

### **January 1, 2016**



#### **News and Notes**

By Delphine Trowbridge

Verdugo Hills had their group elections and the elected people will start January 1. 2016. They are Delphine, Marlene, Annette, Michael, Charlotte and Carol returning. Paul Nemeth will be a new member on our ex-com member.

Angeles Chapter also had elections and new members to their executive board are Charming Evelyn, Sridhar Gullapalli, Marcia Hanscom, Lynne Plambeck and Bill Simpson. The Chapter retreat and Chapter ExComm kickoff Meeting at Eaton Canyon is Jan 23-24, 2016

Chapter Banquet will be June 5, 2016

## Franklin Canyon

By Evelyn Alexander

On November 12 a group of us met at the Sooky Goodman Nature Center for a hike in upper Franklin Canyon. The weather was lovely and so was the Park. Although many of us in the Sierra Club know the area well many natives probably would be amazed to find out that this peaceful oasis of beauty is located between Beverly Hills and Sherman Oaks. There are at least two small lakes, plenty of water fowl and hiking trails of different levels of difficulty.



Because it is located so close to Hollywood it has been the site of countless movies and TV locations. Such diverse productions as "Creature from the Black Lagoon", "Bonanza", "The Andy Griffith Show", and "It Happened One Night" all took advantage the parks nearby scenery and lakes.

Finally we found out the exact center of Los Angeles is located in Franklin Canyon. Although it's not on the beaten path one of our group took us to see the surveyors' plaque that marks the spot. It was another interesting addition to what we had already experienced in this lovely park.

### Keller Hut Memorial Day Weekend Fundraiser

By Ed Khatch

Last Memorial Day holiday we enjoyed a fabulous weekend at the charming Keller Hut located between Running Springs and Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino Mtns. We reserved this Angeles Chapter treasured rustic hut for our fun filled weekend of activities with the very knowledgeable overseer Marty Kluck. Keller Hut offers two living-dining rooms, fully equipped kitchen, shared bathroom, and two dorm lofts with sleeping pads. Go up a ladder to sleep in the loft or pitch your tent outside in the picturesque grounds.





On Saturday morning upon arrival everyone participated in the cabin orientation and a Zen walk around the premises to get acquainted. We enjoyed lunch at the cabin and went on a car caravan to local points of interest. First stop was the Keller Peak fire lookout tower with incredible views followed by a hike at the Children's Forest nearby. Later we made our way to Big Bear Visitor center and back to the cabin for happy hour and potluck dinner. In the evening we had a special program called Conservation Corner by Marty.

On Sunday after breakfast the participants dispersed into various groups heading to different parts of the mountains; some went to Big Bear area to hike and explore, others to Arrowhead Lake and some went to Deep Creek Hot Springs. In the evening everyone was back at the cabin for happy hour and delicious dinner sharing stories of their adventures. On Monday after breakfast the group went on a very informative hike with

Marty to find the natural water source feeding the cabin and later packed up and said their goodbyes.

Our group had 23 participants and good times were shared by all, past friendships rekindled and new friendships sprouted. Very special thanks to my coleaders Marty Kluck and Jean Noud. These wonderful leaders contributed their special talents in planning and execution of this very successful outing.

This weekend trip was a fundraiser with all proceeds benefiting Keller Peak Ski Hut to aid in maintenance and improvements. I'm proud to report that Verdugo Hills Group was able to raise \$723.49 for Keller Hut from this trip!

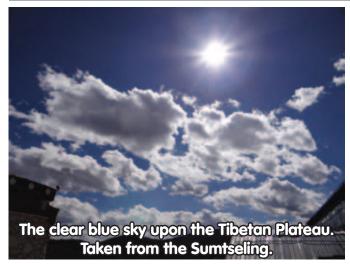
## Shangri-La upon the Tibetan Plateau in Yunnan Sierra Club Trip, October 2015

By Bruce Hale

Look up the word, "Shangri-La" in Webster's and you will find that it refers to an imaginary and remote land in the manner of an idyllic hideaway depicted in James Hilton's 1933 novel *Lost Horizon*. However, since 1997 there is in fact a town called Shangri-La upon the Tibetan Plateau in Yunnan Province, China. During our Sierra Club trip in October 2015 we visited Shangri-La. This article along with its pictures will give you an idea of what it is like.



This view is the closest approximation to what I imagined from Lost Horizon. The modern town is in the distance as seen between two ridges.



In 1997 there was a local contest to determine which of the towns on the Tibetan Plateau region of Yunnan should be re-named Shangri-La in order to gain more tourism on account of the appeal of 1933 novel and its mystique. The town of Zhongdian [pop 120,000; elev. 3200m or about 10,500 ft] won the contest. There is some basis for the decision to re-name it Shangri-La because its location seems to match best the geographic descriptions in the novel. It is thought that James Hilton drew upon articles which the American explorer and researcher of the Naxi culture in Yunnan, Joseph Rock, wrote in National Geographic during the 1920s. Others theorize that the author merely corrupted the Buddhist term for a paradise, Shambhala. In any case, the renaming of Zhongdian has been effective as tourists have flocked to Shangri-La and it is now on the tourist map just like some of the other attractive tourist towns in Yunnan.

But not long after Shangri-La started to get its tourist infrastructure geared up, disaster struck in the form of a fire which burned down 2/3 of Old Town, a primary tourist attraction, in January 2014. The fire was started by a resident who left her electric blanket on. Our guide said that she is in jail now. We found that much reconstruction has already taken place since the fire. But the electric blanket is a common appliance to help residents cope with the cold, except that one is supposed to turn it off after it has pre-warmed the bed. During our stay in October, temperatures were cold at night [down to around freezing], but warmed up to the mid-50s once



the sun came up. During winter, it gets as cold as 12° F in Shangri-La.

An important focal point of Old Town is the temple complex on the hilltop overlooking the town square. The government built the main temple 5 years after the renaming of the town, and is building another one next to it. Also recently built is the huge prayer wheel, the largest in the world and popular tourist attraction. Twenty people are required to turn it. At night the temple and the prayer wheel glow with reflected lights.

We spent a morning at another landmark on a hill about 20 minutes out of the town called Ganden Sumtseling Gompa, a monastery also known as the Little Potala as it is supposedly modelled on the Potala in Lhasa. There is a resemblance. Today about 700 monks



The Ganden Sumtseling Gompa monastery modelled after the Potala in Lhasa. Tibet



The living-kitchen-dining room on the second floor of a typical Tibetan farm house. The lady of the house is pouring Yak butter tea for our group.

live on the premises. Like the Potala, Samtseling has a huge assembly hall to accommodate them for lectures. The halls and temples on the campus have largely been rebuilt with more rebuilding going on, so that the structures are in unusually good condition.

We visit a typical Tibetan house in a farming village to see how the local farmers live. The family (4 generations) lives on the second floor with one large living-kitchendining room. The animals live underneath on the first floor. Everyone in the village helps to build houses for each other. The village displays a modest prosperity. Food is being stored for the winter. For example, bacon is hanging from the ceiling. We sample some Zumba, the Tibetan staple made of yak butter and barley flour. It does not necessarily have to be baked. It has a strong flavor.

Our last sightseeing stop is Napahai, a large expanse of grassland about a half hour from town which is used to raise horses which sometimes win prizes in the annual June competition. Our group enjoys the panorama of grasses, rings of surrounding mountains, and a distant lake. To the north of the valley is the highway which goes to Lhasa, Tibet. The drive takes 5 days and requires a 4WD vehicle. (A new rail line is currently under construction).

Shangri-La did not match my image from *Lost Horizon*. It is not secluded in a small valley hidden by towering mountains. Rather, it is in a large, flat

valley ringed by mountains in the distance. While we were visiting Ganden Sumtseling Gompa, one of our participants asked if this monastery were the one described in *Lost Horizon*. The fact is, we cannot know. We do know that the author never actually traveled to China or Tibet. None of the existing monasteries match the utopian descriptions in the novel. What we can say is that Shangri-La is more a state of mind than a physical place, but the town now bearing the name enjoys a surge of tourism on account of it.

Bruce will be giving a slide show presenting more details about the October Sierra Club trip to Yunnan at the February 24, 2016 monthly meeting of the Verdugo Hills Group.

## December Notes—Verdugo Hills Conservation Round Table

By Delphine Trowbridge

n December 17, some of the Round Table group pulled caster bean plants from the hillside at our Corralitas Stairs that we have adopted. We will be tossing our seed bombs as soon as the rain starts.

The Sierra Club is working on a official Chapter position against the **Scholl Canyon Expansion** of the landfill in Glendale. The landfill site is at 3001 Scholl Canyon Road and it consists of 535 acres; 440 is landfill. Some of the objections are 3,400 tons a day of trash dumped, the environmental impacts and methane gas. Judy Anderson will work on getting a Sierra Club challenge of the DEIR.

Judy also attended an **Urban Bio-Diversity Workshop** and learned about how important it is plant

# Verdugo Hills Group Needs Your Pictures for Our Newsletter

We need event pictures to go with our articles. If you have a picture taken on a Verdugo Hills Event, please send it to David Eisenberg, Editor at





## CONSERVATION

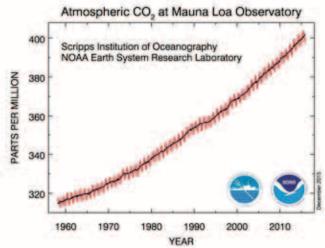
natives. Carol talked about Griffith Park and the plans Friends of Griffith Park have for Fern Dell.

## Hope from Paris on Global Warming

By Michael Beck

For nearly three decades, the world's scientists have been issuing ever more strident warnings that global warming will spin out of control unless global governments quickly commit to moving away from fossil fuels. Neither the 1997 Kyoto treaty nor the 2009 Copenhagen conference achieved this goal, but future historians may well conclude that the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference finally began a turn away from disaster. On December 12, 195 nations reached consensus agreement on the following:

- Global warming must be held below 2° C (3.6°F) to avoid irreversible catastrophe for the planet's environment.
- The conferees committed themselves to policies which, if carried through, should hold the warming below 2.7° C (4.8° F)
- These policies will be revisited every five years to negotiate stricter limits to eventually hold warming below 2° C.



For the first time in at least 3 million years, 2015's atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels averaged above 400 parts per million. By NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory

Several noteworthy points stand out. First, the conference saw unprecedented consensus that all nations need to begin action now. The big global blocker in the past was the tension between developed and undeveloped nations, typified by the U.S. vs. China: China wanted the U.S. to take action first because most past CO2 came from developed nations. The U.S. wouldn't budge until China started making an equal sacrifice immediately. Then last year President Obama and China's President Xi met, agreed that both countries had an obligation to begin moving away from fossil fuels, and announced specific measures towards that end: U.S. would reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 26% by 2025, and China would immediately shift investments towards renewables and carbon neutral energy. Given that these two countries are by far the largest emitters in the world, they led the way towards healing the rift in time for Paris.

Second, there was a stronger moral undertone than previously. Pope Francis gave an enormous push last summer with his "Laudato Si" encyclical, putting the Catholic Church on record that trashing nature is a grievous sin against both God and humanity, especially since global warming hits the poor and defenseless the hardest. Experts now say that the Paris agreement will be all the stronger because the moral dimension will strengthen peer pressure for governments to hold each other to honor their agreements.

Third, the agreement was framed as a commitment of the world's governments to honor previous treaties as well as the individual measures they adopted in preparation for the Paris Conference, such as Obama's policy of cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 26% by 2025. Many attendees, especially from Europe, advocated a legally-binding treaty to guarantee the above. This measure faltered, however, largely because of the widespread belief that the U.S. Congress would never ratify such a treaty, due to what the L.A Times has called the Republicans' obstinate refusal to even admit to global warming, let alone act on it.

Fourth, hundreds of non-national entities attended to support a strong agreement and build a lasting bulwark for pressuring governments to honor their commitments. Perhaps the most powerful was Governor Brown, who represented California (equivalent to the world's eighth-

# CONSERVATION

largest economy) He partnered with the President-Minister of the German state of Baden-Württemberg to spearhead a joint statement by 123 of the world's sub-national entities – states, provinces, and large cities – to pressure nations to hold global warming below 2oC. Governor Brown also spoke extensively on one root cause of climate change that did not make it to the main table: the mania of global multinational corporations to "commidify" everything in nature, i.e., overconsumption. Of course environmental organizations also attended in force, including our own Sierra Club with its "Beyond Coal" campaign and 350.org's Bill McKibben who perhaps best summed up the conference: It didn't save the world, but it saved a chance to save the world.

Fifth, we mustn't forget the strongest advocate of all in attendance: Mother Nature herself, who has given ever louder clarion calls of urgency since the last big climate change conference in Copenhagen. Here are just a few highlights:

- The smallest ever summer minimum of Arctic ice in September 2012.
- The smallest ever winter maximum of Arctic ice in February 2015.
- The hottest year ever globally in 2014, easily surpassing the record-shattering peak of 1998.
- An even hotter year already assured for 2015.
- A thousand-year drought in California and much of the adjoining U.S. West.
- A global pattern of mega-droughts followed by record floods, typified by the great Australian decadal drought which was followed by unprecedented flooding in 2012-13 that submerged tens of thousands of square miles.
- Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest landfalling hurricane in history, which slammed the Philippines in November 2013.
- Numerous other record shatterers, including Hurricane Sandy, a destabilized jet stream, the strongest ever hurricanes in the Eastern and Central

Pictures to the right are relating to our Adopt-A-Stairway project. Seed bombs are used to reintroduce native plants. Article was in the November, 2015 issue of the Verdugo Views.



## ACTIVITIES

### January 14 Thursday Beachwood Canyon Stairway Walk

2.6 miles with 861 steps. This is a hike through Hollywood history, utilizing some of the steepest and most charming staircases in the city, and affording breathtaking views from Downtown to the sea. Meet 10 am in front of the coffee shop at 2695 N. Beachwood Drive, just past the stone arches. Bring \$\$ for optional lunch. Rain Cancels.

Ldrs: Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, Carol Henning, Charlotte Feitshans, Evelyn Alexander

January 27 Wednesday

Monthly meeting

The Verdugo Hills Group is pleased to present a program entitled "The Los Angeles River Past, Present and Future. Ideas for restoring our cement, encased river have been in the news a lot lately. William Bowling, Special Projects Manager of The Friends of the L.A. River will speak about the river's history and plans for the future. Meet 7 pm for social time and refreshments. Meeting begins at 7:30 at the community room of Montrose Citibank (2350 Honolulu). Park/enter in rear.

Feb 1 Monday

Round Table meeting

Everyone welcome. Contact Delphine. if interested.

Feb 11 Thursday

O: O'Melveny Park

Join Verdugo Hills for a walk in O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills. We will explore the river walk that extends into Bee Canyon. Enjoy the native flora and fauna in the second largest park in Los Angeles. Wear comfortable shoes and \$ for lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Meet 9:15 at Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 10:00 in the parking lot located at 17300 Senson Blvd, Granada Hills. Senson located off Balboa. Ldrs: Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, Carol Henning, Charlotte Feitshans, Evelyn Alexander

March 10 Thursday

**Thursday Hike** Save the date.

March 23 Wednesday

Monthly Meeting

Join Verdugo Hills for one of Michael Beck's exciting National Park shows. Meet 7 pm for social time and refreshments. Meeting begins at 7:30 at the community room of Montrose Citibank (2350 Honolulu). Park/enter in rear.

April 1-3 Friday-Sunday

O: Carrizo Plain

See what the San Joaquin Valley would have looked like without farms and freeways! If we have rain from el Nino, wildflowers should be excellent and there should be good photo opportunities of grasslands, wildflowers and wildlife upon the Carrizo Plain. Hikes and exact sites to visit will depend on flower locations, but will include Soda Lake, San Andreas Fault and/or Painted Rock. Camp is a primitive Campground. Potluck happy hour and dinner Sat. 2WD vehicles OK. Come Friday PM or Saturday AM. Send \$10.00 trip fee, email/sase, contact info, rideshare to Bruce Hale. More details will be furnished in trip sheet. Ldrs: Bruce Hale, Mike Sandford

Help Save Paper—Get your Verdugo Views by email See pictures in full color. Use the search feature (Requires Acrobat Reader) Send an email to Verdugo Hills Group: <a href="mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com">VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com</a>

## ACTIVITIES

### April 27 Wednesday

#### Monthly Meeting

Long time Sierra Club member Joe Young will present a program of pictures and stories telling about a trip that he took to Egypt in February 2015. The presentation covers many sites introduced by Dr Zawi Hawass, former head of Antiquities for the country. They include Giza, Luxor, Abu Simbal and more, plus a visit to the new library in Alexandria. Meet 7 pm for social time and refreshments. Meeting begins at 7:30 at the community room of Montrose Citibank (2350 Honolulu). Park/enter in rear.

April 28-May 1 Thursday-Sunday

O: Morro Bay Spring Car Camp (trip full)

Fri-Sat

You may still be put on a waiting list. If interested Contact Ed Khatch at

May 7 Sat

#### O: A Taste of Downtown Los Angeles

Spend a day visiting sites in L.A.'s recently revitalized downtown. Following a special introduction and orientation, we will tour the new Broad Museum located on Bunker Hill. We will then visit and have lunch at the newly remodeled Grand Central Market on Broadway. Finely we will walk to the Los Angeles Central Library for a docent led tour. Meet 9:00 at Universal Station (for those taking the metro) or 9:30 at the Broad Museum, 221 S Grand Ave. Parking information will come with final instruction letter. Send sase/email \$5 to Evelyn Alexander no later than April 23. Space limited. Wear comfortable shoes, bring \$ for lunch. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg

#### June 10-12 Fr O: Idyllwild Car Camp

Join us for a weekend of camping in the San Jacinto Mountains. Campground is located in the beautiful village of Idyllwild. We will hike (different levels), visit town and nature center, enjoy campfires and BBQ dinner Saturday night. The fee is \$40.00 per person if you car pool and \$50 if you drive alone. Send check, made out to Verdugo Hills SC. To Delphine Trowbridge, 21308 Jimpson Way, Canyon Country, 91351. Include sase/email. Well behaved dogs ok but must contact leader in advance. There is a motel option for those who don't want to tent. Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge. Charlotte Feitshans



CST #2087766-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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 choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <a href="mailto:sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/">sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/</a> or contact the Outings Department at for a printed version.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Verdugo Hills Group is always looking for new people for our Management Committee.

We are looking for hike leaders, event planners/leaders, committee members, etc.

If you would like to help in directing our wonderful group, please talk to our membership chair,

GENE PAULIN ()

## DIRECTORY

Alexander, Evelyn

837 N Parish Pl Burbank CA 91506–1542

Anderson, Judy

4134 Ocean View Blvd Montrose CA 91020–1550

Beck, Michael

1320 Cambridge Dr Glendale CA 91205–3502

Castro, Richard

436 Poli St #308 Ventura CA 93001–5632

Davis, Lucile

4502 Caledonia Way Los Angeles CA 90065–4911

Eisenberg, David F

510 N Maryland Ave #307 Glendale CA 91206–2275

Feitshans, Charlotte

4135 Benedict Cyn Dr Sherman Oaks CA 91423–4319

Hale, Bruce

3025 Alabama St La Crescenta CA 91214–2702

Henning, Carol

651 N Wilcox Ave #3B Los Angeles CA 90004–1126

Kargodorian, Annette

2000 Maginn Dr Glendale CA 91202 Khatch, Ed

338 Grove Hill Ct Brea CA 92821

McMannes, Mary

19545 Sherman Way #98 Reseda CA 91335–3450

Meese, Jacqueline

Nemeth, Paul

25912 Sandalia Dr Valencia, CA 91355-3308

Noble, Anita

4850 Whitsett Ave #2 Valley Village CA 91607

Paulin, Eugene & Terry

540 N Fairview St Burbank CA 91505

Reyes, Susana

2700 E Chevy Chase Dr Glendale CA 91206–1818

f

Sandford, Michael & Dotty

2111 McCrea Rd

Thousand Oaks CA 91362-1117

[M][D]

Trowbridge, Delphine

21308 Jimpson Way

Canyon Country, CA 91351

Vella, Mark & Marlene



204 S Sparks St Burbank CA

Yegparian, Garen

310 E Providencia Ave #212 Burbank CA 91502–2759

Zielinska, Ewa

4411 Los Feliz Blvd #1006 Los Angeles CA 90027–2143

All links are live. You can email leaders or visit websites by clicking on a link.

Email and Phone info is not available in the web version to protect privacy.



To contact leaders or for more information on our Group, email <a href="mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com">VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com</a>.

# Verdugo Views

### **Meetings**

Verdugo Hills meets 4th Wednesday of each month except June, November, and December. Meetings are located at the Citibank in Montrose (2350 Honolulu Ave—Entrance in rear of bank) Social Hour: 7 pm, Meeting: 7:30

### Web Page

angeles.sierraclub.org/verdugo

### **Support Committee**

(Directory of Support Committee and Leaders is on inside back page.)

| Delphine Trowbridge   | . Chair/Mailing/Hospitality |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Carol Henning         | Vice Chair/Conservation/    |
| _                     | Alternate Chapter Delegate  |
| Charlotte Feitshans   | Secretary                   |
| Michael Beck          | Chapter Delegate            |
| Annette Kargodorian   | Treasurer                   |
| Judy Anderson         | Treas Asst                  |
| Paul Nemeth           | At-Large                    |
| David F Eisenberg     | Newsletter Editor           |
| Gene & Terry Paulin   | Membership                  |
| Bruce Hale            | Outings                     |
| Susana Reyes          | Political                   |
| Garen Yegparian       | Political Compliance        |
| Evelyn Alexander      | Publicity/Programs          |
| Dotty & Mike Sandford | Fundraising                 |
| Lucile Davis          | Social Secretary            |
| Richard Castro        | Webmaster                   |

#### **Conservation Round Table**

Carol Henning, Michael Beck, Gene Paulin, Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge, Judy Anderson, Marlene Vella, Charlotte Feitshans, Paul Nemeth

#### **Submission Instructions**

Deadlines are the 15th of even numbered months (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec). Send stories by email (preferably) to:

Send pictures by email by email at full resolution.

Email if you wish to make arrangements to scan a picture

# Membership





21308 Jimpson Way Canyon Country, CA 91351 Address Service Requested Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 36438