

## **January 1, 2019**



## A Taste of Orange County

By Evelyn Alexander

n December 1st a group of us met at the Leatherby Library at Chapman University in Orange for a tour of the Huell Howser Archives. However before we got started we were met by a surprise, the University and surrounding area was experiencing a black out. In fact our guide, the Archivist met us holding a large flashlight. He was prepared to lead the tour by flashlight. Fortunately that turned out not to be necessary, while we were waiting for all of the group to arrive the lights came back on.

The Archivist, John Carlo Encarcion, gave us a tour, showing off a recreation of Howser's office, his collections of found objects and pointing out photos of Howser's career and life. Among the many facts that he told us about were, that the Huell was a contraction of his parent's names, Herbert and Jewell. Additionally he was born in Gallatin Tennessee in 1945 and began his career as a television journalist in Nashville with such shows as Happy Features and the Happy World of Huell Howser. After a brief stint in New York he came to Los Angeles in 1981where he began working for Public Television and producing a staring in a series of shows celebrating our diverse and beautiful state.

Encarcion explained that Howser became friends with the president of Chapman University and when he passed away in 2013 having no family, Howser left all of estate to the University. He also explained that he did not want to have people pay to see his shows so that if anyone wants to see an episode of California Gold they only have to look online at the Chapman University Huell Howser Archives website. They're there to see on any computer. The Archives are partially funded by the Auto Club of Southern California.

After lunch at Polly's Pies in Santa Ana we completed our Taste of Orange County with another famous institution, the Bowers Museum, one of the premier art institutions in the county. We enjoyed seeing several



fascinating and diverse current exhibits, California Bounty: Image and Identity 1850-1930, Spirit and Head Hunters: Art of the Pacific Islanders and African Twilight: Vanishing Rituals and Ceremonies.

As a longtime resident of Los Angeles County I know very little of the county to the south and east. I know that I personally was pleased to begin to see a small section of what Orange County has to offer.

# Khovsgol's Unique Ecosystem: Extension Trip in Mongolia

By Bruce Hale

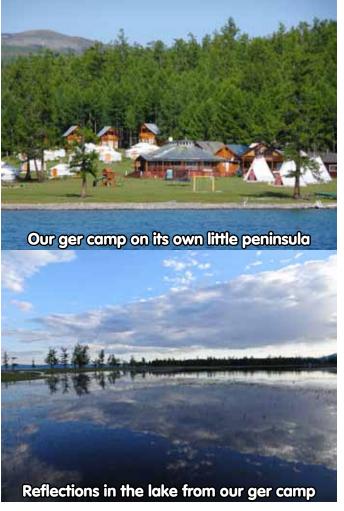
Khovsgol Nuur National Park is a popular destination for both domestic and international tourists in northern Mongolia. Little wonder. It is a land of lush Siberian larch forests, clear lakes, bubbling streams, jagged mountains, -very distinct from the central and southern parts of Mongolia. The park is bigger than Yellowstone National Park. Khovsgol Nuur (Lake) itself (5400 ft. elevation) is up to 262 m (860 feet) deep, stretching 136 km (85 mi) by 40 km and is only 195 km from Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia. Like Baikal, Khovsgol-known as the Dark Blue Pearl of Mongolia—was formed by the same tectonic elements, but is 23 million years younger than its sister, Lake Baikal. Khovsgol is the planet's 14th largest source of water and contains 70% of Mongolia's fresh water. The water is so pure that it is potable without any treatment. The ecosystem around the lake is home to 750 different

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plant species, 291 bird species, and 68 mammal species. The most common fishes in the lake include the perch, salmon, and sturgeon.

We reach Khovsgol by van from the tiny airport in Moron, a vibrant little transportation hub of the north. We have lunch, a beet salad and mushroom risotto for me, at the 50/100 Restaurant, named for its location where the 50 degree north latitude meets the 100 degree east longitude.

After a drive of about 3 hours over some paved highway and some dirt roads, we arrive at Toilogt Ger Camp, well situated lakeside beyond the row of one ger camp after another along the western shore of the lake. The camp is noted in Lonely Planet guidebook for its "splendid location" on its own little peninsula beyond the rest of the camps. It is also notable for its high standards at the same time it is "eco-friendly". Toilogt is indeed one of the best ger camps I've experienced. I liked the





big lounge and attractive dining hall, both of which are ger tents. The latter can accommodate almost 100 people, but our group of 5 had it to ourselves except for one other small group. This is an advantage of coming just after the main tourist season had ended at the end of August. In fact, all the other tourist ger camps along the shore had already shut down. Winter comes early up here. The Lake freezes over down to 120 cm, so vehicles can drive across (although it is said that 40 trucks sunk to the bottom over the years). The annual Ice Festival is becoming more popular with tourists. But the weather during our stay was favorable. Just before we came, it had heavily rained. In January the average temperature is 5° F. Weather remained mild for us in September except for some raindrops upon our tent during the last night. It rains a lot here, the ground is damp and grows many mushrooms. (Is this why many dishes here had mushrooms as an ingredient?)

During our stay, we took a boat ride toward one of the three islands on the lake. The lake is crystal clear and shimmers with different shades of blue, depending on the angle of the sun. We did walks in the vicinity and to an overlook for the southern part of the lake. Our last event was a campfire at the shore of the lake. Our driver lit a roaring fire. A timeless way lakeside to conclude the trip.

From the time that we were first able to see pictures of the world from space, a perceptible change has taken place in our understanding of our planet, and of its immense beauty and fragility.

Pope John Paul II

# News & Notes

## Will Glendale Water & Power Continue to Sow the Wind?

by Carol Henning

**66**When they sow the wind, they shall reap the whirlwind." So wrote the Old Testament prophet, Hosea. During the past 200 years, we humans have been sowing the wind. We have burned huge quantities of coal, gas and oil—in vehicle motors, power plants, steel mills and basement furnaces. As we have done so, "carbon atoms have combined with oxygen atoms in the air to produce carbon dioxide. This, along with other gases like methane, has trapped heat that would otherwise have radiated back out to space," explains Bill McKibben ("Life on a Shrinking Planet," The New Yorker, November 26, 2018). Those of us who live in highly industrialized countries and who consume Earth's resources voraciously are responsible for about 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of humans on this planet use much less than one ton of greenhouse gases in a year. Contrast this with the 30 to 35 tons emitted annually by the average American.

The whirlwind we are reaping in Southern California includes extreme heat, nearly relentless drought and devastating fires. One day before the release of the latest national climate assessment, the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization released its latest annual greenhouse gas bulletin, in which it reported that the atmospheric concentrations of the three gases most responsible for climate change—carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide—reached record highs in 2017. We have 12 years left to take decisive actions in order to avert catastrophe.

The new National Climate Assessment's conclusions tell us, among other things, that: Temperatures have risen 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit since 1901, all due to human activities. Globally, 16 of the last 17 years have been the warmest years on record. By 2100, annual acreage burned in the U.S. could increase by as much as six times. Warming is expanding the range of mosquitoes and ticks that carry vector-borne diseases—West Nile, Dengue, Zika, Yellow Fever. Drier conditions in California and Arizona have encouraged more growth of the fungus that leads to Valley Fever. Agricultural crop quality

and quantity is expected to decline across the U.S. due to increased flooding, temperatures, drought and other climatic changes. Economic losses from climate disruption could reach hundreds of billions of dollars annually for some sectors. In sum, the 1,656-page Climate Assessment says the consequences of climate change will leave no part of the U.S. untouched, and the warming climate will increase wildfires, crumble infrastructure, worsen air quality, destroy crops and lead to more frequent disease outbreaks.

Ironically, the White House released the climate report on Black Friday—the day after Thanksgiving, a day when every patriotic American is supposed to be elbowing every other patriotic American out of the way in order to grab merchandise (mostly made in China, Vietnam or Indonesia) off the racks or tables of the local megastore. Thus, our attention would be on shopping instead of on the dire predictions of the report, which report amounts to a sharp rebuke to the Trump Administration's insistence that environmental regulations hurt jobs and hinder economic growth. When asked about the climate assessment by reporters, President Trump's response was: "No I don't believe it. No, no, I don't believe it." His protestations came in spite of the fact that the National Climate Assessment was mandated by Congress and is based on the work of 300 scientists and 13 federal agencies. The scientists who worked on the reports were all volunteers. "We work on this material," says Kristie Ebi, a Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington in Seattle, "because it's important for people to understand the state of the science." ("Democracy Now!" KCET-TV, November 26, 2018.) The apolitical report puts an alarming price tag on climate change, not the sort of prediction this administration wants to hear.

350.org co-founder Bill McKibben reminds us that, "We have been getting this warning for many years. What is finally happening, I think, is that the country is beginning to pay some attention." ("Democracy Now!" same broadcast.) Dare we hope that Glendale Water&Power (GWP) is paying attention also?

As Dan Brotman of the Glendale Environmental Coalition and Michael Beck of the Verdugo Hills Group have pointed out: "Glendale has always relied

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on centralization—the gas-fired Grayson Power Plant directly generates power or imports it over high voltage lines. But this model is broken and needs a fundamental Glendale Water&Power Commissioner Roland Kedikian said of Grayson: "...we let everything run 40 some years without building anything," and the plant is inefficient and unreliable (quoted by Jeff Landa in the Los Angeles Times/Glendale News Press, October 17, 2017, on line). GWP has wanted to build another centralized gas plant. This plant, though cleaner than older ones, still emits greenhouse gases and other air pollutants. GWP's Environmental Impact Report found the proposed new plant would increase Glendale's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent. The new plant would worsen air quality in an area where air quality already fails to meet federal guidelines. Professor Ebi remarks that worse air quality especially affects children, older people and people who have got certain chronic medical conditions. Two elementary schools, a day care center and the Disney Children's center are within walking distance of Grayson. Soccer fields are just across the L.A. River in Griffith Park.

Does gas generation make economic sense nowadays? Bill McKibben argues that the "fossil-fuel divestment movement has become the biggest corporate campaign of its kind in history, with endowments and portfolios worth a combined \$6 trillion having sworn off coal gas and oil investment in whole or in part." ("How to Get to a Fossil-Free USA," *The Nation*, March 5, 2018). In the same article, McKibben cites a recent report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, which states that renewables will be consistently cheaper than fossil fuels by as soon as 2020. This, he says, is why over 100

cities had joined the Sierra Club campaign to convert to 100 percent renewable energy (#ReadyFor100).

GWP brought its long-term plan document to the Glendale City Council on December 18. This document purports to be impartial regarding the outcome of a study of clean energy alternatives, but the Glendale Environmental Coalition suspects the document is designed to pave the way toward a decision to proceed with Son of Grayson natural gas plant this spring. Deliberations have taken place behind closed doors with little or no public participation. Glendale should not be allowed to lock itself into another generation of dirty and expensive fossil fuel power. Been there. Done that. It's time to move on.

In his *New Yorker* article, McKibben tells of a walk John Muir took from Kentucky down to Florida in 1867. Delighted by alligators he saw in a Florida swamp, Muir wrote in his diary: "A numerous class of men are painfully astonished whenever they find anything, living or dead, in all God's universe, which they cannot eat or render in some way what they call useful to themselves." This self-centeredness, Muir decided was misguided. It is one of the main reasons we are in the predicament we are in today. We humans have disrespected Mother Earth to the extent that the fate of civilization and of the natural world is now in question.

Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old Swedish schoolgirl and climate activist said, when she addressed the U.N. plenary in Kotowice, Poland earlier this month: "You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake." A reprise of Glendale's gas-fired power plant is one of those "same bad ideas."

### 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

## ACTIVITIES

#### January 6 Sunday

#### The Hsi Lai Temple and the Homestead Museum

Tour the beautiful and amazing Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights, followed by a vegetarian buffet. After lunch we then go to the nearby Homestead Museum (where members of the Workman and Temple families lived from the 1840's to the 1930's.) We will tour the two houses on the property, the Workman House and The Casa Nueva. Meet 10 am at the Verdugo Hills rideshare point or 11:15 at the Hsi Lai Temple at 3546 Glenmark Dr., Hacienda Heights. Wear comfortable shoes and bring \$8 for lunch. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg.

#### January 7 Monday

#### Monthly Meeting

David Eisenberg presents "Switzerland by Train." David spent 11 days in July riding tourist and commuter trains in Switzerland. Everyone is welcome for social time at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Park in rear for handicapped accessible entrance

#### January 14 Monday

#### Monday AM hike in the Verdugo Hills

Hike the Hostetter dirt road to Verdugo Peak (3,126'). Moderate 7.5 mi rt, 1400' gain. Fine views from of SV valley and LA basin from the Summit. Meet 9:30 am at the trailhead off La Tuna Cyn Rd at the locked gate immediately adjacent to the 210 freeway exit on south side of overpass. Well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring water, snack, hat and walking shoes. Rain Cancels. Ldrs: Bruce Hale, John Radalj

#### February 4 Monday

#### **Monthly Meeting**

"Armenia." Photographer and friend of Verdugo Hills Group, Karine' Armin, will present a program about a recent trip to Armenia. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, historical sites and learn about the history of this ancient area. Everyone is welcome for social time at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30. Meet in the auditorium of La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Park in rear for handicapped accessible entrance.

#### February 10 Sunday

#### Walkabout Downtown LA

Walk will last 2.5 hours. We will explore Bunker Hill, Financial district, and Civic Center. Points of interest will include Central Library, Bonaventure, Biltmore, Broadway, Bradbury Bldg, Grand Central Station Mkt., Angels Flight, Cal Plaza, Disney Concert Hall garden, MOCA and others. Meet 9:30 am at the McGuire Garden of the library just north of Flower from 7th St. subway station. If you drive, park on the streets in vicinity where parking is available or in the WTC next to Bonaventure for \$7.00 a day. Red Line subway will take you to 7th street. Wear walking shoes, hat and bring money for optional lunch. Ldrs: Bruce Hale, Evelyn Alexander, Delphine Trowbridge

#### February 11 Monday

#### Morning hike in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Hike to the hub, in Santa Monica Mountains, from Marvin Braude Park, Mulholland Gateway, at the top of Reseda Blvd. This is an easy, paced hike on a dirt road with ups and downs. 4.2 mi., rt with (optional) strenuous hill at the end. Meet 10 am past the Marvin Braude Park sign at the end of the circle drive and locked gate. Plenty of parking. Bring snacks and water. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Mary Mc Mannes, Bruce Hale, Delphine Trowbridge, John Radalj, Carol Henning and Evelyn Alexander.

#### February 24 Sunday

#### Masters of the American West

Join the Verdugo Hills Group for a 10 am Docent Led Tour of this iconic art exhibition and sale at the Autry National Center. Optional Lunch at the Crossroads West Café after. Advance reservation required. \$14/\$10 Senior. Send reservation with email or sase before February 19 to Leader: David F Eisenberg, Co-leader: Evelyn Alexander.

## ACTIVITIES

#### March 4 Monday

#### Monthly Meeting

Join Verdugo Hills Group and Michael Beck for "Redwood Country: Coast, Rivers, and Rainforests." This program's focus lies on either side of the CA–OR border with Earth's most majestic coast redwoods on one side and one of the world most beautiful coastlines on the other. Expect not only breathtaking photos but also fascinating info about landforms, biozones, environmental challenges, and so forth. 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.

#### March 25 Saturday

#### O: Glendale Urban Walk

Today's event is a walk in the Adams Hill Area. We will walk through the Cottage Grove Historic District. We will go through several other proposed historic districts. The 4 ½ mi, 300' gain walk will take 2 hours. Meet 9 am at the Adams Square Mini Park (1020 E Palmer Ave, Glendale, 91204). Bring layers and water. Leaders: David F Eisenberg, Bruce Hale.

#### April 1 Monday

#### Monthly Meeting

Bruce Hale will share photos and stories from a recent trip to Churchill (Manitoba on Hudson Bay) to see polar bears. 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.

#### May 2 Thursday

#### O: Glendale Urban Walk

Today's event is a walk in the Atwater Village area. This area covers the Frogtown area of Los Angeles bordering the SW corner of Glendale. We will walk along the Los Angeles River and through parts of Frogtown. 4-6 mi, mostly level ground. Meet 9 am at North Atwater Park (3900 Chevy Chase Dr, Los Angeles, 90039). Bring water. Leaders David F Eisenberg, Bruce Hale.

#### May 4 Saturday

#### **Mystery Dinner**

Save the date.

#### May 6 Monday

#### **Monthly Meeting**

Verdugo Hills member and world traveler Sandra Odor recently visited Central Asia to see the Stans (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan). She will present her pictures and tell us about her trip. 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.

#### June 8–9 Saturday–Sunday

#### Swedish Midsommarfest at Harwood Lodge

Midsommarfest is a Swedish celebration welcoming summer after a long dark winter. Harwood Lodge was built in 1930 as a memorial to Aurelia S. Harwood, past president of the Sierra Club and Angeles Chapter leader. The lodge stands today as a place to get away from the city and enjoy the solitude of clear mountain air and blue skies. We will raise a maypole with leaves and flowers, then sing and dance around it. Sing drinking songs with an aquavit toast and Swedish happy hour treats. Includes happy hour, dinner, breakfast, optional hike on Sat. Sleep in male or female dorms or camp outside. To reserve, send \$40 by June 1 (\$50 after), email or sase, rideshare to Leader: David F Eisenberg, Coleaders Delphine Trowbridge, Mike Sandford

## DIRECTORY

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All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a Yegparian, Garen

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Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State

of California.

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 <a href="mailto:VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com">VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com</a>.

# Verdugo Views

### **Meetings**

Verdugo Hills meets first Monday of each month except July and January. Meetings are located at the La Crescenta Library (2809 Foothilll 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 TrowbridgeChair/Mailing
David F EisenbergVice Chair/Newsletter Editor
Carol HenningCo-Conservation/
Chapter Delegate
Political
Charlotte FeitshansSecretary/
Alternate Chapter Delegate
Michael BeckClimate Change/Hospitality
Annette KargodorianTreasurer
Judy Anderson Membership/Treas Asst/
Publicity
Gene & Terry Paulin Political Advisor
Bruce HaleOutings
Marlene Vella At-Large
Garen YegparianPolitical Compliance
Evelyn Alexander Programs
Dotty & Mike SandfordFundraising
Lucile DavisSocial Secretary
Richard CastroWebmaster

#### **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





21308 Jimpson Way Canyon Country, CA 91351 Address Service Requested Nonprofit Org U.S. Postage PAID Los Angeles, CA Permit No. 36438