



September 1, 2019



SIERRA
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A weekend up at Keller

By Janet Damen

Way back in 1938, Keller Lodge was built a few miles from Big Bear by a bunch of avid skiers wanting not much more than a place to rest their heads overnight before taking to the snow laden slopes as early as possible the next day. It consisted of two dorms where one slept on the floor, minimal kitchen and bathroom facilities, and places to hang ski gear.

Not anymore. Keller Lodge has been refurbished into an inviting retreat with plenty of comfortable seating in two well-lit large sitting areas, a fully functioning cheerful kitchen with an excellent stove, fully stocked shelves of crockery and drawers of utensils. Beds upstairs now are properly raised off the floor with covered mattresses in the two dorms.

And during a recent August weekend, Jacqueline Meese from Orange County, a long-standing leader supporting our Verdugo Hills Chapter, set about exploiting the newly established comfort of the lodge and pleasantness with a gathering of 12 Sierra Clubbers, including David Eisenberg as co-leader.

We should remember that this weekend in places was celebrating the 50th anniversary of Woodstock. The small nearby town of Green Valley Lake put on their celebration -- pretty low-keyed, but music was good, plenty of aging hippies and the younger set wanting to be hippies. The leisurely afternoon was made for a walk around the lake. And surprisingly, no leafy aromas wafting through the air.



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Jacqueline, who is an excellent organizer and cook, put on a splendid full-blown taco dinner for Saturday night. Following a steady flow of margaritas delivered by Ed Katch (also a leader from Orange County) and pepper-poppers, spicy jardinière and other goodies as appetizers, Jacqueline delivered an abundant spread with three kinds of shredded meat (beef, chicken and pork) and all the usual accompaniments to fulfill tacos to more than over-flowing -- with plenty to fill plates a second time AND leftovers for us to take home on Sunday.

The group retired to the second sitting room for more conversation and ever-welcome desserts. Jacqueline provided a cheesecake and Janet Damen brought a "Death by Lemon" torte. The group eventually split into whatever-they-they-wanted-to do groups for the rest the evening, including cards or just going to bed early.

Sunday morning was no rushed affair, and again Jacqueline satisfied appetites with a breakfast of an Egg Bake dish, very much like a frittata, and an unending flow of pancakes. Everyone pitched in with the usual chores. And the weekend ended with a leisurely hike through the surrounding mountains with the many beautiful pines and multitude of other trees, grasses, flowers and plants that make up this lovely landscape at 6800 feet some 90 miles from Los Angeles --- but In August, not a flake of snow in sight.

Jacqueline has long participated in activities at Keller Lodge. This weekend, her purpose was to bring awareness to the great effort put out by dedicated members of the Sierra Club who updated and renovated the building and its facilities, so that all visitors will enjoy greater comfort during their relaxation. Nothing nicer than to be enjoying a drink and chatting at sundown out on the balcony overlooking the landscape. Jacqueline hopes to offer a similar weekend escape possibly in September next year.

Dogwood Camping Trip

By Delphine Trowbridge

Verdugo Hills had another Dogwood week in the beautiful campground near Lake Arrowhead. The weather was perfect and we had a wonderful group. Three people stayed in a nearby motel and joined us for the day. We had field trips and hiking within the

campground. We had campfires each evening after our Barbecue dinners with conversation and an interesting quiz game. We camped for four days because everyone requested it the year before. Next year we will add some different field trips.



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Our Trip to Ventura

Photos by David Eisenberg



Burbank Updates

By Gene Paulin

Burbank City Council voted unanimously to study a proposed ban on all single-use plastic at all city-related functions. The council authorized \$250,000 to hire a consultant to help in this process. City Council staff will prepare a report on instituting this ban for commercial establishments, such as restaurants. A person from the audience said “You have been studying this for 12 years, and all you need to do is adopt the Culver City ordinance on single-use plastics.”

On August 17 there will be a meeting of the “Burbank 100,” an ad hoc group aiming to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030. The group will discuss the TPP 50-year contract that the City Council will soon decide upon.

Email for more details.

Corralitas Garden is Finally Coming into its Own

By Michael Beck

Get an eyeeful of our evolving Garden in these photos from November 2017, October 2018, and now August 2019. I would judge that in this time, our garden project has progressed from incipient to full-fledged, at least on the bottom tier.

We accomplished this despite major setbacks in 2018: The loss of our local water supply (now we schlep it in), the third-driest rain year in 140 years, and a runaway local population of ravenous gophers. As you can see, persistence has paid off.

This garden is part of the Silver Lake area’s project of civic groups adopting local municipal stairways.



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Ours, however, is special. First, it's the only one that features a garden. And second, it lies virtually next to an undeveloped part of the old Red Car line into Glendale, and so it is part of the Red Car Preservation movement.

Verdugo Hills Group (in tandem with Central Group) is managing this effort through its Corralitas Garden Committee. Current members are Delphine, who is the lead, plus Michael, Charlotte, Irene, Evelyn, Carol, and Judy.

We need more volunteers for our garden, especially watering. Feel free to contact Delphine or Michael.

Transportation and River Projects in the Verdugo Hills Area

Compiled by David Eisenberg

There are several transportation and river projects in our geographical area. The following are links to their websites. Comments and involvement are welcome.

Glendale Streetcar Study

The City of Glendale is engaged in a streetcar feasibility study that would seek to connect the Larry Zarian Transportation Center with the vibrant heart of the Downtown. A modern streetcar line would establish a connection between its centers of entertainment, dining, shopping, and residents along the Brand Boulevard and Central Avenue corridors. With connections to Beeline bus service, Metro bus lines, and rail service at the Larry Zarian Transportation Center, the streetcar has the potential to attract visitors and tourists, in addition to creating an improved transit connection for those that live and work in Glendale.

Comment at glendalestreetcar.com/.

NoHo to Pasadena Transit Corridor

The North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit Corridor (NoHo to Pasadena BRT) extends approximately 18 miles and is a key regional connection between the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys with connections to the Metro Red, Orange and Gold Lines, as well as Metrolink and other municipal bus lines.

See metro.net/projects/noho-pasadena-corridor/

E San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor

On June 28, 2018, Metro's Board of Directors chose Light Rail Transit (LRT) as the preferred alternative for

the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project (Project). Once opened, this LRT Project will extend north from the Van Nuys Metro Orange Line station, to the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station, a total of 9.2 miles.

See metro.net/projects/east-sfv/

LA-Glendale-Burbank Corridor Study

Metro staff are conducting a feasibility study to consider adding additional stations in the City of Glendale and in the City of Los Angeles as well as considering opportunities to provide more frequent passenger rail service throughout the day from Los Angeles Union Station to the City of Burbank and ultimately to the Antelope Valley. This could include enhanced Metrolink service, Electric Multiple Unit/Diesel Multiple Unit (EMU/DMU) and/or Light Rail Transit (LRT) for the corridor between Los Angeles and Burbank Airport.

Public input: The survey is currently closed. More details will be forthcoming.

Los Angeles River Path Project

The LA River Path Project is a new bicycle and pedestrian path along an approximately eight-mile stretch of the Los Angeles River (River) from Elysian Valley through Downtown Los Angeles to the City of Maywood. This project will close the longest remaining continuous gap in the LA River Path and create a path that will serve the existing communities there today, as well as look forward to and serve future needs.

<https://www.metro.net/projects/lariverpath/>

Click [here](#) for *Sierra Magazine* article.

LA RiverWay Improvement Projects

Glendale Narrows to Downton LA .

See lariver.org/

The LA River Master Plan

Los Angeles County is updating the 1996 LA River Master Plan to create a plan that addresses the entire 51-mile LA River, and we want you to be involved!

The County of Los Angeles has conveyed a world-class team to help update the LA River Master Plan, a comprehensive approach covering all 51 miles of the River. The effort was launched to update the original 1996 master plan, synthesizing more recent ideas for

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portions of the River and bringing a comprehensive vision to the transformation of the LA River.

The team is led by LA County Public Works with support from Geosyntec, the engineering firm responsible for the technical water and engineering elements of the Master Plan. Joining Geosyntec are the landscape architecture and planning firm OLIN and the design firm Gehry Partners. Nonprofit River LA leads the coordination of an extensive community engagement and outreach process. Street Level Advisors, Kearns & West, 72 & Sunny, and Mosaic Strategies Group are also a part of the LA River Master Plan team.

See larivermasterplan.org/

Upper Los Angeles River & Tributaries (ULART)

Working Group

Chapter 341 of the Statutes of 2017, also known as Assembly Bill 466 (AB 466), established, within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group. The Working Group is charged with developing a revitalization plan for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash and any additional tributary waterway that the working group determines to be necessary.

See upperlariver.org/

Survey gis.tetrattech.com/mrca_ulart/eng.html

Call Me Cassandra

By Carol Henning

The name, Cassandra, has come to mean one who predicts misfortune or disaster. The Cassandra of mythology was one of the daughters of Priam. She attracted the attention of Apollo, who was famous for his good looks and amorous adventures. He tried to seduce Cassandra by promising to teach her the art of divination. Cassandra agreed to the lessons but, when she felt she had learned enough, she told Apollo to get lost. Apollo, outraged and unable to take away Cassandra's newly acquired knowledge, deprived her of the power to make others believe what she said.

"Please stop talking about plastic bottles. We don't need to be badgered day and night," said the email sent

to me on July 17. This came after I had sent ONE email that month to some members of a historical society regarding the disposable plastic bottles of water handed out at their events. My email was sent on the heels of an email on the same topic sent by another member. Two in one day! "All of us have been badgered enough," scolded the email addressed to me. "We don't want to bore any of the new members here and drive them away." July, the month of the emails, was the hottest July ever recorded on the planet. But, saints preserve us from tedious environmentalists who drone on about boring issues such as recycling.

No one knows precisely how much plastic ends up in the oceans every year, but "one dump truck per minute—8 million tons per year—is a midrange estimate," observes Zoë Carpenter, writing in *The Nation* (April 1, 2019). "Plastic waste usually begins its journey on land, where only 9 percent of it is recycled," she continues. "One analysis predicts that, by 2050, the plastic in the oceans will outweigh the fish."

The petrochemical giants, including Dow, ExxonMobil and Chevron Phillips, have spoken of an Alliance to End Plastic Waste. Nice talk but, slipping on our "deeds speak louder than words" lenses, we can see that these same companies and their counterparts are investing \$65 billion (Carpenter, op. cit.) to expand plastics production in the U.S. Hundreds of petrochemical projects are underway or newly completed. Fracking has made the production of plastic much cheaper in the U.S., and "plastic is becoming an increasingly important source of profit for Big Oil." In the oceans, plastic single-use items such as bags and bottles break down into tiny particles. Birds, fish and other sea creatures eat them and begin to starve.

From the standpoint of environmental justice, there are the impacts on the communities who live in the shadows of ethane "crackers" and other plastics refining and manufacturing facilities. In *Sierra Magazine* (July/August 2019) Antonia Juhasz quotes Priscilla Villa, a Texas-based organizer for the watchdog group Earthworks, who says that the chemical-plant build-out in Texas and Louisiana shows a "blatant disregard for the people who live near these facilities and the type of risk they have to face to their health, safety and environment.

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“By 2050, 50 percent of the growth in oil demand will be related to petrochemicals,” predicts the International Energy Agency (op. cit.). Actually, the fossil fuel industry “has been very effective at shifting the narrative from production to the end of the plastic life cycle.”

The flourishing petrochemical industry is simply one aspect of the human induced climate emergency that threatens us. The very words “climate change” are banned from many of our government’s publications and communications. When interviewed by CNN’s Jake Tapper, Vice President Pence claimed that, “with the natural gas explosion that’s developing, with clean coal technology, we’re seeing....a significant reduction in carbon emissions all across this country.” (Oh?) Pence went on to say: “America has the cleanest air and water in the world.” (Pants on fire!) Tapper, to his credit, responded: “It’s not true.”

Dahr Jamail, the author of *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption*, remarked that, “it’s certainly not a surprise that these fossil fuel stooges of this administration would react exactly as Pence just did.” (Democracy Now! broadcast July 15, 2019). Meanwhile, a senior State Department intelligence analyst recently resigned in protest after the Trump administration blocked parts of his written testimony to Congress about the dangers of climate change. Amy Goodman (host of Democracy Now) noted that part of the analyst’s censored testimony said: “Absent extensive mitigating factors or events we see few plausible future scenarios where significant—possibly catastrophic—harm does not arise from the compounded effects of climate change.” (Well, who wants to listen to boring and depressing stuff like that?)

At the recent United Nations summit in Poland, the renowned environmentalist David Attenborough spoke of the possible “collapse of our civilization and the extinction of much of the natural world.” How can the media do better at covering this? Bill Moyers was asked to respond to this question at a conference at the Columbia Journalism School on April 30. Moyers pointed out that, “the Goliaths of the U.S. News media.... have been shamelessly AWOL....The combined coverage of climate change by the three major networks and Fox fell from just 260 minutes in 2017 to a mere 142 minutes

in 2018....Many outlets have ignored or misreported the climate story....”

Moyers concluded: “We journalists have perhaps our last chance to help people grasp the magnitude of the threat.” He told a story about Edward R. Murrow and the young reporters he hired to staff CBS Radio in Europe on the eve of World War II. The journalists saw the threat posed by the Nazis, and they struggled to get the attention of the American public back home. In September of 1939, with Europe hours away from going up in flames, the powers at CBS in New York ordered Murrow and Shirer to feature an entertainment broadcast spotlighting dance music from nightspots in London, Paris and Hamburg. The reason was that there was so much bad news out of Europe, they wanted some good news. Finally, Murrow decreed, “the hell with those bastards in New York. It may cost us our jobs, but we’re just not going to do it.” And they didn’t. They defied the bosses—and gave CBS one of the biggest stories in the 20th century: the invasion of Poland. (An abridged version of Moyers’ speech was printed in *The Nation* July 15/22, 2019.)

Bill McKibben told his friend Bill Moyers that, because of the emerging leadership among young people, there is an opportunity to dramatically change the zeitgeist—“to lock in and consolidate public opinion that’s finally beginning to come into focus.”

The networks may fear low ratings. We may fear boring our family and friends, but there is an inconvenient truth to tell and we must speak it.

These days when we talk about preservation of the environment, whether we mean the wildlife, forests, oceans, rivers or mountains, ultimately the decision to act must come from our hearts. So, the key point, I think, is for all of us to develop a genuine sense of universal responsibility, not only towards this beautiful blue planet that is our home, but also towards the innumerable sentient beings with whom we share it

The 14th Dalai Lama

I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?

Robert Redford

ACTIVITIES

September 5 Thursday Verdugo Hills

O: Glendale Evening Urban Walk

This walk will be through the hills between Chevy Chase Cyn and Pasadena. 5 mi, 800' gain. Meet 6:30 pm at the corner of Chevy Chase and Figueroa in La Canada. Bring water, optional flashlight, layers. Leaders David F Eisenberg, Bruce Hale.

September 9 Monday

Hike Marina Del Rey

Enjoy an easy paced hike through Marina Del Rey. See Ballona Lagoon, Mothers Beach, and Ballona Creek. Wear comfortable shoes and bring \$ for lunch. Heavy rain or 90+ temp. cancels. Meet 8:30 am at ride share poing or 10:00 at Marquesa Way and Via Dolce. Park on street on Marquesa or Via Dolce. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Carol Henning, Charlotte Feitshans, Delphine Trowbridge

October 7 Monday

Monthly Meeting

Enjoy a program from our own Annette and Doug about a recent trip to Sydney Australia, New Zealand and Moorea. Enjoy the sites and stories of the "land down under". Everyone is welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. Program starts at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta). Enter from the back. Handicapped accessible

October 18 Friday Verdugo Hills

O: Glendale Evening Urban Walk

This walk will be on the Eagle Rock side of the Glendale Fwy. 5 mi, 600' gain. Meet 6:30 pm at Eagle Rock Plaza. Park on the upper level on the corner of Colorado Blvd and Sierra Villa Dr (near the Target). Bring water, optional flashlight, layers. Leaders David F Eisenberg, Bruce Hale.

November 1 Friday

O: Custom Tour of the LA Zoo and Botanic Gardens

Join us for a tour of the LA Zoo and Botanic Gardens with Bruce Hale, a zoo volunteer, as your guide. The LAZ is one of the best municipal zoos covering 133 acres across from the Autry Museum, having over 1600 animals and 800 plant species. The LAZ has an important role in preservation and conversation of wildlife, and education as well as recreation [these are the classic functions of zoos]. Meet at 10 am upon the opening of the zoo just inside the front entrance after you have paid your admission [adult 21; senior 18]. The zoo's address: 5333 Zoo Drive in the NE part of Griffith Park. We will explore the various sections of the zoo. Our tour can be customized according to the group's interests. Bring money for optional lunch at one of the dining spots. Wear comfortable shoes for walking and a hat. Leaders: Bruce Hale, David Eisenberg.

November 4 Monday

Monthly Meeting

Mysteries of Easter Island presented by Bruce Hale from his recent visit to this isolated island, now part of Chile, in the middle of the Pacific. Learn about the Rapanui people who first arrived on the island around the 5th century AD. Today descendants still live on the tiny island and are proud of their heritage. The Rapanui reflect a story of survival. They are famous for the huge stone statues on the island facing the sea. What purpose are these statues? How did the Rapanui move them from the quarry? How did the Rapanui navigate their canoes over 2000 miles on the Pacific? Why were these statues knocked down? Are any of Thor Heyerdahl's theories correct? Who cut down the last tree? Bruce will discuss these and other topics while showing pictures of the islands and statues. Everyone is welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. Program starts at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta). Enter from the back. Handicapped accessible.

ACTIVITIES

November 29 Friday

Verdugo Hills

O: Glendale Urban Walk

Burn off the Thanksgiving Calories with a walk through the Glendale Forrest Lawn. Forest Lawn features many reproductions of classic art and two museums. 5 mi, 300' gain. Meet 9 am the entrance parking lot opposite the information booth (1712 S Glendale Ave, Glendale). Bring water, layers. Rain cancels the hike but we will tour the museums instead. Leaders: David F Eisenberg, Bruce Hale

December 2

Monday

Monthly Meeting

"A Visit to the land of the Incas" by David Eisenberg. David spent 12 days visiting Peru and Bolivia. Visit Cusco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and Bolivia. Enjoy the photographs and stories from this beautiful and historic country. Everyone is welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. Program starts at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta). Enter from the back. Handicapped accessible

December 12 Thurs

O: Mission Inn, Festival of Lights

Enjoy a docent led tour of the Historic Mission Inn in Riverside as it's decked out in all it's holiday splendor. When darkness falls prepare for one of the best holiday light shows ever as the Inn and nearby Riverside decorate for the occasion. Meet 1 pm. Reservations required, space is limited so sign up early. Send sase/email \$17 to Evelyn Alexander no later than November 14. Wear comfortable shoes, bring \$ for dinner . Ldr: Evelyn Alexander, Co Ldr David Eisenberg.

December 13 Friday

Verdugo Hills

O: Glendale Evening Urban Walk

The evening view of Glendale is enhanced by the clear air and the holiday lights. This evening we will walk the foothill roads on the south side of Verdugo Peak. 5 mi, 900' gain. Meet at the corner of N Brand Blvd and Mountain St. Bring water, optional flashlight, layers. Rain cancels.

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

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/ or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

Concerned about...

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

Get involved on a grass roots level.

Join the Verdugo Hills Group of the Sierra Club.

Already a member? Then become more active

✓Join our round table group ✓Participate in our activities

Contact Verdugo Hills Group Chair Delphine Trowbridge

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Volunteers Needed
Verdugo Hills Group is
looking for hike leaders,
event planners/leaders,
committee members, etc.
If you would like to help
in directing our wonderful
group, please talk to
our membership chair,
JUDY ANDERSON

**All links are live. You can email leaders or visit
websites by clicking on a link.
Email and Phone info is not available in the web version to
protect privacy.
To contact leaders or for more information on our Group,
email VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com.**

VERDUGO VIEWS

Meetings

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

Web Page

angeles.sierraclub.org/verdugo

Support Committee

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

- Delphine Trowbridge..... Chair/Mailing/
Alternate Chapter Delegate/
Hospitality
- David F Eisenberg..... Vice Chair/Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
- Carol Henning..... Co-Conservation/
Chapter Delegate/Political
- Charlotte Feitshans Secretary
- Michael Beck..... Climate Change
- Annette Kargodorian Treasurer
- Judy Anderson Membership/Treas Asst/
Co-Conservation/Publicity
- Gene & Terry Paulin Political Advisor
- Bruce Hale..... Outings
- Manoosh Yeremian..... Co-Outings
- Garen Yegparian..... Political Compliance
- Evelyn Alexander Programs
- Dotty & Mike Sandford..... Fundraising
- Lucile Davis..... Social Secretary
- Patricia Morrison Social Media

Conservation Round Table

Carol Henning, Michael Beck, Gene Paulin, Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge, Judy Anderson, Charlotte Feitshans


Submission Instructions

Deadlines are the 15th of even numbered months (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec).

Send stories by email (preferably) to:


Send pictures by email at full resolution. Email if you wish to make arrangements to scan a picture

Membership



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

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



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

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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

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

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