Easy 3-mile walk through Exposition Park and USC. Visit the Natural History Museum and a hop on the light rail too. Optional lunch follows. Meet 9:30 a.m. at the information booth in Union Station, 800 N. Alameda St. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leaders: Bob Dean (bdeansierraclub@hotmail.com), Elaine Mellingner

April 22
Walk in Scenic Rustic Canyon: O-rated. Enjoy a 3-mile hike with 200 feet of gain on neighborhood streets to learn about the history of this private enclave of lush gardens, diverse architecture and redwood trees. Meet 10 a.m. at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Contact: Leaders Mary Morales (10ter@cox.net), Elaine Ayala.

April 23
Red Box to Valley Forge: O-rated. Hike 6 miles with 1,200 feet of gain and several stream crossings on the Gabrieli National Trail through beautiful forest landscapes to Valley Forge trail camp. Meet 9 a.m. at the La Canada rishdare point; bring potluck item to share. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Natural Science Section. Leaders: Al Moggia (almog@dslxtreme.com), Arlene Bernstein

June 16-17
Trail-by-Rail Coastal Hike Oxnard: C-rated. Depart 7 a.m. from downtown L.A. to Oxnard for a walk along a coastal trail that includes an avian breeding area at the Santa Clara River estuary. Overnight in Ventura and a morning tour of historic downtown before hopping a train back to L.A. Must be able to walk 12 miles. \$205 for members, \$225 for non-members (sign up after May 11, add \$30). Sponsored by Verdugo Hills Group. Leaders Roxana Lewis, Bruce Hale

July 14-20
Victoria, B.C. and Olympic National Park in Washington: O-rated. Start in Victoria, British Columbia, to visit Butchart Gardens, the Royal BC Museum, and have high tea at the Empress Hotel. Hop a ferry to the U.S. and Olympic National Park in Washington state. Hike Hurricane Ridge, Hoh Rain Forest, Cape Flattery Trail, and more. Trip ends in Seattle. Price: is \$1,200 per person, which includes ground transportation, admission and tour fees, tips, hotel/cabin (double occupancy) and more. Airfare is not included. Optional 3-day add-on in Seattle costs additional \$270 per person. Sponsored by the Palos Verdes South Bay Group and O.C. Sierra Singles. Contact: Leaders Sandy Graham (Sandy2scott@sbcglobal.net) and Scott Graham.

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X-Ski Sequoia National Monument: Small guest house at 7,200 ft. elev. \$100/night. X-Ski blue-diamond trails. 3rd night free. N/S no pets (559) 542-2032.

JOBS/PAGE 2

Big Oil. Dropping supply and rising demand are a sure-fire formula to amass a fortune.

The concern over climate change is not an academic debate concocted by overeducated tree-huggers. It is a real-world concern arising from sound science about the lives of every human being, particularly the world's poorest people. As the economic consequences of food and water shortages brought on by climate change are felt—it will be the world's poorest who will suffer the most and likely pay for the consequences of our decisions with their lives.

In this country, this debate is sadly tortured by some who have bad-mouthed scientific inquiry when science threatens their pocketbooks.

If you have even a moment's hesitation with respect to the gravity of the climate change, you have a well "oiled" lobby to thank for your doubts. It is hard to witness the pervasiveness of the impacts of Big Oil's manipulative folly and remember that our nation began in an age of enlightenment and reason.

The recipe again: good jobs, green jobs, close to home. In this regard, the environmental movement itself must beware. It's not enough to stop creating dirty jobs. Our first focus must be on creating new, green jobs—the very jobs that will help turn our nation around, and replace jobs from the old coal and oil economy.

We are out to create the jobs and build the cities of a nation that will long endure.

WATER/PAGE 3

At another meeting, discussion focused on variations for the garden. Would the plants be mostly natives? Or should they be a combination of natives and other plants? What other life would plants bring to the downtown area, i.e., butterflies, bees etc.?

Other issues arose too. Would there be more seating? Could mulch be used in place of disposable granite? Will the park be pet friendly? A suggestion was made to have a symbolic Southern California City native plant/flower, and an edible garden as part of the demonstration garden.

City Hall's water use outdoors has

been reduced by almost half of what it was in 2001, part of the mayor's push on water conservation in Southern California. The focus for the new grounds will be on function and use, sustainability and education. Planting areas will be created by default, meaning the areas where the lawns are routinely used will be preserved; lawn space not in use will be used for planting.

Time is a factor. City Hall would like to reopen the grounds as soon as possible. For more information, go to www.laparks.org/restoration. To get involved with the Water Committee; join us every second Tuesday of the month at the Angeles Chapter office.

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OUTINGS LEGEND

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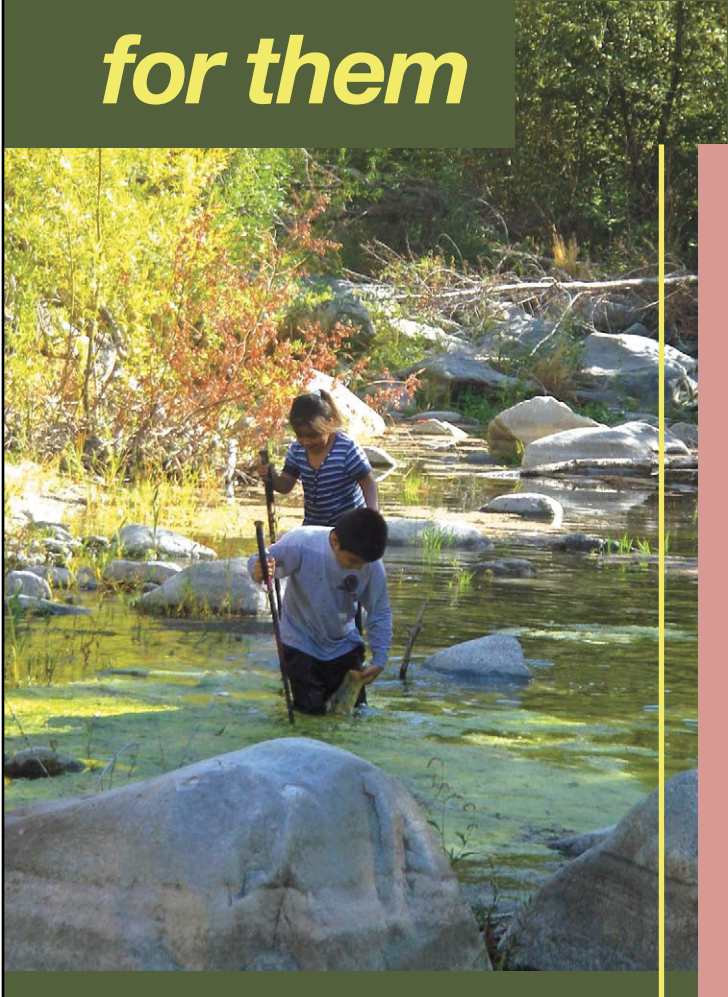
Outings info: For more hike listings, please see the Schedule of Activities or visit: www.angeles.sierraclub.org, click Outings

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you participate on an outing, please go to: www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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Protecting Ballona and Bolsa Chica wetlands

(over 2200 acres protected)

Creating the San Gabriel River/ Rio Hondo Emerald Necklace

(over 1500 acres protected)

And many other victories.

And The Angeles Chapter has conducted over 100,000 trips and outings which have inspired hundreds of thousands of Southern Californians to appreciate nature and want to protect our wild lands and open spaces.

Help Us Continue This Work.

Please help us ensure that the Angeles Chapter and its conservation and outings programs can continue to thrive for the next 100 years and beyond by including **The Angeles Chapter Foundation in your will or trust**—or making the Angeles Chapter Foundation a beneficiary of a bank account, stock brokerage account or other asset.

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