

March 1, 2019



Michael Beck to Receive Chapter Conservation Award

By Delphine Trowbridge

Every , Chapter year Angeles has Awards Banquet and they select the volunteer who has contributed so much to the Sierra Club. Verdugo Hills is proud to announce that this year our own Michael Beck will receive an award for his work in conservation. He has been our voice for Global Warming warning us about the dangers of climate change. He reads newspapers and studies



weather reports keeping up to date on all the information.

Michael also has been working with David Eisenberg to stop the disastrous Grayson Power Plant proposal from happening in Glendale. This involved city council and committee meetings with other concerned citizens.

Michael's special love is our stairway garden. Verdugo Hills has adopted a stairway in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles, named Corralitas Stairs. We decided to beautify the area by planting a garden along one side of the stairs. It has been challenging due to lack of water and gophers. However, Michael has persisted, and parts of the area are showing charming results while other sections are a work in progress.

Congratulations on your award Michael. The banquet is May 5th and it will be a lunch this year. Verdugo Hills will get a table and carpool to the event. The cost is \$45.00 for the lunch, wine and a chance to meet other Sierra Club people and public officials. Please join us for this special day.

Verdugo Hills Mystery Dinner

by Evelyn Alexander

once again the Verdugo Hills group is planning a signature mystery dinner scheduled for May 4 at the community room at 4411 Los Feliz Blvd. This year the dinner will include a memorial and reading of the will of Calvin Greystone [billionaire media magnet]. Some of the people scheduled to attend include Greystone's 3 former wives and mistress, 5 children, other unhappy family members, unhappy employees and unhappy business associates. Perhaps one of the most dysfunctional group of people to come together who all hope to be inherit some or all of Greystone's fortune.

Don't miss out on a fun and exciting evening. Contact Evelyn Alexander to select a part. Send \$30 to Delphine Trowbridge [includes dinner].

Note: To reserve your spot, see writeup for May 4. See attached flyer for more information.

A Visit to Downtown LA

by Evelyn Alexander

n February 10th a small group of hardy explorers braved a light rain to visit Down Town Los Angeles. We spent the better part of 4 hours checking out some of the old buildings and admiring the changes in this rapidly transforming area.

After meeting in the beautiful garden of the main branch of the LA Public library we headed up the library steps to Bunker Hill. [Unfortunately we were not able to visit the Library itself because it didn't open till 1:00].

Walking along Grand Street we passed MOCA, the Coburn School and the Broad. Bruce pointed out all the outdoor sculptures and explained that the city requires that all new building include artworks. We climbed the steps to the roof garden at Disney Hall and admired to innovative landscaping and architecture as well as the views.

Unfortunately the plaza of the Music center was closed for renovations but we all enjoyed to the Cathedral

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with its innovative architecture and beautiful artworks. A highlight for all of us was the Bradbury Building which was built in 1893 and has been the background for innumerable movies.

Additionally we stopped at the Central market, Pershing Square and the Biltmore. We ended our tour at the Bonaventure Hotel where we enjoyed a casual lunch.

Despite the inclement weather it was a very enjoyable outing. We were fortunate to have Bruce as our leader since he had worked downtown for 30 years he was able to point out the buildings, explain their histories and supply us with many interesting tidbits of information. Finally it was great to see so many people utilizing the resources of our downtown on a Sunday.

The Autry Museum Investigates Griffith Park

by Carol Henning

hat's so interesting about Griffith Park?" asks a handbill announcing a long-term exhibition "about the people, places and histories of Griffith Park."

The Autry Museum of the American West explains that it is "gathering input from hundreds of visitors and experts to reveal some of the many stories from the park's 4,000-plus acres."

A web request soliciting exhibition-related ideas says that the "ongoing research project developed in multiple phases...will transform one of the Autry's core galleries into an experimental, hands-on space...." Indeed, the space is very hands-on, and lots of fun.

As a hiker in Griffith Park (perhaps also as a biker, runner, picnicker or equestrian in the park) and, presumably, as one who cares about preserving open space and maintaining Griffith Park's integrity as an urban wilderness, this is a good opportunity to go on the record: share your stories, experiences and opinions about what the park means to you and how it should be maintained and protected.

Certainly the Sierra Club has a long history in Griffith Park. In the Angeles Chapter Archives there are photos of Sierra Club members gathered in the Park for picnics and hikes during the first two decades of the 20th century. Sierra Club founder John Muir is in at least two of them. Looking at the photos, one is reminded that dressing for an outing in an urban wilderness park 100 years ago meant long skirts and hats for the women, suits, neckties and usually hats for the men.

As we can see from the photos, the Sierra Club has been leading hikes, both day and evening, in Griffith Park for over a century. Sierra Club leaders have taken kids from inner-city schools for hikes in the park under the auspices of the Angeles Chapter's Inspiring Connections Outdoors program. Nonetheless, no one from the Sierra Club was chosen for the Griffith Park Advisory Board, for which 15 members were chosen and for which at least two Sierra Club members applied. Invitations to a preview of the "Investigating Griffith Park" exhibition were extended to many neighborhood and activist groups, but not to the Sierra Club until David Eisenberg, an Autry docent who is a Sierra Club member, forwarded one to a few colleagues. The Club needs more of a voice in the park. That is why it is important for all of us to provide some of the feedback that the Autry says it welcomes. There will be meetings for community

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input on various Griffith Park topics. David will share the details with us.

We can learn more and contribute our thoughts online at TheAutry.org/GriffithPark. Better yet, we can go to the museum and participate in person. The Autry Museum of the American West is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way, across from the Los Angeles Zoo. Tickets to the museum may be purchased on site or online at TheAutry.org. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors (60+) and \$6 for children ages 3-12. It is free for Autry members, active-duty military, veterans and kids age two and under. Automobile Club members get 10% off adult admission, and admission is free for everyone on the second Tuesday of each month. Parking is always free. The museum, store and café are closed on Mondays but open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and weekends 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To celebrate Griffith Park's 125th anniversary in 2021, the Autry is developing this community-led exhibition. Phase One of "Investigating Griffith Park" began in November, 2018. It features a hands-on space that invites visitors to share their experiences and thoughts about what the anniversary celebration should include. Carolyn Brucken, Senior Curator at the Autry, describes the exhibition as "...a multiyear investigation of the cultural and environmental histories of Griffith Park." The final exhibition will not open until 2021. According to Brucken: "Most exhibitions have a fourto-five-year development period," but this is usually not public (quoted in Los Angeles Magazine by Lisa Beebe, "The Autry Museum Is Investigating the Histories of Griffith Park—and It Needs Your Help," December 12, 2018).

One section in the Samuel and Minna Grodin Gallery asks visitors, "What is the park to you?" It invites a response in writing. Another section asks visitors to share their favorite memories of the park. There are historical photos and artifacts, also video clips from movies shot in the park.

David Eisenberg arranged a tour for a small group of us. Participants included Delphine Trowbridge, Evelyn Alexander, Joe Phillips, Felix Martinez and me. We were met by Senior Curator, Carolyn Brucken, and Jenny Davidson-Goldbronn, Senior Director of Development at the Autry. The museum's representatives told us that the Griffith Park Exhibition focuses on four topics: Getting off the pavement and into nature, recreation, family memories, and plants and animals in the Park. A goal is to integrate diverse people over unifying concepts. Both women stressed that this exhibition will be based on a community conversation. They also pointed to the museum's responsibility always to acknowledge Griffith Park's pre-contact history. What happened on and near this land before Europeans came? Around 400,000 of the artifacts displayed, most of them in rotation, at the Autry are indigenous. Many are from local tribes.

The park was Tongva land. Later, it was part of the 6,647 acres given by Spain to the soldier José Vicente Feliz, who came north with the Anza expedition in 1775-6. Feliz was called south from San Francisco in 1781 to oversee the establishment of a new town—El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora, la Reina de Los Angeles. In 1885, Col. Griffith bought most of the former Rancho Los Feliz, and, in 1896, he gave it to the City of L.A. to create Griffith Park.

As Mike Eberts points out in Griffith Park: A Centennial History, the park had already had freeways built upon it, a trash dump placed in it and had only barely averted plans to grace Mt. Hollywood with a revolving restaurant and a Hollywood Hall of Fame (to be reached via an aerial tramway). Consequently, Gene Autry's plan to build a Western Heritage Museum in this "uniquely-rustic city park in a city choking on its lack of open recreational space" was not greeted with glad cries by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Early in 1985, Autry's wife Jackie was approached by Burbank's mayor and city council about placing the museum in Buena Vista Park, which had been part of Griffith Park but then cut off from the rest of the park by the L.A. River and Ventura Freeway. But nearby homeowners made a fuss. Tired of the opposition, Jackie Autry, who wanted her husband to see the museum "during his lifetime," chose the Pine Meadows area of Griffith Park, across from the zoo. Eberts writes, "...although there is no evidence that the Autrys or the people they hired had a keen sense of Griffith Park history, they gravitated toward the northeast corner of the park, where other controversial projects had been placed. They picked

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land that had been part of the Rodger Young Village and before that the National Guard Airfield and Griffith Aviation Park."

In favor of placing the museum in Griffith Park were the L.A. Mayor and City Council. Opposed were environmentalists, led by the Sierra Club, who didn't want public open space taken for development. The Department of Recreation and Parks seemed to agree. Flat urban parkland was scarce, and traffic congestion would worsen. A crucial decision, according to Eberts, was transferring jurisdiction over approval of the museum from Recreation and Parks Commissioners, one of whom had a conflict of interest, to the Board of Referred Powers, which comprised five L.A. City Council members. In 1985, they unanimously approved construction of the museum. During a one-month public review period for the project," observes Ebert, Recreation and Parks "received 114 written responses relating to the museum, with 112 of them in opposition." However, in 1986, the city council approved the museum without a dissenting vote. Meanwhile, the Autry, which got a 50year lease at \$1 a year, grew its budget and its projected size.

About 12 years ago, after becoming stewards of the Southwest Museum's collection of Native American artifacts, the Autry had plans to double its size. These plans were thwarted, but the Autry's 12 acres is a setting for special events, and the museum is expanding slowly. It has become more prudent in securing additional space for its growing collection. For example, the Autry now has a one-thousand-square-foot Resource Center in Burbank, where it can store many of its objects. This has opened up spaces in the museum that were previously

used for storage. Despite the controversy attendant on its Pine Meadows placement, the Autry has become an exciting museum, which has researched and depicted diversity in the American West. One example was an exhibit which showed the contribution of Chinese people to Western life.

One hopes that he Autry and the other entities in Griffith Park, plus its neighbors, plus city officials will heed the words of Col. Griffith, who saw his gift to Los Angeles as the beginning of possibly the greatest city park in the world: "That there must be an outlet for the population that chokes in the streets and alleys of our cities; that fresh air, communion with nature and amusements other than those afforded by the cheap theatre, moving picture show or saloon, are requisites of public health, and is worth spending money on—all this has become a settled conviction among those who think at all." Just so.

We can look forward to the continuing development of the Autry's "Investigating Griffith Park" exhibition. The museum asks the question, "What makes Griffith Park special to you?" Please answer it.

Note: We will have SC tours of this exhibit. See March 20 writeup.

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 for a printed version.

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

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

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 11 Monday

Monthly hike—Echo Park Victorian Houses Stair Hike.

This is a mostly flat walk through Angelino Heights, home of the city's oldest Victorian and Queen Anne mansions. It includes panoramic views of Downtown LA. Optional lunch at Taix French restaurant. Meet 9 am at Verdugo Hills Ride share or 10:00 at boat house, on Echo Park Ave. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge, Carol Henning, Evelyn Alexander, Bruce Hale, John Radalj

March 20 Wednesday Verdugo Hills, Central, Griffith Park, San Fernando Valley Tour "Investigating Griffith Park" at the Autry

The Autry Museum of the American West is developing an exhibit on Griffith Park that will open in connection with the 125th anniversary of Griffith Park! The Autry is gathering input. Questions include "What makes Griffith Park special to you?" There are spots to "Share your questions, thoughts, & stories." and a "Lost History of Griffith Park" wall. We will meet at 1 pm for a guided tour and to discuss the Sierra Club's relation to Griffith Park. To reserve, send participant names, email, check for \$12/\$8 Senior or Student/\$5 Children 12 and under (payable Sierra Club) to Reservationist/Docent: David Eisenberg, Leaders: Barbara Hensleigh, Carol Henning, Jason Wise

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 5 mi, 300' gain walk will take 2 hours. Meet 9 am at Adams Square Mini Park (1020 E Palmer Ave, Glendale). Bring layers, 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.

April 8 Monday

Morning Hike

Hike the Hostetter dirt road to Verdugo Peak (3.126 ') moderate paced with 1400' gain. Fine views of SV valley. Bring lunch for picnic in the grove. Meet 10 am at the trailhead off La Tuna Cyn Rd at the gate immediately adjacent to the 210 freeway exit on south side of overpass. Rain Cancels. Ldrs: Mary Mc Mannes, Delphine Trowbridge, John Radalj, Carol Henning

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.

ACTIVITIES

May 4 Saturday

Verdugo Hills Mystery Dinner

Join the Verdugo Hills Group for the Memorial and Reading of the will of Calvin Graystone. Mr. Graystone died after a lengthy illness leaving a throng of hopeful inheritors including ex-wives, children, mistresses and domestic aspirants. This memorial gathering will take place in Calvin's Los Feliz residence and there will be food and drink to celebrate his demise. All this fun for only \$30 but you must sign-up before April 15th. Please send a check, made to Verdugo Hills, to D. Trowbridge, 21308 Jimpson Way, Canyon Country, 91351. Include email/SASE. Ldrs: Evelyn Alexander, Carol Henning, Mystery committee.

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

June 28 Friday

Glendale Evening Urban Walk

We will do an evening stroll through Glenoaks Canyon. We will be able to look into the Scholl Canyon Landfill and discuss the environmental impacts on the homes we are walking past. Meet 6:30 pm at the corner of Glenoaks Blvd and Mt. Carmel Dr. (Take the Holly Dr exit from the 2 or Harvey Dr exit from 134. Park on Carmel Dr or on Glenoaks Blvd.) Bring water, optional flashlight, layers. Ldrs: David Eisenberg, Bruce Hale

July 8-11 Mon-Thursday

Dogwood Car Camp

Join us for a camping adventure in the San Bernardo National forest in beautiful Dogwood Campground near Lake Arrowhead. We will have BBQ's, campfires, hiking and field trips with optional brunch in Arrowhead Village. Trip includes campsite with parking, 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts and all activities except brunch. Send check for \$45.00 (made out to Verdugo Hills) to Delphine Trowbridge, 21308 Jimpson Way, Canyon Country, 91351. Include email address/sase. Motels are nearby-contact David. Ldrs: Delphine Trowbridge, Evelyn Alexander, David Eisenberg

August 17-18 Sat-Sun

Keller Peak Ski Hut — Celebrating an 80 Year Legacy

Save the date! Come and enjoy the newly refurbished Keller Ski Hut with an up-dated kitchen, new windows in the main dining room and hot water. Leader: Jacqueline Meese. Co-leaders: David Eisenberg and Delphine Trowbridge

The only possible force that could be motivating the effort to preserve natural areas is the moral conviction that it is right..

A. Starker Leopold

Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money.

Cree

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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 <u>VerdugoHillsGroup@gmail.com</u>.

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 Trowbridge Chair/Mailing/
Alternate Chapter Delegate/
Hospitality
David F EisenbergVice Chair/Newsletter Editor
Carol HenningCo-Conservation/
Chapter Delegate/Political
Charlotte FeitshansSecretary
Michael BeckClimate Change
Annette KargodorianTreasurer
Judy Anderson Membership/Treas Asst/
Co-Conservation/Publicity
Gene & Terry Paulin Political Advisor
Bruce HaleOutings
Manoosh YeremianCo-Outings
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, Charlotte Feitshans

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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

Membership





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