



TOIYABE TRAILS

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2010

EARTH DAY ISSUE

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

From the Chair

March fundraising appeal

BY DAVID HORNBECK

EACH MARCH, the national Sierra Club allows your *local* Toiyabe Chapter to send a funding support appeal letter to you and all our Chapter members. We can only do this *once a year*. By now you should have received the March fund appeal letter from me.

Your Chapter's need this year is much greater than in the past due to the new and substantial reduction in funding allocations to chapters from the national Sierra Club (down to **75% of last year**). To make up for that loss, your financial support of your Chapter is critical.

The most useful support you can provide for your Toiyabe Chapter is an unrestricted donation, made payable to "Toiyabe Chapter" of the Sierra Club. That donation is not tax deductible, but it can be used to support *any and all* of your Chapter's programs: conservation, wildlife habitat, outings, wilderness, your newsletter, etc. (See my March letter for details.)

However, if a tax deduction is important to you, your donation must be made payable to "Sierra Club Foundation." These funds are restricted to use for certain things -- for example, educational activities.

This year, please consider making as large an *unrestricted* contribution as possible. And please send your check today. Thank you.

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
FOR JUL-AUG-SEP ISSUE



Greater sage grouse. Please see article below, as well as the Ruby Pipeline article on page 6. (Photo: Ted Schroeder, © Cornell Lab of Ornithology.)

HOW LONG WILL THEY BE DANCING?

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

With great disappointment, but no surprise, on March 5 Nevada conservationists received news (again) of the decision by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service NOT to list the Greater Sage Grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act as either "endangered," or as "threatened."

Although the agency believes that ESA protection is "warranted," it says its budget will cover "more" endangered species, but not the sage grouse. Instead, the Greater Sage Grouse will be added to the "candidate" list, to await funding for more protection.

A little history. Because of threats to the sage grouse in the late 1990s,

in 2000 conservationists were invited to join the Nevada Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team. Conservationists have also volunteered for many local sage grouse working groups since 2003. These groups put together a statewide conservation plan for our most famous sagebrush denizen

Please see *SAGE GROUSE*, page 12.

Honoring Bryce Wheeler

BY MARGE SILL

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to honor Bryce Wheeler for his long service as the Range of Light Outings Chair at the January 30, 2010, Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee meeting. A decision was also made to again submit his name in nomination for the Oliver Kehrlein National Sierra Club Award.



Bryce has been Outings Chair of the Range of Light Group since its formation in 1992. He has organized and led trips of all kinds: kayak and canoe, cross-country ski trips, clean-up and monitoring trips, and hikes to wilderness and potential wilderness areas. The focus of all trips is on conservation issues

Please see *BRYCE WHEELER*, page 12.

National Club election

Voting deadline:

12 noon PST, April 21, 2010

THE ANNUAL ELECTION for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will have received the national Sierra Club ballot in the mail (or by Internet for those who chose the electronic delivery option) in March.

The candidates for 2010

- Donna Buell (IA) (Nominated)
- Allison Chin (VA) (Nominated)
- Robbie Cox (NC) (Nominated)
- Jim Dougherty (DC) (Nominated)
- Jared Duval (CT) (Nominated)
- Jonathan Ela (WI) (Nominated)
- Phil Wheeler (CA) (Nominated)

Please see *BOARD ELECTION*, page 2.

Chapter considers making Toiyabe Trails available on internet only

BY JEAN STOESS

Because of skyrocketing costs of printing and mailing out the *Trails*, the ExCom wants to gauge members' reactions to cutting costs by making the *Trails* available only on the Chapter website, rather than printing and mailing hard copies.

While you can't curl up on the sofa with an online copy of the *Trails*, with an online version you'll have immediate access to all the latest news on the website -- including stories about wilderness areas, status of flora and fauna in our region, local and national political news, and future activities of the Chapter.

Another advantage of having the *Trails* on the internet is that outings information can be updated more frequently than merely quarterly, as it is now.

But first we need your opinion about

this change, especially if you do not have access to a computer and would not be able read the *Trails* without a hard copy. (A number of copies of the *Trails* could be printed for members who would otherwise miss out on Sierra Club news.)

What you can do. Please let us know your preference. If you're a computer user, you don't have to respond unless you have suggestions or questions about designing the new *Trails*. But if you will

Please see *INTERNET ONLY*, page 12.

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| In Memoriam | 2 |
| Spring Desert Trips | 3 |
| LeConte Lodge Needs Help | 3 |
| Range of Light Group | 4-5 |
| E. Sierra Land Trust Events | 5 |
| Ruby Pipeline Project | 6 |
| Honeybees & Insecticides | 6 |
| Wild Horses: Solutions | 7 |
| Helping NV Biodiversity | 7 |
| Rubicon Trail | 7 |
| Peak Section Coming | 8 |
| Recycling in Las Vegas | 8 |
| Great Basin Group | 8-9 |
| S. Nevada Group | 10-11 |
| Solar Park in Owens Valley? | 12 |
| Chapter ExCom Dates | 12 |

BOARD ELECTION...

continued from page 1

Katherine Pendleton (TN)
(Petition-confirmed)

If you have not received your mailed ballot by early April, you may request a new one at: membership.services@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5500. Even if you receive your election materials by mail, we encourage online voting to reduce election costs. To change to online voting, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2010election/>.

Need more information? Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members. Also, please visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2010election/default.aspx>.

— contributed by National
Sierra Club Inspectors of Election

In Memoriam

Ross Smith

Wilderness and the Sierra Club lost a wonderful friend and advocate with the passing of Ross Smith on December 10, 2009. Ross was an avid backpacker and hiker and loved the Sierra Nevada and the mountains of Nevada. He led many hikes and overnight trips for the Great Basin Group where he served as Chair in 1996 and 1997.

A distinguished mineralogy professor for 32 years, he received many honors and awards for his work. He traveled extensively in Brazil, Australia, and Finland as a consultant. His travels resulted in several slide programs on these countries, focusing on their natural beauty, which he gladly shared with Sierra Club members and others.

In addition to his outstanding scientific work, Ross published two books of poetry, passing on his love for the outdoors and for all creatures to his



family and friends. Even in his last few years when he was no longer able to backpack or run up mountains, he participated in easy walks, sharing his knowledge of rocks and geological formations with children and elders.

One way we can all remember Ross is through his words in this poem.

Beautiful Vistas: Past and Present

*What is it about wilderness
that so enraptures?*

*With the feeling of being one
with nature,*

*And all the creatures, plants,
rocks, and water.*

*I always feel so alive and at home
in such places.*

Donations can be made in Ross's memory to the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.

— by Marge Sill

Dr. Edgar Wayburn

PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID OF HIM, "He has saved more of our wilderness than any person alive." That was in 1999 when Dr. Edgar Wayburn was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Wayburn, a five-term president of the Sierra Club, died March 7 at the age of 103.

Dr. Wayburn led charges to preserve the wilderness of Alaska by creating 10 new national parks there, effectively doubling the total size of the park system. In California, he helped found and expand Redwood National Park and convinced Nixon's Interior secretary to testify in support of his plan for a 200,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area -- more acres than even the Park Service wanted to protect. Read more about Dr. Wayburn and his legacy at <http://www.sierraclub.org/history/wayburn/>.

— from *Sierra Club Connect*,
March 9, 2010

**Don't forget
to visit the
Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

Create an
Environmental
Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

CHAPTER OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, & STAFF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Dave Hornbeck*, 775-323-6655
DavidHornbeckLaw@msn.com

Vice-Chair

Dorothy Hudig*, 775-323-4835

Secretary

Jane Feldman*, janefeldman@cox.net

Treasurer (Apptd)

Kris Cunningham, 702-285-6832

At Large

Eric Blumensadt*, 702-566-9429

Ann Brauer*, 702-879-3376

Charlotte Cox, charcox@charter.net

Jean Dillingham*, 760-648-7109

Erik Holland*, 775-322-3582

Sharon Marie Wilcox*, 775-852-5075

GROUP CHAIRS

(Ex-Officio Voting ExCom Members)

Great Basin

David von Seggern, 775-303-8461

Range of Light

Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639

Southern Nevada

Kris Cunningham, 702-285-6832

Tahoe

Roger Rosenberger, 775-588-8101

DELEGATES & REPRESENTATIVES

CA/NVRCC-Delegates**

Wilma Wheeler, 760-934-3764

Eric Blumensadt*, 702-566-9429

Alternate

Michael Donahue, 775-588-5466

Erik Holland*, 775-322-3582

(** = Ex-Officio Non-Voting ExCom Members)

CA/NVRCC-CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

Nevada Vice-Chair

Lois Snedden, 775-827-2353

Desert Committee

John Hiatt, 702-361-1171

Wilderness Committee

Marge Sill, 775-322-2867

PLAN Board

Ellen Pillard, pillard@nvbells.net

Sierra Club Council Delegate

Jane Feldman*, 702-648-0699

Alternate

Sharon Marie Wilcox*, 775-852-5075

COMMITTEE, TASK FORCE & ISSUE CHAIRS

Chapter Funding Task Force

Eric Blumensadt*, 702-566-9429

Conservation Co-Chairs

Dennis Ghiglieri, 775-329-6118

Eric Blumensadt*, 702-566-9429

Energy

Jane Feldman*, 702-648-0699

Environmental Education

Jean Dillingham*, 760-648-7109

Financial Review

Kris Cunningham, 702-285-6832

Fundraising

Charlotte Cox*, charcox@charter.net

Legal Compliance

Burt Patterson, 702-562-1571

Legislative-Co-Chairs

Joe Johnson, 775-348-7192

Lois Snedden, 775-827-2353

Membership

Sharon Marie Wilcox*, 775-852-5075

Mining Co-Chairs

Lois Snedden, 775-827-2353

Glenn Miller, glennm@unr.edu

Nominating Committee

Jane Feldman*, 702-648-0699

Outings

Eric Blumensadt*, 702-566-9429

Political Co-Chairs

Erik Holland*, 775-322-3582

Ellen Pillard, epillard@nvbells.net

Public Lands

Rose Strickland, 775-329-6118

Public Relations / Outreach

Charlotte Cox, charcox@charter.net

Sierra Student Coalition

Trisha Mynster, 530-680-4483

Emily Rhodenbaugh

emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org

Staff Oversight

Dave Hornbeck*, 775-323-6655

Sustainable Consumption

Philip Moore, 775-224-1877

Trails Editorial

Marge Sill, 775-322-2867

Trails Redesign

Emily Rhodenbaugh

emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org

Video Conferencing Task Force

Ann Brauer*, 702-879-3376

Water Campaign

Rose Strickland, 775-329-6118

Wilderness

Marge Sill, 775-322-2867

Wildlife Co-Chairs

Tina Nappe, 775-786-1178

Rose Strickland, 775-329-6118

OTHER CONTACTS & STAFF

Sierra Club Staff, Reno

Emily Rhodenbaugh

emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org

Sierra Club Staff, Las Vegas

Rob Disney, robert.disney@sierraclub.org

Foundation Liaison (Vacant)

Listserve Manager

Dennis Ghiglieri, 775-329-6118

Chapter Webmaster

Dennis Ghiglieri, 775-329-6118

TRAILS STAFF

Trails Editor

Lynne Foster, 760-387-2634

Assoc. Editor

Kathy Morey, 760-938-2050

Distribution

Carol Tresner, 775-786-0489

Co-Coordinator

Bill Bowers, 775-786-3259

Dennis Ghiglieri, 775-329-6118

* = Elected ExCom Members

Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

Toiyabe Trails is published six 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 (94 Mountain View Drive, Swall Meadows, Bishop, CA 93514-9207; 760-387-2634; lfoster@schat.net); fax available, call first.

Assoc. Editor – Kathy Morey (760-938-2050). Kathy does the July- August-September issue.

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/fax, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. You may send contributions by e-mail or on a PC-compatible disk (Word, text, or ascii). Please send hard copy by snail mail for all submissions on disk. For photo or disk 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, 1621 Foster Dr., Reno, NV 89509-1111.

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.

Membership information – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) 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, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

APRIL 16-18 (FRI-SUN)**MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE SERVICE TRIP**

Help restore an historic water feature to provide water for wildlife. Work involves protecting several springs by earth work, stabilization, putting up fence, some infrastructure in, around qanat. Our effort will be directed by staff from Mojave Nat'l Preserve. A hike is planned for (FRI for those arriving in morning. If rains are good this year, there may be plenty of wildflowers. Work all day Saturday, until noon on Sunday. Ranger talk about Preserve on Saturday evening. Camping is rustic. Info: contact leader Rich Juricich (rich.sac@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 17-18 (SAT-SUN)**OWENS VALLEY WORK PROJECT**

Project will probably be bashing tamarisk along Owens River, but could change. Work on Saturday, enjoy extensive birding opportunities on Sunday. Camp at Diaz Lake just S of Lone Pine. Group potluck Saturday night Bring all camping gear or stay in motel in nearby Lone Pine. Info: contact leaders Ca & Letty French, (805-239-7338; prefer e-mail, lettyfrench@gmail.com).

Santa Lucia Chapter, CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 24-25 (SAT-SUN)**EXPLORING MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE**

Meet Saturday morning 9 am, Teutonia Peak trailhead on Cima Road. Hike to Teutonia Peak, out on Cima Dome. Primitive car camp at Sunrise Rock. Sunday morning, visit museum/visitor center at Kelso Depot, then on to hike Kelso Dunes. The dunes have various nicknames, including "singing dunes" and "moaning dunes" due to sounds they

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 recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster.

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 (kjallen@wildblue.com, 661-944-4056).



Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

often mak. Whatever you call them, they're impressive. Want to spend another night? We can camp at Granite Mountains. Info & reservations: contact leader Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

clearance 2WD sufficient. Day hiking, Sat. evening potluck. Group limit: 14. Info: contact leader Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 30-MAY 2 (FRI-SUN)**KINGSTON MTNS WILDERNESS RESTORATION**

Assist BLM in restoring cultural site in this wilderness area just N of Mojave Nat'l Preserve. Meet mid-afternoon (FRI, car-caravan on gravel roads to campsite. Project organization from BLM staff (FRI evening. Saturday, BLM range specialist will provide guidance, interpretation of area, explain need for project. Work ends around lunch time Sunday. Bring camping gear, work gloves, clothing for range of temperatures from very cold to very hot. Central Commissary available (\$15), otherwise participants are responsible for their own food. Leader: Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org). Co-leader, Carol Wiley (760-245-8734).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee & Mojave Group

MAY 1-2 (SAT-SUN)**FENCE REMOVAL, HIKING, & CAR CAMP**

To allow pronghorn antelope greater mobility on Carrizo Plain we'll help remove fences left from earlier ranching days. Weather may be warm, flowers may (or may not) be still blooming. Work Saturday, camp, potluck dinner in eve. Hike Sunday. Leaders will be at Selby Camp (FRI night for those who want to arrive early. Info: leaders, Cal & Letty French, (805-239-7338; prefer e-mail, lettyfrench@gmail.com).

Santa Lucia Chapter, CNRCC Desert Committee

Los Padres Forest Watch

MAY 1-2 (SAT-SUN)**LONE PINE LAKE, ALABAMA HILLS, & MANZANAR**

Beautiful creekside camp in high desert near Lone Pine. On Saturday, hike mod. 6 mi, 1600 ft gain loop trail from Whitney Portal to beautiful Lone Pine Lake, followed by Happy Hour, potluck feast, campfire. On Sunday, caravan to Manzanar, the WWII Japanese internment camp to visit museum with its moving tribute to internees held there during war. Group size strictly limited. Info: leader Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MAY 15-17 (SAT-MON)

SERVICE, HIKING IN BRIGHT STAR This little-known Wilderness Area (NE of Ridgecrest, CA) climbs from riparian canyons to sagebrush hills, then to pinyon and ponderosa forests. First day will be spent helping Marty Dickes from BLM in monitoring and signing small northern unit of this wilderness. Next day, work along interior

Yosemite's LeConte Lodge needs summer volunteers

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS are needed at LeConte Memorial Lodge to assist with seasonal operations. Volunteers help out Saturday through Saturday in July, August, and September. Hours are 10 am - 4 pm, Wednesday through Sunday, and 7:30 - 10 pm for weekend evening



Volunteer to help spread the Sierra Club's conservation message to the diverse audience visiting our heart and soul, Yosemite National Park. (Photo: Yuki Takagi.)

programs.

Volunteers must be members of the Sierra Club. They will enjoy free entrance to Yosemite National Park and free camping with the other volunteers and program presenters during the time they volunteer.

For more information, visit <www.sierraclub.org/education/leconte/volunteering> or contact Bonnie Gisel, the lodge curator (Bonnie.Gisel@sierraclub.org, 209 403-6676; after May 1, 209 372-4542).

— contributed by Yuki Takagi

Looking for an exciting spring trip? Try this!

Botanical illustration of native desert flora

WHEN: April 9-11, 2010 • WHERE: Desert Studies Center, Mojave National Preserve, Zzyzx, CA



All paintings © by course instructor, Donald Davidson. From L to R: scented penstemon, Bigelow's monkeyflower, cowboy's fried eggs, desert sunflower.

THE COURSE STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 7 pm, and goes through Sunday, April 11, 3 pm. As much a course in "art for botanists" as "botany for artists"!

At the height of the desert blooming period, participants can look forward some very exciting outdoor drawing and watercolor painting.

Learn and practice basics of line control, proportion, color, focusing/perception skills as they relate to plant identification. Also detailed dissection work in a well equipped lab!

Location. This field study is based at the Desert Studies Center (of California State University) located within the Preserve at Soda Springs (Zzyzx), about a three-hour drive from Riverside. It is a field station of California State University and is located in Mojave National Preserve.

Accommodations. Course fee includes two nights' lodging at the Center (dormitory rooms and some couples rooms), and meals from breakfast Saturday through lunch on Sunday. On enrollment, participants will be sent information about the Center and what to bring with them.

Course information. For details on how to register for Art X454.5 (1 unit, credit / non-credit), visit <www.extension.ucr.edu> or call 951-827-4105. Course instructor is Donald Davidson (donalddepicts@msn.com, 202-744-3647, <<http://www.nps.gov/plants/cw/watercolor/index.htm>>).

For details of the Desert Studies Center, go to <<http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc/>>. There you'll find a wealth of information and links of interest to desert lovers.

-- contributed by Bryce Wheeler

Open Vehicle Corridor. Third day, those who can stay may take long, loop hike in one of riparian canyons, then over highlands. Info & sign-up: leader Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MAY 29-31 (SAT-MON)**BIRCH CANYON BACKPACK, DAY HIKE**

Descend through steep, narrow canyon into Hammil Valley, N of Bishop. Backpack to mouth of canyon on Saturday, spend Sunday exploring upstream, return Monday by route we came in on. Participants responsible for own meals. Leader: John Wilkenson (johnfw1mac.com, 408-876-8295).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MAY 29-31 (SAT-MON)**DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION**

Help with wilderness restoration in Panamint Mountain area of Park. Continue clean up of mining debris from site between Middl and South Park as well as doing wilderness restoration of old road, and cleaning up trash at Madeline's cabin in South Park. Meet Saturday at noon, car caravan to campsite, begin some cleanup. Work Sunday, half day Monday. Happy hour/potluck Sunday night. Bring work gloves, camping equipment, food, water for weekend. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group

Group News



Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK

Officer Changes. ExCom member Rosemary Jarrett has graciously taken over as Publicity officer after CD Ritter had to resign due to an increase in other obligations. We have split Outings into two committees: Winter Outings (John Walter, chair) and Summer Outings (Henning Jensen, chair).

Meetings. ExCom now meets the first Tuesday of each month at 3 pm. Check with me (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com, 760-924-5639) regarding location and to confirm that the monthly meeting is not cancelled. All monthly Group meetings at Crowley Lake Community Center are now preceded by a potluck supper at 6:30 pm.

Our January group meeting was cancelled due to snow but is rescheduled for May. In February, about 20 of us enjoyed a presentation by our own ExCom member and local geologist, Brigitte Berman, on the Mt. Morrison and Mt. Ritter roof pendants. To check on whether a group meeting is cancelled due to weather, please call me (see above).

Also, Shalle Genevieve will send out an alert to those on our e-mail list. Contact Shalle to be put on the e-newsletter/alert list if you are not the list (marshalle@earthlink.net). When possible, we'll also update the web site.

Outings. Winter outings continue through April (Sundays) and May (Saturdays). May outings will be in upper and

backcountry locations, snow permitting). Summer outings begin in May. Highway cleanup on 395 for members in the Mammoth area resumes on May 19. See ROL Outings for details. The rest area will probably still be closed but we hope to park at the entrance or nearby.

Conservation. The major new issue concerns LADWP's plans for solar production in the Owens Valley (see article on page 12). Also, Senator Feinstein's "California Desert Protection Act of 2010" will help protect significant desert areas in California, including some in Inyo County. California's budget problems are expected to create further funding difficulties for California State Parks.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES Saturday, April 17, 12 noon - 4 pm Canyon Lodge at Mammoth Mtn

COME AND CELEBRATE! Range of Light Group and other organizations will have exhibit tables. Watch for updates and details in ROL's e-newsletter or check our website at <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rol/group>>.

Highway Cleanups

BY MALCOLM CLARK

ROL MEMBERS IN THE MAMMOTH area clean "our" section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth in May, July, and September. Come find if Bud or Miller Light wins the beer of slob award. Clean-ups are on Wednesday morning after our third Tuesday evening monthly group meeting – **May 19, July 21, and September 22.**

Meet at Crestview Rest Area on Highway 395 about 4 miles north of Highway 203 turnoff to Mammoth Lakes at 8 am. The required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags are provided – along with picker-uppers and gloves.

When 10-12 people show up, we normally finish by 10:30 and then enjoy some light refreshments together.

If the State is too broke to open the rest stop we'll meet at the junction of Owens River Road and Highway 395 about 1/4 mile north of rest stop. Contact John Walter for more information (760-932-1767, salt1143@gmail.com).

ROL Group Website
<<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>>

**&
Chapter website**
<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>

Range of Light Calendar

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

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

Spring ski outings

BY JOHN WALTER, ROL WINTER OUTINGS CHAIR



Great snow under pure blue skies. (Photo: Mary K. Prentice.)

AFTER COMPLETING THREE MONTHS of great twice-a-week cross-country ski trips with lots of storms and great snow, Range of Light outings program is launching an equally ambitious spring campaign. It's hard to predict in advance how deep snow will be and which roadheads will be open in April and May, but as of this writing things look very promising for great spring skiing. However, due to wonderful perversity of Ma Nature, best check with leaders and or Range of Light web site for any last minute changes.

All trips will meet at Mammoth Lakes Union Bank parking lot. Some trips will have additional meeting places closer to start points which are indicated in individual write ups. Many trips will give us a chance to experience new additions to Wilderness System, existing Wilderness, and some almost-as-good-as-Wilderness gems. Tracks in snow will give us a chance to recognize many critters we share forest and high country with but seldom see. Also, natural history and geology seem to stand out best in spring. As usual, abominable weather such as a blizzard or rain will cancel; call if in doubt.

Thursday conditioning trips.

These will continue through April (1,8,15,22, and 29), start at 10 am, and last for about three hours. We'll try to accommodate all levels, including snowshoers able to do a couple of mi off-track. Almost any kind of waxless Nordic gear seems

to work out. We'll look for good snow with a variety of on- and off- groomed trail conditions. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Make sure you include water, extra clothes, and snack in your pack. Leaders: John Walter (760-934-1767); Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109).

Saturday & Sunday trips. These April and May trips are geared to intermediate and above skiers. Strong snowshoers usually fit in. Check trip description and consult with a leader if you have any doubts about trip. Come equipped with lots of water, a lunch, extra clothes for changeable spring conditions, a pack, and ski equipment you are familiar with and trust. April Sunday trips will meet at 9 am (Union Bank) and last until about 3. Trips and leaders listed below.

APRIL 4 (SUNDAY)

Power Plant to Grant Lake on June Lake Loop. Follow road and creek while Jean looks for her favorite dippers. About 6 mi, easy, dogs OK. Union Bank 9am, 395 and June Lake Loop (South) 9:30 am. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109); John Walter (760-934-1767).

Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 5.

You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meeting Everyone welcome!

April 20 (Tues)

Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

Program 7:30 pm

"Gems of the E. Sierra & High Desert"
with Jim Nichols, Outing Chair,
Kern Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club

Jim's been very active in the outings program of our neighboring Kern Kaweah Chapter for many years. He has a van-based tour business out of Ridgecrest. He'll highlight hikes in our nearby High Sierra and High Desert, with an emphasis on outings leadership and the great outing destinations available to leaders in our area.

June 15 (Tues)

Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

May 18 (Tues)

Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

Program 7:30 pm

"What's new at Mammoth Pacific Geothermal Plant"
with Ron Leiken, co-owner of MPPG

Ron will tell us about the basics of geothermal energy and describe operations at Mammoth Lakes geothermal plant, as well as compare geothermal energy plants with other types of non-renewable and renewable energy plants. He'll also discuss possible expansion plans at the facility.

Program 7:30 pm

"Big Springs: Headwaters of Owens River"
with Sue Burak, hydrologist & SC activist
Sue has an ongoing study of Big Springs, funded in part by Caltrout, to characterize flow patterns and water chemistry. She'll share with us her findings on this unique and valuable local resource.

RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Chair | Malcolm Clark* | 760-924-5639 |
| Vice Chair | Shalle Genevieve* | 760-934-9668 |
| Secretary | Brigitte Berman* | 760-924-2140 |
| Conservation | Mary K. Prentice* | 760-934-0355 |
| Treasurer | Lyle Gaston | 760-387-2634 |
| At Large | Rosemary Jarrett* | kaljar@qnet.com |
| Chapter Del. | Jean Dillingham | 760-648-7109 |
| Editor | Lynne Foster | 760-387-2634 |
| Hwy Cleanup | John Walter | 760-934-1767 |
| Hospitality | Wilma Wheeler | 760-934-3764 |
| LORP | Mark Bagley | 760-873-5326 |
| Membership | Shalle Genevieve* | 760-934-9668 |
| Winter Outings | John Walter | 760-934-1767 |
| Summer Outings | Henning Jensen* | 760-934-7176 |
| Outings Asst. | Dick Baggett | 760-924-5749 |
| Programs | Claus Engelhardt | 760-872-4596 |
| Publicity | Rosemary Jarrett* | kaljar@qnet.com |
| Webmaster | Jo Bacon | jbacon22@verizon.net |
| Webmaster Emeritus | Owen Maloy | 760-934-9511 |

* Voting ExCom member

APRIL 11 (SUNDAY)

Up Mt Morrison Moraine from Convict Lake. Best views and snow around. Stiff climb as far as we can get up in four hours. Coming down will be quicker. About 6 mi, 2000 ft gain. No dogs. Union Bank at 9 am, Convict Lake at 9:30. Leaders: Brigitte Berman (760-924-2140); John Walter (760-934-1767).

APRIL 18 (SUNDAY)

MMSA Main Lodge to Inyo Craters Trailhead. Drop 1000 ft in 7 mi through mixed conifers and varied terrain almost all off-trail. Mostly within newly designated Owens River Headwaters addition to Ansel Adams Wilderness. Moderate, dogs OK. Leaders: John Walter (760-934-1767); Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109).

APRIL 25 (SUNDAY)

Red Cones from Lake Mary Roadhead. Over Mammoth Pass on one of oldest blue diamond trails. This ungroomed mostly abandoned trail climbs about 400 feet past Horseshoe Lake to Mammoth Pass then whoop-de-dos through woods to twin 10,000 (about)-year-old cinder cones on John Muir Trail. About 12 mi RT, difficult. Strong, acclimatized dogs OK. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109); John Walter (760-934-1767).

MAY (SATURDAYS)

May ski trips. These will depend on snow and opening of trailheads, so call ahead. We're thinking positively and have scheduled five trips on Saturdays so as not to interfere with hiking program. All of these trips go to about 10,000 ft, which is a truly special place in spring. Good news is corn snow, bad news is giant sun cups. Supreme beauty is a stream breaking through snow, misery is falling in it.

MAY 1 (SATURDAY)

Little Lakes Valley from about Rock Creek Pack Station. Undulating gentle climb to Long Lake past a series of completely frozen or just thawing lakes and ponds. Ungroomed, unmarked track winds around glaciated outcrops with Bear Creek Spire, Mt Morgan, Mt Dade, and Mt Mills framing background. Union Bank at 9am, 945 am at trailhead (Rock Creek Pack Station). About 10 mi, intermed., dogs OK. Leader: John Walter (760-934-1767); Asst leader TBA.

MAY 8 (SATURDAY)

San Joaquin Ridge from MMSA Main Lodge. Loop down through red fir forest to parking shuttle. A little of everything: easy groomed road to Minaret Vista, off-track along a wide open ridge from which you can see forever – well, from Yosemite almost to Fresno, anyway. Lunch in a grove of whitebark pine listening to rasping calls of Clark's nutcrackers. Steep chute navigable either by side-slipping or on your butt, capped off by three undulating miles through red fir forest to parking shuttle near MMSA stump alley. Union Bank at 9 am, About 8 mi, intermed. No dogs on parking shuttles; leash required in ski area. Leaders: John Walter (760-934-1767); Maurica Anderson (760-932-7175).

MAY 15 (SATURDAY)

North County. Maurica Anderson will scout us out a great high elevation trip somewhere between Conway Summit and Sonora Pass. intermed., dogs OK. Tentatively, Union Bank at 9 am then another meeting place in north county. Watch papers, website or call. Leaders: Maurica Anderson (760-932-7175); John Walter (760-934-1767).

MAY 22 (SATURDAY)

Fantail Lake from Tioga Pass. Follow old stage road to restored buildings at Bennetville, then continue up broad canyon to Fantail Lake, If we stretch out lunch, telemarkers can show off in bowls under False White. Union Bank at 9 am, State 120 ranger station at 945 am. About 8 mi, intermed., dogs OK. Leaders: John Walter (760-934-1767); Henning & Grethe Jensen (760-934-7176).

Range of Light Calendar

continued from page 4

MAY 29 (SATURDAY)

Dana Meadows from Tioga Pass. Gentle ups and downs around emerging tarns and streams with occasional shortcuts though dense lodgepole forests. Fantastic views of Yosemite's high back country keep this trip interesting. About 7 mi, intermed., no dogs (National Park). Meet 9 am, Union Bank and State 120 ranger station, 9:45 am. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109); John Walter (760-934-1767).

Summer outings

BY HENNING JENSEN,
ROL SUMMER OUTINGS CHAIRMay thru August
"Fun & Fitness"

Wednesday Evening Hikes

JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING at 6 pm at ML Union Bank parking lot for a hike to get fit and stay fit for summer fun. Explore local trails and learn about our natural surroundings, geology, wildflowers, and trees. All hikes are moderate to easy, completed by dark. Bring water, layered clothes, sturdy shoes. For more information call leader: Dick Baggett (760 924 5749). Dogs limited.

MAY 2 (SUNDAY)

Volcanic Tableland WSA. Explore this designated Wilderness Study Area (WSA) area N of Bishop. Hike short distances into WSA from several locations to see unusual beauty of Tableland and why it must be protected. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot or 9 am, "Y" in Bishop (Hwys 395/6). Leaders: Ron Stormo (760 876 5401), Jean Dillingham (760 648 7109). Dogs limited.

MAY 9 (SUNDAY)

Nature Hike in Shadow of Sherwins. Enjoy a 3 mi walk through old growth red fir in a hidden canyon near Mammoth Rock Trail, with vistas of the caldera. Focus on native trees, habitat, and geology, snowpack permitting. Alternate hike to Owens River and canyons. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hiking boots, etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot. Leader: Mary K Prentice (760 934 0355). Dogs limited.

MAY 16 (SUNDAY)

Lower Rock Creek. Enjoy wildflowers, large Jeffrey Pines along beautiful stream. Learn about geology and ecology of area. Start at Hwy 395 for a brisk 7.5 mi, 1900 ft. descent to Paradise, from where we will car shuttle back to Hwy 395. Bring lots of water, lunch, hat, sun block, hiking boots, camera, hiking sticks (optional). Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot, or 8:30 am, Hwy 395 and top of old 395 just south of Tom's Place. Leaders: Mary K Prentice (760 934 0355) and Ron Stormo (760 876 5401). Dogs limited.

MAY 23 (SUNDAY)

Snow Lakes. Hike to five small lakes on W flank of Reverse Peak near June Lake. About 4 mi RT, 500 ft gain on mod. trail. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat sunscreen, hiking boots, etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot or 9 am, June Lake Ski Area parking lot. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760 648 7109), Grethe Jensen (760 934 7176). Dogs limited.

MAY 30-31 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

Memorial Day weekend. No hikes.

JUNE 5 (SATURDAY)

National Trails Day. Join us in trail construction with a boardwalk over wetland at Gull Lake in cooperation with Friends of

Inyo. Info: contact Jean Dillingham (760 648 7109). No dogs.



Bridgeport Girl Scouts on the first Eastern Sierra Inner City Outings snowshoe trip. Mono Lake and the White Mountains in the background. (Photo: Maurica Anderson.)

JUNE 6 (SUNDAY)

Swall Meadows to Witcher Meadow & Sand Canyon. About 6 - 8 mi RT, mod. uphill, along Witcher Creek; optional 1-mi further up Sand Canyon. Expect to see spring wildflowers and grinding holes in Witcher Meadow. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, hiking poles (optional), etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank Parking lot or 8:45 am, Swall Meadow's Sand Pit. Leaders: Cindy Ostrowski (760 387 2192), Mary K Prentice (760 934 0355). Dogs limited.

JUNE 12 (SATURDAY)

Horsetail Falls & Beyond. About 5 mi RT on switchbacks past Horsetail Falls. Gain 1400 ft. Lovely views of Twin Lakes, Sawtooths, lots of wild flowers. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, hiking boots, etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot or 9:30 am, Anett's Mono Village. Leaders: Maurica Anderson (760 932 7175), Mary K Prentice (760 934 0355). Dogs limited.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust coming events

BY MARY MCGURKE, ESLT DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH DIRECTOR
& SARAH SPANO, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Black Lake Field Trip. Join us for an amazing birding day exploring Black Lake in the Adobe Valley of Eastern Mono County. Black Lake is a privately owned, ephemeral lake rimmed by moist alkali meadows and sagebrush. Water is scarce in Great Basin deserts, which makes this property an outpost for breeding species, including willet and an important stopover site for migrant waterbirds. The landowners, who are currently working with Eastern Sierra Land Trust to permanently preserve this important resource, have graciously agreed to allow us to visit their land for this unique birding opportunity. Bring binoculars and a lunch. ESLT will provide snacks and drinks. Fees: \$20 ESLT members / \$30 non-members. To sign up and for more information, please contact Sarah Spano (sarah@eslt.org, 760-873-4554).



White Mountain reflection. (Photo: courtesy Eastern Sierra Land Trust.)

APRIL 21 (WEDNESDAY)

"All things garden." Celebrate the begin-

JUNE 13 (SUNDAY)

Kayak/Canoe from Benton Crossing to Crowley Lake. Float, paddle, bird watch about 4 mi along Owens River. See and learn about wide variety of birds, particularly waterfowl. Bring boat, paddle, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. Personal floating device mandatory.

Waterproof bag for camera and binoculars recommended. Car shuttle required. Some space in boats may be available. Call to reserve space if you don't have a boat. Meet 9 am, ML Union Bank parking lot or 9:30 am, Benton Crossing Bridge. Leaders: John Walter (760 934 1767), Jean Dillingham (760 648 7109). No dogs.

JUNE 20 (SUNDAY)

Parker Lake & Silver Lake. Less than 4 mi RT to Parker Lake or a more challenging hike via

Parker Lake and Parker Bench to Silver Lake. All start with leisurely stroll to sparkling Sierra lake nestled below numerous 12,000-ft peaks. Gain 500 ft. Optional off-trail exploration up canyon, circumnavigation of lake. One group will return to trailhead (4 mi RT), another group will continue to Parker Bench and Silver Lake (about 7 mi total), with car shuttle back to trailhead. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, hiking boots etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank Parking lot or 8:45 am, junction Hwy 395/northern June Lake Loop. Leaders: Maurica Anderson (760 932 7175), Wilma Wheeler (760 934 3764), Grethe & Henning Jensen (760 934 7176). Dogs limited.

JUNE 27 (SUNDAY)

Glass Meadow from Glass Creek Campground. Hike to this beautiful meadow to see millions of buttercups, effects of sheep grazing on meadow. About 7 mi RT, mod. trails. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, etc. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760 648 7109), John Walter (760 934 1767). Dogs limited.

ning of growing season by enjoying an afternoon of activities fostering connection and growth among community members interested in local foods and gardening. Plant a seed or bring your extras along to exchange with others, making everyone's

garden more bountiful. Learn about ways gardeners in the area are reaching out to the community, and hear about exciting improvements in the local food movement.

Think "all things garden" as you enjoy

anticipating blooms and sprouts in the upcoming months. Seasonal snacks and refreshments provided. Info: contact Sarah Spano (sarah@eslt.org, 760-873-4554).

SATURDAY, MAY 22

Community Celebration at Benton Hot Springs Ranch. Come to celebrate preserved lands in the Eastern Sierra. Enjoy exploring Benton Hot Springs Ranch, the spectacular,

Please see ESLT EVENTS, page 12.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. The release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement & Management Plan has again been postponed until July. A Sheldon rendezvous is tentatively scheduled for June 25-27. To volunteer for this important work and fun event, contact Tina Nappe (tnappe@nvgbell.net) for further details and to sign up.

Home Camp acquired. Thanks to the work of Nevada Land Conservancy and money from Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, the Bureau of Land Management has acquired Home Camp Ranch (14,824 acres) in Northern Washoe County. This acquisition will protect important and abundant wildlife, including sage grouse, bighorn sheep, and pika. It will also provide public

access to the Wall Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

Sierra Club change for Nevada. The staff person now in charge of Nevada Sierra Club activities and staff is Rob Smith (rob.smith@sierraclub.org). He is replacing Barb Boyle who is now working on alternative energy issues for the Club. If you have questions about issues relating to staff or national Sierra Club policy, please contact Rob.

Jarbridge Bull Trout. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed designating Jarbridge River in Northeast Nevada as critical habitat for bull trout. If you have hiked or fished in this area and are interested in bull trout habitat, please contact Marge Sill (msill@juno.com), who is working with other groups on this proposal.

Ruby Natural Gas Pipeline Project would cut through nearly pristine desert land

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

Ruby Pipeline, LLC, (hereafter termed "Ruby") has proposed a 672-mile natural gas pipeline of which 360 miles are proposed in northern Nevada, mostly through public land. The pipeline would stretch from Opal, Wyoming to a terminus at Malin, Oregon, a major hub for natural gas. It will disturb nearly 20,000 acres in Nevada alone during construction and result in a permanent ROW for maintenance through Nevada high desert steppe that is largely devoid of development or infrastructure of any sort.

The project, under FERC jurisdiction, necessitated an EIS. This EIS was done in approximately 11 months, ending with the FEIS official publication on January 15, 2010. This is an extremely short time relative to the scale of the project and relative to EIS cycles for BLM or USFS actions in Nevada.

Local conservation leaders for the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club have participated in the EIS process since its inception. In studying this issue, we have met with, or have been in contact with, BLM officials, Nevada Department of Wildlife staff, Senator Reid's

staff, other NGOs, tribal representatives, and personnel from Ruby itself.

This rushed EIS was done in such a manner that the public did not have adequate documentation to fully comment on the draft EIS. The preferred route through Nevada is essentially a straight line below the Oregon/Idaho border with Nevada, passing mostly through nearly pristine public land.

Our major concern is that the EIS did not study route alternatives which would have much less environmental impact and which should include a large segment of the designated West-Wide

Science & law vs. power & money

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

STUNNING UPSETS TO the Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposal to pipe rural groundwater to Las Vegas continue in 2010. First, there was a Nevada Supreme Court ruling in favor of the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN) – see the ruling at <<http://www.greatbasinwater.net/pubs/index.php>>. Next was SNWA's startling failure to undermine that ruling with a strong-armed push for a hasty legislative fix during February's Special Session (called to resolve Nevada state budget deficits).

In 2006, GBWN filed a due process lawsuit when hundreds of people who had protested the massive water exportation project proposed in 1989 -- as well as their descendants and new residents -- were barred from participating in state water hearings. In January 2010, an appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court resulted in a 7 to 0 ruling affirming the constitutional right to due process.

This ruling left the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) scrambling to use its apparently unlimited financial and political power to convince the State Legislature that a hasty "fix" was needed. At a 5-day session called by the Governor in late February 2010, state officials interpreted the ruling very broadly as applying to all water rights decisions since 1947. This upset the priorities for water rights, so SNWA, Vidler Water Company, and others

Energy Corridor in Nevada. Instead, the preferred route would disturb an alarming amount of sage-grouse habitat at the time that this species is being considered for listing by the USF&WS.

Although alternative routes which appeal to us would add expense to the construction of the project, it is widely agreed among conservationists that the environmental impact would be significantly less. At the time of this writing, we are awaiting the FERC decision on whether to let construction proceed.

Our last administrative option would be to appeal the FERC decision. After the FERC decision, the BLM must issue a Record of Decision (ROD), based on the FEIS. This ROD would govern construction of the project through BLM lands, the restoration of these lands, and many other factors surrounding the project.

What you can do. For a single action, this project will potentially have the largest impact on public land in Nevada since the creation of the Nevada Test Site. Because we are dedicated to protecting Nevada's lands and wildlife, we need to do everything we can to make sure this project doesn't happen.

For more information, contact David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461).

"Wilderness holds more answers to more questions than we yet know how to ask."

— Ansel Adams

rushed to file new applications -- thus creating a "crisis."

At the end of the Special Session, SNWA's lobbyists and others failed to convince the Nevada Senate or the Assembly to adopt hastily developed amendments to Nevada's water law. For many reasons, the legislature was persuaded not to fix SNWA's problems. These included unresolvable issues of due process and separation of powers (i.e., legislative meddling in judicial proceedings).

In addition, legislators testified about their frank fear that a quick legislative decision without any opportunity for the affected public to testify might result in worse problems. Instead, the Legislature issued a letter to the State Engineer urging him to work on any problems not resolved by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Will science and the law prevail over political power and money in the Nevada water wars? Stay tuned.

What you can do. For more news on these court and legislative victories in our water campaign, go to <<http://greatbasinwaternet.org/index.php>>.

Want to eat?

Save the honeybee from nicotinyl insecticides!



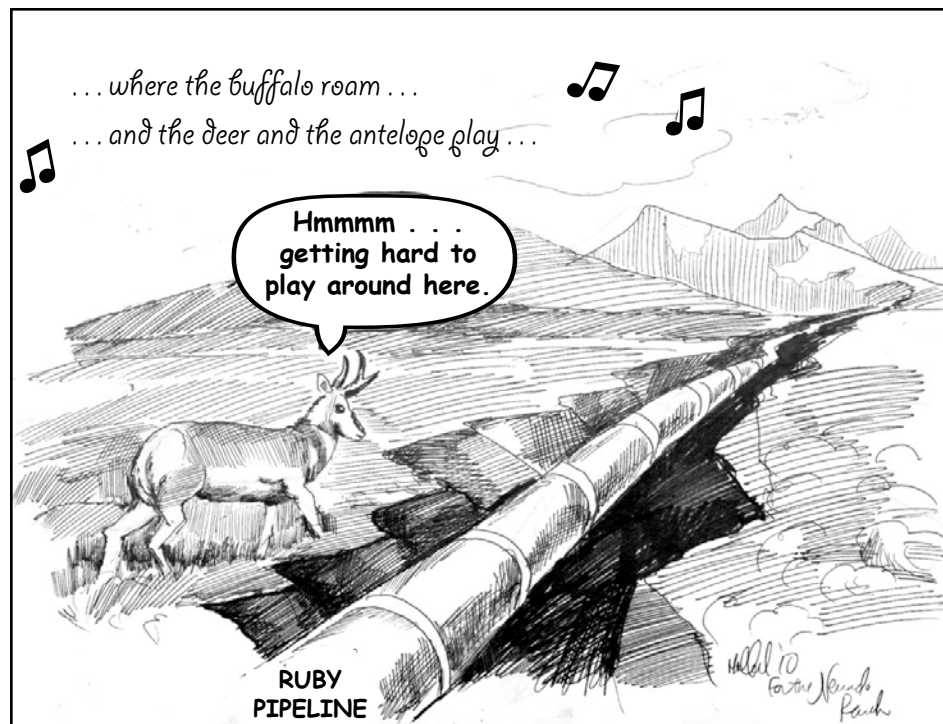
BY LAUREL HOPWOOD,
SIERRA CLUB GENETIC
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

THE LOSS OF A MAJOR POLLINATOR is an issue that effects everyone! One out of every three bites of food we consume is due to the work of honeybees, serving as crucial pollinators. Yet our food supply may be severely impacted by the recently identified Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) syndrome that has annually wiped out more than 30% of all honeybees since 2005!

Because mounting evidence shows that new seed chemical coatings are deadly to bees, Sierra Club has been urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban the use of these specific chemical treatments to protect bees and crops until more study can be done.

At issue are the nicotinyl insecticides (also known as neonicotinoids) being used in a new way -- as seed coatings. For years, farmers have been spraying neonicotinoids onto their crops to stop insect infestation. Now huge agribusiness corporations have acquired patents to coat their proprietary corn seeds with these neonicotinoids. These "neonics" are extremely persistent. They enter the plant and are present in pollen and on droplets of water on leaves.

Federal agencies in France, Germany
Please see HONEYBEES, page 7.



"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

— Jane Goodall

HONEYBEES . . .

continued from page 6

and Italy have already taken responsible regulatory actions to suspend the use of these pesticides based on the best available scientific evidence. Strikingly, in Italy, honeybee populations immediately rebounded when these chemicals were suspended!

What you can do. We urge Sierra Club members and the American public to view the outstanding documentary, "Nicotine Bees." Producer Kevin Hansen did a superb job researching, interviewing and splicing together an extraordinary story on the CCD problem. We suggest showing the 45-minute film at meetings, home parties, classrooms, and community events.

We are calling "Nicotine Bees" the new "Silent Spring." Without a doubt, "Nicotine Bees" should be in every home, school, and library. To purchase the video, visit <<http://NicotineBees.com>>.

What you can do. Contact EPA's Steve Owens (owens.steve@epa.gov) to request suspension of the neonicotinoid seed coatings until independent scientists verify safety.

For more information, please contact me (lhopwood@roadrunner.com).

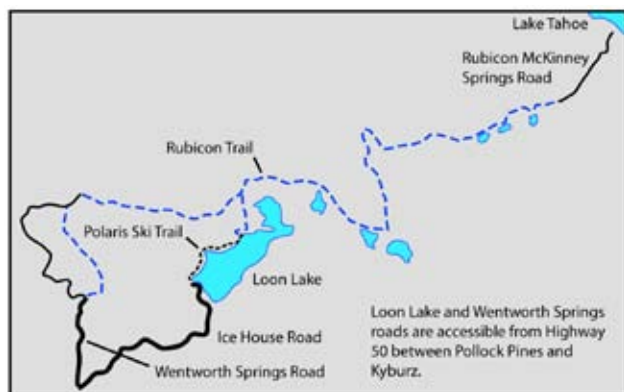
Rubicon Trail update

Real progress is top priority

BY GAIL FERRELL

THE RUBICON TRAIL, HERALDED as the most famous 4-wheel drive trail in the world, is the source of sedimentation in streams and lakes as well as pollution from petroleum products and human waste. Snowlands Network's interest in the Trail began eight years ago when 4-wheel drive enthusiasts began driving over the snow-covered Polaris Ski (and Snowshoe) Trail at Loon Lake.

The Rubicon Trail crosses multiple streams and traverses lands most people would think no motor vehicle could cross



on its way east from Wentworth Springs to Lake Tahoe. But 20,000 to 30,000 motorized vehicle users make or at least attempt the trail each year. This results in massive erosion that Rich Platt, a retired Eldorado National Forest resource officer, said "is the worst unchecked erosion I've seen in my

Shoring up Nevada's biodiversity program: Can we help?

BY TINA NAPPE

WHEN THE NEVADA STATE Legislature adjourned after a six-day emergency session on March 1, it had almost closed a \$887,000,000 gap between income and expenditures. The 10% bite out of the Dept. of Wildlife's (NDOW) general funds is a double or triple hit because general funds match federal funds by 50-65%. When the legislature convenes next January, the budget reduction may be over \$3 billion. If all general funds are removed, NDOW's biodiversity program is finished.

Natural resource agencies in Nevada are generally fee based. If you want a discharge permit, more water, to protest a water application, to visit a state park, or kill a deer, you pay a fee. NDOW relies on the generosity of sportsmen who willingly pay to play and through their organizations also raise thousands of dollars.

NDOW has been receiving about \$800,000 a year from the General Fund. For the last nine years, the federal investment in Nevada's biodiversity program has been about \$9,000,000. The biodiversity funds are used to conduct studies, monitor sensitive species such as sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, pika, desert tortoise, Nevada bird populations, etc., and provide data for numerous proposals involving public lands.

Nevada is being crisscrossed with utility/energy corridors and targeted for renewable energy projects, all of them requiring NDOW comments on wildlife impacts. Nevada is #11 among the states in wildlife diversity, with 299 species of birds, 123 mammals, 48 fish, 52 reptiles, and 13 amphibians. (What wealth!) NDOW knowledge is key to their survival.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, "average temperatures in Nevada could rise about 6.75 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100" -- see <<http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/In-Your-State.aspx>> for more information. These changes may require a review of grazing, recreation and public land uses if we want to protect wildlife.

What you can do. Are other sources of funds available to match the biodiversity program? The answer to this question will be the challenge between now and the start of next year's session. At some point the general public needs to help shoulder the costs. Any ideas? Contact Tina (tnappe@nvbell.net) if you do.

37-year career with the Forest Service."

Fortunately, The Cleanup & Abatement Order (CAO) issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Rubicon Trail is a milestone in addressing water pollution caused by wheeled OHV use. This was a huge win.

Ending winter conflict in Loon Lake Winter Recreation Area is still paramount in Snowlands Network's efforts with respect to the CAO. Four-wheel-drive vehicles tearing up ski and snowshoe trails is not acceptable. Snowlands continues to insist that a winter season closure be adopted for the Rubicon Trail to match the one currently in place on all nearby Forest Service dirt roads.

From Snowlands Network's standpoint, our work is to stay involved, monitor, and continue to insist on real progress. Find out more at <www.snowlands.org>; look for "Rubicon Trail."

Wild horses: Short-term solutions & long-term problems

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

The Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee has passed a resolution to support Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's wild horse and burro initiative as a short-term measure for those wild horses that can't be adopted.

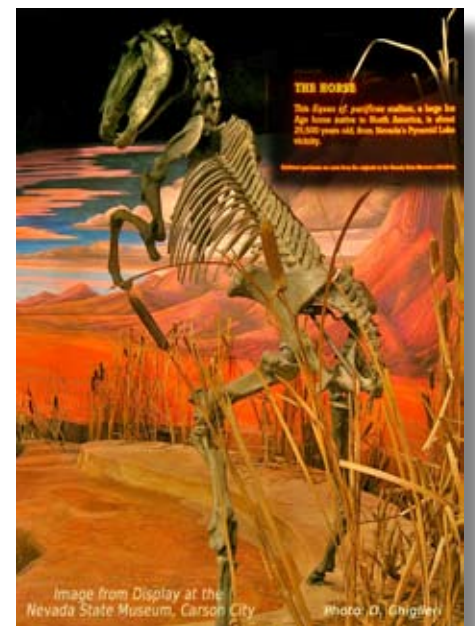
The federal initiative would set up a system of reserves for horses on grasslands in the Midwest -- and in other areas for horses now only corralled in Western facilities. The initiative also emphasizes increased contraception and herd management as well as continued roundups to reduce numbers to sustainable levels on public rangelands.

The Chapter resolution also stated that long-term solutions to problems in the Bureau of Land Management's wild horse program are equally critical. These concerns include:

- more transparent information by the BLM on wild horse numbers
- Herd Management Areas
- impacts on rangeland health
- effectiveness of contraception methods and other management techniques
- what managing horses in a "thriving natural ecological balance" means
- scientific findings underlying wild horse management

This will be a difficult task in the face of the high level of polarization on the issue. This polarization is preventing effective discussions on how healthy herds can thrive on public lands in balance with other public resources and multiple uses.

The Chapter resolution's conclusion states our commitment to finding ecologically and financially sound solutions to managing our nation's wild



horses and burros as well as our public lands and resources:

Our members very strongly value our public lands, our wildlife, our wild lands and our wild horses. We believe that wild horses and burros are an integral part of our national public lands heritage and their humane treatment is universally supported. Sierra Club conservationists have worked for over 30 years on public lands issues in Nevada... We look forward to working with you on long-term solutions for sustainable uses of public lands and resources by wild horses and burros and all other multiple uses.

Charles Sheldon & the preservation of America's wildlife

BY TINA NAPPE

Our national parks exemplify the spectacular diversity and beauty of America's landscapes and its wildlife. In "America's National Parks -- America's Best Idea," first shown on PBS last fall, Ken Burns extolls our national parks, which today cover 84 million acres. Highlighted are the people who "saved" lands for future generations by thwarting interests bent on excessive timber harvesting, meat hunting, livestock grazing, and commercialization. See <www.pbs.org/nationalparks/history/> for more information.

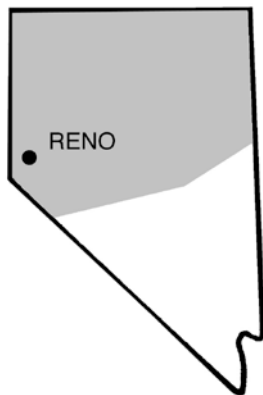
Among the park heroes is Charles A. Sheldon, whose name today graces the Charles Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northern Washoe County, Nevada. A hunter, naturalist, and writer, Sheldon (1867-1928), after making his fortune, retired at age 35. As a member of the elite Boone & Crockett Club, Sheldon joined Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, George Bird Grinnell, and others, who invested their time and money in preserving places and wildlife. Sheldon's primary interest was bighorn sheep. In 1906 when he visited Mt. Denali in Alaska to hunt Dall sheep, he was struck by the wealth of big game and the danger they already faced from market hunters. In 1917, responding to Sheldon's proposal, Congress created Mount McKinley National Park. Senator Key Pittman from Nevada was one of the co-sponsors.

The Charles Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northern Washoe County was founded in the 1930s by Executive Order specifically to provide a refuge for up to 3500 pronghorn antelope. The heart of the Refuge is Last Chance Ranch, purchased in 1928 with \$10,000 from the Boone & Crockett Club and another \$10,000 from the National Audubon Society. The Boone & Crockett contribution stipulated that the refuge be named in honor of Sheldon.

Please note that the real hero of the Refuge is E.R. Sans, who, through the 1920s and 1930s, first successfully argued in Humboldt and Washoe County for hunting seasons and game refuge status on behalf of the beleaguered pronghorn antelope. Then Sans tackled the Nevada governor and legislature before turning his attention to the federal government. Today the refuge is 572,000 acres, but still does not support 3500 pronghorn antelope.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP continues on p. 12.

Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.
ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator
Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel
does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Great Basin Group

Group News

40th Earth Day Celebration

Sunday, April 25th, 9 am-5 pm

BY CATHY SCHMIDT



BE SURE TO LOOK for the Sierra Club tent at the 40th Earth Day festivities in Idlewild Park. We'll be selling Sierra Club merchandise and books, offering information on local conservation efforts and outings, as well as encouraging membership in our vibrant local group. There'll be a wide variety of activities, including music, food, environmentally-themed information, and products for sale. A great day out for everyone -- see you there! Info: Cathy (CathSch256@aol.com).

3rd Annual Great Basin Membership Mixer

Thursday, May 13, 7-8:30 pm

BY CATHY SCHMIDT

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DO YOUR PART to invigorate your local Sierra Club group and have some fun at the same time? We've planned an event for you! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 13th and start lining up friends and acquaintances to attend our third Great Basin Membership Mixer.



Raffle tickets for fabulous door prizes are yours for attending, but if you really want to win, gather those friends! Bonus tickets will be awarded for bringing prospective new members. Guests receive a raffle ticket for attending and 10 tickets for joining on Mixer night.

This is your chance to mingle with prospective club members and learn more about outings, conservation activities, and service. Appetizers and soft drinks will be served 7-8:30 pm.

Location. TBA. Please look for an e-mail, check the website, or call. Members may BYOB if desired.

Information. For details or to donate prizes, call Cathy Schmidt (323-6316). Please plan to join us to mix, mingle, and learn how you can make a difference in our area!

Great Basin Group ExCom

We meet on the first Monday of the month. Info: David von Seggern 775-303-8461.

GREAT BASIN GROUP

OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Chair | David von Seggern* | 775-303-8461 |
| Vice-Chair | Holly Coughlin* | 775-331-7488 |
| Secretary | Julie Woodard* | 775-530-1566 |
| Treasurer | Chip Latham* | 775-824-4505 |
| Conservation | David von Seggern | 775-303-8461 |
| Distribution | Carol Tresner | 775-786-0489 |
| Energy | Jeff Hardcastle | 775-746-2443 |
| Membership | Cathy Schmidt* | 775-323-6316 |
| Outings | Holly Coughlin* | 775-331-7488 |
| Political | Chip Latham* | 775-824-4505 |
| Programs | Valerie Andersen* | 775-828-0302 |
| Webmaster | Howard Goldbaum | 775-772-8579 |

* ExCom members

Cheers! 3rd Annual Buckbean Brewery Mixer

Thursday, June 17th, 5:30-8 pm

BY CATHY SCHMIDT

JOIN YOUR FELLOW GREAT BASIN GROUP members and friends at one of our most generous, supportive, and FUN local businesses. Enjoy a pint of one of the great Buckbean brews, graze on appetizers, and socialize in a great after work (or after conditioning hike) setting.

Attendees are encouraged to buy a beer or contribute to the host. Non-alcoholic drinks will be available.

Buckbean Brewery is located at 1155 S. Rock Blvd. #490, but fronts on McCarran. For more information, please contact Cathy (CathSch256@aol.com).



GREAT BASIN GROUP PROGRAM MEETING

Wild Horses in Nevada

Thursday, April 8, 7 pm

BY GRAHAM STAFFORD

PEOPLE ENJOY SEEING HORSES racing across the desert. They are symbols of freedom in the wild; they are also pets. Nevada is the heartland for wild horses on BLM land. Some people believe that horses are native and should be left to expand across Nevada.

The Toiyabe Chapter supports managing horses as one of the multiple uses of public lands. Horses, like cattle, recreation, mining, and other uses of public land can have negative impacts.

An overview of wild horses in Nevada and the various points of view will be presented and discussed at the Group's monthly program meeting on Thursday, April 8, 7 pm. Tina Nappe will be the presenter; she has spent many years working on public land issues. Please see Calendar for details.

For information on Chapter positions and other articles please check Toiyabe Chapter website at <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>.



Coming Soon!

Great Basin Peaks Section

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

THE GREAT BASIN PEAKS COMMITTEE has been busily working to organize a peak section for the Toiyabe Chapter. If you're not familiar with peak sections check out one of the LA groups peak sections at <www.Anges.sierraclub.org/dps/>.

The GBP Committee has established membership guidelines, recognition categories, designed an emblem patch, and has compiled a peak list. Our purposes are:

- To attract new members
- To encourage members to explore the Great Basin and protect its wild areas



APRIL 3 (SATURDAY) 8 AM
Dead Camel Mountains High Point. Fourth in series of high points of local mountains. East of Silver Springs off Hwy 50 E. About 4 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Off trail, rocky. Ordinary vehicles OK. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

APRIL 6 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM
Easy Conditioning Hike. Weekly Tuesday evening, slow-paced, conditioning hikes through spring, summer. About 3-4 mi, with minimal-mod. gain, in parks, foothills of Reno-Sparks area. About 2 hrs. Learn about local flora, fauna, places to go. Call hotline number (473-1445) for weekly directions, trail descriptions. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 8 (THURSDAY)
GB Group Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm social, 7:30 pm program; Bartley Ranch Regional Park, 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd., Reno. Program: "Wild Horses in Nevada," with Tina Nappe. Info: contact Graham Stafford (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). For more details, see page 8.

APRIL 8 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. About 3-5 mi at mod. pace, under 750 ft gain. Discover trails in, around Truckee Meadows. Leader: Grace C. Info, including if dogs permitted, posted on Hot Line (775-473-1445) Sunday prior. DOK. Leader: Grace C. Caudill (775-473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 10 (SATURDAY) 7 AM
Hell's Kitchen (Pyramid Lake). NE shore of Pyramid Lake. Seldom-visited historic trail of John Fremont, early explorer. About 10-14 mi, narrow trail tread, high above lake level. Some strenuous x-country exploring canyon. Spectacular views of Pyramid Lake, Tule Peak, Big Mamma, Pinnacles. Trip limit 12. Trail shoes needed; bring water, sunscreen, lunch. Sign up early; trip will fill quickly! ND. Leader: Pat Kleames (775-359-5089, patkleames@charter.net). Co-Leader: Julie Woodard (775-530-1566, summitatempter@yahoo.com). Strenuous.

APRIL 10 (SATURDAY) 8 AM
Buckskin Range High Point. Fifth in series. To high point of Buckskin Range near Yerington, Lyon County. About 1000 ft gain; 6 mi RT; off trail. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

APRIL 12 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM
Monday Night Parks Cleanup. Join in effort to sustain our parks each Monday, 5:30-7:30 (April-October). Call hike hotline for location (473-1445). Meet at variety of regional parks, open space locations to bag trash, pull invasive weeds. Be sure to wear closed-toed shoes, bring pair of work gloves, water. Learn about challenges parks face from illegal dumping, volunteer opportunities with local non-profits. ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445, summitatempter@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445, patkleames@charter.net). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 13 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM
Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details.

DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775.473.1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775.473.1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 14 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM
Fast-paced Conditioning Hikes. Aimed at preparing you for upcoming outings. Fairly rapid pace. About 4-5 mi, 800-2000 ft gain; 2 hrs. Trips become more intense as season progresses. Bring plenty of water, hiking shoes, appropriate clothing. Learn about great places to hike in Reno/Sparks area, local flora, fauna. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 15 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. See trip details on April 8. DOK. Leader: Grace C. Caudill (775-473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 17 (SATURDAY) 8 AM
Mt Wilson. Sixth in series: high point in Singatse Range off Hwy 208 in Lyon County, E of Smith. About 7 mi RT, 2100 ft gain; off trail. Ordinary vehicles fine. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

APRIL 17 (SATURDAY) 9 AM -3 PM
Tamarack Palisades Snowshoe. Up 600-700 ft off-trail to reach backside of granite palisades (wall). Traverse with snowshoes to get onto granite promontory with great views of Mt Rose, other nearby peaks. Only 3 mi RT. Info: contact Ricardo or Gary. Trip limit 14. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Richard Bulis (775-345-2770, rbulissimo-sc.yahoo.com). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 19 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM
Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details. ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 20 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM
Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 21 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See April 14 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 22 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. See April 8 for details. DOK. Leader: Grace C. Caudill (473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 24 (SATURDAY) 8 AM
Carson River Railroads. Along route of some railroads in Carson River Canyon near Dayton. About 10 mi one way with vehicle shuttle. Under 1000 ft gain. In scenic Carson River canyon, learn about railroads of Comstock era. Parts of hike x-country. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

APRIL 25 (SUNDAY)
40th Earth Day Celebration. Time & Place: 9a-5p, Idlewild Park. Please see details in Group News, page 8

APRIL 25 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM
Jumbo Grade Shuttle. Follow ridge lines from 395 on N to Jumbo Grade Trailhead. Great views

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

Don't forget to visit the Great Basin Group website

<<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/gbgroup>>

& the Chapter website

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

of Washoe Valley, Lake, Slide Mountains. About 10 mi, under 1000 ft gain. Limit 10. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775.315.6763, d_inversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

APRIL 25 (SUNDAY) ALL DAY

Spanish Springs Peak (7406 ft). Mod. day hike / peak bag. Expect lots of glorious wildflowers; if lucky, see a few antelope, golden eagles. About 5 mi, 1500 ft to summit; half x-country across volcanic terrain. Learn local geology, wildlife. Mod. hike, not for beginners. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (225-2805). Moderate.

APRIL 26 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 27 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 28 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See April 14 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 29 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning Hike. See April 8 for details. DOK. Leader: Grace C. Caudill (775-473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 30-MAY 2 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Stillwater National Wildlife Preserve Digital Photography Trip. Join retired photographer and teacher Graham Stafford on car camping, digital photography outing at wildlife preserve outside Fallon NV at height of bird migration period. Graham will bring his two-person kayak for all to use. Bring yours. Learn technical, artistic aspects of digital photography. All levels of photography experience accepted -- beginners encouraged. View Graham's work at <www.grahamstafford.com>. ND. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

MAY 1 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Eagle Canyon Day Hike. Outside SE Reno. For seasoned hikers only; descent down canyon tricky with large rocks, possibly some water. Golden eagles sighted in past. See really great geology. About 8 mi, 2200 ft gain; steep descent all way down. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Mike Sullens (331-7488). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 1 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Rattler Peak. Seventh in series to highest point in local mountains. Peak in Flowery Range near Carson Plains E of Dayton off Hwy 50 E. About 2400 ft gain, 5 mi RT. Rocky, boulder scrambling, steep sections, parts off trail. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 2 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM-4 PM

Boulder Field Crossing on Ophir Creek. Starting in Davis Creek Park, hike up trail about 1000 ft, passing high, steep creek overviews to reach large granite boulder field about 1/3 way toward Tahoe Meadows above. At this time of year Ophir Creek is typically divided into 4-5 separate large streams, making crossing very difficult. We'll see. About 8 mi RT. Little snow anticipated at this 5,500 ft elev. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

MAY 3 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

MAY 4 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 5 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

MAY 5 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See details on April 14. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 6 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning Hike. See details April 8. DOK. Leader: Grace C. (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 8 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Spring Foothill Day Hike. Beautiful city day hike in foothills of S. Reno. Slow-paced out-

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

MAY 22 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

El Dorado Canyon near Dayton. Fast-paced 13 mi RT; an in-&-out, under 1000 ft gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. Visit small slot canyon. See remains of historic sign; learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

MAY 23 (SUNDAY) 8 AM-4:30 PM

Mt Judah & Donner Peak Loop. Follow Pacific Crest Trail S on broken granite footing for about 0.5 mi. Turn onto little jeep trail to get near Donner Peak, with grand window-to-the-east vista point. Follow loop trail to nearby Mt Judah (8200 ft) to reach excellent 30-50-mile vistas. Drop to TRT, head back. About 9 mi RT; 1200 ft gain. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

MAY 24 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

MAY 25 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

MAY 26 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See April 14 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 27 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning hike. See details April 8. DOK. Leader: Grace C. (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 29-31 (SATURDAY-MONDAY) 7 AM

Black Rock Rendezvous. Join large group of Black Rock Desert rats for weekend of tours, speakers, food, fun. Visit hot springs, petroglyphs;

do projects; take tours. Keynote speaker all lined up also a bike rally. Learn about Black Rock Desert area! Additional fees to Friends of Black Rock may apply. Info: see <www.blackrockrendezvous.com>. Family friendly, LNT camping, DL on leash. DL. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443, dbook@gbis.com). Easy.

MAY 29 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Dayton to Silver City Day Hike. Visit Rock Point Mill site, then head out to find support sites for aerial buckets that brought ore to mill from Silver City. Follow old wagon road up to outskirts of Silver City and lovely spot under pinyon pines for lunch. Alternate strenuous climb up to ridge line with T A. Otherwise, about 6 mi RT, 800 ft gain. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d_inversin@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: T.A. Taro (775-530-2935, tapenelope2@juno.com). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 1 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 2 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See details on April 14. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 3 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning hike. See details on April 8. DOK. Leader: Grace C. (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 5 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Kings Canyon from Carson City to Spooner Summit. About 18 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. In-&-out on old stage route/Lincoln Highway. Option to tour remains of logging railroad at summit. Learn history of area, enjoy views. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 5 (SATURDAY)

Pond Peak. Desert peak bag of highest summit

(8300 ft) at S end of Pah Rah Range, W of Wadsworth. About 11 mi, 2500 ft gain, half x-country on rocky terrain. Bring usual essentials. Expect to see lots of bird life, maybe wild mustangs. Trip Limit: 12. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 6 (SUNDAY) 9 AM

Climb Peavine Mountain. Adventure up NE side of Peavine to towers at top. Mostly on existing dirt roads. About 10 mi RT, 2400 ft gain. Learn about flora, fauna along way. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Mike Sullens (331-7488). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 7 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 8 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 9 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See details April 14. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 10 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning hike. See details April 8. DOK. Leader: Grace C. (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 12 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Humbug Trail. Along Humbug Creek to S. Yuba River during Malakoff Diggins Homecoming Day. About 6 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Learn about mining era. Great swimming. ND. Leader: Craig Mastos (348-1862, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JUNE 12 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

John C Two Enigma. Hike near Dayton, discover history of area, visit two features associated with old mining operations. One-way, about 7 mi, with vehicle shuttle. Gain about 1000 ft. Scenic views; return parallels part of Carson River. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 13 (SUNDAY) 9 AM-3 PM

Tamarack Peak: New Loop. Follow old TRT to Frog Pond, then off-trail up mod. steep SW ridgeline directly to big Rock Outcrop at 9600 ft. Lunch stop is unexcelled for vista all way down Lake Tahoe. Return along E ridgeline to new TRT. About 6 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

JUNE 14 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 15 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 16 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See April 14 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 17 (THURSDAY)

3rd Annual GB Buckbean Brewery Mixer. Time & Place: 530-8p; Buckbean Brewery. Please see details in Group News, page 8.

JUNE 17 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning hike. See April 8 for details. DOK. Leader: Grace C. (775-473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 19 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Rubicon Trail. Hike along Lake Tahoe shore from D.L. Bliss Park to Emerald Bay. Negligible gain, 9 mi RT. Learn about old lighthouse. Possible swimming if spring weather warms up. ND. Leader: Craig mastos (348-1862, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JUNE 20 (SUNDAY) 8:30 A.M-4:30 PM

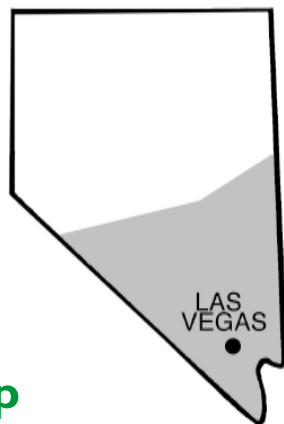
Mount Rose Summit. First 1.5 hr is N on fairly level new Tahoe Rim Trail, past waterfall. Then up steep little canyon to reach 9650 ft saddle for breather. Then up, up, finally traversing high, barren shoulder of shale to 10,776 ft Mt Rose summit. Vistas of lush green meadows far below, blue Lake Tahoe, distant valleys, peaks, will be our fine reward. About 10 mi RT, 2200 ft gain. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

It's not just
a good basin,
it's a
GREAT BASIN!

The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group



Group News

Monthly meetings

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the second Wednesday of every month (except August and holidays) for the **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING** at 7:30 pm. Come socialize, learn what's going on in the environmental community, and hear and see an interesting, educational slideshow program. See the **Calendar (pages 10-11)** for dates and details.

April 14 is **MEET THE CANDIDATE NIGHT**. This will be in lieu of our usual conservation meeting. The next **ConsCom meetings** are Wednesdays, **May 12 and June 9**. They precede the General Meeting in the same room from 6-7 pm. Contact: jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

GROUP EXCOM MEETINGS are 6 - 8:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, except August, when the first Monday is a holiday. Location: Sierra Club Office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass

Ave.), Suite 220B (upstairs), Las Vegas. The next **ExCom meeting dates** are Mondays, **April 5, May 3, June 7**. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832).

The next **NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION** is TBA at press time. It precedes the general meeting in the same room at 7 pm. Info: please call Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT. To put an announcement in our local monthly announcement sheet (available at the General Meeting), please send a brief e-mail to Rita (rita.ransom@hotmail.com) no later than Tuesday afternoon before the meeting. To make a brief announcement at the meeting, check with Rita, Gary, or another officer before the meeting.

On 22 April 1970, Earth Day marked the beginning of a modern environmental movement

KRIS CUNNINGHAM & SCOTT STEVENS, S. NEVADA GROUP EARTH DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Earth Day is a day designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D - Wisconsin) as an environmental teach-in in 1970.

Senator Gaylord Nelson was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962. He was determined to wake up the federal government to the fact that the earth was at risk. In 1969, Nelson, considered one of the leaders of the modern environmental movement, developed the idea for Earth Day after being inspired by the anti-Vietnam War "teach-ins" that were taking place on college campuses around the United States. According to Nelson, he envisioned a large-scale, grassroots environmental demonstration "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda."

Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Senator Nelson chose April 22 in order to maximize participation on college campuses for what he conceived as an "environmental teach-in." Senator Nelson stated that Earth Day "worked" because of the response at the grassroots level.

He directly credited the first Earth Day with persuading U.S. politicians that environmental legislation had a substantial, lasting constituency. Many important laws were passed by Congress in the wake of the 1970 Earth Day, including the Clean Air Act, wild lands and the ocean, and the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

April 21 was the birthday of John Muir, who founded the Sierra Club. This was not lost on organizers who thought April 22 was Muir's birthday.

Fast forward
1995: Gaylord Nelson receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award given to a civilian, in honor of his environmental work. President Bill Clinton says of Nelson: "As the father of Earth Day, he is the grandfather of all that grew out of that event."

2000: Hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries celebrate the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, with a focus on "clean energy."

July 3, 2005: Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson dies at age 89

* The above information was obtained from Earth Day Network Website and Wikipedia. Each year since 1970, Earth Day has been celebrated locally and worldwide.

This year marks the 40th anniversary, and the Southern Nevada Group plans to honor the event

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

(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.

Please use e-mail when leaders state that they prefer it

All events include conservation and/or education activities

Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041

APRIL 3 (SATURDAY)

Grand Circle, RRCNCA. Do bunny hop through part of this long, 12-mi walk. Connect dots with new views of RR escarpment, maybe some early wildflowers. Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857), Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 3-4.

APRIL 5 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom Meeting. Time & Place: 6-8:30 pm; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, kris-sysjake@gmail.com).

APRIL 11 (SUNDAY)

Red Rock Canyon: In Search of the Redbud! What is redbud and where does it grow? Hike 3 mi RT. Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758) Level 2.

APRIL 14 (WEDNESDAY)

Meet the Candidates Night. Time & Place: 6-7 pm, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Opportunity to meet candidates for June 8 Primary Elections. Learn about their positions on environmental issues. Talk politics. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, are welcome. Hosted by Political Committee. Contact: Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com).

APRIL 14 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "Hiking & Backpacking the Eastern Sierra Nevada Range," with Reno's Mike White, outdoor enthusiast and author of many books on hiking and backpacking. See photos of this rugged,

scenic wonderland within reasonable reach of Las Vegas. Learn about geography, nature of John Muir's wilderness, and great places to enjoy and recreate. Mike will have some of his books to sign and sell (at reduced price). All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

APRIL 17 (SATURDAY)

Wildflower Hike to Lake Mead or Spring Mountains. Depending on reports we'll go for most brilliant display. What does Palmer's penstemon look like and smell like? Dogs OK. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 2-3.

APRIL 25-MAY 1 (SUNDAY-SATURDAY)

Service Trip to Kalaupapa National Historic Park, Molokai, Hawaii. Volunteer opportunity to work with National Park Service on natural and cultural resource projects at isolated, historic Hawaiian colony for people afflicted with Hansen's disease (leprosy). Limit: 12. Moderate to strenuous tasks. Google to learn more about Kalaupapa. Leader: Linda Nations (LLNations@pbsj.com).

APRIL 30-MAY 2 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Kingston Mountains Wilderness Restoration Service Trip. This Wilderness N of Mojave Preserve is high enough for late spring. Work with BLM's Needles field office to restore cultural site, decommission an old corral. Meet mid-afternoon Friday at Horse Thief Campground 23 mi N of I-15. BLM provides essential tools, but bring extra hammers. Work Saturday, finish Sunday around lunch time. Learn how you can help keep Wilderness wild. Central commissary available. Leader: Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org). Sponsored by CNRCC Wilderness Committee & Mojave Group, San Geronio Chapter.

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

Recycling in the neon capital

BY MAXINE MILLER

What goal did the Nevada legislature adopt almost 20 years ago that has never been reached?

It was a recycling goal of 25% recycling throughout the state.

The goal has barely been met in Northern Nevada, and has never been met in Southern Nevada where I reside. When I moved here 30 years ago, the only thing recycled was newspaper. However, there were no plastic bottles and trillions of soda cans at that time. Eventually, it became difficult to even recycle newspaper because the 7-11 stores stopped providing bins.

Over the years, recycling opportunities have been offered to some residential neighborhoods depending on what area of town you live in.

with some big activities.

- We will be launching a new website in March: EarthdayLV.com. This website will be the information clearinghouse for Earthday events in and around Las Vegas. It will be a source of Earth Day history, events, and related information this year and into the future.

- Sat April 17: we are organizing a huge urban clean up with our sponsors. Watch the website above for more details.

- Thu April 22 Earth Day: our first annual Green Award banquet. Also see EarthdayLV.com for upcoming information.

- The UNLV Sierra Student Coalition is having a week of Earth Day festivities that our members are encouraged to attend.

We are looking forward to having all of our members participate in Earth Day events and hope you'll volunteer to support this amazing movement.

Trails Staff Note. The above article is unedited and uncut at the authors' request. Because this issue is very full, the text size had to be reduced so that the article would fit.

However, the recycling has to be meticulously separated into different bins resulting in time consuming work for busy families.

In June 2009 the SC Southern Nevada Group formed a Recycling Committee to become more knowledgeable and proactive regarding the abysmal recycling rates in Las Vegas. We have brought in guest speakers, toured the Republic Recycling plant, prepared a presentation for our Conservation Group and brought recycling to Sierra Club tabling events at town hall meetings and environmental events. Our 2010 schedule includes helping with recycling at a huge fund raising event in March at Lorenzi Park, scheduling another tour of the plant which has recently purchased over a million dollars in new equipment, and following up with city and county commission meetings when recycling is on the agenda.*

New recycling programs have been started in North Las Vegas with the help of a 1.9 million stimulus grant aimed at implementation of green initiatives. They are targeting specific neighborhoods to promote enhanced recycling. Although the main Republic recycling plant is small, they manage to recycle approx 4 million tons a year. They are constantly expanding and modernizing. As part of the enhanced program, they have introduced single stream recycling to the community.

Please see RECYCLING, page 11.

Don't forget to visit the Chapter website
<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chair | Kristine Cunningham* | 702-285-6832 |
| Vice-Chair | Par Rasmusson* | 702-215-9119 |
| Secretary | Par Rasmusson* | 702-215-9119 |
| Treasurer | Taj Ainlay* | 702-682-9361 |
| At Large | Scott Stevens* | 702-561-1701 |
| Compliance | Open | |
| Conservation | Jane Feldman | feldman.jane@gmail.com |
| Cool Cities | Open | |
| Editor | Yuki Takagi | yuki.takagi@toiyabe.sierraclub.org |
| Hwy Cleanup | Sandee Herlands-Gogatz | 702-248-4443 |
| Membership | Matt Van Note* | 702-348-5473 |
| Outings | Jack Sawyer | 702-228-3857 |
| Parks, Refuges | Yuki Takagi | yuki.takagi@toiyabe.sierraclub.org |
| Political Programs | Taj Ainlay* | 702-682-9361 |
| Publicity | Gary Beckman | 702-648-2983 |
| Social | Desiree Saporito | 702-875-2668 |
| Webmaster | Matt Van Note* | 702-348-5473 |
| | Par Rasmusson* | 702-215-9119 |

Sierra Club National Representative in S. Nevada
Regional Rep Rob Disney 702-518-0188
robert.disney@sierraclub.org
W. Regional Organizer Vinny Spotleson 702-732-7750
vinny.spotleson@sierraclub.org

* ExCom member

S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10



Colorful sandstone sculptures dot the Gold Butte area, slated to be designated as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness. (Photo: Howard Booth.)

LATE APRIL-EARLY MAY (DATE-TBA)

Tule Springs / Upper Las Vegas Wash "Ice Age Park," North Las Vegas. Visit largest late Pleistocene paleontology site in American southwest, located just stone's throw away from the Las Vegas metro area. Learn about flora in area, why area is proposed as new National Monument, and how to become steward of this unique place in Mojave desert. Sierra Club members only. About 6 mi. Limit 12. Check SNG website for update. Contact: Yuki Takagi (263-7327, yuki.takagi@toyabe.sierraclub.org). Level 2.

MAY 1 (SATURDAY)

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. Family Outing (all ages). Tour of sanctuary for rescued animals, led by Sandra Salinas, Executive Director. See and learn about many animals, including exotic birds (macaws, ostriches, etc.), llamas, goats, baby deer. Petting area, too. Picnic lunch. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 1.

MAY 2 (SUNDAY)

Carpet of Orange. About 8 mi in Cottonwood Valley to Wilson Tanks, S of Hwy 160. Expect to see hillsides carpeted with wildflowers, mostly orange. What wildflowers do we find here? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 3.

MAY 3 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom Meeting. Time & Place: 6-8:30 pm; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissysjake@gmail.com).

MAY 9 (SUNDAY)

Red Rock Canyon: In Search of Wildflowers! What color is the globe mallow? Hike 3 mi RT. Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758). Level-2.

MAY 12 (WEDNESDAY)

Meet the Candidates Night. Time & Place: 6-7 pm, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see

next). Opportunity to meet candidates for June 8 Primary Elections. Learn about their positions on environmental issues. Talk politics. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, are welcome. Hosted by Political Committee. Contact: Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com).

MAY 12 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "The Lower Colorado River: Management Challenges," with Terry Fulp, Regional Director of Lower Colorado River Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City. Terry will talk about low water levels, long-term drought, changing climate, and forecasts for our main source of precious water. Learn about Multi-Species Conservation Program and environmental issues along our great Southwest river and its reservoirs. All members and general public welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

MAY 15 (SATURDAY)

Exploratory for New Trails: Lovell Canyon, SMNRA. About 10 mi RT along wilder side of Red Rock in pinyon juniper. Fresh views of Griffith and Mt. Charleston. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

MAY 22 (SATURDAY)

Big Falls, SMNRA. Let's see the water rush! What is a snow cave? About 4 mi RT; some rock scrambling, walking in stream bed. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 2-3.

MAY 28-29 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

Bonanza Peak/Divide Trail Backpack: Moved to Memorial Day Weekend. Because of high snows we've postponed from original April dates. Start at Cold Creek, go up to beautiful views from ridge, camp at Wood Springs, meet up with drive-around party on Bristlecone Trail. Drive-arounds will day hike from or back to Cold Creek Saturday and from or to Bristlecone on Sunday. Join in either or both with Gracie if you don't backpack! North two-thirds of trail offers fresh wilderness experience over 15 mi, also feeling of alpine remoteness much like Sierra. Can you see Telescope Peak from this ridge? Leaders: Eric Blumensadt (7speeder@cox.net), Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 4-5.

MAY 29 (SATURDAY)

Fletcher Peak, SMNRA. Not too far, not too high, lots of ponderosa and some bristlecone, away from hustle and bustle. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

JUNE 6 (SUNDAY)

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, Red Rock. Come out and make Red Rock a little prettier and get yourself some companionship, fresh air, and sunshine. Meet at Pizza Hut on Charleston and Antelope at 8 am. Bring water, hat, sun screen. Leader: Sandee Gogatz (248-4443), Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

JUNE 7 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom Meeting. Time & Place: 6-8:30 pm; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissysjake@gmail.com).

JUNE 9 (WEDNESDAY)

Conservation Meeting. Time & Place: 6-7 pm, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues Group is involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

JUNE 9 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "Global Warming / Climate Change," with John Hiatt, local chemist, environmental activist, and

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 21 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Cleanup. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 22 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Easy.

JUNE 23 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See April 14 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 24 (THURSDAY) 5:15PM

Longest Day Evening Hike. To top of "Road to Nowhere" Peak, highest one on skyline E of Reno. About 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Brisk pace, not for beginning hikers. Take advantage of latest sunset, longest twilight of year, to march beyond sunset. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leaders: Karen Todd, Grace Caudill (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 24 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM

Moderate Conditioning hike. See details April 8. DOK. Leader: Grace C. (775-473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 25-27 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) 9 AM

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Car Camp Service Trip. Refuge is in Nevada's remote NW corner. Do service work (fence removal, etc.) Saturday with other conservation groups, under refuge supervision. Friday and Sunday are travel days with many interesting places to visit. Learn about Refuge's purpose, wildlife, flora, management practices. Visit special place with potential wilderness areas. Info: contact leader David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net) by June 19 to sign up. ND. Moderate.

JUNE 26-27 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY) 7 AM

Double Hot Springs Archaeology Survey. Join BLM & Trails West on an archaeological survey at Double Hot Springs, noted landmark on Emigrant Trail. Camp like emigrants, but use more modern gear. Full moon. Sunday, visit another

hot spring on way out. Learn about historic & prehistoric archaeology in Black Rock. DL. LNT camping. Possible optional third day stay with hike in Granites. DL., Leader: David Book (775/843-6443, dbook@gbis.com). Easy.

JUNE 26 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

Loch Leven. Nice lunch, swimming spot, at middle lake. About 7 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Learn about railroads running through this area. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (348-1862, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JUNE 27 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM

Faye-Luther Trail. Beautiful trail built by Carson Valley Trails Assoc. near Genoa. Get up high enough to enjoy great views of Carson Valley. About 7 mi, 800 ft gain. Limit 10. Interested participants can visit Tahoe Ridge Winery in Minden after. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d_inversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

JUNE 28 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM

Monday Night Parks Clean-up. See April 12 for details ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (473-1445). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 29 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM

Easy Conditioning Hike. See April 6 for details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-473-1445). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (775-473-1445). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 30 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. See April 14 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1



FOR JUL-AUG-SEP ISSUE

SN CALENDAR . . .

continued from left columns

Conservation Chair of Red Rock Audubon. John will talk about basics of climate change, greenhouse gases and their key role in determining climate, climate change as recorded in Antarctic ice as well as implications of increasing carbon dioxide emissions. All members and general public welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

JUNE 13 (SUNDAY)

Griffith Peak, SMNRA. Requires extra early meeting time of about 6 am due to parking at trailhead. Begin at South Loop and 4000 elevation gain later stand on top of Griffith Peak at 11,000 ft. About 10 mi RT. What is tree line? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 5.

JUNE 19 (SATURDAY)

Cave Spring, Trail Canyon. About 5 mi RT, about 8000-9200 ft. When was Mummy Mountain at bottom of inland sea? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

JUNE 26 (SATURDAY)

Leader's Choice Spring Mountains. The pines are calling you. How can you distinguish ponderosa from bristlecone pine? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

JUNE 29-JULY 5 (TUESDAY-MONDAY)

Coyote Gulch, Escalante UT. Leave Las Vegas about 6 am, Tuesday, with only gasoline stops and one at visitor center in Escalante to pick up our permit. Lunch at trailhead, then backpack 4 mi to first campsite in alcove next to creek. Each day we'll be in awe hiking along Coyote Creek.



Spectacular view rewards hikers in Gold Butte. Please check the SNG website for Gold Butte and Tule Springs update. (Photo: Howard Booth.)

Possibly one day along Escalante River. Easy to moderate, over mostly flat canyon bottom. Total of about 30 mi with backpack. Cottonwood and willows within most of canyon. Camp where sun does not shine and stays cool. Enjoy water (bring swimsuit) at lower end of Coyote Creek. Christmas in July. What are all these lights we see after dark moving (or not) around? Learn about origin of water and springs, how canyon was formed. Limit 12. David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred).

JULY OR AUGUST (DATE TBA)

In works: Service trip to Glacier NP, MT. Five days doing trail maintenance and possibly some resource projects. Expect to put in 40 hours of labor making this park even more welcoming and beautiful than we found it. Learn about challenges Glacier NP is facing. Limit 12. Please check SNG website for update. Moderate to strenuous. Co-Leaders: Yuki Takagi (263-7327, yuki.takagi@toyabe.sierraclub.org), Ed Rothfuss.

RECYCLING . . .

continued from page 10

Single stream (all recycling in one bin) has been shown to increase recycling by about 50%.

Another tiny recycling operation in town is the UNLV Recycling Center, started many years ago by coordinator Tara Nordstrom as part of her master's degree thesis. It has grown to be the hub of a monstrous amount of recycling for the entire University and anything that can be recycled is recycled. Tara's creativity and passion extends to implementing a new procedure in the cafeteria **whereby students do not use trays because it has been proven that using trays causes more food waste, thus more garbage to deal with.

The ultimate goal of our recycling committee is to show support for recycling and apply pressure on government and recycling businesses to move ahead with expanding pilot programs to all residences of Southern Nevada.

As recycling becomes more available and it becomes easier for residents to recycle, the 25% rate should be met and new goals set.

Trails staff note. The above article is unedited and uncut at the author's request. Because this issue is very full, the text size had to be reduced so that the article would fit.

Bookshelf

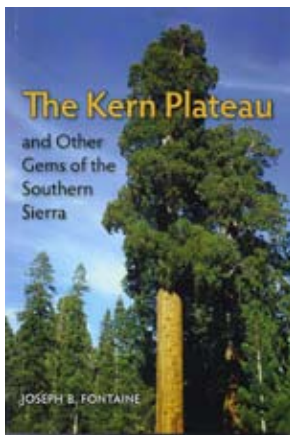
THE KERN PLATEAU & OTHER GEMS OF THE SOUTHERN SIERRA

BY JOE FONTAINE
Atlas Books, 2009

Backpackers, campers, sportsmen and even casual visitors to the southern Sierra will appreciate Joe Fontaine's recent book on the Kern Plateau and Southern Sierra. Written with deep affection for the mountains of Kern and Tulare counties, the 140-page volume explores not only the geography, biology and geology of this part of California, but also the region's rich history. The book is illustrated with exquisite pen and ink drawings by Tehachapi artist and retired teacher, Georgette Theotig.

The book may be purchased in Tehachapi at Russo's in the Marketplace or viewed and ordered on-line at <www.AtlasBooks.com>.

— contributed by Marjorie Bell



SAGE GROUSE...

continued from page 1

which, in turn, was based on conservation plans for locally important sage grouse areas.

Then in 2004, the USFWS issued its initial decision not to list the sage grouse. Not surprisingly, this caused the voluntary conservation efforts in Nevada to begin collapsing.

As the years passed, sage grouse populations have waxed and waned in Nevada. Development proposals, grazing permits, and land use plans have been regularly approved, with little consideration given to avoiding or minimizing impacts to either sage grouse populations or critical habitats.

What now? With no agency protection, how many local sage grouse populations will disappear in the next 10 years due to destruction by development projects approved by federal agencies on public lands in Nevada? How many other sagebrush-dependent species, such as pygmy rabbits, pronghorn antelope, and birds, will become threatened or endangered? How low will sage grouse populations have to fall before the USFWS will take enforceable actions to protect our wildlife and its critical habitat in the sagebrush country of Nevada for us, our children, and their children?

What you can do. Check out the Chapter website for more sage grouse information at <http://toiyabe.sierra-club.org/>.

ESLT EVENTS...

continued from page 5

900- acre conservation easement located outside of Benton on Highway 120.

Saturday's schedule will include many activities centered on the land, its history, natural resources and wildlife—hiking and birding tours, as well as a historic tour of Old Benton.

There will be live music, a "paint out," and a big BBQ bash with local foods. Camp at Benton Hot Springs Campground, which includes nine hot tubs with some of the purest hot spring water in the world. Enjoy an evening of star gazing led by a local astronomer. Sunday morning, take an exceptional birding tour through the easement. Info & reservations: please contact Mary McGurke (mary@eslt.org, 760-873-4554).

BRYCE WHEELER...

continued from page 1

and education. His work on outings is partly responsible for the support of so many forincludng so many acres of new Mono County wilderness in the 2009 Omnibus Bill.

Bryce's welcoming attitude and friendliness has resulted in a strong program that has attracted many participants and new leaders. He and his wife, Wilma, have been wonderful hosts to those who love the outdoors of the Eastern Sierra.

The Range of Light Group and the Toiyabe Chapter have been extremely fortunate to have such a great man working constantly to introduce everyone to the pleasure of being part of the natural landscape.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP...

continued from page 7

Proposed Solar Park in Owens Valley

BY MALCOLM CLARK

THE LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT of Water and Power (LADWP), headed by David Freeman, is proposing a solar power project that would be the largest in the USA. The project would encompass up to 80 square miles and be located on part of the dry Owens Lake bed – and on dry land south of Independence and east of the Owens River. Ultimately, the project might produce up to 5

gigawatts a year with 2-3 gigawatts coming from the part on the lake bed.

The project would enable Los Angeles to meet its goal of ending coal-based power production – currently 40% of Los Angeles' power – by 2020. The city would benefit financially from the sale of excess power production and the lease of land in the solar park to other utilities.

LADWP is under court mandate to reduce air pollution caused by high winds blowing across the lake bed. The solar panels, together with a gravel layer under the panels, might reduce wind speed and resultant dust pollution. Currently, LADWP expends large sums of

Please see next column, below.

INTERNET ONLY?...

continued from page 1

need a hard copy, please let us know as soon as possible.

You can contact me with your com-


ments by mail, phone, or e-mail (500 Ryland, Suite 150, Reno, NV 89502; 775-322-5326; jstoess@aol.com). I will compile a report based on your feedback and give it to the Chapter ExCom for their consideration.

money and uses significant amounts of water to control the dust. However, the agency is still far from meeting the specified goal. An initial test project of 80 acres on the lake bed (producing 6-10 megawatts) would determine whether this worked for dust mitigation.

Freeman has said that of the 310,000 acres of LADWP lands in the Eastern Sierra, 92% are unsuitable for solar production and would remain off-limits to development. Thus, IF done properly WITH full disclosure and binding guarantees, the project could benefit all affected parties. If done improperly, great damage could be done to the area with benefits accruing mainly to Los Angeles.

What's being done. Local environmental groups are meeting regularly to develop a coordinated response to the Freeman proposal. The Range of Light Group (ROLG) is also in contact with Sierra Club staffers working on the club's energy initiatives. We want to make certain that renewable energy development does not happen at the expense of the flora and fauna. We also want to preserve the aesthetic appeal of the Eastern Sierra.

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
FOR JUL-AUG-SEP ISSUE


Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting
April 10, Reno
July 10, Mammoth Lakes
For details, contact the Chair,
David Hornbeck
davidhornbecklaw@msn.com



the world isn't waiting, why are you?

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____



Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Special Offer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | |
| Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$47 |
| 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"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 1400 1



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



"BOOTS" MCFARLAND

www.bootsmcfarland.com © 2010 Geolyn Carvin