



November, 2019



SIERRA
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Annual Chapter PAC Fundraiser, August 11, 2019

By Bruce Hale

The annual PAC fundraiser took place in the City of Orange on August 11th. David, Garen and Bruce attended on behalf of VHG. Maybe about a total of 150 attended, including sponsors and local dignitaries. The purpose of these yearly gatherings is, of course, to raise money to support pro-environmental candidates, but also to recognize officials who have demonstrated their strong commitment to protect our environment. This year the five awardees [see the picture taken by David] included State Senator Connie Leyva of the Inland Empire, the entire Santa Monica City Council, Mayor Ross Chun of Aliso Viejo, Councilmember Glenn Parker of Brea, and Felicia Marcus, former chair of the State Water Resources Board.

Before the award presentations, the attendees had over an hour to network and eat various munchies. It is always fun to see members we don't see very often. The site, Woman's Club of Orange, was well-suited for the event [except those of us from VHG would prefer a location in LA county, but it was good to let Orange County have its turn]. Once underway, the speeches turned out to be nicely concise. Below are some highlights:

Beth Krom, former mayor of Irvine, gave the welcome. She read a poem ending with the phrase, "The Sierra Club is for you." She mentioned that in OC, Sierra Club-endorsed candidates have had a 72% success rate. It is important to know that voters are willing to take a pro-environment stand. As Mayor Chun said, this is not about a boutique issue, -- it is our future.

State Sen. Leyva authored a bill in 2016 to require lead-free drinking water; SB 427 was signed into law by Gov Brown in 2017. She also authored a bill which will prioritize clean water in schools. Earlier this year, she introduced SB 210 to get the most polluting big truck rigs off California roads. Gov. Newsom is expected to sign it when it reaches his desk. Over the next decade,



SB 210 will assist in the removal of approximately 1,600 tons of harmful particulate matter, equivalent to taking 375,000 trucks off the roads in the state. Leyva told the audience, "You can count on me!"

The Santa Monica City Council adopted its first comprehensive sustainability plan in 1994. Updated 2020 targets include the reduction of community greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels at a cost of one billion over a 10 year period. Despite the obstacles, the SMCC remains committed to green leadership.

Councilmember Parker of Brea has pushed for protection of the Chino Hills, advocated for the Chino Hills State Park, and for a wildlife corridor.

The program ended with a show of mutual appreciation as the audience gave great applause to the awardees who in turn thanked the Sierra Club for support. The overall message is that we can make a difference even when the deck is stacked against us.

CONSERVATION

Verdugo Hills Golf Course

By Lisa Morris

I am a longtime Sierra Club member and Foothill resident. Many of you are familiar with the Verdugo Hills Golf Course at the corner of La Tuna Canyon and Rd. and Tujunga Canyon Blvd., next to the 210 freeway and a developer's efforts in getting this pristine property rezoned to allow for the construction of 215 homes (current zoning allows for 20 homes). To achieve that, the developer would have to remove 29 mature oak trees! Sure, they've agreed to mitigate the loss by planting 5 new oak seedlings for each tree taken out. That is an unacceptable exchange. Not to mention other environmental impacts on water, traffic, wildfire management and evacuation efforts, wildlife, etc. Now, we are asking residents who oppose this project, to attend the next PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management Committee) meeting to voice your objections to this zoning change. It is our goal to maintain this property as open space, or only allow what it is currently zoned for.

The next PLUM committee meeting is continued until December 10. Contact Lisa Morris for more information ().

The Case for a Local Polystyrene (Styrofoam™) Ban

By David Eisenberg

There are currently 120 local ordinances restricting expanded polystyrene in the United States. (These include Pasadena, South Pasadena, and San Diego). Burbank and Los Angeles, and LA County are working on bans. We are now working to add Glendale to this list.

- Styrene is classified as a known hazardous substance (many ties to cancer. Especially when paired with liquid and heat, a polystyrene container's toxins (like benzene and styrene) seep into its contents).
- The polystyrene industry is the 5th largest creator of toxic wastes in the USA.
- It is extremely easy for polystyrene to end up in the environment because it is so light and crumbles easily.
- Polystyrene breaks down into microscopic styrenes and other harmful chemicals that linger in the soil and water. (It's an especially serious problem in our

world's oceans. It's a "principal litter," meaning that it's everywhere).

- Styrene leaches from landfills into our drinking water causing liver, kidney, or circulatory system problems (EPA).
- Polystyrene recycling is rarely actually done. (While technically feasible, the cost [monetary and environmental] of shipping to the few facilities that do outweigh the benefits).
- Polystyrene is not accepted at our Glendale recycling facility, (It is a common contaminant there, where it breaks into bits and falls off the line. It then needs to be transported to the landfill).

Contact VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com if you would like to be involved in this process.

Double, Double Toil and Trouble, Fire Burn and

by Carol Henning

Thus chanted the witches in *Macbeth* as they added ingredients to their cauldron. (Those included eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog.) In case your appetite is aroused, don't hunt for a snack yet. First, take a minute to contemplate the fires in California. Last year's fire season was the deadliest and most destructive on record.

Actually, though, the deadliest fire in L.A. City's history, up to and beyond 1996, occurred in Griffith Park. The year was 1933, and the Great Depression had hit. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation loaned Los Angeles the money to pay unemployed workers hired by the L.A. County Department of Charities to work in Griffith Park, clearing brush and building roads. Shortly after 2 p.m. on October 3, smoke was seen rising from Mineral Wells Canyon. The burn area was not piped for water so the workers tried to beat the fire out with their shovels. Since the men were not trained fire fighters, they didn't know how fast flames could travel through dry grass and brittle trees. When the wind shifted, the fire broke loose and came at the workers. Men ran directly away from the flames, up and out of the canyon. But many could not outrun the advancing flames. By day's end, 29 men (or more) were dead.

CONSERVATION

In November, 1933, a deodar tree and a bronze plaque were placed at the Vermont Avenue entrance to the park. However, the plaque disappeared during the ensuing years. Finally, a new memorial, paid for by the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust, was installed in Griffith Park on October 26 this year. A dedication ceremony took place in the area above Amir's Garden, which overlooks Mineral Wells Canyon.

As I wrote about the blaze in Griffith Park 86 years ago, fires were raging in the northwest San Fernando Valley. I could smell the smoke. Many years of drought, rain earlier in the year, new growth, enough time without rain to dry out the vegetation, a hot summer, Santa Ana winds—all lead to fires, more fires, bigger fires. More than 17,000 homes were destroyed during last year's fire season. (This is only the number of humans' homes. One can never know the number of animals that were burned up, along with THEIR homes.) Media coverage of fires still contains little mention of the causes of these fires. These causes, besides mismanagement of wildlands and real estate developers who show not only disregard for local ecology, but what Mike Davis calls "malice toward the landscape" (*City of Quartz*, Vintage, 1992), include that elephant in the room—global warming. This past July was the hottest month ever recorded. In Alaska, the water in the Kuskokwim River grew so warm that salmon appear to have died from heart attacks. The temperature has risen as high as 129 degrees Fahrenheit in big cities in recent summers. "The human body can survive that, but only for a few hours," observes Bill McKibben in *The Nation* magazine (October 7, 2019).

Last October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists of the United Nations said we have 12 years (now 11) in which to slash the emissions on this planet in half in order to retain a livable world. To do that, we need fundamental transformation in the economic sector, as well as in energy, transportation, construction, agriculture, land management and media. As Mark Hertsgaard, environment correspondent for *The Nation* points out: "...the media is the key to political consciousness. And if you don't have media coverage of the climate crisis, you will never have the public awareness and the public pressure that, frankly, is needed to get governments and corporations to do what is required to

face up to this climate crisis." Hertsgaard adds that U.N. Secretary-General Guterres called the Climate Action Summit that took place in New York City on September 23 because "governments around the world are not living up to the pledges that they made in Paris in December 2015." President Trump says he pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement but, in fact, the U.S. cannot leave until one day after the 2020 presidential election. (Let us pause for a moment of prayer.) Hertsgaard believes we are still "on track to way over two degrees, probably between three and five degrees of temperature rise, which would be an absolute catastrophe." (Democracy Now! broadcast, September 16, 2019)

When the world leaders gathered for the Climate Action Summit they were addressed by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, who did not mince words when she reminded the delegates that, "For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight?" Bill McKibben says we, the people, must act "because our governments move with such painful slowness, treating climate change as, at worst, one problem on a long list." (*The Nation* magazine, October 7, 2019) Alden Meyer, the director of strategy and policy for the Union of Concerned Scientists reminds us that, "From the scientific perspective, the atmosphere is not impressed by speeches and plans. It's only driven by emissions." (Ibid)

The group Extinction Rebellion recently initiated two weeks of protests in 60 cities worldwide. With acts of civil disobedience, they demanded urgent government action on the climate crisis. They glued themselves to buildings, blocked roads and occupied public landmarks. The reason for these actions was, as one protester put it, "to interrupt the flow of normality because it is that flow that is carrying us towards disaster." Extinction Rebellion co-founder, Gail Bradbrook, explains that, "for Westerners like myself that sit in a degree of...privilege... there's something about consumer capitalism that both traumatizes us and then offers us a lot of comforts to stay quiet...and to just keep our heads down...." (Democracy Now! broadcast October 8, 2019)

CONSERVATION

Naomi Klein, interviewed about her new book, *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*, discussed the instinct most humans have to mirror each other, to look to one another for social cues to tell us how to act. This can be a problem because “we live in a culture, in an economy that, on the one hand is telling us we’re in the middle of this existential emergency...but then, the next minute, it’s like, well go shopping; watch a makeup tutorial on YouTube; imitate celebrities... and politicians talking about pretty much everything, except for this...you’re getting very conflicting messages... hearing a message that it’s a crisis, but everywhere I look, I’m getting the opposite message: ‘Everything is fine. Continue as usual.’ (Democracy Now! broadcast September 17, 2019)

Greta Thunberg has Asperger’s, which puts her on the Autism spectrum. Many people on the spectrum do not have the instinct to mirror others. Instead, they trust their initial instinct, which tells them the climate crisis is an emergency. They wonder why everyone else seems so complacent. Bill McKibben says, “Money is the oxygen on which the fire of global warming burns.” Exactly. Greta, admonishing the delegates at the U.N. Climate Summit, spoke with emotion: “People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you?”

Are you mad as Hell yet? If so, what are you going to do about it? Are you ready to lace up your shoes, grab your poster and your superglue and get out in the streets? (If you decided to glue yourself to a building, which one would you choose?)

Help Save Paper

Get your Verdugo Views by email

See pictures in full color.

Use the search feature
(Requires Acrobat Reader)

Send an email to Verdugo Hills
Group:

VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com



The Mission Inn Holiday Light Show Thursday, December 12

Tour the fabulous and historic Mission Inn in Riverside See the Inn and the town as they are decorated in their holiday splendor. Visit the nearby UC Riverside Museum of Photography.



Rain or Shine. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water. Sign up by November 14.

Send SASE/email and \$20.00 to:

Evelyn Alexander

837 N Parish Pl.

Burbank, CA 91506

Ldrs. Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg



ACTIVITIES

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.

November 11 Monday

Verdugo Hills

O: Upper Franklin Canyon

Easy paced hike around Franklin Canyon Lake and heavenly pond including several nature trails. See the William O Douglas Outdoor Classroom. Explore an oasis of nature's beauty in the middle of the city. Bring water, lugsoles, and money for optional lunch after. Meet 9:20 at Verdugo Hills Rideshare point – 10:00 at the Sooky Goodman nature center 2600 Franklin Cyn Dr, Franklin Canyon. Heavy rain or extreme heat [90+] cancels. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge, Carol Henning

November 22 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 conservation 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 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

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.

ACTIVITIES

December 12 Thursday

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 decorates for the occasion. We will also visit the nearby California Museum of Photography or Riverside Metropolitan Museum. Meet 11:30 at Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 12:45 at the Mission Inn Museum 3696 Main St Riverside. Send sase/email \$20 to Evelyn Alexander no later than November 14. Space is limited so sign up early. Wear comfortable shoes, bring \$ for dinner and \$3 Entrance to the Museum of Photography. 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.

Jan 6

Mon

Verdugo Hills

Monthly Meeting

Carol Henning will present a program of pictures and stories about a recent trip to Newfoundland. Learn about the history, sites and people of Canada's most easterly province. . Meeting begins at 7:30 in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library [2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta, CA. There's plenty of parking, enter in the back or through the library. Handicapped accessible from the back.

February 3

Mon

Verdugo Hills

Monthly Meeting

This Month Michael Beck will present a twofer. The first part will capture some of the passion and hope of the climate strike movement. The second (a microcosm of what we're trying to save) will tour a few of the breathtaking landscapes of southwest Oregon – all quite different, yet equally glorious. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library [2809 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta, CA. There's plenty of parking, enter in the back or through the library. Handicapped accessible from the back.

February 10

Mon.

Verdugo Hills

O: Waterways of the Sepulveda Basin

Enjoy an easy paced walk around some of the nearby lakes and streams in the Sepulveda Basin Recreation area. See Lake Balboa, the Wildlife Reserve, Haskell Creek and the Los Angeles River in its natural state. Heavy rain cancels. Wear comfortable shoes. Bring \$ for optional lunch Meet at 9:15 am at the Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 10 am at the boat house at Lake Balboa, 6300 Balboa Blvd. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge, Carol Henning

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

VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com

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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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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX


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Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

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


Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

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

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