



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

# TOIYABE TRAILS

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2017

SPRING  
BIG NEWS  
ISSUE

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF NEVADA AND THE EASTERN SIERRA FROM THE TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

## From the Chair

### Transitions II

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN  
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

BY NOW, MOST OF YOU KNOW that we have hired our first Chapter Director, Brian Beffort. I could not be happier about this and look forward to a stronger, more visible, more effective, and more engaged chapter as we move forward. This will be my last Chair's column for the *Toiyabe Trails* because I will be handing this space over to Brian, who will undoubtedly have important and motivating words for you in future issues.

**Moving on.** I should also say that I want this to be my last year (of five) as the Chair of the Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee. This will not be the end of my work in the Toiyabe Chapter though, and I look forward to many more years to "Explore, Enjoy, & Protect the Planet." One cannot walk away from a lifelong passion.

**2017 concerns.** It is fair to say that the year 2017 has started with anxiety for most of us in the environmental and conservation areas due to the nomination of several key people in the Trump administration whose records lead us

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

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Try the . . .

Chapter website

<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>

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## Brian Beffort: First Director of Toiyabe Chapter

BY DOROTHY HUDIG

**T**he Toiyabe Chapter has its first Director! Brian Beffort started February 1, 2017. Think of how you can help him and how he can help you. Brian can be reached by email at [Brian.Beffort@SierraClub.org](mailto:Brian.Beffort@SierraClub.org) and by phone at 775-848-7783.

This full-time position started with generous contributions by a few members. His primary responsibilities include making YOU more powerful as Sierra Club members who care about this region's air, water, wildlife, lands and communities. Next, he plans to expand the size and diversity of the Club's memberships and activities.

Brian brings many strengths to the



Brian, with his son, Logan, and his wife, Laura, in the Sierra.

position. He has experience as a writer, a book author, outdoor person, and environmentalist. He was born in Reno in 1965, graduated from Reed College with a BA in Anthropology, and received an MA in journalism from University of Missouri, Columbia. He is on track to complete his second masters in Sustainability & Environmental Management from Harvard University.

Brian has lived full-time in Ne-

### Chapter fundraising opportunities

TOIYABE CHAPTER IS ENCOURAGING people with fundraising skills, or even just interests, to contact the Fundraising Committee Chair, Janet Carter ([jku-mar167@aol.com](mailto:jku-mar167@aol.com)). We want to work on a major donor campaign, mass contacting, events, and more. Interested? We want to hear from you.



A Cooper's hawk at Hawkwatch International's raptor banding station allows Brian to get up close and personal (Goshute Peak Wilderness Study Area, eastern Nevada).

vada since 2000 and has explored much of the state. His 13 years of experience with the nonprofit Friends of Nevada Wilderness led him to write the books *Afoot & Afield Las Vegas & Southern Nevada* and *Joy of Backpacking* (Wilderness Press). He most recently worked with the non-

profits Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and the Nevada Land Trust. He is a clear, persuasive and knowledgeable advocate for wilderness, whose goal is to help Nevada's communities find a balance with their area's ecology. He lives in Reno with his wife, son and dog.

When Brian's not at the Nevada legislature lobbying for clean energy,



Three generations of Befforts -- Brian, his father, Lee, and son, Logan -- at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

he's hiking, biking, skiing, photographing, camping, and enjoying this most beautiful region. Please welcome Brian by offering to help him!

## Marge L. Sill Scholarship at U. Nevada, Reno

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN,  
[VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

IN OUR LAST ISSUE, WE reviewed the many accomplishments of Marge Sill. One of those was a career in secondary education, and it is appropriate that the Marge L. Sill Memorial Scholarship Endowment has been set up at UNR and initiated with funds from a private donor. This scholarship supports students with environmental majors, exactly the type of students Marge would want to support.

To learn more about supporting the scholarship fund, contact Ralph Phillips,

Please see MARGE SILL, page 2.

## Great Basin Group decides not to publish outings in Trails

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

THE GREAT BASIN GROUP WILL NO longer be submitting a list of outings to the Trails. At our ExCom meeting in early February, the group decided to rely on **Campfire** (a SC national tool) and on MeetUp. Some consideration was given to trying to get **Campfire** to provide outings to the Trails, but that does not seem possible or efficient.

**Campfire** is a digital tool for Sierra Club leaders to enter events and outings in a common format and for members and non-members to view what Sierra Club is doing in local areas. **Campfire**

Please see Gb OUTINGS ON CAMPFIRE, page 2.

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## S. Nevada Group Calendar

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(702-215-9119, parasusson@gmail.com).

### MAY 15-18 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)

**Capitol Reef National Park, Utah.** Leave Monday morning, arrive Monday evening. Three nights in a lodge or nearby motel. Two days exploring park, including Waterpocket Fold, a geological feature called a monocline. Park has same geological formations as Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas. This is an exploratory trip. Mod. strenuous short hikes and sightseeing. Levels 2-3. Drive home on Thursday. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

### MAY 29, MEMORIAL DAY (MONDAY)

**Big Falls, Kyle Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA (Mt. Charleston).** Hike to Big Falls – one of the treasures of Spring Mountains – a 100-ft-high waterfall. Examine a possible glacial till exposure on way up. This is the perfect time of year to be hiking on our beautiful High Country trails. Boulder and log scrambling for 2 mi unless there is a carpet of thick snow. Have Spring Mountains been glaciated? If so, what geological features would we expect to find? Strenuous, Level 4, 4 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

### JUNE 12-15 (MONDAY – THURSDAY)

**Lamoille Canyon, Elko County, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada.** Leave Monday morning, arrive Monday night. Three nights in a nearby motel. Two days of exploring “Nevada’s Alps” in Ruby Mountains. These mountains were glaciated during the Ice Age and we’ll look for U-shaped valleys, moraines, hanging valleys, and other alpine glacial features. This is an exploratory trip. Mod. strenuous short hikes and sightseeing. Levels 2-3. Drive home on Thursday. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

### JUNE 16-22 (FRIDAY-THURSDAY)

**Escalante Backpack.** This 37-mile backpack will begin in Harris Wash (11 mi), then 12 mi along Escalante River, then 14 mi out 25-Mile Wash. Entry and exit washes have narrows, large alcoves, and side canyons that become slot canyons. Along river we’ll take time to explore Choprock Canyon and Neon Canyon with day packs. Car shuttle required, HCVs best. Hiking will be mod. or more, depending upon tamarisk growth or removal. Wading in creeks should be fairly easy. Sometimes it may be easier to wade in Escalante River if banks are choked with tamarisk. Limit 10.

## FROM THE CHAIR . . .

continued from page 1

to infer that they will turn back much of the environmental and conservation progress we have made in the last half-century. These officials are joined by a Congress which seems receptive to these changes.

The effect has been to galvanize Sierra Club and its partner organizations, of which there are many. The Chapter Director and I recently attended a 2-day meeting of such groups, who mapped out our plan of resistance nationally, and specifically in Nevada. To be sure, strategies that were in effect before November 2016 are no longer pertinent.

**What you can do.** We will be asking members in the months ahead to advocate for our values in the Nevada State Legislature and with our Congressional delegation. Already members of Congress are hearing from their constituents that public lands should be preserved and protected. Public outcry against transfer of lands to states has been particularly strong.

## GB OUTINGS ON CAMPFIRE . . .

continued from page 1

gives a uniform “look and feel” to what the Sierra Club offers in the way of activities across the nation. **Campfire** is “rolling out” and should eventually be used by all chapters and groups.

All outings posted in **Campfire** across many, but not yet all, Sierra Club chapters are accessible through: <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors>

Great Basin Group folks can go directly to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin>

Southern Nevada Group folks can go directly to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada>

Range of Light Group and Tahoe Group are not yet using the **Campfire** calendar.

David Hardy (702- 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred).

### JUNE 26 (MONDAY)

**Upper Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA (Mt. Charleston).**

## MARGE SILL SCHOLARSHIP . . .

continued from page 1

Director of Development (rphillips@unr.edu, 775-784-4390). This scholarship supports students with environmental majors.

For folks who are immediately interested in contributing, online gifts may be made to the UNR Foundation at the secure site: <http://www.unr.edu/giving>.

- choose MAKE A GIFT TO NEVADA (button)
- at “Designation,” choose “Other” from the drop-down menu
- at “Comments,” please indicate “Marjorie L. Sill Memorial Scholarship Endowment 175742”

When making a gift by credit card, please note that a processing fee and a transaction fee equal to the amount charged by the credit card processor will be deducted from your donation. This does not affect the tax deductibility of your total gift, but it does reduce the total funds available in the fund you are supporting. No fees apply when your donation is made by check.

Checks may be made payable and sent to:

UNR Foundation  
U. Nevada, MS 0162  
Reno, NV 89557

Please include “**Marge L. Sill scholarship**” on memo line of the check

Donations to the scholarship are tax deductible, and donors will receive a letter for IRS tax purposes.

**DEADLINE!**  
**JUNE 1**  
**FOR**  
**JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE**

Take this scenic trail from ski area at Lee Canyon to junction with old road, take switchbacks up to top of ridge, then loop back, reaching an elevation of 10,000 ft. We hike through strange, ancient, and some say enchanted Bristlecone Forest. Five mi RT, 800 ft gain, strenuous, Level 4. How old are bristlecone pines? Why did President Roosevelt stop construction of road? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

### JULY 2-6 (SUNDAY-THURSDAY)

**Central Nevada Backpack: Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome.** This area has been described as one of “deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk, and wet feet.” Trip begins on North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour’s drive NE of Tonopah, at an about 6300 ft. After arriving at trailhead we’ll hike in 2-3 mi to our first camp. next day we’ll hike about 5 mi and camp. On day 3, we’ll do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to top of 11,773 ft Arc Dome; about 12 mi RT, 4100 ft gain. On Day 4, start down South Twin, and camp after several miles. Last day, hike out. About 16 mi, 3000 ft gain with backpacks. Option to do trip in opposite direction. Car pooling or caravanning possible from Las Vegas. Elevation gain to top of Arc Dome is 300 ft less. Level 4-5. Limit 12. David Hardy (702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred).

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create a Lasting Legacy



By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:  
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## Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA  
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

**Toiyabe Trails** is published four times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (805-286-4774; LFoster@schat.net.)

**Deadlines** – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month’s issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

**Submissions** – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don’t have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

**Subscriptions** – *Toiyabe Trails* is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is \$12 per year. To subscribe, send check for \$12, payable to “Toiyabe Chapter,” to *Toiyabe Trails* Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. (See Chapter address in first paragraph, above.)

**Change of address** – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or <[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)>.

**Membership information** – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call a Group Membership Chair (see directories on pages 4, 8, and 10) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

**Other Sierra Club information.** Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory online at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.



**With your help we can clean up our water**

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America’s waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world’s water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible. They support our efforts, unless based on lobbying and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to *TOIYABE TRAILS* magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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Enclose a check and mail to:  
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041  
or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



## Volunteer opportunity in Yosemite National Park



The YOSEMITE CONSERVATION HISTORY CENTER (formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge) is a National Historic Landmark building that represents the rich heritage of the Sierra Club in Yosemite Valley. The building houses several interpretive displays, a children's nature corner, a wonderful library, art projects and evening programs.

Since 1904 a curator and Sierra Club volunteers have provided information to park visitors. Today the program welcomes over 15,000 visitors to the Sierra Club's spiritual home in Yosemite Valley and volunteers are needed now as the building reopens for its 113th season on Wednesday May 3, 2017.

Volunteers spend a week in the park assisting the Club's curator, Bonnie Gisel, PhD., by interacting with park visitors and carrying on the Sierra Club tradition of helping others appreciate and protect our natural environment. Volunteers get free park admission and camping in a group campsite during their service week.

Potential volunteers must:

- Be outgoing and comfortable interacting with park visitors
- Have visited Yosemite within the last two years and have current park knowledge
- Be familiar with current Sierra Club programs and initiatives
- Be able to stand for up to 3 hours per day
- Be ready to tent camp only
- Bring own food and supplies
- Not bring children, pets or guests

**How to become a volunteer for the 2017 season.** Please contact Bonnie Gisel at 209-347-7300.

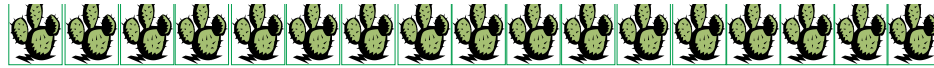


## Spring Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee's purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we used to recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster. However, this book is now out of print, though used copies are available on the internet.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).



### Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

**MAR 29-APR 2 (WED-SUN)**

#### MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE SPRING WEEKEND

Visit California desert when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming! See some of park's well-known features like Hole-in-the-Wall, Kelso Dunes, Joshua tree forests, and Lava Tube. We'll stay in a group campground (\$20 per person), which includes vault toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire ring, grill, and picnic shelter with tables. We have a campsite from 2p Wednesday until noon on Sunday. Wednesday is a free day. Arrive anytime and explore park on your own. Maximum hiking distance is 8 mi with 1500 ft

gain. Deposit required to confirm participation. Limit: 20 people. Net proceeds support Sierra Club Desert Report. Email or call leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Juricich (rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**MAY 5-7 (FRI-MON)**

#### BRIGHT STAR WILDERNESS - RESTORATION PROJECT

We will be working on Bright Star Corridor fence that was burned in Erskine Fire of 2016. fence we will rebuild blocked access to a cabin site that has been removed but still faces vehicle trespass issues. This project will be beginning of an even longer

fence line that will extend across corridor route to help protect now vulnerable burned area. For questions or to sign up contact leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com or 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

CNRCC Desert Committee

**MAY 26-29 (FRI-MON)**

#### MT. GRAFTON WILDERNESS SERVICE

Join CNRCC Wilderness Committee's Memorial Day service trip in eastern Nevada's Mt. Grafton Wilderness--another in our ongoing series with wilderness staff from BLM's Ely office. Useful work in a scenic area--a great way to celebrate Memorial Day out in wilds. Optional central commissary. Contact Vicky Hoover 415-977-5527; vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Project specifics available later.

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

**JUNE 16-22 (FRI-THU)**

#### ESCALANTE BACKPACK

The first part of this 37 mi backpack covers 11 mi in Harris Wash, then 12 mi along Escalante River, and finally 14 mi out 25 Mi Wash. Entry and exit washes have narrows, large alcoves, and side canyons that become slot canyons. Along river we will take day hikes to explore Choprock Canyon and Neon Canyon. Be prepared to get your feet wet - hiking may be easier in river if banks are choked with tamarisk. Trip requires car shuttle, with high clearance vehicles best. Limit 10. David Hardy (702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred).

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**JULY 2-6 (SUN-THU)**

#### CENTRAL NEVADA BACKPACK: TWIN RIVERS LOOP, ARC DOME

This area has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk, and wet feet." Trip begins on North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive NE of Tonopah, at about 6300 ft. After arriving at trailhead hike in 2-3 mi to our first camp. Next day hike another 5 mi and camp. On day 3, do a day hike (bring a daypack) to top of 11,773 ft Arc Dome, 12 mi RT, 4100 ft. gain. Day 4, start down South Twin, with a camp after several mi. Last day, hike out. About 16 mi, 3000 ft. gain with backpacks. Group has option to do trip in opposite direction. Gain to top of Arc Dome is 300 ft less. Possibility of car pool or caravan from Las Vegas; see details on trip sheet. Limit: 12. David Hardy (702-875-4826,hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred).

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

## Mono Lake Needs YOU!

Be a volunteer at Mono Lake this summer and meet visitors from all over the world while sharing your knowledge of the Eastern Sierra.



Volunteers are very important to the visitor experience! There are opportunities to rove and answer questions at the shore and/or visitor center, guide group tours and help with trail maintenance and weed removal. An 8 hour commitment per month, June through September, is requested. Participants must be at least 18 years old, able to walk short distances and stand for 2 hours in sunny locations.

### Free Training Sessions

**June 2 - June 4, 2017**

Friday & Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 10am-5pm

Volunteers are required to attend all training sessions. Please contact Jessica Horn at Jessica@monolake.org or call 760-647-6595 for more info or to sign up.



Sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee, U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, The Bodie Foundation & The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association.



# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

## Updating Reno's Master Plan

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

It's been nearly 25 years since the City of Reno last updated its Master Plan, but it is happening now. Renoites and even those living around the city should take a look at the way this is progressing by going to <http://www.reimaginereno.us/>. Given the long time between updates, it's very important to help guide the city in its growth and land use.

Though the master plan doesn't get into specifics of building codes and ordinances, it does lay out the broad map of where and how the city will develop. Regional centers, neighborhoods, corridors, employment areas, transportation, etc. — these are topics which will be covered, among others.

Combine this plan with the updating of the Regional Plan and with the possibility of a federal lands bill for Washoe County, and you have the nexus of a hugely important planning time for the Truckee Meadows and beyond.

Sierra Club members are urged to be involved with the various plans as they progress in order to make sure our values are represented.

**Sustainability** is a keyword for us in designing and realizing structures, developing transportation options, deciding on energy sources, and providing recreational opportunities.

We are particularly concerned

that the two master plans and any proposed federal lands bill for Washoe County preserve open space and trails for recreation. Reno is now recognized as one of the most outdoor active communities in the nation — a community which recognizes that outdoor activities are crucially important for health and well-being.

Our own Great Basin Group outings program depends on easy access to public trails and lands, which are now abundant in our area but may not always be so if we don't speak up to protect them.

**What you can do.** If you'd like to join a team of Sierra Club people who are looking closely at these issues, email David von Seggern ([vonseg1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)) to be added to an email list.

We'll be letting you know about the progress with these planning issues and will ask for your participation at the right times.

## Boom! Rain & snow return to the Sierra Tahoe's up, Truckee's flowing, Reno's precip record broken

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

ABIG WINTER FUELED LARGE-ly by atmospheric river storms interrupted the drought conditions that have persisted in northern California and western Nevada since 2012. The drought brought shrinking lakes and drying streams and rivers, damaging forests and desert ecosystems alike. The drought conditions coupled with rising temperatures — 2016 was the third year in a row to break warm temperature records globally — stress natural systems, limiting productivity for fisheries and agriculture, limiting recreation, and impacting urban landscapes.



On October 1, Truckee River. PHOTO: Dennis Ghiglieri.

2016, Lake Tahoe was a 6 inches below its natural rim, the Truckee River was a trickle, reservoirs were depleted, Pyramid Lake was on a downward trend, and most of California's Sierra and western Nevada was in some stage of moderate to severe drought.

As I write this at the end of February, Lake Tahoe is on its way to

## Endangered Species Act under scrutiny

BY LYNN BOULTON, CHAIR, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

TOGETHER WE CAN HAVE an impact if we all write our U.S. Representative, Paul Cook\*, a letter urging him to preserve or even strengthen the Endangered Species Act (ESA). That would be a lot of letters!

The ESA doesn't just save the species listed; it saves all of nature. How? All species are part of the web of life. As more species disappear, the harder it is for the remaining species to survive: extinctions accelerate. It's a domino effect that unravels the web of life.

Take away a species and another has lost its favorite dinner. It now has to cast about looking for something else to eat that may not be as nutritious, as abundant, or as easy to snag. Take away this backup source of food and now surviving is getting very hard.

A delightful read about the need for biodiversity is *The Diversity of Life* by E.O. Wilson. Wilson is now advocating a large-scale solution in his new book, *Half Earth*. For info, go to: <https://news.mongabay.com/2017/01/e-o-wilson-on-half-earth-donald-trump-and-hope>.

\*Paul Cook is the Congressional representative for Inyo and Mono Counties. His addresses are: Apple Valley Office, 14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307 or Washington, DC, Office, 1222 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515.

fill to the max, the Truckee River is still running high after three flood events, reservoirs are filling, Pyramid Lake is rising, and none of California's Sierra and western Nevada is in drought.

The Sierra snowpack is higher than any seen since 2010-11. Reno broke its official annual precipitation record set in 1983. Currently, the Reno precipitation amount stands at 12.74 inches, with 7 months still to go in the water year (Oct 1-Sep 30). The average annual precipitation for Reno is 7.5 inches.

By the time you read this, the remainder of winter 2016-17 will either have increased the snowpack or not. (The LA Times reported the snowpack was at 173% of normal on March 11. Ed.) Currently, the snowpack contains a lot of water. For example, the Ward Creek SNOTEL site on the west side of Lake Tahoe at 6745 feet has 60 inches of snow water equivalent. That's 5

## National Sierra Club elections underway

BY SUSANA REYES, SECRETARY, SIERRA CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE ANNUAL ELECTION for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway.



Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail or by internet a national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club, because The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

*In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid.* Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Your participation is needed in the voting process!

**How to learn about the candidates.** Members often say that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more.

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates: <http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>.

**Voting online is quick and easy!** Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note *your ballots must be received by no later than Election Day, April 26, 2017*

feet of water in the snow waiting for snowmelt. The site has recorded 110 inches of precipitation since October 1.

Lake Tahoe has risen more than 4 feet since October. A good portion of that increase comes from direct precipitation on the Lake's surface. Lake Tahoe occupies 40% of its own watershed; the snow remaining in the higher elevations will significantly raise the level of the Lake when it begins to melt. However, Lake Tahoe's large surface area also means that it evaporates more than 3 feet of water from its surface each year.

Is the winter of 2016-17 a return to more "normal" precipitation or is it just a blip, after which drought conditions will return for next winter? One thing for sure, 2017 will likely continue the warming seen world-wide. Warming temperatures mean increasing water demands by both the natural and human-built environments.



## Join us for a Service Trip to the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge

BY TINA NAPPE

The Toiyabe Chapter will be sponsoring its annual “Let’s Take Down More Fence” service trip to the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge on June 23-25. Since 1994, when livestock were removed, the Sierra Club has collaborated with Refuge staff in removing miles of interior fence initially constructed to rotate livestock. The site is 4-5 hours from Reno; generally the route is through Gerlach to Cedarville and then into the Refuge.



Campout at Catnip Reservoir in Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.. PHOTO. Iris Marsh..

While this year’s campsite is not confirmed, a favorite location is Catnip Reservoir where there are abundant waterfowl, a nesting pair of sandhill cranes, and a visiting bald eagle. The refuge in northern Washoe County was established initially to save pronghorn antelope. We expect to see antelope, mule deer, perhaps bighorn sheep, and sage grouse. The flowers should be abundant and many species of birds as well.

Caravanning is an option. Bring water, camping gear, food, including a contribution to a Saturday night potluck, warm clothes, and maybe even rain gear. Gloves, a hat, pliers, shovel, a bucket, sun screen, and insect repellent are also recommended. The refuge does provide some tools.

**Please join us!** To sign up, contact David Von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net) or Tina Nappe (tinanappe@gmail.com).

## Powered by sunshine (& ground heat)

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN



**Q:** IS IT POSSIBLE to cost-effectively retrofit an older home in Reno, Nevada, to be a net zero-energy home?

**A:** YES, and the Toiyabe Chapter funded a videographer to work with Chapter Vice-Chair David Gibson to make a video out of his experience in accomplishing this. See this remarkable locally-made video at <https://youtu.be/oCJ3Gxu7-y4>.

In its short 12 minutes, *Powered by Sunshine* demonstrates how net-zero-energy was achieved at his home in Reno and shows some of the benefits we can reap by taking similar strategies statewide in Nevada. If you enjoy the video, please share it with your friends, family and colleagues.

**Next Step:** Support David’s Efforts. David Gibson has started a new non-profit initiative under the same name, *Powered by Sunshine*. The mission is to educate students, community members, and our state legislators about the benefits of transitioning Nevada to 100% clean energy, across all sectors, including transportation, by 2040. Please sign up as a supporter of this movement on the website <http://www.poweredbysunshine.org/supporters/>.

There is a section on the website, under “Sources”, that shows all the local companies David Gibson worked with for different phases of the project. These are not out-of-state contractors and products

-- David bought and contracted locally. David is building *Powered by Sunshine* into a reliable resource for energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy in Nevada.

**2017 Days of Action.** *Powered by Sunshine* is planning 100 days of action in 2017 for 100% clean energy, including clean-energy house parties, education, and events in partnership with other non-profits and community groups. He is drafting a white paper demonstrating the economic benefits Nevada will reap from making this transition to clean energy.



### Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 9 am

April 8, 2017

Reno, NV

For details, contact the Chair,

**DAVID VON SEGGERN**

Chair@Toiyabe.  
SierraClub.org

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings, which usually begin at 9 am. We reserve a time slot for input from members; if you have an issue on which you want to address the ExCom, please attend. For ExCom members’ contact info, see the separate group directories.

## What does the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection website have to offer?

BY HANNAH HUH, UNR

The NDEP describes its mission as “to preserve and enhance the environment of the state in order to protect public health, sustain healthy ecosystems, and contribute to a vibrant economy.” In pursuit of this, several key sources and categories of information are provided by NDEP’s website.

**Ease of access.** the NDEP website has a clear organization and on the whole, the information posted on the site is easily available. For instance, information ranging from Spill Reporting Hotline instructions to the dangers of mercury to the disposal of unused medication can be found with little effort.

**Public Notices.** The release of public notices was a primary method of evaluating the NDEP’s available information. Email addresses to join listservs for individual bureaus were generally easy to locate, though email lists were not always available. In attempting to subscribe to the listservs for Bureau of Air Pollution Control, Bureau of Water Pollution Control and the Solid and Hazardous Waste lists for the Bureau of Waste Management, emails for the latter three were found easily. When contacting the appropriate NDEP office, however, I was informed that the only available public email list for the Bureau of Air Pollution Control is for the Nevada Mercury Program Public

Notices. The other public notice list for the Bureau of Air Pollution Control is provided via hard copies through the mail.

Additionally, it appears that there are discrepancies between public mailing lists and public notices posted on the NDEP website. Since November 2016, when I first requested to join the electronic mailing lists mentioned above, I have only received two notices from the Hazardous Waste list. While the second notice pertained to an annual listing of all permit modifications and was posted on the NDEP website, the first notice detailed a permit modification request, yet was not listed on the NDEP’s web page for public notices.

**GIS tools.** The NDEP allows access to its GIS data through an interactive map interface. Users are able to filter and view locations of such items as recycling centers, active or closed mining sites, landfills, and information about various bodies of water. I had very little prior knowledge of these systems and no experience with GIS data, but found that documentation for these tools was clear and allowed for easy use of the basic features.

**Reports.** The NDEP releases a biennial report detailing information such as “Agency Goals,” “Significant Legislation,” and “Agency Accomplishments.”

These reports are posted starting from 1998 to 2008 (for every other year), however reports from 2010 and onward are not listed on the same web page as the reports from previous years. It is unclear to the author whether the generation of these reports ceased or if they are located elsewhere on the NDEP site. Other reports that are available throughout the NDEP websites include:

- A Trend Report released by the Bureau of Air Quality Planning in 2003, which covers Nevada air quality from 1992-2003
- Biennial Water Quality Integrated Reports from the Bureau of Water Quality Planning
- The Nevada Air Quality Trend Report 2000-2010
- Nevada Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Projections, 1990-2030

There seems to be no particular web page designated for consolidating all reports released by NDEP. However, the NDEP Web Archives contain several of these reports, and individual archives and reports can also be found via each bureau’s website.

An item of particular interest may be the “Strategic Plan 2016-20,” which includes a discussion of NDEP’s 11

### MAKE A TREE HAPPY!

Get your *Trails* online

Opt out of the paper *Toiyabe Trails* and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at “[optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org](mailto:optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org)” (put that address in the “To” line). Then put “optout” in the “Subject” line — that’s all you have to do.

primary goals.

**Public Information.** Several pages on the NDEP website with public information appear neglected and have not been updated in several years. The NDEP site map includes links for press releases, public notices, online news clips, and public records under “Public Information.”

No press releases have been posted on its web page since December 2013, although links under the “New Announcements & Initiatives” and “New Documents & More” headings on the NDEP front page appear to be somewhat more regularly updated.

Finally, NDEP does provide a variety of information for the public through its online resources, ranging from educational materials to technical reports. However, there are discrepancies and a



# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group

### Group News

#### ROL Group ExCom

BY LYNN BOULTON, ROL CHAIR

Our next ROL Ex Com meeting will be Wednesday, April 19 from 1-4 pm at the home of Dick and Joanne Hihn. All are welcome to attend.

Please contact Dick for directions and to confirm the time (rhihn@skidmore.edu or 760-709-5050). There is a possibility the time might be changed to 5-8pm.

#### Blue Diamond Project

Beginning in the summer of 2013, ROLG members partnered with the USFS to reestablish the historic ungroomed Blue Diamond Nordic ski and snowshoe routes in the Inyo National Forest. View the map on-line at <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light> and click



to view map. Get out and enjoy the quiet sports.

**More info.** Contact: Mary and Mike (805-217-5563, [marymikeshore@gmail.com](mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com)).

-- from ROL Newsletter

#### Health risks from wildfires

A report from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies concludes that health risks from wildfires in the west will increase significantly between now and 2050. The county by county map shows the health risk in Mono County increasing from 1 to 4 (on a 0=no risk to 5 = highest risk scale). In contrast the increase in Inyo County was projected to be only from 0 to 1.

-- from ROL Newsletter

### Range of Light WINTER PHOTO GALLERY

In February, Range of Light Group participants skied and snowshoed to Hot Creek Geologic Site, near Mammoth Lakes. We were able to successfully drive the Hot Creek Hatchery Road to a plowed parking area. From there, we traveled the 1.5 miles to the



Geologic Site which is managed by the US Forest Service. The snow that day was PERFECT for both snowshoers and cross country skiers. Lunch was enjoyed down by the creek, not too close to the fumaroles but near enough to feel and see steam coming from bubbling springs along the creek. We returned to our cars in time to avoid getting caught in yet another snow dump!

#### Range of Light Group

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Lynn Boulton*	<a href="mailto:chairrol@gmail.com">chairrol@gmail.com</a>
Vice-Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
Secretary	Lesley Bruns*	<a href="mailto:lestravel@hotmail.com">lestravel@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mary Ann Dunigan	760-924-5982
At Large	Mike Shore*	<a href="mailto:pacificshore38@gmail.com">pacificshore38@gmail.com</a>
At Large	Fran Hunt*	<a href="mailto:fran.hunt@sierraclub.org">fran.hunt@sierraclub.org</a>
At Large	Joanne Hihn*	<a href="mailto:photos73@gmail.com">photos73@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Education	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109
Hwy Cleanup	Dick & Joanne Hihn	<a href="mailto:photos73@gmail.com">photos73@gmail.com</a>
	Mary & Mike Shore	<a href="mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com">marymikeshore@gmail.com</a>
ORWC** Chair	Mark Bagley	760-873-5326
Conservation	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Membership	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Outings	Dick Hihn	<a href="mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu">rhihn@skidmore.edu</a>
Co-Chairs	Joanne Hihn	<a href="mailto:jhphotos73@gmail.com">jhphotos73@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Mary Shore	<a href="mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com">marymikeshore@gmail.com</a>
Publicity	Lynn Boulton	<a href="mailto:amazinglylynn@yahoo.com">amazinglylynn@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	<a href="mailto:jo@eccotone.net">jo@eccotone.net</a>

\* Voting ExCom member

\*\* Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair

**ROL Group Website**  
<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>  
**&**  
**Chapter website**  
<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

## Range of Light OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

### SPRING 2017 OUTINGS

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

CST2087766-40. Registration as seller of travel does not constitute approval by State of California.

**We are not able to list outings for April-June at this time. Please check for outings at the locations listed below.**

**CHECKING FOR UPDATES.** In addition to contact information listed in the *Trails*, check for updates on . . .

- our WEB PAGE at [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light)
- on FACEBOOK, search "Range of Light Group"
- on MEETUP at <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>
- or in LOCAL MEDIA (newspapers, etc.), where we submit outings information (note that it does not always get included in their calendar of events and sometimes published information is not accurate).

Our **BEST SUGGESTION**: Always check with leader for updated information about an outing you are interested in joining. Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate in our outings, but we encourage you to support the good work of the Sierra Club and its many volunteers.

#### What to Bring on Winter Outings

Prepare for a variety of conditions. Bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, appropriate footwear as well as skis/snowshoes if appropriate.

#### Important Notice

Outings destinations may change due to unforeseen weather conditions. Abominable weather will cancel an outing. If in doubt, please contact leader ahead of time.

## You're Invited!

### Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings

Everyone welcome!

*There will be no potlucks for the meetings below.*

#### April 18 (Tuesday)

6:45 pm, Announcements  
 7 pm, Program  
 Crowley Lake Community Ctr  
 (next to Crowley Lake Store)

**"Where will the trails take us?"**

Joes Rathje, Trails Coordinator for the town of Mammoth Lakes will talk about what the future holds for the Mammoth Lakes Trail system.

#### May 16 (Tuesday)

Come early  
 7 pm, Program  
 Page Center at Sierra Nevada  
 Aquatic Research Lab (SNARL)

Programs in the SNARL spring series are generally of a scientific nature. Specific topics will be announced at a later date.

#### June 20 (Tuesday)

6:45 pm, Announcements  
 7 pm, Program  
 Crowley Lake Community Ctr  
 (next to Crowley Lake Store)

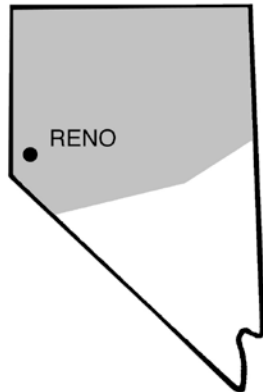
**"Bodie Hills Management"**

Meet April Sall, conservation leader and new Director of the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership. She will bring us up to date on planned management of the Bodie Hills.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our Program Chair, Mary Shore ([marymikeshore@gmail.com](mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com)). We always need fresh ideas!



# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Message from the Chair

#### Spring is coming . . . eventually!

BY KATY CHRISTENSON

THOSE SNOWSHOES THAT HAVE HUNG forlornly in closets throughout the Great Basin in recent years have had a busy, adventure-filled season of winter hiking which may continue long into spring! A special thanks to all outings leaders who have plowed ahead with the winter hikes. As the air warms and days lengthen in coming months, hikes offered will include increased evening hikes.

**BIG GB news!** This relates to how outings and events info will be made available to interested folks anywhere! Please see important article below from Dan Ellsworth, the new GBG Outings Chair.

**EARTH DAY.** Please plan to visit the GBG's booth at the annual Earth Day celebration festival in Reno on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at Idlewild Park. Interested in volunteering for an hour? Call Katy (702-

#### GB outings now listed on Club's Campfire site

BY DAN ELLSWORTH, GB OUTINGS CHAIR

Effective immediately, the Great Basin Group Outings Program will begin publishing all of its outings online in real time via **Campfire**, the new calendar network developed by the Sierra Club. **Campfire** will eventually completely replace OARS within a year. GBG will NOT publish its outings in the Trails, beginning with this issue.

Members (and nonmembers) can access this calendar, which will show all of our outings and events by going here: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events>.

The Great Basin Group will also continue to publish outings on its Meetup site as well, at: <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno>. Be sure to check both sites to see all that we have to offer:

This new way of listing outings will accomplish several things that will be beneficial to Sierra Club members across the nation who are interested in seeing what Northern Nevada has to offer. It will also benefit Great Basin Group Outings Leaders.

First, going 'all digital' will help us reduce our paper usage. Second, the online calendar that the Great Basin Group will be using will allow our outings to be visible on Sierra Club calendars across the nation and on Sierra Club's constituent event website, AddUp.

Also, GBG Outings Leaders will now have more flexibility in planning outings for Sierra Club members and for members of the community.

If you are interested in becoming an Outings Leader for the Great Basin Group, please contact me directly for more information: Daniel Ellsworth, Outings Chair, Great Basin Group ([danomike@yahoo.com](mailto:danomike@yahoo.com), 775-741-8384).

\*GB GROUP WEBSITE: <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/>>

FACEBOOK: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scgbg/>> (Sierra Club GBG)

MEETUP: <<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>>

#### GBG Gets Kids Outdoors all year

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

In our wettest snowiest year, kids are getting out in the deep snow and on Lake Tahoe with help from your "Get Kids Outdoors" donations. Classes from Sutro Elementary in Dayton enjoyed a sunny snowshoe day at Galena Creek and Kate Smith students from Sparks spent three days at Lake Tahoe with Great Basin Outdoor School's winter ecology and snowshoe program.

In the spring, Bailey Charter 5th and 6th graders will spend four days on the shore of Tahoe hiking, studying aquatic ecosystems aboard a research boat, and learning about astronomy, geology, and forest and wildlife ecology with hands-on activities.

**What you can do.** Your support helps give these children life-changing experiences,

experiences which build confidence and dedication to protecting our environment.

#### GREAT BASIN GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Katy Christensen*	702-755-2267	mabelnv@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	suejacox@nvbellnet
Treasurer	Roleigh Martin*	952-905-0822	roleigh@pobox.com
Conservation	Open		
Energy	Open		
Membership	Open		
Outings	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Political	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Charlotte Cox*	775-848-0741	charcox@charter.net
Publicity	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Mitch Silveira-Brown	775-233-6971	potzagilla@gmail.com

**PHOTO.** Sunny snowshoe day at Galena Creek for Dayton students.

## Great Basin Group PROGRAM MEETINGS

#### APRIL 13 (THURSDAY)

**"Public Perception & Production of Potable Water Recycling"** — with Dr. Kerri Jean Ormerod. Given the scope of water and sanitation challenges posed by climate change and continued urbanization, potable water recycling is gaining traction as a means to expand urban water supply and decrease wastewater disposal into waterways. No longer regarded as a system by-product without value, planners increasingly consider wastewater a displaced resource in need of recirculation. The literature suggests that public perception and institutional barriers are the limiting factors to greater recapture and reuse of wastewater. Implicitly accepting water recycling as a sustainable alternative, much of the research is aimed at overcoming public opposition.

However, the trend toward potable water recycling disrupts the normally hidden processes of urban water delivery, treatment, and disposal. In doing so, it provides a rare opportunity to contemplate taken-for-granted technologies of waterborne sanitation and to recognize alternative modes of managing human excrement, including composting toilets and dry sanitation.

Dr. Kerri Jean Ormerod is an assistant professor in Geography and program leader in water, climate, and drought hazards for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Her research explores the politics of water and urban sanitation. Time & Place. Refreshments, 6:30p; program 7-8p; Bartley Ranch Western Interpretive Center.

#### MAY 11 (THURSDAY)

**"Nine Years Hiking the High Sierra John Muir Trail, in Pictures & Stories"** — with Roleigh Martin. This is a reschedule of the January 12 program that was snowed out! Roleigh Martin has formed and done group hikes to do the John Muir Trail (JMT) 9 times.

The JMT is a 218-mile trail on the High Sierra, 90% of which is on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). (The JMT is the highest elevation portion of the PCT.) He will give a slideshow of his best pictures and tell stories of these 9 years on the JMT. In 2016, he doubled the distance of his group's JMT hike to also cover the distance from Yosemite to Lake Tahoe on the PCT and will include pictures from that part of the PCT.

Also, Roleigh has been leading moderator of the John Muir Trail Yahoo Group since 2011. The group has over 5200 members and writes the JMT Permit FAQ which serves over 25,000 members on the JMT and Facebook JMT Groups. He has widely published on multiple topics about the JMT over the last 8 years. He has his own Meetup group focused on long distance High Sierra backpacking aimed at Reno and nearby Californians at <https://www.meetup.com/Reno-CA-JMT-Backpackers/>. Anyone interested is invited to join it.

He is also a very active Sierra Club hiking group leader, trainer, and the local Sierra Club group treasurer. Time & Place. Refreshments, 6:30p; program 7-8p; Bartley Ranch Western Interpretive Center.

### Summer fun & learning for educators & kids

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

#### Saturday • June 24 • Oxbow Nature Study Area

**JUNE.** Great Basin Outdoor School invites educators and their school-age children to a family-friendly Project WET professional development workshop at Oxbow Nature Study Area in Reno on Saturday, June 24.

Project WET is a comprehensive collection of water education materials with hands-on, inquiry-based lessons that are ready for use and aligned to Nevada State Standards, S.T.E.M., and the Common Core. Registration materials and details are

available at [www.greatbasin-os.org](http://www.greatbasin-os.org) or by calling 775-324-0936.

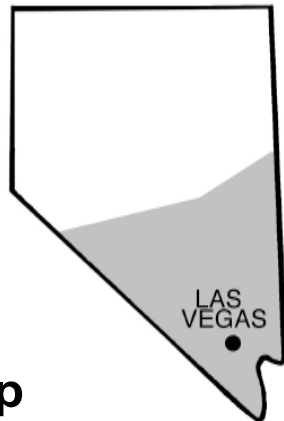
**JULY.** Parents and grandparents can get kids outdoors in July at the River School Farm in Reno with Great Basin Outdoor School's summer day camp. Nature activities, crafts, hiking, and lessons along the banks of the Truckee

River will give kids a summer to remember. Registration materials and details are available at [www.greatbasin-os.org](http://www.greatbasin-os.org) or by calling 775-324-0936.





# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Meetings, Events, Opportunities

**ExCom: April 5, May 3, & June 7**

**GROUP EXCOM MEETINGS.** Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Sierra Club Office, located just off West Sahara near Palace Station, Building C, Suite 109, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Las Vegas, NV 89102. There is plenty of free parking in the surrounding lot. Please join us on *April 5, May 3 or June 7.*

**PROGRAM MEETINGS.** Our Group Meetings are conducted as quarterly membership events. Our next gathering will be a *Members Orientation on Wednesday, May 17*, when we will welcome new Sierra Club members and prospective members with a presentation on Group activities and how to fully participate. It's also a great opportunity for existing members to refresh their familiarity with all that we do and introduce friends and colleagues to our organization. The meeting will start at 6:30pm at the Sierra Club office. Light refreshments will be provided. Info: [tajainlay@aol.com](mailto:tajainlay@aol.com).

## Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

*ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES*

Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041.

A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found online at [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada). You can also visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng](http://www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng), and please "like" our page.

#### APRIL 10 (MONDAY)

**Little Virgin Peak, Gold Butte National Monument, Nevada.** Join guest leader Jim Boone, and Nick Saines on a mod. strenuous hike to top of Little Virgin Peak. Two mi RT, 700 ft gain. Level 3. Great views of new national monument from top, at 3514 ft. On this hike we'll encounter Precambrian metamorphic rocks. How old is Precambrian? How are metamorphic rocks formed? Trip limit: 15 people. Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049).

#### APRIL 24-27 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)

**Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona** Leave Monday morning, arrive Monday evening. Three nights in a lodge or nearby motel. Two days exploring park, including its geological and paleontological features.

This park has similar geology to parts of Red Rock Canyon and Spring Mountain Ranch near Las Vegas. This is an exploratory trip. Mod. strenuous short hikes and sight-seeing. Levels 2-3. Drive home on Thursday. Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049).

#### APRIL 28-30 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

**Deep Creek Mtns WSA Boundary Fencing.** We'll work with BLM to restore boundary fencing along Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness Study Area. About 55 mi south of Wendover, Utah. Help Protect, Explore & Enjoy this amazing landscape! Mod. difficulty, mostly fence construction. Level 3. Details: see Video Invite at <https://youtu.be/XxsbGYUlgYU> or contact Par Rasmusson

Please see SN GROUP CALENDAR, page 2.

## Seventh graders explore Ash Canyon at Red Rock

BY BARBARA GERHARDT

What a difference a week makes! After a previously soggy weekend when two Las Vegas ICO outings had to be canceled, first-year teacher, Natasha Ashby, and her 19 7th-grade students from West Prep Middle School were blessed with dry weather for exploring Ash Canyon in Red Rock Canyon NCA. Even before the students got off the bus at Red Rock, they spotted a coyote! It was a very exciting and auspicious beginning to their adventure.

The temperature was in the high 50s in Las Vegas, but as the students stepped off the bus they were surprised by how much cooler it was in Red Rock. They had been advised to bring a jacket, which many of them were grateful for having. For the majority of the participants, Ms. Ashby included, this was their first experience in our desert gem, Red Rock Canyon.

The outing began at Sandstone Quarry. As we walked to the remnants of the sandstone quarry, we talked about the large variety of plants that bordered that



trail as a result of being on the edge of a wash. We also talked about how deceptive the plant life of the desert is from a car window where it looks as if there are only a few types of plants -- as opposed

to walking in the desert, where you see a surprising number of different species of vegetation.

When we reached the Agave Roasting Pit, we split into two groups per guidelines for larger group outings in the conservation area. We walked through a narrow canyon where we saw the sculpting

effect of water on the rock, the desert varnish, and plants (lichen) that not just survive but thrive while living on rocks. When walking through the little slot, one student said, "Wow, I can echo in these rocks!"

When we reached an amphitheater-like rock formation, we took a break. The students had been given an assignment by their teacher to write or draw in their journals about what they had been learning and experiencing based on what they saw, smelled, touched, and heard. Before beginning the journal writing, we just listened to the silence. One student said, "I have never heard this (complete silence)." These students quickly got right to task in their journals.

After five to ten minutes of diligent writing, the call of their surroundings overcame them and they began exploring the mini terraces of the amphitheater. This turned out to be just an appetizer for what was to come later.

The next stop for a water and snack break was an overlook where we all enjoyed the spectacular panoramic view of the mountains of Red Rock. At this point, the

second group arrived and it was time for our whole group photos.

The final leg of the hike was about a half-mile up the trail to a large sandstone outcropping with views of Red Rock valley and Las Vegas in the distance; it was the perfect spot for our lunch break. We began our trek back and when we reached the amphitheater area, we realized we were a bit ahead of schedule. So, we decided to have some free exploration in this area where earlier the students' interest in climbing the rocks had become evident.

What happened next was an explosion of youthful strength, vitality, and pure joy! They began climbing, exploring, and having the time of their lives. I thought of the comparison of a dog being let off its leash to dash and frolic across a meadow. One youth was heard saying, "I never want to come down (off the rocks). I feel like a mountain goat!"

There is no doubt in my mind that this was a memorable outing for all. The students repeatedly commented on the beauty of the area, how they enjoyed seeing the mini-caves that had formed in the sandstone, and how they liked getting out of the house.

An added note: As we began our outing I saw Ciron, a youth who has been on every previous outing Las Vegas ICO has done with Walnut Community Center. He was with a friend and the friend's parent. I was thrilled to see him there continuing his interest in and exploration of nature. Likewise, I am hopeful and confident that in the future I will see some of the participants of this West Prep outing on the trails of Red Rock.

PHOTO: Bill Korol.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

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