



CAROLE SCURLOCK



NEIL DAVIDSON

Moon shots



CHUCK GONZALEZ

Full moons, half moon, blue moons – all make for dreamy photographs provided you catch the right moment. Camera Committee leader Joan Schipper has been fascinated with the idea of capturing images of the moon in the landscape ever since she saw member Neil Davidson's photo of the moonrise in Nepal (upper right).

Perfect times to get the shot are moonrise on the day before a full moon and moonset the day after the full moon, when it hovers over the horizon with the sun illuminating the foreground. And they are dreamy, like these Joshua trees framing the moon at Rainbow Basin Natural Area north of Barstow, Calif.

The Camera Committee organizes Shoot the Moon outings when one of the optimal days happens on or near a weekend. Schipper looks for locations convenient to Los Angeles, sometimes staying as close to home as Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook in Culver City (lower right), or farther afield. She's been trying to catch a good moonrise over the White Mountains for years.

Schipper will take a small group of photographers to a local moonrise site on June 3. To go along, e-mail her at joan.schipper@ix.netcom.com or call (323) 939-1706. In the meantime, check out more moon shots at camco-moon.blogspot.com.

Time to retire San Onofre?

Nuclear power plant's recent problems make the case to keep it closed.

By David Freeman and Shuan Burnie

Compromised safety closed two nuclear reactor units; the threat of blackouts shouldn't reopen them.

The nuclear reactors at San Onofre nuclear power plant south of San Clemente are nearly 30 years old. In January, one of the steel tubes in the steam generator of reactor Unit 2 burst and leaked radioactive steam into the environment. It was then revealed that hundreds of steel tubes inside steam generators in both reactors were severely degraded. Now both reactors remain shut down because operator Southern California Edison doesn't yet know what caused the damage to the reactors.

The plant is visible as you drive down Highway 1 and the 5 Freeway. It sits next to the popular surfing spot San Onofre State Beach.

It's also located near an earthquake fault. The plant is designed to withstand a 7.0 quake; Japan's deadly quake in March 2011 that rocked the Fukushima nuclear reactors was a magnitude 9.0, or 60 times more powerful. There also are decades of accumulated "radioactive trash" in the used spent fuel rods on the site, more than 1,400 tons, a large part of which is stored underwater in pools.

Fukushima was a wake up call, but Edison told the people it could not happen here; that San Onofre was safe. Edison claims it practices



GARY HEADRICK/SAN CLEMENTE GREENS

Surfers use the popular San Onofre State Beach, which abuts the power plant that came on line in the 1980s.

"safety first".

And then this near-30 year old plant springs a leak. First they said it was just steam. Then they admitted it was radioactive. Then they said it was just a problem with reactor Unit 3.

Then the really bad news: The new steam generators supposed to last 20 years were wearing down at an alarming rate less than 2 years after being installed. Hundreds of steel tubes were affected, with some losing 30% of their thickness. Damaged tubes were taken out of service by plugging them; some of the tubes in reactor Unit 3 that were pressure-tested ruptured.

In Unit 2, Edison stopped pressure testing after one tube was tested

and passed. However there are more than 19,000 tubes in this reactor unit. The operator has tried to create a distinction between the two reactor units with the aim of restarting Unit 2 before the summer peak loads. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC, tasked with ensuring the safety of nuclear power across the country, has followed Edison's lead and tried to make the case that the problems in Unit 2 are not as serious as those at Unit 3.

But this game plan has collapsed when Edison finally admitted on April 10 that the same unusual problems found in reactor Unit 3 also had been found at reactor Unit 2.

SAN ONOFRE/PAGE 8

Sierra Club joins suit over Newhall Ranch

From Sierra Club reports

The Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter joined five public-interest groups in April that are suing Los Angeles County over its approval of permits for the first phase of the sprawling Newhall Ranch development. The proposed plan, one of the largest single residential development projects in California, would be sited on 12,000 acres of land along the Santa Clara River in northwest L.A. County.

Newhall Ranch would create a city of more than 60,000 on a six-mile stretch of the river that is currently rugged open space and farmland by channeling the county's last mostly free-flowing river.

Construction approved by the county on Feb. 23 would require filling the river's floodplain on a large scale; channelizing more than three miles of river and converting many tributary streams to concrete-lined channels; unearth and desecrate Native American burial sites, sacred places and cultural natural resources such as the California condor; and threaten the San Fernando Valley spineflower, a species found in only one other location on the planet.

"It's appalling that L.A. County would be so reckless with the last free-flowing river in the region," said Ron Bottorff with the Friends of the Santa Clara River. "This

area has lost all but 3% of its historic river woodlands; the county's approval would replace some of the finest riparian areas remaining anywhere in Southern California with ugly strip malls and housing we don't need."

The Santa Clara River is one of two major Southern California rivers remaining in a relatively natural state. It flows for about 116 miles from its headwaters on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains near Acton to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean between Oxnard and Ventura. Its watershed is home to a great diversity of very rare species, among them the unarmored three-spine stickleback fish, the California condor, least Bell's vireo, Southwestern willow flycatcher, California red-legged frog, arroyo toad, Southern steelhead trout and San Fernando Valley spineflower. Wildlands of the Santa Clara River provides a full accounting of rare environmental resources of this precious landscape.

"The Sierra Club has fought throughout the nation and internationally for floodplain and river protection," Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson said. "As part of this national focus, it is only fitting that the 40,000-member Angeles Chapter should continue its longstanding battle to protect

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Chapter intern makes a big impact on inner-city kids. Page 6



Why Southern California needs to rethink its waste. Page 2



Mongolia, Virginia and more! Book your adventure trip now. Page 9

Why are we tossing organic waste into landfills?

By **Jeremy Drake**

One-third of all the stuff we throw away in L.A. and Orange counties could help improve the health of our communities, prevent climate change, nourish local soils and create good green jobs.

Meet organic discards, the single biggest class of materials in California's waste stream. Why not take this 31 percent of garbage that the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery says can be composted or mulched and redirect it away from landfills and incinerators and toward responsible organics processing facilities?

But we don't, and there are consequences to this missed environmental opportunity.

We're polluting our communities and the environment.

Every day, organic material is dumped into Southern California landfills. As it decomposes, the fugitive air emissions released impact the health of adjacent communities, while liquid emissions jeopardize precious local groundwater resources. The impacts are also global. Air emissions contain methane, a fierce climate-polluting gas. Methane's flammability

L.A. needs to expand its recycling program. Page 5.

makes the practice of converting the gas to energy quite popular at California landfills.

The inclusion of landfill-gas-to-energy projects in the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard has sparked considerable controversy. Proponents call landfill gas a renewable resource. Opponents call such projects inefficient at best and environmentally destructive at worst. Even though California is the state with the most stringent guidelines for managing landfill gas, wouldn't keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We're depleting our soils.

Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators also impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizers and pesticides stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not

returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back in the form of former plants, aka compost. We have to drill for more oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources? It's clearly an unsustainable scenario. How long would a forest ecosystem last in which all of the fallen leaves and branches were swept up and carted off every day?

We're burning and burying jobs.

The Institute for Local Self Reliance studied the job creation potential of recycling, reuse and waste reduction and concluded that such practices "offer direct development opportunities for communities." (Check out <http://www.ilsr.org/recycling/recyclingmeansbusiness.html>). The management of organic materials by composting creates four times more jobs than the management of organic materials by landfilling. We have the opportunity to create green jobs through the development of a local composting industry. However, it is important that those jobs are good jobs. The untimely passing of workers and brothers Eladio and Armando Ramirez at a composting facility in Lamont, Calif., who were overcome by lethal gases on

Get involved: Puente Hills Landfill

The Zero Waste Committee of the Angeles Chapter is launching an Organic Waste Campaign this year that targets officials of cities currently disposing food or yard waste in the Puente Hills Landfill.

Campaign members want city officials to divert such waste to a compost processing facility when the landfill closes in 2013 rather than add to existing landfills or build new ones.

Volunteers interested in participating in this important campaign should contact Zero Waste Committee chair Hillary Gordon at hillgordon@verizon.net or Conservation Coordinators Jennifer Robinson (Jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org) or George Watland (george.watland@sierraclub.org) to get involved.

the company's property highlights that responsible waste diversion hasn't necessarily equated to responsible labor practices. It must.

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President Obama agrees with Club's Mission Outdoors vision

By **Tiffany Saleh**

"Connecting people to our lands is personally important to me," said President Obama at the White House Conference on Conservation held in early March. The conference, convened by the President



and his cabinet, was titled Growing America's Outdoor Heritage and Economy.

The idea was to involve leaders in the conservation community in a discussion about progress made by the America's Great Outdoors initiative -- one Obama launched to "develop a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda" -- strategies for growing that success.

I was honored to receive an invitation to speak during a breakout panel on youth and outdoor education.

In attending the conference, I was glad to see a continued focus on connecting people to the outdoors, the prime focus of Sierra Club's Mission Outdoors.

Since the inception of the Great Outdoors initiative two years ago, Mission Outdoors has taken this opportunity to not only educate leaders about the growing divide between people and nature, but to encourage this issue's inclusion as a major pillar of the administration's conservation platform.

We organized youth leaders to attend the listening sessions, developed recommendations about reconnecting youth with the outdoors for Sierra Club's vision document, worked with our partners at the Outdoors Alliance for Kids to support the first lady's Lets Move Outside initiative, and much more.

That's why I was so happy to hear the administration emphasizing over and over the importance of getting outdoors, not

only for individuals, but for the conservation movement and the American economy.

Overcoming this disconnect from nature is vital to the future of conservation in America. Sierra Club is bringing over a century of experience to bear in overcoming the barriers to getting outdoors today.

I highlighted how we are supporting the initiative by getting about 250,000 people outdoors every year!

But I also called on the administration and the conservation community to work together to find solutions to the barriers that are keeping people indoors.

To my surprise and excitement, President Obama joined the conference to give the closing remarks. As a speaker, I was again honored with a seat in the front of the house, and an opportunity to shake the President's hand after his speech.

During his remarks, the President again emphasized the economic power of getting outdoors:

"[We need] the kind of ideas that preserve our environment, protect our bottom line, and connect more Americans to the great outdoors."

But it was his comments about the personal effect the outdoors has had on him that stayed with me. The president spoke movingly of his first trip to Yellowstone National Park, and how inspired he was when he later repeated that experience with his own children.

That inspiration drives his current commitment to preserving those experiences for future Americans.

"And that is what we have to fight for. That's what's critical, is making sure that we're always there to bequeath that gift to the next generation...I'll do everything I can to help protect our economy but also protect this amazing planet that we love and this great county that we've been blessed with."

Mr. President, I couldn't agree more.

Tiffany Saleh is a Mission Outdoors Outreach Representative for the Sierra Club.

A clean trucks victory

By **Tom Politeo**

It's been about 12 years since a couple of us started working to bring clean, non-polluting trucks to the Port of Los Angeles. On a Wednesday night in April in a small trailer in a truck yard in Wilmington, a coalition that includes the Angeles Chapter's Harbor Vision Task Force scored a victory when nearly 50 employee truck drivers voted to join the Teamsters.

The task force started working with Teamsters and the Longshoreman's union on trucking issues in 2002. Four years later, the Sierra Club began participating in a national campaign based on local coalitions to fight for clean trucks and employee status for drivers. Early in 2006, an organizer from Change to Win contacted Sierra Club National offices in

San Francisco to seek the Club's participation.

They outlined a campaign for clean trucks and employee status for drivers based on a concession model. This was the same sort of campaign the task force had sought from the port back in 2002. Finally, with this vote, the task force scored a victory.

This coalition has been very instructive in terms of the big number

of players involved, the Natural Resources Defense Council (which represented the Club pro bono), the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (which coordinated the campaign locally), the Teamsters (who worked to organize the drivers), CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic justice) that worked on

CLEAN TRUCKS/PAGE 4

Letters

The road to clean energy

In the March/April issue ("Clean energy: Why natural gas doesn't make the cut"), Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune tends to paint a rather gloomy portrait of the natural gas industry.

I have to disagree based on several known facts. I have worked in the natural gas industry for more than 25 years and I am proud to have served millions of customers with a clean alternative to coal and oil for the production of electricity and other energy needs.

As a long-time Sierra Club member, I agree with Michael that we need to look beyond all forms of hydrocarbon-based fuels. However these technologies aren't necessarily "around the corner" on a full-scale basis. We need to maintain our natural gas systems to deliver a dependable source of energy that is nearly independent of oil.

In fact there is a glut of natural gas at present and there is actually less exploring and drilling being performed because there isn't much incentive for producers. Ultimately it would be preferable to use a source of energy that is clean and reliable while the alternatives are being developed.

—Steve Anderson,
Fountain Valley

The true cost of energy?

In the seemingly forever debate on carbon what is always missing is consideration of the need to measure energy consumed in terms of energy units used to produce it. This is particularly desirable when finite sources of energy are involved.

For example, the units of energy consumed in extraction of petroleum continues to increase as the resource diminishes, i.e., the wells have to go deeper day by day.

Coal may be cheapest in that the energy consumed in recovery of a ton of coal is less than that in recovery of a proportional unit of petroleum or gas. But as Congress surmised when it decided to subsidize nuclear power, the latter may be more expensive than coal in the number of units of a finite source of energy needed to refine the uranium ore, but it is cleaner and more tractable -- thus more desirable but more costly in terms of energy consumed.

We need to always measure the final product in terms of units of energy consumed to make it as well as in terms of dollars and cents.

—Harry Rockey
Laguna Woods

Southern Sierran

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Baldwin Hills area residents concerned about fracking

Southern California may be particularly vulnerable to the ill effects of methods used to expand oil and gas extraction in local wells.

By Tom Williams

In a rush to keep developing more natural gas and oil, oil and gas companies are relying more heavily on a technique of stimulation and extraction known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking. Using this process, companies that develop gas and oil wells pump very high-pressure water, chemicals and solids into the ground to fracture rock and extract fuel that would otherwise be unavailable.

Though some form of fracking has been used for more than 50 years, its recent rise has raised a number of environmental and safety/health concerns including the release of greenhouse gases, contamination of

drinking water, air pollution and triggering earthquakes. These concerns are raised in light of weak international, federal and state oversight and regulation of the process—with federal standards even weaker than those of many states.

The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club is concerned about the introduction of large-scale fracking and similar processes to Southern California. About 9 million people call our area home. They live in a region that has a growing dependency on groundwater, has a robust seismic record with many earthquake faults believed to still be undiscovered, boasts some of the nation's worst air quality, and is riddled with gas and oil fields from the heyday of drilling, with many abandoned wells remaining uncapped.

Energy and petroleum interests say there's no evidence of any direct, negative environmental impact

of fracking, and the practice has decades of use without problems, but without any documentation of underground environmental conditions before/after wells and fields developments.

But that's not what many communities say. Sierra Club chapters in New York-Pennsylvania, Ohio, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and other communities have raised concerns – and received few answers.

In Ohio, an area not known for earthquakes, state regulators say a dozen recent earthquakes were almost certainly caused by injection of gas-drilling wastewater into the earth near Youngstown. The largest measured 4.0 on the Richter scale, caused cracks to appear in some streets and was felt as far away as Toronto.

Fracking is also blamed on another 50 earthquakes in Ohio and two

in England, and others have been acknowledged by well service companies.

Locally, Baldwin Hills and Culver City residents are up in arms about a process being used at the nearby Inglewood Oilfield, and the impact it could have on their communities. Plains Exploration and Petroleum (PXP) says in media stories that it uses high-rate gravel packing not hydraulic fracturing, although reports to the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources indicate that they did fracking.

Residents want to know about any process that pumps at very high pressure liquids or slurries into the ground and what could happen as a result.

Fracking uses its brew to fracture tight rocks to promote gases, oil, and water to flow through new cracks to a well where they can be extracted. Current methods use large volumes

of water, a wide range of hazardous chemicals, fine sand and very high pressures with complex equipment array to reach down nearly a mile to get more oil and gas out of the rocks.

Neither state nor federal regulations compel energy companies to disclose substances, quantities, or the process they pump into the ground to stimulate the extraction process. The California legislature has responded by drafting various legislation requiring its disclosure of fracking locations, processes, and chemicals. California regulators are concerned with 'active fault zones', but they say nothing about the other potentially 'active': 'ancient', 'inactive', and other faults, fractures, and joints in the ground beneath us here in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Fracking is done on a variety of

FRACKING/PAGE 11

Mad Hatter's tie party?



Sierra Club leader Peter Ireland, left, demonstrates his knot-tying skills while wearing the only hat he had in his car on a cold and windy March day: a St. Patrick's Day bonnet. Ireland and others took a hike to Cedar Lake north of Newcomb's

Ranch in the Angeles National Forest. Carole Scurlock, editor of the Camera Committee's newsletter, and Dominic Salgarolo also participated – and bundled up against the cold.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB CATES

Forest fees put on hold

Court decision may put an end to Adventure Pass

By Don Bremner

A federal appeals court decision in an Arizona case sharply restricts and may end the Adventure Pass program that imposes recreation fees for visitors to Angeles National Forest and other federal lands. The U.S. Forest Service, though, made no immediate move to change its fee system.

The Forest Service cannot charge a fee for visitors who simply park, hike or picnic in a forest without using such amenities as toilets, picnic tables, trash containers and security services, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said in a unanimous opinion on Feb. 9. The Ninth Circuit includes California as well as Arizona and seven other western states, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii and Alaska.

In Arizona, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office that represented the Forest Service in the case said that the appeals court's mandate sending the case back to the federal district court in Arizona was not issued until April 3, and that as of mid-April, the lower court docket had no further hearing scheduled on the matter.

Tamara Wilton, Recreation Fee Program Manager for the Forest Service in California, said that her office was continuing the fee program and waiting for developments and legal guidance before making any changes. She called the situation "frustrating."

Some forest users will have mixed feelings if the ruling ends the Adventure Pass. They have long objected to the fees, typically \$5 a day or \$30 annually, arguing that national forests are public lands financed through taxes, and the public should not have to pay to enter and use those lands.

But the fees help pay the cost of maintaining recreational facilities in the national forest, and replacing that money won't be easy at a time of federal budget cutbacks and lean appropriations for the Forest Service.

Wilton said in 2010 fees totaled \$1.237 million in Angeles National Forest in 2010, and \$1.1 million in the San Bernardino National Forest. For all of California, the total that year was \$7.1 million. She said much of the fee revenue has been used to maintain and improve facilities such as restrooms and trails, to finance visitor services, and for helping to

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Briefs

Angeles Chapter makes it easier to give!

The Angeles Chapter has launched an easy and safe way to make monthly and quarterly donations online. Your donations support the Chapter's important work on conservation and political issues as well as the thousands of outings sponsored each year.

Here's how it works: Go online to tinyurl.com/7myo6uw and select a gift amount or enter your own. Then choose "monthly" or "quarterly" gift from the drop-down menu and you're done. Please make a donation today.

—Angeles Chapter

Volunteers needed to staff front desk at Chapter office

Not all Sierra Club volunteers lead hikes or rally for political candidates. Some dedicated volunteers take a seat at the Angeles Chapter's headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard to serve as greeter and help with office tasks. The Chapter needs office volunteers to help out for four-hour shifts on Mondays

and Tuesdays. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact jane.mcfarlane@sierraclub.org.

—Angeles Chapter

Get ready to go solar

The Sierra Club will launch a partnership with two of L.A. County's leading rooftop solar companies to help homeowners cut carbon and electricity costs, and join the rooftop revolution.

Last summer more than 150 California homeowners took advantage of the Club's program to help members and supporters go solar at little to no upfront cost. As a result of the program's success in California, the Club plans to expand the partnership to 10 additional markets this year in Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington, D.C.

In California, Sierra Club will be partnering with Sungevity to bring solar to even more households in 2012. The program also raises money for the Club because it receives money very time a home goes solar.

If you're a renter or not ready for a solar panel system, think about supporting local clean energy by contributing to a community solar project. The

Club will work with Solar Mosaic to raise funds for solar installations at schools, places of worship and community centers across the country.

—National Sierra Club

Follow the trail ... on your iPhone

Sierra Club Trail Explorer free app brings 40,000 trails in North America to your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch (sorry, Android users). The app allows users to search trails by name, activity, length and location. And there's a way to track routes and add trails too.

Here are some other cool apps:

- Fotopedia National Parks features an app with multiple images of 58 national parks shot by photographer Q.T. Luong. You can shuffle photos to make slideshows and read information about each of the parks profiled.

- National Parks by National Geographic focuses on 20 parks, including many in the West, and includes information on camping and lodging, directions, etc. It's a mini-guide that's easy to use.

All apps are free and downloadable from iTunes.

—Mary Forgiome

Proposed ballfields run afoul of Griffith Park vision



TOM POLITEO

Creating two new youth baseball fields at Crystal Springs in Griffith Park runs contrary to the benefactor's vision for the park as a place of rest for "the plain people."

By Carol Henning

Los Angeles has proposed constructing two new "youth" baseball fields at Crystal Springs, the area in Griffith Park just south of the Ranger Station and the Visitor Center. To this end, it has applied for a Proposition K competitive grant for a program called "L.A. for Kids." Pote Field is a full-size ball field already at Crystal Springs. It has a fence around it and is for use by adults only. The City Bureau of Engineering, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program, has outlined three options.

The first two options for the youth ball fields require destruction

"Public parks are a safety valve of great cities and should be made accessible and attractive where neither race, creed nor color could be excluded."

—Griffith Jenkins Griffith

of mature trees, including native oak and sycamore, removal of picnic tables and picnic area, removal of some parking spaces, and changing

the driveway, now a loop, into a short turnaround. There will be a ball field within 10 feet of an equestrian, walking and running trail. This same trail is also part of a national historic trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail, a 1,200 trail that honors Spanish settlers who journeyed from Arizona to San Francisco.

The National Park Service has awarded a grant of assistance to Friends of Griffith Park to restore the Griffith Park portion of the trail. In addition, Griffith Park in almost its entirety has been designated as a Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument. Thus, there will have to be historical as well as environmental

review of this project.

To get this grant, the city must prove it the proposed project will increase recreation and will be generally accessible to all. Crystal Springs is heavily used by families, most of whom do not have yards or nearby green space. Kids visiting Crystal Springs rent bikes, play catch, have birthday parties and use the area for many other activities. It is unlikely that displacing these regular users will increase recreation. Instead, the project will invite organized baseball clubs at the expense of families from underserved communities who use the area for picnics and informal recreation. Some of the youth baseball clubs will come from affluent areas such as Toluca Lake and Hancock Park.

Option three is to explore other locations within or near Griffith Park. North Atwater Park and a portion of the Central Service Yard are alternative locations that present themselves. If kids need more baseball fields, why not put them nearby, rather than in the middle of Griffith Park? A goal of establishing a "sports complex" in the center of the park has been mentioned. Here are some of the problems with that plan:

- It subverts Colonel Griffith's vision for the park as a place of rest for the "plain people."
- It results in the loss of space for family picnics and informal recreation.
- It eliminates the loop for bicycle riders and walkers.
- It endangers horses and their riders with screaming kids and parents and with flying balls.
- It probably increases vehicular traffic.
- It results in destruction of mature

Get involved

Tell L.A.'s parks leaders you want to keep the vision of Griffith Park alive and want them to site ballfields for kids near but not inside the park.

Cathie Santo Domingo, Project Manager Bureau of Engineering,

Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program, 200

N. Spring St. 23rd floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012,

cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org,

Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks,

1200 West 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

trees, eliminating shade and habitat.

- It further disturbs a wildlife corridor.

Finding places for ball fields near Griffith Park can lead to a win for ball-playing kids and for the park as well. Too many people cast covetous eyes on Griffith Park.

It is the largest urban wilderness park in the United States. Even so, it is not big enough to contain everything on everyone's wish list. And the "wilderness" component of "urban wilderness" is a key element of the identity of the park.

In 1958, Van Griffith remarked that, "As I see the future, Griffith Park is going to need a guardian angel in order to survive." Just so. Powerful interest groups are pushing for these ball fields.

Higher learning? Sierra Club takes Houston students on a hike

A group of 36 students from a Texas high school got a special treat on their college tour of Los Angeles: an evening hike of Griffith Park. Students from YesPrep, a charter school that places all its graduates in four-year colleges, were in L.A. for a few days to visit UCLA, USC, the Claremont Colleges and Woodbury University.

As a break from the campus tours, YesPrep arranged for students to visit Griffith Park and go on a hike with the Sierra Club.

Students and their four chaperones hiked to vantage points looking over Glendale, Burbank and the huge expanse of the Los Angeles Basin. They even caught a glimpse of the Hollywood Sign just as nighttime settled in on the hike that lasted about three hours.

Griffith Park Section leaders Stag Brown, Felix Martinez, Paul Carlos, Gina Di Bari Carlos and Joe Young led the group.

—Joe Young

CLEAN TRUCKS/PAGE 2

the social issue components of this campaign, lots of local environmental groups, health and economy researchers — all worked in a pitched battle against the National Trucking Association and the National Retail Federation (Wal-Mart dominantly).

Though, this victory is a milestone, the work isn't yet done. There might be adverse decisions from a case that is winding its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. And, there are some 15,000 port truck drivers.

It remains important to the successful long-term operations of the clean trucks program that trucks are owned by and maintained

by trucking companies, and that drivers are scheduled to pick up and drop off loads as employees -- so port terminal operators can see the cost of inefficient operations and benefit from running things smoothly, instead of exploiting drivers, wasting fuel and polluting.

And it is humanly important to uplift the working poor because it's very hard to advance environmental issues in impoverished and environmentally-blighted neighborhoods when residents don't have the time or resources to stand up and fight off polluters.

Three big cheers to all our partners in this campaign.

Tom Politeo is chair of the Harbor Vision Task Force.

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It's time to expand Los Angeles' recycling efforts

By Carol Henning

"Shame on them!" cried labor, environmental and community activists assembled in front of American Reclamation's waste sorting center in the Atwater area of Los Angeles.

The rally for zero waste and responsible recycling happened at lunchtime March 15, the first day of the Good Jobs Green Jobs regional conference in L.A. sponsored by the Sierra Club.

The "shame" chant was a response to the testimony of Karla Campos, a waste sorter at the company who lost her job after a work-related injury, and of Duan Draper, a waste hauler, who described the lack of safety equipment provided to workers and the slipshod maintenance of the trucks.

What happens to the trash you sort carefully and deposit into the blue, green and black bins? If you live in a single-family house, the city empties each color bin into an appropriate truck. But what if you live in an apartment or condo, and what about offices and retail stores?

There is a completely different system of trash disposal for multi-family dwellings and businesses. These entities negotiate with independent waste haulers and usually don't bother with the added expense of recycling collection. There are no regulations or standards at the city level governing waste hauling and sorting in the commercial and multi-family sectors.

Hillary Gordon, Chair of the Angeles Chapter's Zero Waste Committee likens the waste disposal industry in Los Angeles to the Wild West. So does Greg Good of LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy). He points out that 30 percent of the 2.9 million tons of waste we send to landfills and incin-

erators is household waste, while 70 percent is from businesses and multi-family dwellings.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proudly claims that 71 percent of Los Angeles' trash is recycled, well above the 33 percent U.S. average. But that diversion is happening primarily from single-family households and a portion of the multi-family sector serviced by the Bureau of Sanitation. Think of how much closer we could get to achieving true zero waste in Los Angeles by increasing diversion from apartments, condos and businesses.

Recycling brings twice the number of jobs as landfills and incinerators do. But recycling facilities are usually situated in communities without enough resources or clout to say "no." Those communities also get the trash dumps and incinerators. We must insist that recycling facilities be clean, safe and sited fairly.

But back to the rally. American Reclamation employs workers who are on the front lines in the effort to achieve L.A.'s goal of 95 percent diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators. These workers haul and sort commercial trash to salvage recyclable materials.

American Reclamation has public contracts with entities like the City of El Monte. At its facility, workers say wages are low and working conditions are unsafe. Work areas are filthy and have little ventilation. Campos described a lunchroom crawling with rats and restrooms crawling with other life forms. Neither the haulers nor the sorters are given any safety equipment such as gloves, glasses or goggles, masks. They must provide their own or go without. Workers get no benefits either.

"It's about respect!" say the



TOM POLITEO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Hillary Gordon who heads the Angeles Chapter Zero Waste Committee protested at the rally.

Teamsters. More than 32,000 drivers, helpers, throwers, mechanics and other workers in the solid waste, recycling and related industries belong to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The union would like all solid waste and recycling workers to be able to join them and stand together to negotiate fair wages, benefits and workplace safety issues. "With the protection of a union you can speak out against unsafe practices that endanger you or the public."

Green jobs should be good jobs. Allison Chin, Sierra Club Treasurer and past President says, "We choose good jobs and a clean environment." Teamsters General President, James P. Hoffa, agrees.

Get involved: Recycling

What to do to improve recycling in Los Angeles

- If you live in a condo or apartment and work in offices or retail space, ask questions and do a bit of investigating to see who picks up the trash and whether there are opportunities to sort recyclable materials.

- Watch what happens to trash deposited into recycling bins. Does it simply get mixed in with all the other trash, or is it removed separately? Talk to the management at your apartment or condo complex.

- Support labor unions in their attempts to organize workers.

- Support a bill, now work-

ing its way through committees at City Hall, that would create a franchise system for multi-family and commercial trash collection. This would give certain companies responsibilities for designated "waste sheds." This would compel the private solid waste industry to have some accountability.

Volunteers interested in participating in this important campaign should contact Zero Waste Committee chair Hillary Gordon or Conservation Coordinators Jennifer Robinson (Jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org) or George Watland (george.watland@sierraclub.org).

Good Jobs Green Jobs ideas take hold

by Jan Kidwell

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa opened the Good Jobs Green Jobs conference in Los Angeles in March by talking about 200 projects with labor agreements that would build renewable energy facilities and green buildings.

Villaraigosa emphasized the conference theme that investing in the economy and the environment is not an either/or choice. We can do both, he said.

The conference March 15 and 16 was sponsored by the Blue Green Alliance, which includes the Sierra Club, the United Steelworkers and other labor unions. There were five to eight different topic sessions for each of three daily panel discussions. The focus was on how to enter into the new "green" economy and how to prepare or train to land a green job.

In a session on global trade agreements, audience members in a packed room heard about the Trans Pacific Trade Agreement the U.S. is now negotiating with a number of Pacific Rim countries. This would give rights to corporations that override U.S. laws now protecting Americans and the environment.

Another panel called "Women Entering the Green Economy" focused on an organization called WINTER, or Women In Non-Traditional Employment Roles. Speakers pointed out that "green" jobs mostly have been offered in male dominated fields, like construction and manufacturing. There is some federal funding for training women for green jobs encompassing 10 different trades.

In a session on wind power, it was noted that many more workers are needed to service wind turbines being installed across America.



TOM POLITEO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Carl Pope, left, former executive director of the Sierra Club, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Teamsters leader James Hoffa voiced their support of environmental jobs at the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference in Los Angeles in March.

It involves working 12 hour shifts seven days a week, with six months on and six months off. But for those who enjoy the adrenaline rush that comes with climbing 300 feet several times a day, it pays of \$40 to \$70 an hour.

More ideas were floated for those who enjoy working at ground level on projects such as home weatherization and using green technology in transportation.

An afternoon plenary session with Tom Steyer, who headed the campaign that defeated Prop 23, also underscored the harmony between job creation and the environment.

A proposed Clean Energy Jobs Act in California aims to close the tax loopholes for out of state companies that sell to California. This could bring in \$1.1 billion, half of which would be used for retrofits, and half

for funding schools. Signatures are being collected for this ballot initiative.

The session on "Playing Clean Energy Offense: How to Take on Clean Energy Bashers and Climate Deniers" examined the power structure behind the attacks on clean energy, many of which derive from the oil industry and its lobbyists.

And for those who deny that climate change exists (or that we should do anything about it), it's worth noting that the U.S. military says climate change is a security threat.

Overall, the many speakers and sessions at the Blue Green Alliance conference demonstrated that the labor and environmental movements have important issues in common and must work together to achieve a sustainable future providing a healthy environment on and off the job.

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Make someone smile -- do it today!

'Dear Becky ... you know everything about nature!'

Last Fall, Rebecca Niemiec received a grant from The Tucker Foundation of Dartmouth University to work with Los Angeles Inner City Outings (ICO). The following account is excerpted from her blog and from her final report to the foundation.

By Rebecca Niemiec

The sun was setting over the horizon, casting a pink hue over the vast blue ocean before us. A cool breeze whipped over the rolling hills and blew past me, rustling our tents. The students began walking out from the brush to join me at the campsite and sat next to me silently, meditatively.

"So, how was it?" I broke the silence that engulfed us as the last of the five students grabbed his sweatshirt and sat next to me. The high school students, who were from underserved parts of inner city Los Angeles, had just finished their first wilderness solos in which they had to stay by themselves in nature for an hour and write a letter to their future selves. They were on their first backpacking trip, and several of them had never spent a night outdoors in their life.

"This place just makes you feel so small," one of the students said quietly, brushing her black hair from her face and squinting into the sunlight, "so insignificant. I just realized I was nothing. I haven't done anything." Several of the others nodded in agreement.

"But at the same time," a boy next to her began, "While I realized I was nothing, I also realized that there was so much I can do... and be in the future. It made me happy. I've never thought about that before."

"Yeah," the boy next to him exclaimed as he suddenly lit up. "It's so beautiful here. I want to wake up somewhere like here every morning. I had never thought before about what I actually want to do... like I can do what I want to do."

I thought about these students' words for a long time after the back-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE YOUNG

College student Rebecca Niemiec, top and right, spent her summer designing curricula and taking students outdoors with the Chapter's Inner-City Outings Committee

packing trip. I couldn't imagine them thinking they were nothing. They were smart; many of them were in all AP classes. They were bright, athletic, and had leadership qualities. And they all had dreams. One wanted to go to Gabon, Africa. Another wanted to go to Dartmouth one day and study environmental engineering. Another wanted to go to grad school. I told them that they could do these things, but to them their dreams were so different from their everyday reality. When I told them, "One day you will go to Africa," they shut down and became silent.

It was as if they had been taught by life that their dreams and reality did not intersect because they are nothing. And thus they began to truly believe that.

In my work with ICO, I began to realize that this is the most danger-

ous thing that poverty does: It tells you that you are nothing. And this is exactly why Sierra Club's Inner City Outings exists, to let students imagine life another way. It lets students know, by taking them on outdoor trips, that there is a group of people who think that they are indeed someone. By doing something outside their urban neighborhoods, they began to realize, like my students during their solo reflections, that maybe their dreams and realities can co-exist.

I was able to work with Los Angeles Inner City Outings on two different projects, both of which were designed to motivate and empower students as well as teach them about nature.

This backpacking trip was the culmination of one project. I worked with high school students in a green club in an inner-city school to help

them apply for volunteer opportunities and summer internships. I also provided general mentoring during after-school sessions once a week.

The second was a pilot project called ICO Science Outdoors, which focused on giving elementary and middle-school students an opportunity to engage in outdoor science labs. The idea was for them to make the connections between science and the natural world. Through my internship, I designed and implemented an outdoor science curriculum based on the California Science Standards; this involved teaching pre- and post-excursion lessons in the classroom, and leading lessons out in the field.

In one seventh-grade class, the teacher and I set up nine different plants that the students had to observe and then guess what potential adaptations those plants might have.

I wandered from group to group and noticed how, at first, students would just draw a picture of the plant and give up or raise a hand and ask me why these plants were special.

I would respond by asking them what they noticed about the plant that was particularly interesting, and we would go back and forth, me questioning and them observing. By the time the students got to their fourth plants, they were raising their hands excitedly to tell me that the plant they were looking at probably lived in the sun or the shade or had certain herbivore defenses.

I will never forget the greeting I received one day from a bunch of elementary school students, who all remembered my name and rushed to give me hugs. They handed me a wad of thank you letters from the field trip I had led for them several weeks earlier. Here are some highlights from those letters:

"Dear Becky, It was cool to see a lizard, a big ant, coyote, deer, and a red tail hawk. This was the best hike

ever and the best experience!"

"Dear Becky, I don't know all of the things about Griffith Park but I know you are the best teacher ever, because you know everything about nature. I love nature very very much. It is the best thing in the world. It is so peaceful when you are very quiet you can see animals."

Leaving these students was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. But I left Los Angeles Inner City Outings with the important realization that helping others feel like they really are somebody is one of the things that makes me find my own light.

"Find your light" by contributing to ICO at <http://angelesico.org/> and attend our fun fund-raiser at the Magic Castle on June 3 see details on page 10.



Chapter happenings: Our picks for May, June and beyond

May 12-13

Spring Work Party at Harwood Lodge

Come have fun, meet new people, all while working on repairs and maintenance at the Sierra Club's historic lodge at the base of Mt. Baldy. Receive lodging, food and drink, pass to come back for a free weekend (\$12 to \$15 value). Wear old clothes and bring favorite tools or just a can-do attitude. The cost is \$20 per person for Sierra Club members. To reserve, contact Elizabeth Ward at (909) 932-1980, lizzyward@aol.com. Work Party bosses: Graeme Whitaker, Steve McLaughlin. For more information, go to <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/lodges/workparty.htm>.



GABI MCLEAN

A young Western Skink found at a prior Nature Knowledge Workshop.

May 23

"Recovering From the Station Fire and Beyond"

Tom Contreras, supervisor of Angeles National Forest, will present "Recovering From the Station Fire and Beyond: The Future of Angeles National Forest" at this Chapter Forest Committee meeting. He will describe progress so far in recovery from the 2009 fire that burned 160,000 acres of the forest, the general condition of trails and campgrounds, how volunteers can help and recreational opportunities. A social time at 7 p.m. precedes the 7:30 p.m. program at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena. For information, contact donbremner@earthlink.net

June 8-10

Nature Knowledge Workshop

On your hikes, have you ever been curious about the names of the flowers that you passed? Have you wondered how the mountains were formed? Are you going for your "I" rating and need nature credits? The Natural Science Section's Nature Knowledge Workshop may be the ideal place for you.

This June weekend in the San Bernardino Mountains provides a wealth of nature information and a great natural experience. Many of the attendees return year after year. It is one of the best bargains around for the nature training, along with camp cabin style lodging and excellent meals.

We begin Friday evening, June 8, and finish after lunch, Sunday, June 10. The time in

between is filled with habitat explorations and workshops from some of the best professional naturalists in the area. You can choose from a variety of sessions to learn about local plants, insects, reptiles and amphibians, birds, mammals, Native American traditions, and geology.

Among the excellent naturalists are Mickey Long, retired Natural Areas Administrator for Los Angeles County Parks and last year's winner of the Sierra Club's Elna Bakker Award for nature interpretation, Suzanne Swedo, leader of backpacking trips in the Sierra Nevada and author of several books on Sierra trails, and Linda Gonzales, member of the Tongva (Gabrielino) tribe and expert on Southern California native culture.

The cost of the weekend workshop is only \$138 for Sierra Club members and \$158 for non-members. You can find more information and the registration form at the section's website, www.angeles.sierraclub.org/nss/.

—Cliff McLean

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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It's time to create more national monuments

By Michael Bruin

Last November, President Barack Obama used the Antiquities Act to protect Virginia's Fort Monroe, an important and symbolic Civil War site. In April, he designated the 7,200 acres of Fort Ord on the Monterey Peninsula his second national monument.

If I were president for a day, I'd take the opportunity to create more national monuments and protect America's best wild places. I'd start with these three:

Greater Canyonlands

National Monument designation of this area would protect one of the most remote and undeveloped places in the continental United States. The 1.4 million-acre proposed monument, adjacent to Canyonlands National Park in Utah would include the entire basin surrounding the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers. The area is home to wildlife such as desert bighorn sheep and the Mexican grey wolf. A Canyonlands Monument would be the final piece in the puzzle of protected lands in this region, stretching from Wyoming to Arizona.

Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks

The Organ Mountains form the rugged backdrop to Las Cruces, New Mexico's second-largest city. The range is the most botanically diverse in the state, home to a rich assortment of ferns, lichens, mosses, and several species that exist nowhere else in the world. If protected with National Monument status, it would provide outstanding recreational opportunities in some of the state's most iconic landscapes.



©STEVE BEIN

Let's protect land adjacent to Canyonlands National Park in Utah (top, Mesa Arch; below, Canyonlands landscape) and habitat in the Arctic Refuge, which is home to arctic wolves (top, right).



©LARRY ALLAN



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Arctic Refuge

The 1.5 million acres of coastal plain in the Arctic Refuge are truly one of America's last completely wild places. The vast grasslands support large populations of wildlife, including the Porcupine River caribou herd, three species of bears (the coastal plain is the largest polar bear denning area in the country), and millions of migratory birds. In addition, the area is sacred to Alaska's Gwich'in people, who depend on the Porcupine River caribou herd much as Great Plains Native Americans depended on bison.

There are many other deserving candidates -- the Sierra Club's Presidential Lands Legacy project has a long list I could choose from.

Earlier this year the Obama administration announced a 20-year ban on new mining on a million acres of public land near the Grand Canyon. When that 20 years is up, this region will still be priceless. Why not go a step further and permanently protect areas around the North Kaibab Plateau as a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument? It would be a boon to local communities, because in addition to protecting natural systems, national monuments sustain property values, attract new investment, and provide jobs.

That's what I'd do in my 24 hours as president. Not bad for one day's work. Think how big of a dent Obama could make in a year. Go wild, Mr. President, and show us what you can do.

One more thing: A little encouragement never hurts. Let the president know you support the designation of new national monuments.

Michael Bruin is executive director of the Sierra Club.

Holiday Weekend Getaways—Leave the driving to the Backpacking Committee!

Memorial Day Weekend Bus Trip

Friday through Monday • May 25-28, 2012

Lodge:

O: Santa Cruz, Redwood & Central Coast Memorial Day Lodge Bus Trip: Leave Friday afternoon for 3 days of sightseeing & moderately paced 5-6 mile hikes—no beginners—in the beautiful groves of Big Basin Redwoods & Henry Cowell Redwoods State Parks inc Sempervirens Falls. We will visit Año Nuevo State Reserve, home to elephant seals, otters, shore birds. We will also visit Natural Bridges State Beach & many interesting coastal areas along the Central Coast. Our motel in Santa Cruz is a close walk to the Boardwalk & pier for added sightseeing, shopping, & dining at one of the many seaside restaurants. Price for SC members \$475 (Non-members \$525) per person with 2 persons per room. Cost includes bus, motel & continental breakfasts, Monday dinner, bus refreshments. Send Email or 2 SASE, H&W phones, SC#, check made out to Sierra Club to Reservationist: Cliff Caplan caplan04@msn.com, Leader: Bill Crane, Assistant: Joan Weaver.



Photo by Denelle Rozell

Backpack:

O: Big Basin Redwoods State Park Backpack Bus Trip: Leave LA Friday for Santa Cruz Mtns. Fri camp at Henry Cowell Redwoods SP. 3 day Easy/moderate level bkpk. Hike to spring wildflowers, by waterfalls, and into a fern forest beneath majestic sempervirens. 5.5 mi. Sat to Twin Redwoods camp from Park HDQ. Layover at Twin Redwoods and do long day hike or chill at camp on Sun and 2.0 mi to Walden beach on Monday. Camp availability could impact route. Bring veggie to toss into our potluck salad, and happy hour goodies to share. Share bus with lodge group. \$220 w/SC#/\$240 nonmember inclds bus, camp and entrance fees, Monday dinner and bus refreshments. Send bkpk exper and cond info, 2 large SASE, H&W phones, check (Sierra Club) to Leader: Tom Marsh qrtmoon@roadrunner.com, Asst: Pamela Rowe

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Labor Day Weekend Bus Trip

Friday Through Monday • August 31 through September 3

Lodge:

O: Mammoth Lakes Bus Lodge Hiking Trip: Leave Friday afternoon, return Monday evening. Join us as we hike & sightsee at spectacular Mammoth Lakes. No beginners. Moderate 5-6 mile day hikes. Beautiful view hikes include Horseshoe Lake to Reds Meadow, Devil's Postpile NM & Rainbow Falls. Relax at night with dining & self-guided evening walks. Space is very limited. Cost includes bus, 3 nights lodging w/hot buffet breakfast in Mammoth Lakes plus Monday night dinner. 2 persons per room. Send Email address or 2-4X9 SASEs, H&W phones, SC#, check (Sierra Club) \$480 per person. Non-member check \$530, made out to Sierra Club Backpacking Committee. Send to Leader/Reservationist Bill Crane bilguana@socal.rr.com, Co-Leader Joan Weaver.

Backpack:

O: Thousand Island Lake-Lake Ediza Bus Backpack: Camp at stunning lakes under the peaks of the Minarets. Hike with expansive views on first day and many lakes on second day. Leave LA Fri for Mammoth. Sat hike from Agnew Mdws via High Trail to Thousand Island Lake, 11.5 mi, 1800' gain. Move 9 mi to Lake Ediza on Sun and explore area. Monday hike out 6 mi. Moderately strenuous climb first day, smaller ups and downs 2nd day. Email leader with recent conditioning and experience and contact information or send 2 SASE with check and info. Price incl bus, campsite, permit, Mon dinner. See front of Schedule for refund info and policies. Send check for \$220 w/SC#, \$240 w/o, payable to Sierra Club, to Ldr: Don Tidwell tidwell@dslexreme.com, Asst: Erik Siering.



Photo by Don Tidwell

I: Garnet Lake, Peak 10,344, Thousand Island Lake Backpacking Bus Trip: Spend Labor Day weekend among the beautiful lakes and peaks of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Leave LA area Fri for Mammoth Lakes. Sat hike to base camp at Garnet Lake, 6 mi, 2000' gain. Sun climb 10,344 via class 2 route, then explore Thousand Island Lake basin, 7 mi, 1100' gain. Monday hike out to return home. No turtles, no tigers. Email (preferred) leader with experience and recent conditioning and contact information. Send check for \$220 payable to Sierra Club, to confirm participation. Price includes bus, permits, Friday campsite, Monday dinner. No refund after July 31 unless suitable replacement is found. Ldr: Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net, Asst: Bruce Michaels

SAN ONOFRE/PAGE 1

An independent nuclear engineering analysis commissioned by Friends of the Earth discovered what appears to be the cause of the problems: a major change in the design and fabrication of the steam generators that was not scrutinized by the NRC.



GARY HEADRICK/SAN CLEMENTE GREENS

Surfers flock to San Onofre State Beach where the nuclear power plant stands

During the last 6 years, Edison received approval from the federal agency to replace old steam generators, and the California Public Utilities Commission approved the \$670 million expense paid for by ratepayers. Edison stated (and the NRC and state utilities commission) accepted that the generators were “like for like” replacements.

In fact, the change in design was dramatic. Think of steam generators as a giant tent; old steam generators had a pole in the center that held the tubes steady. The new design used by Edison were built in Japan. They removed the pole to squeeze more tubes into the 65-foot, 700-ton steam generator. This would give Edison the option to increase power from the plant and, of course, make more money.

Two recent technical reports suggest the design changes were substantive. And without a robust analysis of why and what the effects of these changes have been, the risk of a major accident is very real. The impact on millions of people in Southern California would be devastating.

As an aside, evacuation plans hardly exist on paper because there's no practical way to evacuate the 8 million people who live within 50 miles of the San Onofre plant. In Fukushima, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission advised U.S. citizens in the area to evacuate from within 50 miles of the plant over a period of more than 7 months due to the radiation risks in this danger zone. More than 200,000 people were evacuated and self-evacuated – half of whom may never return to their homes due to radiation levels. That was in Fukushima not Orange County, which has a population density nine times higher than in Fukushima.

As of April 12, the NRC is still insisting that there is a difference in the problems at the reactors. This was not credible weeks ago and is ridiculous as of today. A thorough understanding – root cause analysis – should only be the start of the process of evaluating whether San Onofre should ever be allowed to operate again. Public scrutiny of the analysis is a must.

What would it mean to keep San Onofre shut? The prospect of blackouts has been made by the energy establishment to justify unsafe operation of nuclear reactors that within hours of an accident could render a significant part of Southern California uninhabitable. That is clearly no way to provide electricity. The California ISO, responsible for securing stable supply of electricity, has identified efficiency measures that, if implemented, can avoid risk of blackout – just as the whole state did in 2001 to end the blackmail game underway to rob Californians of billions of dollars with fake blackouts.

Californians do not need to choose between a dangerous irradiated nuclear plant at San Onofre and blackouts. It requires conservation

Get involved: for safe energy

The Angeles Chapter is forming a San Onofre Task Force to ensure safe operations of the San Onofre nuclear power plant and to make sure its federal license to continue operating isn't renewed.

To participate, contact Conservation Coordinator George Watland at george.watland@sierraclub.org or call 213-387-4287 ext. 210.

efforts this summer. If Japan can shut down 49 nuclear reactors following Fukushima without power shortages, California can shut down two. This would prove that we can get along without the danger of a Fukushima on this side of the Pacific Ocean and keep the lights on.

There is every reason to make a determined effort to replace San Onofre with renewables and energy efficiency. San Onofre's problems may not be fixable. The reactors are due to apply for license extensions within the next few years so that they can operate until 2040 and beyond. That was never a safe option before the latest crisis; today it is unthinkable.

Action is needed now to help stop the restart of the San Onofre reactors. For starters, a full and transparent investigation into the causes of the problems, and what solutions are being proposed that would guarantee this problem would not recur. These may not exist without a full steam generator replacement at both reactors – costing perhaps a billion dollars. California has safer, cheaper better options for providing its energy future: efficiency and renewables.

S. David Freeman is an engineer, attorney and author who has had many key roles in energy policy. He once headed the L.A. Department of Water and Power.

Shaun Burnie is an independent nuclear consultant to Friends of the Earth U.S. He formerly led International Nuclear Campaigns with Greenpeace International for nearly two decades.

FEES/PAGE 3

fund partnerships with nonprofit organizations in forest projects.

The Arizona case was brought by four people who said the Forest Service exceeded its authority by charging them a fee to park in Coronado National Forest along the only paved highway to Mt. Lemmon, a heavily used recreation area an hour's drive from Tucson.

A federal district court in Arizona granted the Forest Service motion to dismiss the case. But the forest visitors appealed and the appeals court in San Francisco agreed with them, saying that the “Forest Service's fee structure contravenes the plain language of the REA,” referring to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act enacted in 2004.

The 2004 act replaced the 1996 Recreational Fee Demonstration Program that tested the idea of collecting visitor fees at national forests, even from those who just wanted to use undeveloped lands and not services and amenities. Specifically, the appeals court noted, the 2004 REA “made clear that the [Forest Service] will not be permitted to charge solely for parking, scenic pullouts, and other non-developed areas.”

To charge a “standard amenity recreation fee” in any area, the court said, the REA requires the recreation area to have all of these amenities: 1) designated developed parking; 2) a permanent toilet facility; 3) permanent trash receptacle; 4) interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk; 5) picnic tables; and 6) security services.

After the REA was enacted, the Forest Service drafted guidelines interpreting the new law as authorizing the Forest Service to impose a fee in a “High Impact Recreation Area,” (HIRA) defined as a clearly delineated area that supports or sustains concentrated recreation use directly associated with a natural or cultural feature, place, or activity. The Mt. Lemmon area in the Arizona case is one of these HIRAs.

There are about 10 of these HIRAs in Angeles National Forest, covering most of the places popular with hikers and other visitors. They include the Mt. Wilson area, trails near

most of the Angeles Crest Highway, Big Tujunga Canyon, San Gabriel Canyon, Mt. Baldy, Wrightwood, Big Pines and Little Rock.

The appeals court brushed aside the idea that designating an area an HIRA allows the Forest Service to charge a fee for simply parking there, or for walking, hiking, riding horseback or boating there, without using the area's amenities and services. “The statute is abundantly clear that a standard amenity recreation fee cannot, under any circumstances, be charged for those activities,” it said.

Writing the Ninth Circuit opinion was Judge Robert W. Gettleman, a federal district court judge in Illinois who was designated to participate in the case. Concurring were Chief Judge Alex Kozinski and Circuit Judge Carlos T. Bea. They remanded the case to the district court for action consistent with their ruling.

Local Forest Service officials declined to speculate on how the Forest Service will respond to the appeals court's decision, saying that attorneys in Washington were studying it. Tamara Wilton in the regional office in Vallejo did say that the HIRAs have been under review for a year, and proposals for changes will be presented for comment by advisory committees and the public, probably this spring. She said the changes are expected to involve HIRA boundaries rather than fees. The Feb. 9 ruling and later decisions would alter those plans.

Given the clear language of the 2004 REA that no “standard amenity recreation fee” can be charged for persons who are simply “driving through, walking through, boating through, horseback riding through, or hiking through Federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services,” it is hard to imagine how the Adventure Pass can be structured to work consistent with the law. It would have to be limited to visitors actually using the toilets, tables, trash containers and other named facilities, or developed campsites.

Loss of revenue from the Adventure Pass would add importance to the prospect of getting an estimated \$2 million to \$4 million annually for the region in National Park Service funds under a proposed National Recreation Area for Angeles National Forest and communities along the San Gabriel River to the south.

Don Bremner is chair of the Angeles Chapter's Forest Committee.

ORGANIC WASTE/PAGE 2

What is this stuff with such high potential?

Half of the organic material we toss out comes from our kitchen as highly putrescible (solid waste that contains organic matter capable of being decomposed by microorganisms) food scraps. An equal amount comes from our yards. While they are materially the same—given time, they rot—they are handled very differently.

The food scraps go into the garbage can and are collected by a garbage truck as part of our municipal solid waste stream and hauled off to a landfill. For the most part, they make garbage trucks smell, well, like garbage. In most cities in L.A. and Orange counties, the yard trimmings go into a different can to be collected by a different truck as a clean “green waste” stream. That material must be going somewhere other than the stinky landfill, right? Wrong. While some of it may be mulched or composted, the dirty secret is that, despite the care taken by residents and municipalities to keep green waste independent of garbage, much of it ends up in landfills all across Southern California as something called Alternative Daily Cover. At the end of each day, the dumped garbage is covered with a thick layer of grass clippings and tree prunings to keep birds and other critters out and to prevent the garbage from blowing in the wind. The next morning, more garbage is dumped on top.

We didn't always do this. We



JAMES LAWRENCE/SIERRA CLUB

Food scraps and trimmings make excellent compost. The same could be scaled up and applied to landfills.

used to cover our trash with good old dirt. But as a result of a series of legislative actions in the 1990s, the state began encouraging this counterintuitive practice of using organic material as a daily cover—under the auspices of “beneficial reuse”—to meet its own recycling goals. Of course, other stuff is also used: shredded cars and tires, crushed concrete, and sewage sludge, for instance. However, composting is clearly a more beneficial form of reuse than landfilling for the clean organic materials currently being collected. In fact, 23 states across the country have enacted bans to ensure yard trimmings are used

only for compost feedstock, not for landfill cover. What makes our state different?

The L.A. area is coming to a crossroads. In late 2013, the largest landfill in the area is scheduled to reach capacity and close. The Puente Hills landfill, just southeast of the junction of the 60 and 605 freeways, accepts nearly 6,500 tons of garbage and 1,000 tons of green waste each day. At half the rate for garbage, the low tipping fee for green waste is what guaranteed landfills that steady stream and municipalities those ADC recycling credits. When Puente Hills locks the gates for the last time, mountains of compostable yard trimmings will need some place to go. How about organics processing facilities that offer good, green jobs that can help restore the health of our soils, our communities and our economy?

Yet regardless of the fate of the region's green material, the closure of Puente Hills landfill will result in an inevitable rise in the cost of managing the region's garbage. With that rise, the economics may begin to shift to favor food scraps separation from municipal solid waste and therefore spur even more interest from both the public and private sectors to tap into this significant and steady resource flow.

Until then, what about those food scraps? Well, we could all compost much of them on our own at home. But the truth is not everyone wants to or can, and those that do and can might already. But there is another way to keep food scraps out of the landfills.

The City of Los Angeles has a

program in which the food scraps from restaurants are collected separately from garbage and composted. Several cities across North America have similar programs for residential communities. In many of them, such as in the San Francisco Bay Area, residents simply put their food scraps in their yard trimmings can. Any backyard composter knows that food scraps and yard trimmings together make excellent compost. The same applies at any scale. What are we waiting for?

What can we do?

In case there aren't enough carrots, late last year Governor Brown unveiled a pretty big stick when he signed AB 341 into law to move California forward from landfilling to waste reduction, recycling, and composting. Yet, even with the perverse diversion credits given to using organic waste to cover landfills, we'll have a hard time achieving the new 75% statewide diversion mandate by 2020 without addressing our food scraps.

We must support all efforts to keep compostable organics out of landfills and incinerators. We must support all public officials who understand why this is important and work to educate those who have not yet come to that understanding. We must work to educate our peers about this important issue. And, above all, we must envision the world that this change can create.

In so many ways it isn't a matter of choice, this is something we must do.

Jeremy Drake is a member of the Angeles Chapter's Zero Waste Committee.

**Really,
do you still
need that
old hulk?**



**Why not
donate
it?**

**We'll take your car, RV, or
boat – running or not.
You receive a tax
deduction and help the
Angeles Chapter.**

Contact Ron Silverman
213.387.4289
ron.silverman@sierraclub.org

Angeles Chapter Adventure Travel Calendar

Get ready to make memories on these journeys

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

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, Devils Tower, Harding Peak; and optional trip to the Badlands National Park. The trip includes 7 nights lodging; transportation 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.

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.

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



Wish you were here!!

O-rated: See seldom-visited sites and experience the culture of Mongolia's capital Ulaanbatar. 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.



Mongolia-Gobi Desert, Mountain and Steppe Adventure

Aug. 17 – Sept. 1



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.

Bali Island and Komodo Dragons

Sept. 9-24, O-rated: The Chapter's first trip to peaceful Hindu Bali and Flores Island, home to the famous

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").

Yellowstone National Park in Winter

Jan. 13-20, 2013, C/O-rated: Watch for wolves, bison, elk, mountain goats, arctic birds, swans at its winter best. Super opportunities for wildlife viewing and photogra-

Dinosaur exhibit, Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana. Trip includes travel by snow coach, hotel stays, ground transportation, guides two days of cross-country ski options, daily breakfast, most lunches and one dinner. Group size is limited to 10. Trip cost per person is \$2,210 for Sierra Club members, \$2,235 for nonmembers; \$500 deposit holds a spot, with the balance due by Sept. 1. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Verdugo Hills Group. For information on itinerary, cancellation policy, application, contact: Leader Judy Anderson (anderson-judith@att.

and cross into Chile. Participants spend five days hiking in spectacular glaciated landscape of Torres del Paine National Park. In Argentina, travel by boat on Lago Argentino to view the massive terminus of the Perito Moreno Glacier. Side trip visits a local Patagonia Estancia (ranch) on the pampas. Then embark on three days of hiking to explore the beautiful lagunas (lakes) around El Chalten and hike to Laguna Torre to get a view of the famous Mt. Fitzroy and Glacier Grande, weather permitting. Condors, herds of rheas and guanacos, as well as many other animals may be seen during this trip. Optional side trip to spectacular Iguazu Falls also offered. Price includes hotels and lodges, private transportation, most meals, airport transfers, catamaran tour, most activities. Domestic and international airfare is extra; group airfare rates available. Trip cost per person for Sierra Club members is \$3,995 before Sept. 15; \$4,095 after Sept. 15; nonmembers add \$100. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Leaders Fred Dong (madelinesdad@earthlink.net) and Kath Giel (bear980@gmail.com)



Wish you were here!!

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



Historical Virginia And Nearby Areas

Sept. 23-30



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.



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

phy. Icy air enhances geyser scenes at Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris, Old Faithful and West Thumb geyser fields. Spend five days with a Yellowstone Association tour guide who knows where to go to see wildlife and guide participants on walks, snowshoe and cross-country skiing activities around geyser fields. Bonus:

net) and Assistant Leader: Carol Henning.

Argentina, Chile, Patagonia

Feb. 2-18, 2013, O-rated: Explore the wilds of Patagonia on this 17-day active-adventure. Meet in Buenos Aires and then fly to southern Argentina

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

Starr Ranch BBQ Fundraiser

Hosted by Sierra Sage of South Orange County

May 20



BOB HANSEN

Looking over Starr Ranch from one of the many hiking trails.

O-rated. All Sierra Club members and friends are invited to enjoy this authentic bit of Old California ranch life with a "genuine country barbecue" from 1 to 5 p.m. Prior to the barbecue are birding walks and hikes within this rustic 4,000 acre Audubon sanctuary nestled in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. Proceeds go to the sanctuary and conservation projects supported by Sierra Sage. Tickets cost \$30 per

person, \$15 for children under 12. To buy tickets, send check, made out to Sierra Sage and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Starr Ranch BBQ, c/o Mike Sappingfield, 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. For more info or to volunteer to help, call Mike or Patty Sappingfield at 949-768-3610 or email mikesapp@cox.net. Map and directions are provided with each ticket.

Fundraising events

June 3

A Night at the Magic Castle Fundraiser 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 angelesico.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 or (323) 255-2290.

Sept. 8

Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary Fall Festival hosted by the Orange County Group and OC Sierra Singles.

Join us from 1 to 4 p.m. for wine, cheese, hors-d'oeuvres, festive lunch and music in this sanctuary deep in Modjeska Canyon. Guide will lead a nature walk through the winding pathways and gardens to look for the resident tortoise, Henry, and many other birds and animals. Live music from vocalist/keybordist Patti Barnes

and others. Proceeds to support the sanctuary and conservation efforts by the Orange County entities. Space is limited; reservations are required by Sept 1. Cost is \$25 for Sierra Club members, \$35 for non-members. For ticket purchase instructions, contact: Reservationist: Gabriele Rau, 12 Columbia, Irvine 92612-2632 (gabrielerau@gmail.com). Leaders: Chuck Buck, Patti Barnes, Bernie Lipman, Jay Matchett, Bob Siebert, Donna Specht

Events

6:30 p.m. 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. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact : Chapter Membership Chair Donna Specht. (donnaSpecht@juno.com)

7:30 p.m. May 8

Ed and Helen Mauer's Hiking the Swiss Alps presentation will feature photographs of long-distance hikes in the Swiss Alps and along an ancient pilgrimage route in France at the Crescenta Valley Group meeting. Meet at L.A. County Public Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Contact: Wayne Fisher, (818) 353-4181

7:30 p.m. May 8

Dana Hunter on Patagonia features this Sierra Club leader's experience in climbing the majestic Fitzroy and completing the classic W trek in Torres del Paine National Park. Includes scenes of Grey's Glacier and the penguins in Chile. The event is at the Orange County Groups meeting at REI, Tustin Marketplace, 2962 El Camino Real Newcomers welcome. For information: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange>

7 p.m. May 24

Gene Arias, raconteur, soldier of fortune, marathoner, photographer and story-teller will charm the audience at the monthly meeting of Sierra Singles. Everyone welcome. 6:30 p.m. for refreshments, 7 p.m. for the program at LA Zoo in Griffith Park (follow Sierra Singles signs to meeting room; front gates close). Contact Jeanne Karpenko (818-244-0733)

6:30 p.m. June 11

East Africa:Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda. Karibu (welcome in Swahili) Kathy Shapiro as she presents her African traveling adventure with a stopover in Dubai. Experience the wildlife, local people and African landscapes via photos of the Masi Mara, Serengetti, Maasai people, mountain gorillas and more. Orange County Sierra Singles hosts this monthly meeting; social hour and program for \$3 donation. Meet at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, 1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa. For optional potluck, bring a dish to share and beverage. Contact: Donna Specht (donnaSpecht@juno.com)

7:30 p.m. June 12

Carol Henning's French Polynesia will feature a program about a trip to see a solar eclipse. While there Henning also visited some of the most scenic islands in the world, such as Bali Hi, Papeete, Bora Bora and Rangira. The presentation takes place at the Crescenta Valley Group meeting. Meet at L.A. County Public Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Contact: Wayne Fisher, (818) 353-4181

7:30 p.m. June 12

Special Newcomer/Member Night: Find out all about the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many events and volunteer opportunities: hiking, conservation, task forces, environmental programs and adventure travel. Meet at REI in the Tustin Marketplace, 2962 El Camino Real at 7:30 p.m.. Everyone welcome, bring a friend! Hosted by the Orange County Group. Be a part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. and join Sierra Club for \$15. For details, go to <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange>

Hikes & Trips

May 5

Trippet Ranch to Eagle Rock in Topanga State Park: O-rated. Easy-to-moderately strenuous hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Five miles, 900 feet of gain with spectacular views of the ocean, the valley and canyons. Meet 10 a.m. at Trippet Ranch parking area. Sponsored by Sierra Singles Leaders: Randall Krause, Sandra Tapia, (sltderamas64@yahoo.com).

May 19

Downtown L. A. City Walk: O-rated. Easy three-mile round-trip walk that takes approximately four hours. Take short Metro subway ride to the heart of the city for tour of cultural and historic sites, including Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, the Music Center and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Lunch at historic Clifton's Cafeteria. Meet 9:30 am at information booth at Union Station, 800 N Alameda St., downtown L.A. Bring \$3 for Red Line tickets. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leader: Bob Dean (bobdean4@hotmail.com); Co-Ldr: Elaine Ayala.

Monday. Stay up to three nights/ four days; leaders provide most meals. Cost is \$65 for Sierra Club members, \$70 for nonmembers. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. To sign up, contact: Leaders: Terry Boehmer (tmarie214@hotmail.com) and Arlene Bernstein.

May 26-28

Memorial Day Hosted Weekend at Harwood Lodge: Spend your long weekend where the sky is blue and the air is clean. Sleep outside under the stars or inside the historic lodge. Entertainment, wildflower slideshow, potlucks, hikes. No reservation required (except for family rooms). Lodge is open from 10 a.m. Saturday until 3 p.m. Monday. For 5 p.m. happy hours, bring beverage and appetizer to share; for 6 p.m. potluck dinners, bring serving for eight. Be prepared to show overseer your Sierra Club card. Host: John DePoy, Overseer: Bob Dean

June 16

Rancho Los Alamitos: O-rated. Join us for picnic lunch and docent-led tour of historical adobe home and gardens dating to the 1800s. Hidden

Phoenix/Tucson Bus Trip

Oct. 4-8



TOM POLITE/CAMERA COMMITTEE

O-rated. This bus trip explores the natural desert beauty and cultural treasures of Arizona on hikes and tours. Highlights include tour of the Desert Botanical Gardens, Arcosanti, Heard Museum of early Native American cultures, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, Casa Grande ruins, Pima Air and Space Museum, Tombstone and more. Trip per person costs \$615 for Sierra Club members, \$640 for non members. Price includes bus transportation, four night hotel stays (double occupancy), daily breakfast and some other meals, entrance fees to venues and more. Sponsored by the West L.A. Group. For details, contact: Leaders Paul Cutter, (310) 837-5279, and Felicia Hammond.

May 12-13

Spring Work Party at Harwood Lodge: Come have fun, meet new people, all while working on repairs and maintenance at the Sierra Club's historic lodge near Mt. Baldy. Receive lodging, food and drink, pass to come back for a free weekend (\$12 to \$15 value). Wear old clothes and bring favorite tools or just a can-do attitude. To reserve, send \$20 (Sierra Club) to Elizabeth Ward, 929 E Foothill Blvd, No. 162, Upland, CA 91786; (909) 932-1980, lizzyward@aol.com. Work Party Bosses: Graeme Whitaker, Steve McLaughlin. For more information, go to <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/lodges/workparty.htm>. Other open weekends at the lodge (10 a.m. Saturday until 3 p.m. Sunday) with these overseers: Chris Ames (5/19-20); Mary Kay Eldridge & John Matthews (6/2-3); Dave Cross (6/9-10); Steve McLaughlin (6/16-17); Richard Boothe (6/23-24); Monalisa Ward (6/30-7/1). For information, check the Schedule of Activities or contact Mary Morales, 949-636-2981, 10ter@cox.net.

May 25-28

Mount Palomar Observatory Car Camp: O-rated. Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend car camping near the observatory. Participants spend Saturday on a private tour of the observatory and hike Sunday and

in the suburban neighborhoods of East Long Beach, the 7.5 acre rancho is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the home and the Bixby family, which acquired the property in 1906. Meet 1 p.m. for approximate four hour tour at Los Alamitos Rancho parking lot, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. Group picnic lunch before tour. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. For details, contact: Leaders Mary Morales (10ter@cox.net) and Elaine Ayala.

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

June 23

L.A. Civic Center & Little Tokyo Walk: O-rated. Easy three-mile round-trip tour that includes James Irvine Japanese Garden, Cultural Center, Japanese Village Plaza and more. Optional lunch afterward the

OUTINGS LEGEND

- O** Uncomplicated hikes on trail
- I** involves off-trail travel
- C** Concessionaire-controlled event (non-Sierra Club)
- T** Technical skills

Changes: Trips subject to cancellation without notice.

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.

Seller of Travel identification number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the state of California.

NEWHALL/PAGE 1

Los Angeles County's last free-flowing river, the Santa Clara River, with legal opposition to a project that will be built almost entirely in its floodplain."

"Developing in a river floodplain is never a good idea," said Ilene Anderson, biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "We should protect our precious water resources, not destroy them."

The suit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court under the California Environmental Quality Act. Brought by the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Santa Clara River, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment (SCOPE), and Wishtoyo Foundation and its Ventura

Coastkeeper program, the suit will ask the court to review the legality of the county's approval process in order to protect this last remaining river resource area.

L.A. County approved an overall plan for the Newhall Ranch development in 2003. After promising groundbreaking for the project in 2000, approval of this first phase some 12 years later is the first authorization permitting construction. Plans have been slowed by the bankruptcy of LandSource Communities Development, the predecessor of Newhall Ranch's current developer.

CalPERS, California's public pension fund, lost \$970 million of state employees' investment in Newhall Ranch with the LandSource bankruptcy. Now, with the infusion of cash and majority ownership by

several out-of-state hedge funds, investors are again looking to move forward on this destructive and questionable proposal.

"Before a single house has been built, Newhall Ranch has already cost California's taxpayers and workforce, including the county's own staff, nearly a billion dollars of lost pension funds," said Lynne Plambeck, president of the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment. "Although the state will never recover any of the largest single loss ever suffered by CalPERS, and will spend millions more in public monies to build roads, bridges and other infrastructure to serve this project, the county has once again endorsed this same development that will threaten the region's water supply, worsen air pollution and cause

further gridlock on our highways."

"The project will impart irreversible impacts to the ecological integrity and water quality of the Santa Clara River watershed and Ventura's coastal waters, harming the wellbeing of watershed residents and visitors for years to come," said Jason Weiner, associate director and staff attorney for the Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program.

"The impacts to hundreds upon hundreds of our burial sites, and natural cultural resources such as the California condor that are such a vital component of our culture and religious practices, will be devastating and irreversible," said Mati Waiya, a Chumash ceremonial elder and executive director of the Wishtoyo Foundation.

Classifieds

Place your ad

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Tired of the Rat Race? We moved here from California and Love it! Beautiful Home in Utah's Red Rock County 3000sf, Spectacular Views, 1 acre, Kanab, UT \$289,000 435.899-9211 skychaney@kanab.net.

Personals

Active SM Sierra senior seeks travel companion for river rafting, hiking, domestic and international adventure travel. 626-458-8646.

Retired quiet GBM in good shape like to meet alpha man who likes nature, music, the arts. MEL 213-243-9882

SWM, 63, 5' 9" ROCK CLIMBER x-country skier, likes classical music, sincerity. 310-558-1941

WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY? When writing your will, please consider the Angeles Chapter Foundation. We can help you demonstrate your commitment to John Muir's ideals. angeleschapterfoundation.org

Travel / Trek

Donner Summit. Clair Tappaan Lodge. June 24-29. \$250. 7AM 12 step meeting+9AM hike daily. Lois6pip@socal.rr.com

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Vacation Rentals

BIG BEAR CABIN RENTALS, pet friendly, high speed Internet, Jacuzzis. 1-800-770-2210. www.bigbear-cabin.com.

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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.

FRACKING/PAGE 3

newly drilled, existing, idled, or can even done on abandoned wells. Fracking is generally used for "tight" brittle formation (hence: "Shale Gas" or "Shale Oil") where the fracturing promotes cracks and increases formation flow and would not be used for softer, loose sands, such as normal producing reservoirs or deep-well injection for disposal.

Fracking is sometimes called by other terms: "well-rework," "well completion," "well development," "well stimulation," "chemical injection," "acid-injection," "frack-packing," and "steam-fracking" to avoid "The f-word."

In addition to greenhouse gases and toxic pollution caused by burning fossil fuels, production of oil and gas releases its own substantial share and increased fracking is reported to release even more gases. EPA recently announced new regulations for all emissions from oil and gas wells from drilling to production. Methane in natural gas, is 20 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Methane, along with toxic gases, is released in the fracking process.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is studying fracking and related processes to prepare regulations to oversee these

operations.

The California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has laws on the books that provide adequate scope for documentation and controls of fracturing as part of their permitting and regulations for drilling new wells and for reworking of existing wells if the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources requires to do so. The division now says it will await guidance from the state Legislature, which is mulling two-plus bills on fracking.

For onshore federal lands, Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity have sued the Bureau of Land Management to establish real regulations, which could become

onshore models for all BLMs and the EPA.

However, for many environmental issues arising from oil and gas fields, the state oil and gas division says it doesn't have jurisdiction over water or gas emissions (Regional Water Quality Control Board and Air Quality Management District) once they leave the well head.

For more positive trends, the state division has not opposed county ordinances managing activities within oil fields in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Monterey. In contrast, Kern County does not involve itself with any controls of energy companies and activities.

CALENDAR/PAGE 10

tour expected to take four hours. Meet 9:30 a.m. at the information booth at Union Station, 800 N Alameda St., downtown L.A. Bring \$1.50 for Red Line ticket. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. For details, contact: Leaders Bob Dean. (bobdean4@hotmail.com) and Jean Noud

June 30-July 4

Lake Tahoe Day Hikes Bus Trip and Backpacking Bus Trip, O-rated. Both trips sponsored by Wilderness Adventures Section.

--Day Hikes Bus Trip: Enjoy 3 days of hiking in one of California's most beautiful natural spots. Spend 4 nights at Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Pass and spend days hiking 6 to 10 miles around the area. Cost is \$449 per person. Contact: Leaders Jason Lynch (Jason.HighSierra@gmail.com) and Adrienne Benedict.

--Backpacking Bus Trip: Backpack on the PCT from historic Donner Pass to Squaw Valley with scenic views of Lake Tahoe along the way. Total mileage about 16 miles over the weekend, with a layover day to explore the area. Spend last night at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Cost is \$270 per person. Contact: Leaders: Mary Forgone (hiker.mary@gmail.com), Jim Heringer.

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.

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. Fui 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. Sponsored by Verdugo Hills Group. Contact: Leaders Roxana Lewis, [(310) 532-2933 or ROXTLEWIS@aol.com], Linda Wooldridge

July 26

Sierra Singles Summer Picnic at Crystal Springs, Griffith Park: Friends and newcomers welcome to this picnic and barbecue! Meet 6:30 pm at the Crystal Springs picnic area inside the park. Bring a potluck salad and your own steak, fish, chicken or vegetarian fare to grill. Soft drinks, paper goods and charcoal provided. For details, contact: Jeanne Karpenko (jkarpenko@earthlink.net).

Aug. 23-26

Treasure Lake Area Mule Pack, O rated. Hired packers carry gear of 45 pounds perperson while participants carry only daypacks. Hike from South Lake trailhead (9500 feet) near Bishop, for five miles, 900 feet of gain to camp at one of the beautiful Treasure Lakes. Two full layover days to hike, fish or relax. Enjoy group salad night, happy hours with wine provided. Trip cost per person is \$250. Sponsored by Mule Pack Section. To apply, e-mail Co-leader Dave Cross (bulwonkle@yahoo.com). Co-Leaders: Francine Oschin, Christine Gutierrez.

Aug 26-31

Vogelsang / Fletcher Lake Mule Pack, O-rated: Hired packers carry gear of 55 pounds per person while participants carry only daypacks. Hike along Rafferty Creek from Tuolumne Meadows, about 7 miles with 1500 feet of gain to camp by Fletcher Lake in the Vogelsang Lake area (10,200 feet) in Yosemite National Park.

Spend four days photographing, fishing, hiking or relaxing in camp. Happy hours every evening with wine provided. Trip cost per person is \$360. Sponsored by the Mule Pack section. To apply, email Co-leader Jim Fleming (jimf333@att.net); Co-leader: Winnette Butler.

Aug. 31-Sept. 3

Mammoth Lakes Bus Lodge Hiking Trip, O rated. Join us to hike and sightsee at spectacular Mammoth Lakes. No beginners for moderate 5- to 6-mile day hikes including Horseshoe Lake to Reds Meadow, Devils Postpile National Monument and Rainbow Falls. Relax at night with dining and self-guided evening walks. Trip cost per person is \$480 for Sierra Club members, \$530 for nonmembers (based on double occupancy). Sponsored by Backpacking Committee. For information, contact: Leader Bill Crane., (818) 773-4601; Co-Leader Joan Weaver.

Aug. 31-Sept

Thousand Island Lake-Lake Ediza Bus Backpack: Camp at stunning lakes under the peaks of the Minarets. Itinerary includes hiking from Agnew Mdws via High Trail to Thousand Island Lake, (11.5 miles, 1800 feet of gain) on Saturday; 9 miles to Lake Ediza on Sunday; and 6 miles to hike out Monday. Recent conditioning and experience a must. Cost per person is \$220 for Sierra Club members, \$240 for nonmembers. Sponsored by Backpacking Committee. Contact: Leader: Don Tidwell, (323) 349-0819; Co-Leader: Erik Siering.

Aug. 31-Sept 3

Garnet Lake, Peak 10,344, Thousand Island Lake Backpacking Bus Trip: I-rated. Spend Labor Day weekend among the beautiful lakes and peaks of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Base camp at Garnet Lake, (hike 6 miles, 2000 feet of gain). On Sunday, climb 10,344-foot peak via class 2 route, then explore Thousand Island Lake basin (7 miles, 1,100 feet of gain). Monday hike out. Experience and recent conditioning a must. Sponsored by Backpacking Committee. Trip cost per person is \$220. Contact: Leaders Sharon Moore, justslm@earthlink.net; Bruce Michaels.

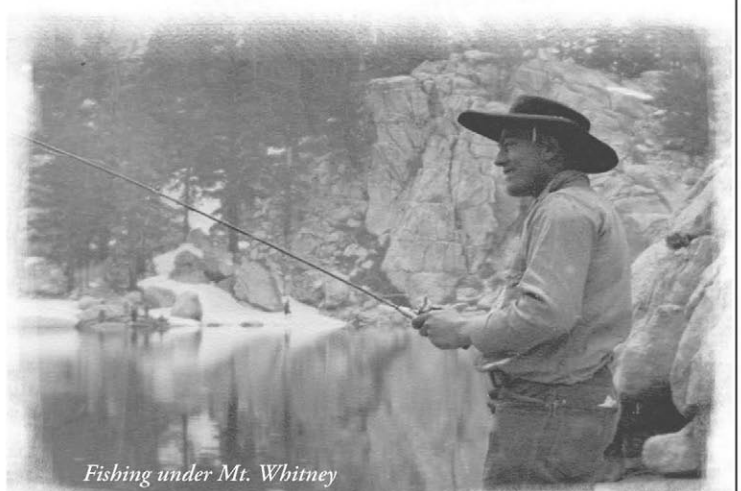
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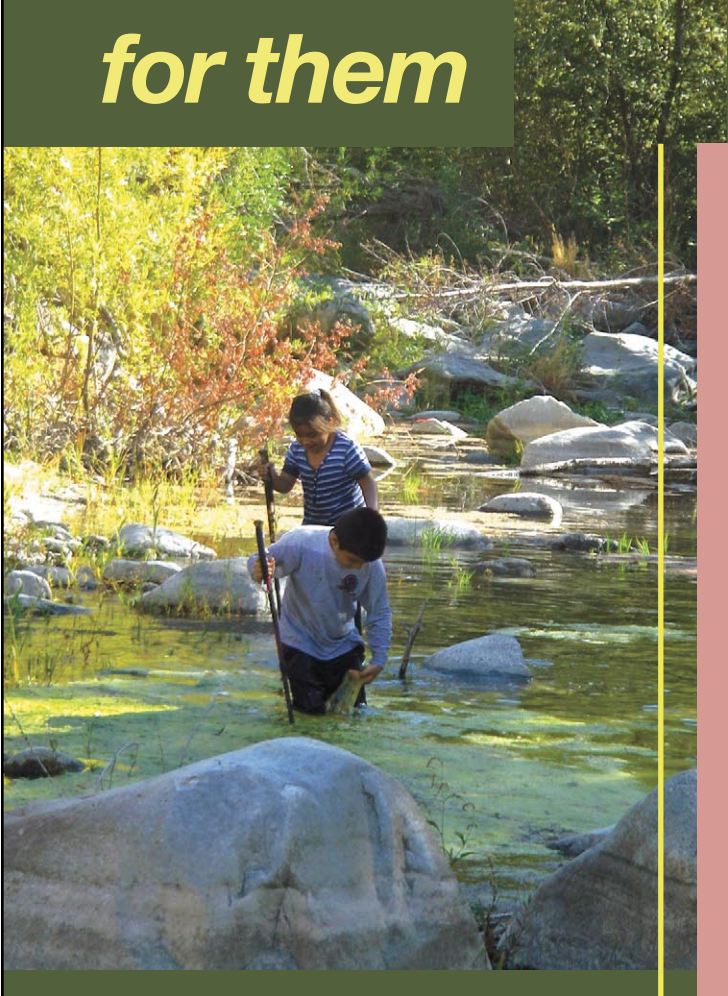
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- Creating the San Gabriel River/Rio Hondo Emerald Necklace**
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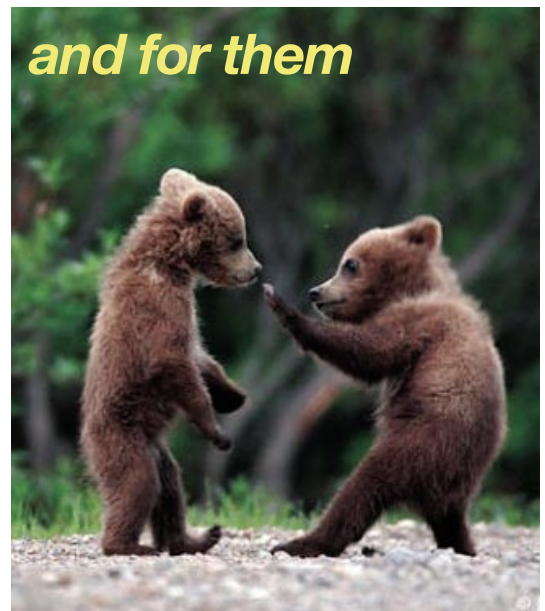
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