



**September 1, 2017**



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CLUB**  
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## **News and Notes**

By Delphine Trowbridge

**S**oon it will be fall, cooler weather and a full schedule of activities.

**W**e will elect officers for our Verdugo Hills Management board. We are always looking for new people. Our board meets about 4 times a year and plans our activities and what projects we donate money to. If you are interested please contact me, Delphine at 818-482-6146.

**W**e are also looking for new leaders for hikes and events. The Leadership training program for basic level (O) will hold their LTP seminar October 7, 2017. The location is Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Requirements for becoming a leader are:

- Current Sierra Club membership
- Participation on five Sierra Club trips or hikes
- Passing an open-book pre-seminar exam from the Leader's Reference Book (LRB)
- Attendance at an all-day LTP Seminar
- Completion of Red Cross Standard/Basic First Aid plus Adult CPR
- Satisfactory completion of a provisional outing.

If you are interested please contact Bruce Hale or Delphine Trowbridge. Applications must be received by September 23 and there is a \$25.00 fee.

**A**ngeles Chapter is offering an Environmental training in Seattle on October 27-29. This training is for Wildlands and Habitat protection. For further information and an application form: [goo.gl/forms/Zyll5kQDh9hE6Mh43](http://goo.gl/forms/Zyll5kQDh9hE6Mh43)

**B**ig Banks including Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup and Wells Fargo are eager enablers of our fossil fuel problem by funneling almost \$90 billion dollars of their customers' deposits into extreme fossil fuel projects and spend millions in campaign contributions and lobbyists. Verdugo Hills Group, at our August meeting, wrote a letter to B of A CEO about

supporting the Tar Sands Pipeline. One of the things we can do is change your banking and Verdugo Hills group will discuss changing where we bank.

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## **USS Iowa and Pt Fermin Lighthouse**

By Evelyn Alexander

**A**ugust 6 was a beautiful day and a group of 13 of us drove to San Pedro and toured the USS Iowa Museum and the Point Fermin Lighthouse. The USS Iowa is a retired American battleship that has seen action in World War 2, Korea and the Cold War. Decommissioned in 1990 she was donated to the nonprofit Los Angeles Pacific Battleship Center in 2011 and moved to her permanent home in San Pedro Harbor in 2012, where she was opened as a museum.

We were fortunate to be given unplanned private tour by a friend of Alicia Thompson [who she happened to meet there]. A former military man, our very knowledgeable guide told us all about the navy, the ship and its many parts. Since no one in our group had been in the Navy it was an education to learn about life on the ship, its history, the amazing array of missiles, guns and all the highly technical systems that run them.

We all scattered for lunch since the LAPD surprised us by closing streets and entrances to our planned meeting place at a restaurant. Fortunately there are plenty of places to eat in San Pedro. Thanks to cellphones all but two of us met at the lighthouse after lunch.



# NEWS & NOTES



Again we were lucky to have a wonderful docent [an historian] to give us the tour, tell us about its history, explain its inner workings and show us the many artifacts in the building.

The Point Fermin Light House was built in 1874 and was the first navigational light in the area. Phineas Banning [harbor founder] and other local businessmen petitioned the federal government to provide a light to help guide ships into the harbor. We learned about the keepers, their lives and most interestingly to me, how many of them were women.

San Pedro is not terribly far and over the years we've visited some of its interesting sites such as Fort MacArthur, the International Bird Rescue Center and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. It's especially nice to visit during summer when it's usually many degrees cooler than the Valley or much of the city.



## Chapter-Sponsored China-Tibet Trip of May 2017 Part II: China Panda Yangtze Adventure

By Bruce Hale with photography by David Eisenberg

Our first stop in Xining after disembarking the train from Lhasa is a local Muslim street market. The vendors sell many interesting breads. A stringy yellow bread, actually a form of noodle, is popular for breakfast here. But the important stop for the morning is the Taer Monastery located on a hillside outside of the city. The



Park in Center of Xining



Taer Monastery, Zining

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exhibit for which Taer is most famous, the yak butter sculpture, still remains closed. It is being redone. The Temple of Longevity is open on the campus and is a favorite with me. In the afternoon we tour the Tibetan Museum of Medical Culture in Xining. Medical history here goes back 3800 years. The museum includes many charts hundreds of years old depicting traditional remedies. In addition, the museum displays the largest Tanka in the world. The Tanka presents by paintings the entire history of Tibet in 680 meters. It required 27 years to create the huge Tanka 20 years ago.

From Xining, we fly to Chengdu in order to visit the pandas at the Giant Panda Research and Breeding Center on the outskirts of the city. We arrive at the center at 8:30 am to avoid the crowds. The GPRBC is very much like a glorified specialty zoo. But it is done nicely and offers ample opportunities to see pandas, especially on an overcast, damp morning like this one. The facility no longer offers visitors the chance to have a photo taken with a panda [for a large fee] because of risk of spreading disease to pandas. We do see a good amount of panda activity during our 3-hour visit.

Some panda facts: Pandas age 3 times faster than humans. They weigh up to 120 lbs. They eat up to 40 lbs. of bamboo per day. But their primitive digestive systems are inefficient, so the center has to give pandas vitamins. Pandas do not reproduce easily [But last year the GPRBC had 24 babies]. Finally, despite looking so cute and cuddly, pandas are in fact asocial and solitary.



**Giant Panda Research and Breeding Center, Chengdu**



**Cruise Ships Docked at Fengdu**

The Yangtze River (about 4000 miles long) is the third longest river in the world after the Nile and Amazon. The Yangtze River Basin is where one of three Chinese live. We board our Yangtze River cruise ship the Victoria Jenna at the dock in Chongqing. We took the high speed rail line [travels at about 160 – 175 mph] from Chengdu. Interestingly, the cruise line is American-owned. The Jenna accommodates up to 388 passengers with 150 crew. The ship must be about 50 years old but is well-maintained. As the Jenna sets sail, we enjoy the skyline of Chongqing, an international industrial center of over 33 million. For example, Ford and Suzuki manufacture vehicles here. In fact, for Ford, Chongqing is the largest manufacturing location outside of Detroit.

Our first port stop is the town of Fengdu, known for Mount Mingshan, which classic Chinese poets like Li Bai wrote about during the Tang Dynasty. That afternoon the Jenna stops at ShiBaoZhai where we tour the historic pagoda on the cliff dating originally to 1722.

Docking the next morning at Fengjie, the Jenna offers a tour of the island of Baidicheng, known as “the White Emperor’s City.” The fortress dates originally to 25 AD. The name was given by the emperor on the basis that some smoke at the spot was emitted in the shape of a dragon. There is a lot of history at this site having to do with “the Three Emperors,” and the paying out of revenge and loyalty. The site has an important strategic position at the narrow entrance to the Qutang Gorge of the Yangtze River. The Qutang entrance is the scene on the 10 yuan bill. When the water level of the river rose from the Three Gorges Dam in 2003, 50,000 residents

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of Fengjie had to be relocated to higher ground and the peninsula became an island.

The Qutang Gorge is the shortest one of the three gorges. The Wu Gorge is the longest one and offers the most scenic vistas from the ship. There are tiny villages perched on the cliffs. There are also coffins hanging from caves on the cliffs from ancient dwellers 2000 years ago. Shapes of stone formations give rise to names. The Jenna stops at the mouth of the little side gorge of a tributary called “the Goddess Stream.” The limestone karst wall of the cliff here displays an interesting stacking of rocks.

We arrive at the Three Gorges Dam near the city of Yichang the final morning. The dam rises about 600 feet with a width of 131 feet as it spans 7660 feet across the third gorge, Xiling Gorge. The reservoir covers 405 sq ft. The Jenna is too big to take the lift. So, everyone disembarks into a smaller ship to take us through the lift which lowers the ship by 145 meters to the downstream part of the Yangtze in only 45 minutes instead of the 3 hours required to go through 5 locks. The ship lift, really a big elevator, opened last year. The dam itself took 17 years to build, and cost over 30 billion by the time it opened in 2006. The cost, however, was recouped in less than 10 years. It solved the problem of yearly flooding. For example, in 1953, bad flooding killed over 30,000 inhabitants of the basin. The dam allows 10,000 ton ocean freighters to sail up the river into the interior of China. The dam’s 32 generators produce more electricity than 18 nuclear power plants. Yichang is a hydroelectric center. But our guide told us that electricity rates are uniform throughout China.



**Ship Lift at the Three Gorges Dam**

Although the dam prevents flooding and reduces China’s emissions in electrical generation, the dam remains controversial. Its construction forced the relocation of 1.3 million inhabitants. Resettlement, in turn, rapidly deforested land and led to erosions and landslides. The rise in water level also meant that archeological sites are now forever underwater. The reservoir tends to fill with sediment and retain industrial pollutants. Regardless of the negatives, however, the Three Gorges Dam is another reflection of China’s ascendancy in the 21st century.



**Performance at the Goddess Stream**

## Our Environment in the Trump Era

By Evelyn Alexander

**O**n August 7, we were fortunate to have a speaker from Congressman Adam Schiff’s office to bring us up to date about some of the changes and planned changes coming from the new administration. Patty Horton, Schiff’s long-time deputy and campaign manager, gave us an update and made some suggestions on how we

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can, as people concerned with our environment, fight to protect against these changes.

In congress this session over 350 pieces of legislation have been introduced that have something to do with environmental protection. In the house so far 194 bills have been presented [including one to abolish the EPA] and 25 have been passed.

They have included:

**HR1431 THE EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2017** which would prevent EPA scientists from recommending or developing any policies without a vetting of the science, using only “Best Science” to encourage conflicting information and to review only those policies rated as having the most economic importance.

**HR 1029- THE PESTICIDE REGISTRATION ACT** which would streamline the approval or denial of new pesticides based on Public Health and Economic importance.

**HR 953 – REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT.** Would prohibit the EPA from requiring permits for dumping pesticides and fungicides that are already registered with the Federal Government for use, without limits to amount, as long as it comes from a pipe or culvert. This could include TCP.

**HR 1873 - ELECTRICITY RELIABILITY AND FOREST PROTECTION ACT.** Would allow utilities to clear cut using the excuse that they are preventing tree branches from hitting power lines, therefore preventing wildfires, [although wildfires cause by contact with utility lines account for 1/3 of 1% of wildfires]. The bill allows private utilities to use their own vegetation management without having to submit a plan to the Forest Service or any other Federal agency.

Some of the suggestions that Horton mentioned that we might use to fight these threats to our environment are:

- Continue writing and calling elected officials. Take note of those officials who vote yes of these issues and try to hold them accountable.
- Talk to your neighbors and friends.
- Be better consumers of environmental policy. If we shop, patronize and vote for those who uphold sustainable environmentally conscious plans that

will be the economic model going forward. If we look for short term gains such as a TV that cost \$149 dollars from China, businesses and government will give us what we want. Focus on long term strategy.

- Highlight local businesses that are doing the right thing.
- Share on social media votes that you disagree with.
- Promote inexpensive ways to support and practice sustainability.
- Support local food banks in their efforts to introduce locally grown produce into their client’s daily lives.

Lastly if you would like to reach Patty Horton directly she gave us her email and business phone: .

## Volunteers Needed

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

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

**If you would like to help in directing our wonderful group, please talk to our membership chair, JUDY ANDERSON ()**

## Help Save Paper

**Get your Verdugo Views by email!**

**This issue has an additional page of pictures in the online version**

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

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

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All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. 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/](http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/) or contact the Outings Department at for a printed version.



# ACTIVITIES

**Have a Happy Labor Day. No meeting in September**

**Oct 2            Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

We are pleased to present a program entitled, Recycling More Important than Ever. Amy Hammes from the Burbank Recycling Center will talk about spaces in our landfills, waste hierarchy and how we can reduce and reuse. A 10-minute video with highlights from Al Gore movie will be presented. (The program, Great Hikes Nearby will be presented early in 2018) Everyone welcome at 7:00 for social time. Meet at La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta). Enter from door in the rear parking lot. Handicapped accessible.

**Oct 17           Tuesday**

## **Hike in beautiful Griffith Park**

We will hike from Greek Theater to the Enchanted Forest, have a picnic lunch and hike back. Meet 10 am by the restrooms across from the Greek Theater. Bring sandwich, water and wear lug sole shoes. Hike is 2 miles with some gain. Leaders: Delphine Trowbridge, Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale.

**Nov 6            Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

David Eisenberg recently spent 6 weeks touring Australia; riding trains, visiting botanic gardens, looking for birds and seeing the sights. Some of the places he went include Darwin, Alice Springs, Uluru, Sydney, Perth and Kangaroo Island. Join Verdugo Hills for David's program of pictures and stories. Everyone welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. The meeting will begin at 7:30 in the auditorium of the La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta). Enter from rear door. Handicapped accessible.

**Nov 21           Tuesday**

## **Hollywood Reservoir**

Revisit the lovely and shaded Hollywood Reservoir. Enjoy seeing the views and beautiful homes nearby. Wear comfortable shoes. Bring \$ for lunch. Meet at 8:45 am at the Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 10:00 at the entrance on Lake Hollywood Drive. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, Charlotte Feitshans.

**Dec 4            Monday**

## **Monthly Meeting**

Michael Beck will present another wonderful show about our beautiful red woods. Everyone welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. The meeting will begin at 7:30 in the auditorium of the La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta). Enter from rear door. Handicapped accessible.

**Dec 21           Thursday**

## **A holiday walk in Los Feliz**

We will hike up in the hills and enjoy the great views and holiday decorations. Meet 4 pm at the end of Commonwealth off Los Feliz Blvd. Park on the street. After our walk, we will go to the Tam to continue celebrating the season. Serious rain cancels. Ldrs: Carol Henning, Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, Charlotte Feitshans.

**Jan 6            Saturday**

## **A Taste of Westwood**

Visit the Hammer Museum, famous for its collections of traditional and contemporary paintings and drawings. Stroll over the Westwood Cemetery where many famous people are buried, such as Marilyn Monroe, Dean Martin, Bert Lancaster and Natalie Wood. Meet at 10:00 am at the Verdugo Hills Rideshare point or 11:00 at the Museum 10899 Wilshire Blvd. Entrance to the Museum is free. Parking cost is \$6.00 for first 3 hours (with validation) and \$3.00 for every 20 minutes after, with a maximum of \$20.00. Wear comfortable shoes, bring money for lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale

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

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



**To contact leaders or for more information on our Group, email [VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com).**

# VERDUGO VIEWS

## Meetings

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

## Web Page

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

## Support Committee

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

Delphine Trowbridge.....Chair/Mailing

Marlene Vella ..... Vice Chair

Carol Henning..... Co-Conservation/  
Chapter Delegate

Charlotte Feitshans .....Secretary/  
Alternate Chapter Delegate

Michael Beck.....Climate Change/Hospitality

Annette Kargodorian ..... Treasurer

Judy Anderson .....Membership/Treas Asst

David F Eisenberg..... Newsletter Editor

Gene & Terry Paulin ..... Political Advisor

Bruce Hale.....Outings

Susana Reyes .....Political

Garen Yegparian.....Political Compliance

Evelyn Alexander .....Publicity/Programs

Dotty & Mike Sandford..... Fundraising

Lucile Davis.....Social Secretary

Richard Castro..... Webmaster

## Conservation Round Table

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

## Submission Instructions


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

Send stories by email (preferably) to:

Send pictures by email 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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**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint	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.
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A	Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org
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	

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