



January 1, 2018



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892



Our Staircase Garden

By Evelyn Alexander

We began working on the garden by the Corralitos staircase in 2015. This photo shows the progress we have made since then. For those of us who were involved it meant many hours of weeding, planting and watering. It is still a work in progress but a very satisfying one.

Many thanks to the Angeles Chapter foundation for their generous grant through which we have been able to buy plants and professional assistance. Many thanks also to all of our members who have contributed their time and energy to this project. If you would like to join us we are always looking for others to become involved. Let Delphine, Evelyn, Judy, Carol or Michael know and we will let you know the next time we're planning to get together.

News and Notes

By Delphine Trowbridge

We are ready for January 2018 to launch another successful year of informative programs and not so vigorous but enjoyable hikes, car camps and events.

Verdugo Hills Group celebrated the Holidays with a social gathering for board members, hike leaders and their guests. We had a great Happy Hour followed

by a Fabulous Potluck with all sorts of goodies. Michael Beck and Annette Kargodorian did a fantastic job with the White Elephant and the gift items were well chosen. Everyone had a great time.



NEWS & NOTES

Bhutan, A Most Distinctive Kingdom

By Bruce Hale

I participated, along with as many as 23 other Sierra Club members, in an almost month-long Chapter-sponsored trip to Nepal and Bhutan this fall. Fred and Stephanie led the adventure; we were assisted by guides, drivers and porters as well. The itinerary rolled out without glitch or accident. The adventure was an extraordinary experience which few Americans ever undertake. This is the first of 3 articles: the trip had 3 parts. I will start with the kingdom of Bhutan; next I will describe sightseeing in Nepal; the last article will focus on trekking in the foothills of the Annapurna Range.

Bhutan, "Land of the dragon," is so distinctive. The dragon is also on the national flag. The nickname comes from the ferocious storms which sometimes blow down from the Himalayas. Completely landlocked, and slightly smaller than Switzerland, Bhutan is squeezed between India and China. To be different, among other things, Bhutan has its own time zone. It is a Kingdom as it has a king, an enlightened, young king who is close to the people. He readily mixes with the common people and seems to have their interests at heart and is very popular among them. The constitution since 2008 provides for a democratic monarchy and provides for the gross domestic happiness [GDH]. This intriguing idea is more of a collective sense than at an individual level. But as part of the GDH, the government also promotes environmental responsibility. The strong environmental ethic is reflected in signs everywhere reminding people to act in environmentally responsible ways. In addition, I did not see a single person smoke. Sale of tobacco products is illegal.

The population is under 800,000. The GDP per capita is only 1,400.00. The main national source of revenue is selling hydroelectric power to India. The second source is tourism. The country is very religious; about 75% are Buddhists and 25% Hindus. Buddhism came from Tibet in the 8th century. Yet, in the past Bhutan and Tibet fought 6 times. Bhutan has never been a colony of any other power although it has a British connection (driving is also on the left). The Bhutanese do not believe

in killing. Thus, there are countless stray dogs everywhere. They are docile and generally friendly and lethargic. But sometimes groups of dogs would bark at night. A peculiar thing on doors and walls is lots of phallic symbols which are thought to offer protection. The national dress is also unusual, called the gyo for men and the kira for women. It looks highly impractical to me, but it is widely worn, and it is required for government workers, students, and at formal occasions. Our Bhutanese guide, whose name was Karma, always wore the gyo. The first king in the 18th century established this national dress to make the Bhutanese distinctive.

The food is more Indian than Chinese. Lots of dal and curried vegs and rice are typically on the menus. Bhutan raises crops particularly in the eastern part of the country. We did not get to the east beyond Thimphu. But we did see many picturesque, terraced fields of rice and millet. Bhutanese do not use much meat, except small pieces, especially chicken, as more of a flavoring agent than substantial main course. Chilies are often seen drying on roofs. A popular dish is called chili cheese. It can be really hot. It is more chili than cheese. It is delicious. Most of our group were afraid to try it.

The variety of bio-zones, flora and fauna in this little country amazed me. The valleys are subtropical. As we stayed in Paro and Thimphu, both in valleys, we enjoyed generally warm weather. But the passes in the Bhutanese Himalayas had cold temperatures. Then, there is everything in between the valleys and the Himalayas for a total of 12 bio-zones. The same characteristic is also true of Nepal. The national animal of Bhutan is the takin, a gentle hoofed animal, which lives in the Himalayas at over 3500 ft. We saw takin in a preserve in Paro. The consensus was that these peaceful animals are "cute."

We initially flew to Paro, Bhutan, well-known for its little airport with the short runway in the narrow Paro Valley. Landing was an interesting visual sensation. But the most noteworthy thing about our flight to me is the stunning view of Mt Everest which we enjoyed from the plane's windows. The largest city and capital is Thimphu [pop. 140,000]. It does not have an international airport. Tourists cannot just go to Bhutan on their own. They need to be part of an official tour in order to get the visa. They must spend at least 250.00/day pre-paid through

NEWS & NOTES

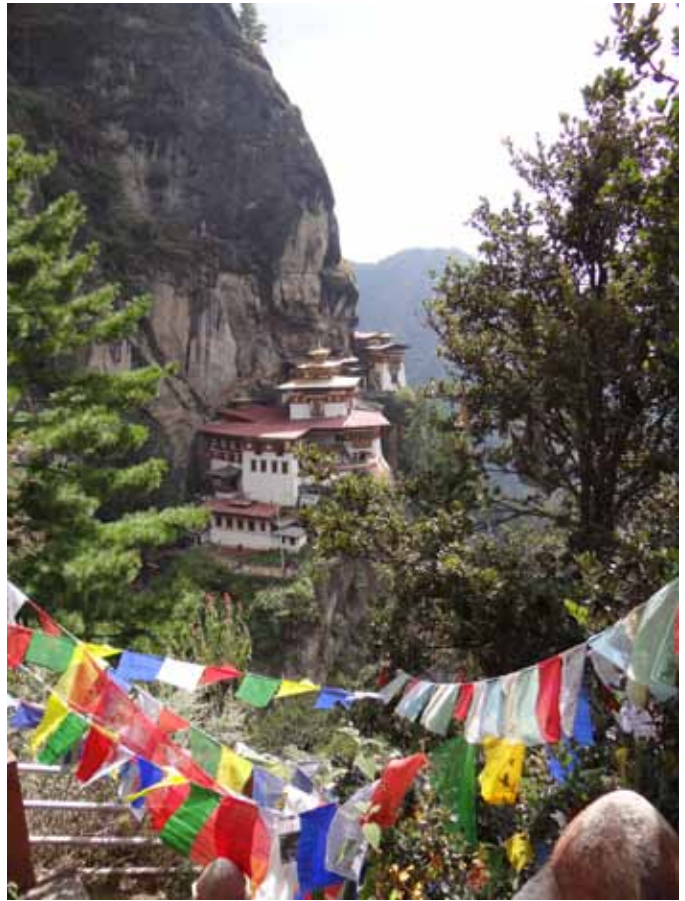


Mt Everest as seen from the window flying from Paro, Bhutan to Kathmandu, Nepal

their tour operator. The country has only been opened to tourism at all since the 1970s. The government remains wary of mass tourism as the Bhutanese still want to preserve their traditions.

During our week's stay, we enjoyed many sights and temples and monasteries and mountain peaks and passes in the Kingdom of Bhutan. I will mention only my favorite two temples/monasteries. One day we drove up to the Cheli La Mountain Pass at over 12,000 ft. There are many tall prayer flags, as the photo shows. The pass was very cold. We had lunch el fresco at a roadside turnout down from the pass, and enjoyed watching the jays and magpies attracted to the food. Then we went on to hike 3 km [1000' gain] to the Kila Nunnery, perched over the Paro Valley, built originally in the 13th century. Nuns were chanting when we arrived.

The other monastery is, of course, Tiger's Nest, one of the most iconic monasteries in the world, perched on



Tiger's Nest Monastery, one of the most famous in the world



Massive sitting Buddha statue against the afternoon sky, Paro Bhutan

a cliff at about 10,500 ft. The photo is taken from above the tea house where we enjoyed lunch on the way down. This Monastery is accessible only on foot or partly by horse. The route is over 2.5 miles to the site with a gain of



Local Bhutanese erecting new prayer flags at the Cheli Pass (over 12,000 ft)

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Cosmic Mandala, popular in Bhutan and often seen in monasteries

1700 ft. The name comes from a legend that the founder of Bhutan Buddhism flew here from Tibet on the back of a tiger in the 8th century and that he lived here in a cave for 3 months. The cave nowadays is opened only once a year. The cave is behind the altar of one of the 7 temples at Tiger's Nest.

By the way, Hindus and Buddhists share many temples. I found this ecumenism noteworthy as it shows that differing religious groups do not after all have to conflict with each other. The same is true in Nepal. Part II will describe Nepal. Both neighboring countries share similarities, but each is quite different.

Hold the Foam!

By Vicki Kirschenbaum

I don't mean your Starbucks latte. That kind of foam I like! I am talking about what we call Styrofoam, technically polystyrene. Locally, I've found that newer, hipper restaurants are going with more eco-friendly takeout containers, but plenty of businesses still stock the old white foam, despite health and environmental concerns. These days, many people are too busy to cook; they rely on food to go and are not in the habit of using reusable containers.

We live in a throw-away culture. Back in the 1920's, companies came up with what they called "planned obsolescence". What better way to maximize profits than to manufacture goods designed to have a short lifespan? Instead of being built to last, products would be made to fail

or to become unfashionable. Consumers would be forced to buy coats, refrigerators, and vehicles every few years instead of every decade.

The epitome of products with artificially limited useful lives? Disposable food packaging. Such containers are often used for only a few minutes before being thrown away. A manufacturer's dream come true!

Where does it all go? Truckloads are hauled to landfills. A small percentage is recycled, but a significant amount ends up along roadways, littering parkland, clogging rivers and streams. We've all seen those photos of plastics pollution in oceanic gyres. Nasty stuff. And at the top of the list among the pollutants causing the most harm to humans and wildlife is polystyrene.

What is so bad about that Styrofoam cup sitting by the office coffee pot? Polystyrene is toxic at every phase of its long existence (which is basically eternity). It's made from styrene, which is derived from petroleum. In factories, styrene adversely affects workers. According to the Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, "Long term exposure...can cause neurotoxic effects (fatigue, nervousness, difficulty sleeping), hematological effects (low platelet and hemoglobin values), cytogenetic effects (chromosomal and lymphatic abnormalities) and carcinogenic effects." Numerous carcinogens are found in polystyrene, including formaldehyde and benzene; hot or acidic foods coming in contact with polystyrene containers cause these chemicals to leach out. So, yes, we ingest formaldehyde and benzene along with our hot coffee!

And that Styrofoam cup's worst impacts occur after we're through with it. Recycling isn't economically feasible (though manufacturers will rant and rave that recycling is possible). It costs \$1,000 a ton for only a \$65 net gain. Polystyrene isn't biodegradable; it basically lasts forever. And the stuff is so lightweight that it escapes trash receptacles and landfills and crumbles into small pieces that are eaten by wildlife.

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Why haven't cities, states, and the country banned polystyrene disposables? Lobbying. Many attempts to ban polystyrene fail due to the concerted efforts of the American Chemical Council and Dart Container Corporation. The most recent attempt to ban polystyrene containers statewide in California did not pass in the legislature; a handful of Senators sat out the vote, possibly because they had received campaign contributions from Dart.

Fortunately, California cities are stepping up. Currently, 111 municipalities have instituted bans on polystyrene disposables, hoping to put pressure on the State. Pasadena is a recent win, and I would love to see Burbank, where I live, become the next success story. Making the transition to non-polystyrene products has not proved to be a hardship for Pasadena, nor would it be for Burbank, either in terms of costs or availability of alternative products.

Research done by the Environmental Advisory Commission of Pasadena found the average price differential per unit between polystyrene and non-polystyrene disposables to be between \$.02 and \$.03. Costs are decreasing further as more and more cities switch to eco-friendly products, and technology for alternatives to polystyrene continues to advance. Such products are available from many California companies as Huhtamaki (LA), International Paper (Visalia and Carson), Fold Pak (Fresno), Biosphere (Carpenteria), and Dart (Lodi and Corona). Demand for green packaging is growing and creating more jobs statewide.

Burbank takes pride in the progress the city has made in reducing waste, saving water and energy, and creating parks and other green spaces. Joining the effort to rid the environment of harmful polystyrene seems a logical next step.

Note: A vote by Burbank City Council will be coming up in the near future. I invite you to give public comment at the Council meeting that night and support a ban on polystyrene disposables in the City of Burbank. I will let Verdugo Hills Sierra Club know more on this when a date is set. For more information, contact me at .

Mining Monuments, Polluting Parks, and Wrecking Refuges

By Carol Henning

Let's begin with the story of an extraordinary and delightful figure in British history. John Lubbock (who later became Sir John Lubbock and was the subject of *Punch's* Fancy Portrait No. 97, in which he appears with the body and antennae of a bee) was a keen entomologist. His interest in insects led him to keep a colony of bees in his sitting room. He was also a banker, an archaeologist, a trustee of the British Museum and a Member of Parliament. He became a champion of working people, and he introduced legislation to limit the working day in shops to 10 hours a day. Lubbock's popularity soared when he pushed through the Bank Holidays Act in 1871. This introduced the then radical idea of a paid secular holiday for workers. According to Bill Bryson, author of *At Home*, "The idea of having a bonus day off...was almost too thrilling to bear."

For the purposes of this article, I mention Lubbock because, in 1882, he managed to get Parliament to pass the Ancient Monuments Protection Act. The back story offered by Bryson is that, in 1872, Lubbock learned that a big chunk of Avebury, an ancient circle of stones in Wiltshire, was about to be cleared away for new housing. Avebury is not as neatly composed as Stonehenge, but it is much bigger. To preserve Avebury, Lubbock bought the threatened land, along with two other ancient monuments nearby. As he couldn't afford to buy all Britain's historic treasures, he began to press for legislation to safeguard them. But the ruling Tories under Benjamin Disraeli saw it as an egregious assault on property rights. The idea of giving a government functionary the right to come onto the property of a landowner and start telling that person how to manage his/her estate seemed preposterous. Does any of this sound familiar? If so, we are ready for a look at the struggles of environmentalists and preservationists in the U.S. in 2017.

National Monuments protect places with special natural, cultural or historic features. 24 years after John Lubbock pushed through the Ancient Monuments Protection Act in Britain, the Antiquities Act was passed by the U.S. Congress (1906). This was a law meant to



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preserve sacred sites, artifacts and historical objects. National Monuments are created by U.S. presidents. Some, e.g., Grand Canyon, Zion and Badlands, get promoted to National Park status. These can only be created by Congress.

President Trump in his triumphal speech to a cheering Utah audience (but with thousands protesting outside) criticized “tragic federal overreach,” which made the citizens of Utah victims of the “whims of regulators thousands and thousands of miles away.” Trump was congratulating himself on having accomplished the largest rollback of federal land protection in U.S. history. Bears Ears National Monument, created by President Obama in 2016, will be shrunk by 85 percent. Grand Staircase-Escalante, designated a National Monument by President Clinton in 1996, will be shrunk by 50 percent.

On a roll, it was announced the following day (December 5) that two more national monuments would be reduced in size. These were Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon and Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada. “Management changes” would take place in six additional national monuments: Katahdin Woods and Waters (Maine), Organ Mountains and Desert Peaks (New Mexico), Rio Grande del Norte (also New Mexico), Northeast Canyons and Seamounts (Atlantic Ocean), Pacific Remote Islands (Pacific Ocean), and Rose Atoll (also Pacific Ocean). What is the meaning of “management changes”? Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club says it is code for allowing (even encouraging) logging, mining, drilling and industrial scale commercial fishing. Brune grimly remarks that, “...the president’s contempt for both precedent and preservation has become routine—as has his determination to unwind decades of progress...”

Once a president declares certain lands under the Antiquities Act, there is no precedent for a subsequent president to remove them retroactively from protection. “It’s wrong. It’s illegal. We are going to take [Trump] to court,” promises Bob Deans, Natural Resources Defense Council’s director of strategic engagement. A lawsuit has been filed by environmental groups including the NRDC, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. At the same time, five Native American tribes have joined in a lawsuit against Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke

and several other members of the Trump administration. The move came just hours after the president visited Utah, where he announced his plan to open up protected federal lands to mining, logging, drilling and other forms of extraction. The Native American Rights Fund filed the lawsuit on behalf of the Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, the Hopi, Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes. The five tribes had pushed for the creation of, and co-managed, the Bears Ears Monument, which they consider sacred.

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and former co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, says that the tribes “came together in a sense of healing.” She continues: “And what the landscape means to Native Americans—and all citizens—is it’s a representation of public land, which means the public should have access whether it’s Native Americans, whether it’s the rock climbers, whether it’s the archaeologists or the paleontologists. It doesn’t matter. It’s public land. It has the story of our people. It has a story of time,” (speaking on “Democracy Now!” KPFK, Dec. 5, 2017).

President Trump made the curious claim that the “tragic federal overreach” (by presidents Clinton and Obama) “prevents many Native Americans from having their rightful voice over the sacred land where they practice their most important ancestral and religious traditions.” (Do those traditions include drilling and mining?) Trump proclaimed: “With the action I’m taking today, we will not only give back your voice over the use of this land, we will also restore your access and your enjoyment. Public lands will once again be for public use.” Yes, that is what he said. Upon hearing this, my mind skipped to George Orwell’s 1984, with its Ministry of Truth. Lopez-Whiteskunk explains that, when land is opened up to extractive industries, those industries acquire leases and permits and close off the leased land to the public. “Plus the lands become contaminated. Then there’s other environmental threats, threats to something as basic as water.” Bob Deans of the NRDC argues that, “what Donald Trump did was strip away the protections that ensure...access for all of us.” He goes on: “This is about taking nearly two million acres of public lands, lands that belong to you and me... and handing it over for toxic pollution and industrial

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ruin, for the sake of profits, for coal, oil, uranium and natural gas,” (speaking on “Democracy Now!” KPFFK, Dec. 5, 2017).

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has ordered extensive review of the monument management plans. Ceding management authority to regional fisheries councils in the oceanic national monuments, for example, would likely result in industrial-scale commercial fishing. In monuments such as Gold Butte, “traditional” uses like mining, logging and drilling would be allowed, and grazing allotments would be increased.

“The DOI is poised,” writes Adam Federman in *The Nation* (Dec. 4/11, 2017), to open up millions of acres to drilling and mining—from Utah’s red-rock country to the frigid, perilous waters off Alaska’s coast—while stripping away basic environmental protections and reducing transparency.” The somewhat shadowy figure responsible for orchestrating this demolition of public land is James Cason, the Associate Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior. Good at keeping a low profile, Cason has cycled in and out of Republican administrations since the early 1980s. He worked with James Watt during the Reagan administration. (Remember the “I know Watts wrong” bumper stickers?) As Secretary of the Interior, Watt was known for his strong support of property rights and for his attempts to sell public lands to mining and drilling interests. During his time at Interior, Cason participated in the alleged suppression of a BLM report on the dangers to the spotted owl that would result from logging old-growth forests in Oregon.

This past summer, Cason spoke alongside another former colleague Gale Norton, Interior Secretary during the Bush II administration. To the industry executives gathered at the Colorado Oil and Gas Association’s energy summit, Cason claimed that the “Trump administration had inherited ‘an anti-energy bias’ and a ‘preservationist thought process’ that needed rooting out.” (Federman, Op. Cit.). Federman observes: “Across the Trump administration, the new mantra is ‘energy dominance’—a vision of the world in which the United States will amplify its influence with a dramatic expansion of oil, gas, and coal production, whatever the environmental costs.” He also reminds us that, in contrast

to other Trump-era federal departments, floundering in chaos created by inept (if any) leadership, the Department of the Interior has been marching briskly and efficiently ahead in the service of its destructive agenda. It no longer seems overly dramatic to conclude that, under the reign of Donald Trump, “Progress and dystopia have become synonymous.” (Henry Giroux, “Disposability in the Age of Disasters...,” *Truth-out.org*, Nov. 2, 2017)

Drilling is thrilling, and it seems many of our leaders cannot get enough of it. Thus, tucked into the Republican tax bill passed by the Senate in the pre-dawn hours of December 2 was a provision that would open one of the world’s last pristine wildernesses, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to oil and fracked gas drilling. This amendment was added during negotiations, probably to win the votes of Alaska’s Republican senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, for the larger tax bill.

According to Subhankar Banerjee, Professor of Art and Ecology at the University of New Mexico, the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, where drilling is to be allowed, is the biologically most diverse protected nursery in the whole Circumpolar North. It is a nursery of global significance, where the polar bear, musk ox and Porcupine River caribou herd give birth and nurse their young. It is a coastal plain where millions of birds, from six continents and all 50 states in the U.S. go to nest and raise their young. The indigenous Gwich’in people of northeast Alaska and northwest Canada call the Arctic coastal plain “the sacred place where life begins”—in the Gwich’in language: “Iizhik Guats’an Gwandaii Goodlits.”

We are living in a time of mass extinction and climate breakdown. Is it wise to imperil our wildlife and the ecosystems upon which they depend in order to grab at short term economic gains? Humans who live sustainably off the land will suffer too. We all will. People who yell, “Drill, baby, drill!” are living in the past. We have learned that, for our Mother Earth and her inhabitants to survive, we must leave fossil fuels in the ground and must look to renewable energy sources.

Let us end where we began with Bill Bryson’s captivating history of private life, *At Home*. Gazing out from the rooftop of his Victorian parsonage in Norfolk, England, Bryson muses: “One of the things not visible from our rooftop is how much energy and

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other inputs we require now to provide us with the ease and convenience that we have all come to expect in our lives.... Of the total energy produced on Earth since the Industrial Revolution began, half has been consumed in just the last 20 years. Disproportionately, it was consumed by us in the rich world.... One day—and don't expect it to be a distant day—many of [the] six billion or so less well-off people are bound to demand to have what we have...and that will require more resources than this planet can easily, or even conceivably, yield. The greatest possible irony would be if, in our endless quest to fill our lives with comfort and happiness, we created a world that had neither."

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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



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.

Italian Holiday at Harwood Lodge

Sat-Sun, June 2-3, 2018

**It is a long trip to the Italian Alps,
but Harwood Lodge is right in our backyard!**

**Celebrate the Festa della Repubblica which marks the birth and unification
of the Italian Republic.**

**Enjoy a selection of easy to strenuous activities or just sit and enjoy the clean
crisp mountain air. Listen to Italian music. Eat Italian food.**

Stay in the dorms (separate male and female) or camp out under the stars.

Price includes Sat happy hour, dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

\$40 SC members/\$50 non-members/\$30 children under 12.

**To sign up, send names of all participants, email or 2 sase, check (made out
to Verdugo Hills, Sierra Club), interest in rideshare to**

**Leader: David F Eisenberg
501 W Glenoaks Blvd #824
Glendale, CA 91202**

Co-Leaders: Delphine Trowbridge, Annette Kargodorian.

ACTIVITIES

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

Jan 16 Tuesday

Lower Arroyo Seco

Enjoy a stroll through this hidden oasis. See the casting pond, bird sanctuary, archery range and some of the beautiful homes in the San Rafael neighborhood. Wear comfortable shoes. Bring \$ for lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Verdugo Hills rideshare point 9:15 or 10:00 at the casting pond in the park. [the entrance to lower Arroyo Seco is at Norwood Dr. and S Arroyo Blvd.] follow the road down to the parking area you'll see the casting pond. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge

Feb 5 Monday

Monthly Meeting

Casey Schreiner, author of "Day Hiking in Los Angeles" and editor in chief of "Modern Hiker Magazine" will present a program about great hikes in our area. He will talk about the mountains around Los Angeles and how he got interested in hiking in the first place. He will also lead a question and answer session about hikes and hiking and autograph his book. Everyone welcome at 7:00 for social time and refreshments. The meeting begins at 7:30 in the auditorium of the La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta). Enter from the back-parking lot. Handicapped accessible from the back.

February 13 Tuesday

Monthly Hike in Beachwood Canyon

A hike through history with staircases and trails. Meet, 10 am, on Beechwood Canyon, near the Village Coffee Shop at 2695 N. Beechwood Drive. Park in the street. We will modify the hike to avoid the closure imposed by the city. We will have views of Hollywood sign and famous homes. Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge, Bruce Hale, Evelyn Alexander, Carol Henning

March 5 Monday

Monthly Meeting

Bruce Hale presents 'Travel Adventure in the Himalayas'. Glimpse into the Kingdom of Bhutan and see what trekking around the base of Annapurna is like. Everyone welcome at 7 for Social Hour. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Meet at the Library in their community room. (2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta). Enter from the back-parking lot. Handicapped accessible from the back.

March 20 Tuesday

Tuesday hike

TBA

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 ()

ACTIVITIES

**April 20-22 Friday-Sunday Natural Science, Pasadena Group, Camera Committee, Verdugo Hills
O: Owens Lake Exploration Friday-Sunday, April 20-22**

The Dust and the Birds Have Settled on Owens Lake: World class wildlife migrating between hemispheres has replaced the worst dust source in America. Collaboration has replaced confrontation. In the Deepest Valley (Owens Valley), learn the human history as well as the natural history. Appreciate the tools that shape our Earth - earthquakes, glaciation and vulcanism. Understand the chronology of human history - early peoples, the Paiute, the settlers, miners and finally Los Angeles. Experience all of this in a valley of 3,000 feet elevation surrounded by the 14,00-foot peaks of the Mt. Whitney Crest. We'll camp at Diaz Lake Campground in Lone Pine and drive to locations around Owens Lake and the nearby hills. Cost of \$25 includes two nights at the campground and the naturalist fee for Mike Prather, Sierra Club leader and long-time activist in the Owens Valley. Motels are available in Lone Pine, but you must make your own arrangements; cost and reservation details remain the same. This trip satisfies two days for the Environmental Awareness requirement for prospective I-rated leaders. Reserve a place by sending your contact information, including your email address, and a check for \$25 made out to the Natural Science Section to Reservationist Ginny Heringer, 245 San Miguel Road, Pasadena, CA 91105. Leaders Judy Anderson, Carole Scurlock, and Ginny Heringer.

April 28 Saturday

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens

Tour Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens during their annual wildflower festival. Enjoy the beauty of this garden dedicated to Native California Plants, followed by a tour of the nearby Sam Maloof Foundation. The home and gardens of this world famous furniture designer are listed on the National Historic Register. Send \$18. (seniors) or \$24 (adults) and a SASE/email to Evelyn Alexander. Wear comfortable shoes, bring \$ for lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Verdugo Hills Rideshare at 8:45 or Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens (1500 N. College Ave., Claremont) at 9:45. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale

June 2-3 Sat - Sun

Italian Holiday at Harwood Lodge

It is a long trip to the Italian Alps, but Harwood Lodge is right in our backyard. Celebrate the Festa della Repubblica which marks the birth and unification of the Italian Republic. Enjoy a selection of easy to strenuous activities or just sit and enjoy the clean crisp mountain air. Listen to Italian music. Eat Italian food. Stay in the dorms (separate male and female) or camp out under the stars. Price includes Sat happy hour, dinner, and Sunday breakfast. \$40 SC members/\$50 non-members/\$30 children under 12. Send names of all participants, email or 2 sase, check (made out to Verdugo Hills, Sierra Club), interest in rideshare to Leader: David F Eisenberg, Co-Leaders: Delphine Trowbridge, Annette Kargodorian.

We are planning a summer camp at Jalama Beach near Lompoc. Stay tuned for more information.

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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[M][D]
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21308 Jimpson Way
Canyon Country, CA 91351

Vella, Mark & Marlene
204 S Sparks St
Burbank CA

Yegparian, Garen
310 E Providencia Ave #212
Burbank CA 91502-2759

Zielinska, Ewa
4411 Los Feliz Blvd #1006
Los Angeles CA 90027-2143

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

Marlene Vella Vice Chair

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

Charlotte FeitshansSecretary/
Alternate Chapter Delegate

Michael Beck.....Climate Change/Hospitality

Annette Kargodorian Treasurer

Judy AndersonMembership/Treas Asst

David F Eisenberg..... Vice Chair/Newsletter Editor

Gene & Terry Paulin Political Advisor

Bruce Hale.....Outings

Susana ReyesPolitical

Garen Yegparian.....Political Compliance

Evelyn AlexanderPublicity/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

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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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

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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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



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