



**March 1, 2017**



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
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## News and Notes

by Delphine Trowbridge

**W**alter Ellert, who will be 92 next month, received a Certificate of Appreciation from Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune. It was for 35 years of outstanding leadership preserving, protecting and enjoying America's great outdoors, wildlands and wildlife. It was Walter that introduced me to camping in our great National and State parks. He hiked much of his 35 years in Griffith Park on the Tuesday and Thursday hikes. Walter has supported conservation with donations and life style and has been as example to everyone who knows him.



**A**ngeles Chapter is moving to a better and less expensive location on Saturday, March 25. It is one block from the Red Line. New address One Park Plaza, 3250 Wilshire Blvd., 15 floor, Suite 1103.

Verdugo Hills Thursday hikes continue to be popular. The February 16 walk/hike/climb event is no exception. Carol led a group of us through Beachwood Canyon, into Griffith Park, under the Hollywood Sign and down by the riding stables. This hike has interesting garage doors, old castle type houses and a few modern styles. The weather was perfect and everything was fresh and green after the rains. Next month we will do Waterways of the Sepulveda Basin.

**A**pril 2 will feature an Earth Day at Toluca Lake. Contact Delphine Trowbridge to volunteer.

**T**he Verdugo Hills Conservation Round Table met in January at the home of Evelyn Alexander. We discussed the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, Measure S on your March ballot. We have been working in our Corralites Staircase garden taking advantage of the rain to pull weeds, plant and mulch. Carol paid a visit to the offices of Mitch O'Farrell to get some support for our project. We also talked about the marches and Demonstrations. I will list a few future L.A. area marches.

- Saturday, April 15, 10 am–4 pm:  
Pershing Square to City Hall
- Saturday, April 29, 11 am–3 pm:  
Pershing Square Climate March
- Sunday, June 11, 10 am–2 pm:  
West Hollywood LGBTQIA protest

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## Woman's March 2017

by Evelyn Alexander

**O**n January 21st one day after Donald Trump's inauguration, millions of women [and men] took to the streets in cities all over the world to protest. Here are my impressions of the day:

On a beautiful day in Los Angeles members of the Verdugo Hills group planned to go and have our voices heard. Naively thinking we had plenty of time to get there Delphine and I quickly realized that that we had miscalculated the turnout when we got near to the Universal Station and saw all the people. Needless to say there were no spaces. We did find parking about a mile away but when we finally got to the station we saw people were walking away saying that the station was closed. Two women offered to let us join them on Uber [for a small fortune] and we got as far as 6th and Figueroa. We managed to walk 2 blocks to Grand and then we hit the crowd. We were quickly surrounded by women and men carrying signs and chanting. Everyone was very friendly and polite. There was a real party atmosphere. It took us an hour and a half to walk about 20 feet, by that time the crowd extended 2 blocks behind us. Plans to meet friends were quickly discarded as the large numbers of

# NEWS & NOTES



people made movement nearly impossible. Although we never saw them, Carol Henning, Judy Anderson, Teri and Gene Paulin were all there as well. We even had a representative marching in Ventura, our own Verdugo Hills Web Master Richard Castro. I know there were speeches and marching but we never saw them. We took a stand but never marched.

All in all it was a very satisfying experience. It felt good to be a part of something important and to be around so many people who felt the way we did after the shock and depression resulting from the election. Next time we have to leave earlier.



# CONSERVATION

## All the World's a Stage — Or Sometimes It Seems That Way

by Carol Henning

The Old Zoo area in Griffith Park is part of the Historic-Cultural Landmark status that embraces most of the park. It is an environmentally sensitive area, and it is one of two areas found by the Cooper Ecological Monitoring wildlife study of Griffith Park to have the highest species richness. The Old Zoo is a transition zone, connecting built features and lawn to hillsides covered with natural woodland.

Griffith Park contains many distinct ecosystems that nurture a multitude of native plants and animals. Most major cities have landscaped parks with built amenities. Los Angeles is one of the few that offers an authentic and accessible wilderness within its urban core. The park is home to plants and animals that depend on its resources for their survival. It is not only humans whose needs and desires should be considered. And yet, plans to build a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo certainly value entertainment of humans above the well-being of the park's permanent residents. Not only that; it continues and amplifies the trend towards commercialization of the Old Zoo area.

"Public space has been replaced by malls and a host of commercial intrusions," observes Henry Giroux in his book *America at War with Itself*. He continues: "At work here are systemic attempts to eliminate public spheres—institutions whose first allegiance is to the non-commercial values of the common good rather than to the manipulation of every human activity into an opportunity for profitable extraction." Examples of uses of Griffith Park, the purpose of which is to make money (a tiny bit for the park, most for the promoters) are the yearly Haunted Hayride and the Great Horror Campout. These events, which celebrate blood and gore, displace regular park users and inflict stress on wildlife.

"Griffith Park's Haunted Hayride is Big Business for a Savvy Halloween Entrepreneur," gushed an *L.A. Weekly* headline (Lina Lecaro, October 17, 2016). "The L.A. Haunted Hayride is one of the most successful nighttime attractions in town, bringing thousands of Angelenos to a historic locale (the old zoo in Griffith Park) for an

evening of giggles, jumps and screams in the outdoors." (The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's evening hikers seem to enjoy the park at night without all the razzamatazz, but I digress.) Melissa Carbone, "a former marketing exec at Clear Channel," is the brains behind both the Haunted Hayride and the Great Horror Campout. "... she's not the gothy horror nerd you might expect her to be. She comes at it from a monetary mindset." The Haunted Hayride got going at King-Gillette Ranch in Calabasas, but relocating it to the Old Zoo, says Carbone, "was the best move we ever made." The article points out that, "Hayride always ups the ante to grab attention, and this year they're using even more of the park." (Oh goody!) "Scenes of bloody murders, satanic rituals, killer clowns, haunted orphanages—they've tried it all." One exhibit this year showed a burned body grilled over an open flame, a sight that would elicit a chuckle from Torquemada).

Giroux writes: "Commercial culture invests in violence as entertainment and relentlessly markets it to a society addicted to an endless barrage of sensations, the lure of instant gratification, and a pleasure principle steeped in graphic images of others' suffering, mayhem and bloodshed. Violence is now represented without the need for either subtlety or critical examination." Draw your own conclusions about the effects on society of normalizing violence as a source of pleasure.

Need one ask whether Col. Griffith, who meant his gift to the people of Los Angeles to offer respite from the noise and bustle of the surrounding city, would approve? Probably he'd turn over in his grave (only to become the Haunted Hayride's newest attraction).

Friends of Griffith Park and the Sierra Club would like to protect the Old Zoo area for passive recreation and to minimize impacts on wildlife, habitat and historic structures. The City's refusal to establish operational limits, however, suggests that these goals may be impossible to achieve. *The Griffith Reporter* tells us that, in 2014, Friends of Griffith Park and the Griffith Charitable Trust went on record opposing construction of a permanent stage in the Old Zoo picnic area because of the impact this project would have on habitat, wildlife and the historic grottos. Up to now, Shakespeare in the Park has offered performances at the Old Zoo during

# CONSERVATION

the summer months. Portable staging has been used. The proposed permanent performance venue would use 400-amp electrical switchboards, backstage storage, lighted pathways and modular bridges to improve accessibility.

One wonders about the necessity of spending several million dollars on another theater in Griffith Park, which already has the Greek Theater, one in the new zoo, one in the Autry and a small amphitheater reached by a trail from merry-go-round parking.

Friends of Griffith Park, together with the Griffith Charitable Trust, filed an appeal with the City of L.A. and finally a petition in Superior Court based on provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Their concern was that use of the Old Zoo as an evening entertainment center would increase, unabated. *The Griffith Reporter* explains that special permits, not subject to a public process, are “granted by the Department of Recreation and Parks for use of the Old Zoo area with little regard for wildlife or other impacts.” It was hoped that the City would set conditions of use for the proposed permanent stage: that performances be free of charge, that sound and light be kept to low levels, that performances end before the park closes at night, and that attendance be capped at 2500. The City declined to set operational limitations, and Superior Court Judge Richard Fruin ruled in the City’s favor.

After all, what is a quiet walk in the woods compared to “real entertainment”? It turns out that a quiet walk in the woods can be quite salubrious, especially for anyone stressed by circumstances beyond their control. Richard Louv, the author of *Last Child in the Woods*, writes: “Many of us believe a ‘New Nature Movement’ is emerging, one that embraces traditional conservation and sustainability but places special emphasis on connecting people to nature to enhance physical and mental health, develop cognitive skills and nurture creativity.” (National Wildlife, February-March 2016).

Writing in *National Geographic* (October 2016) Timothy Egan tells about a picture hanging in the office of Jonathan Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. The picture features an iconic view of Grand Teton National Park. However, when such a picture was shown to inner-city kids, it “looked scary to them. Empty. Forbidding....We had the same experience when we

brought a group of students from Los Angeles to Death Valley. They wouldn’t get out of the van. The quiet, the pure darkness, unnerved them and threatened them.” Places like Griffith Park can serve as bridges to large wilderness areas, providing children, even some adults, with a first taste of a natural environment that they can experience directly. Richard Louv’s latest initiative, says Egan is to get more young people to experience nature in the city. Louv argues that more connection with, and care for, nature near home will help create a conservation constituency to protect wild places.

But nature often takes a back seat to entertainment in Griffith Park. A permanent stage and the enhanced lights, sound and human swarms it will bring to the park will adversely affect nearby wildlife such as bats who, as the primary predators of night-flying insects, play a vital role in the local ecology. But Judge Fruin cited lack of evidence that the performance stage would harm wildlife. It is usually the case that disruptive effects on wildlife are out of public view and likely public consciousness as well. One wishes the animals could organize a protest march, carrying signs in their beaks, or their teeth, fangs or paws. Perhaps the coyotes could try to drown out the sound amplifiers with a howl-in. Meanwhile, we will have to speak for them, repeatedly and insistently.

## 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:  
[VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com)**

## 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 ()**

# ACTIVITIES

**March 4      Saturday**

## **Mystery Dinner Fundraiser**

Murder on the High Seas is Verdugo Hills latest murder mystery. Travel on the Happy Voyager for an exotic cruise to the Bahamas. Dine on delicious food and drink while you enjoy the entertainment from our wonderful, talented group. We have music to dance by and shops to peruse. The time is 5:30 pm and the location will be Montrose. \$35 before February 1, \$40 until February 25, \$45 after. To reserve, send a check, made out to Verdugo Hills to D. Trowbridge. Include email address or SASE. Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge, David Eisenberg, Dotty Sandford.

**March 6      Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

Verdugo Hills Monthly Meeting: Take a tour around scenic, historic, unique Ireland with Bruce Hale who presents slides from his 2016 trip. Social with refreshments begins at 7:00 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30 in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta).

**March 16      Thursday**

## **Waterways of the Sepulveda Basin**

Enjoy an easy paced walk around some of the nearby lakes and streams in the Sepulveda Basin Recreation area. See Lake Balboa, the Wildlife Reserve, Haskell Creek, and the Los Angeles River in its natural state. (With any luck the cherry blossoms will be blooming for a special treat). After lunch we are including an optional visit to Japanese Garden. Heavy rain cancels. Wear comfortable shoes and bring money for lunch and \$3. for Japanese Garden. Meet at 9:15 at VH rideshare point or 10 at the boat house at Lake Balboa, 6300 Balboa Blvd. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale, Carol Henning, Delphine Trowbridge

**March 19      Sunday**

## **Autry Museum of the American West**

Docent led tour of the new California Continued exhibit. Start with a look at the ethnobotanical garden with over 60 native California plant species. Then tour the new Human Nature exhibit which reveals how traditional ecological knowledge can help current residents understand and care for the environment. End with a look at The Life and Work of Mabel McKay, the Autry's first ever solo show dedicated to a Native Masters of the American West art sale and show. Special group rate but must reserve by March 10. Send \$5 per person, names or sase to Leader. David F Eisenberg, Asst: Evelyn Alexander

**April 3      Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

The Rocky Mountaineer runs is the luxury train service through the Canadian Rockies. This all-inclusive service runs only during daylight hours with hotel stays each evening. Travel from Seattle through Vancouver, Whistler, Quesnel, Jasper, and Kamloops ending back in Vancouver. Much of the spectacular scenery can only be seen from the train. Join Verdugo Hills Group for this program by David Eisenberg. Social with refreshments begins at 7:00 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30 in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blv, La Crescenta).

**April 20      Thursday**

## **Silver Lake Court Stair Walk**

This is a country walk in the city along a stretch of the old Red Car trolley systems. We will also climb up our adopted stair and see the Verdugo Hills garden project. 3.2 miles and 603 steps. Meet at 10:00 am at the SW corner of Riverside Drive and Fletcher Drive, across from Home Restaurant. Optional Lunch at Home. Heavy rain cancels. (This is a reschedule) Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge, Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale, Carol Henning

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

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All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver.

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# ACTIVITIES

**April 23      Sunday**

## **Los Angeles Mural Mile**

Begun as an arts movement by individual artists hoping to improve the aesthetics of an area previously not known to the art world. There are now more than 50 murals in a three-mile radius surrounding Pacoima City Hall. These artists have helped revitalize the neighborhood and created a new cultural landmark for our city. Join us for a tour led by one of the artists. Send \$10. for the tour to Evelyn Alexander. Plan to meet at 10:00 at Pacoima City Hall, 13520 Van Nuys Blvd. Wear comfortable shoes, bring money for optional lunch. (To learn more about Mural Mile go to [muralmile.org](http://muralmile.org)). Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg

**May 1            Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

Freelance photographer Karine Armen will present a program of pictures and stories describing two trips that she took to Ecuador in 2016. While studying Spanish she lived with local families in Quito and Cuenca. Join us to see photos of everyday life in these two cities and of course the magnificent mountains and scenery among other sites. Everyone welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. The meeting begins at 7:30 in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta) We meet on second floor.

**May 7            Sunday**

## **Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet**

Our own David Eisenberg will be awarded the Lori & Robin Ives Media Award. Verdugo Hills will reserve 2 tables and we ask that you sign up through VH. Contact Organizer: Delphine Trowbridge.

**June 6            Tuesday**

## **Thursday hike on Tuesday**

Save the date! We will have the Thursday hike on Tuesday this month and Carol will take us on another of her wonderful Urban walks.

**June 9-10      Saturday-Sunday**

## **Camping in Dogwood**

Dogwood is a beautiful campground located in the San Bernardino National Forest. Campground has many amenities such as free hot showers, an amphitheater which hosts evening campfire programs, and two beautiful hiking trails within the campground. There are pine, cedar and beautiful dogwood trees that are in bloom in June. Your fee for this great weekend is on \$40.00 (\$50.00 single driver). Well behaved dogs welcome. Make check out to Verdugo Hills SC and send to D. Trowbridge. Please include email address or SASE. Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge, Evelyn Alexander

### **Concerned about...**

- ✓Global warming? ✓Preserving open spaces for future generations?
- ✓Conserving land for present and future wildlife? ✓Protecting our national parks?
- ✓Protecting hiking and biking areas from development?

**Yes?**

Get involved on a grass roots level

Join the Verdugo Hills Group of the Sierra Club. Already a member? Then become more active

- ✓Join our round table group ✓Participate in our activities

And have fun and adventures along the way!

Contact Verdugo Hills Group Chair Delphine Trowbridge

[VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com)

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**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 [VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com).**

# VERDUGO VIEWS

## Meetings

Verdugo Hills meets first Monday of each month except July and January. Meetings are located at the La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd—Enter in the back). Social Hour: 7 pm, Meeting: 7:30

## Web Page

[angeles.sierraclub.org/verdugo](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/verdugo)

## Support Committee

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

- Delphine Trowbridge..... Chair/Co-Conservation/  
Mailing/Hospitality
- Marlene Vella ..... Vice Chair
- Carol Henning..... Co-Conservation/  
Chapter Delegate
- Charlotte Feitshans ..... Secretary
- Michael Beck..... Climate Change/  
Alternate Chapter Delegate
- Annette Kargodorian ..... Treasurer
- Judy Anderson ..... Co-Outings/Treas Asst
- 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

## 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



**Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!**

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:**

Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

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**Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club**

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX


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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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


**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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)

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