

# BONANZA *on-line*

*Spring 2013* — Newsletter of the Mother Lode Chapter,  
Representing 11 Local Sierra Club Groups



## Successful Band of Sierra Clubbers on Path to Save Lake Tahoe

“The Regional Plan has put economic development ahead of the lake’s fragile beauty and character.” David von Seggren, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter

The Mother Lode Chapter, the Tahoe Area Group (TASC), and the Toiyabe Chapter have joined together to file a lawsuit challenging the new but flawed TRPA Regional Plan. Thanks to Eric Parfrey, who shepherded the TASC resolution supporting litigation through the CNRCC, Sierra Club California committees, and Convention. Eric also was instrumental in bringing the MLC Executive Committee to a full 17-0 vote to support the litigation. Kudos to Eric and his understanding of planning – quite the gift for the small Tahoe Area Group.

*(cont on pg 4)*

## YOU Can Help Make “Fundraising” Successful at the Awards Banquet!

The 2013 Mother Lode Chapter Annual Awards Banquet and Fundraiser will be held this year on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in the same location—Lions Gate Hotel and Conference, 3410 Westover Street, Sacramento (McClellan), California 95652. The no-host social hour will start at 5:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM (one hour earlier than in past years).

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## MOTHER LODE CHAPTER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET:

**MAY 4, 2013—With Keynote Speaker:**

### **Major General Jackson, Director, CA State Parks**

For a GREAT time, join us in honoring and celebrating the achievements of outstanding environmental activists at the MLC’s spectacular, gets-better-every-year, gala event. In addition to meeting like-minded folks and re-acquainting with those you know, you’ll also have the opportunity to take home wonderful silent auction and raffle items and support MLC’s best fundraising event!

The MLC is honored to have Major General Anthony L. Jackson (Retired) as our keynote speaker. Appointed by Governor Brown on November 13, 2012 to be the 19<sup>th</sup> Director of California State Parks, Major General Jackson retired from the Marine Corps after serving as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West, and supervised bases across California and the Southwest. Jackson is married to the former Susan Gail Steinbach of Lafayette, California, and has two sons, Brian and Blaine.

To accommodate those who come from longer distances, note the earlier start time.

LIONS GATE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

3410 Westover Street, McClellan, California 95652

No-Host Happy Hour 5 pm; Dinner at 6 pm

Directions at: [www.LionsGateHotel.com](http://www.LionsGateHotel.com)

### Donations to the raffle and silent auction:

Please contact the Mother Lode Chapter office at [info@mlc.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@mlc.sierraclub.org), (916) 557-1100 ext. 108 if you would like to make a donation to help make this a successful fundraising event.

### Reservations:

This one will fill up fast, so don’t delay. The cost of the dinner is \$48.

Make your reservations by mailing the reservation form (pg 3) by **April 26, 2013** (firm date!). Or find the reservation form online: [www.motherlode.sierraclub.org](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org)

Visit and LIKE our Mother Lode Chapter Facebook Page at

[www.facebook.com/motherlodechaptersierraclub](http://www.facebook.com/motherlodechaptersierraclub)

Or search Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club

*(Fundraising-cont from pg 1)*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

1. SPONSORSHIPS: Sponsors will be honored on signs at the meeting, in our newsletter, and on our website! Sponsorship levels include Mountain Lion (\$1,000), Wolf (\$750), Wolverine (\$500), and Spotted Owl (\$250)

2. DONATIONS: Please donate items for the raffle and silent auction! Trips, service, gift baskets, photography, artwork.....and anything of value in between!

Your valuable donations help maintain a staffed chapter office in Sacramento and support MLC's 11 Groups throughout the 24 counties. It can't be stressed strongly enough how important your donations are for this event to be a success. For more information contact

[info@MLC.Sierraclub.org](mailto:info@MLC.Sierraclub.org), 916 557-1100 ext. 108, or visit our website at

[www.motherlode.sierraclub.org](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org).

Thank you from the MLC Awards Committee!



**Chapter Chair's  
Column  
by Andy Sawyer**

Last December, the Mother Lode Chapter Executive Committee elected me to be chapter chair. I have been chapter chair before, for four one-year terms, starting in 1995. The chapter has changed a lot since then, although the fundamental nature of the chapter as a grass roots environmental organization that gets results through the work of its member volunteers remains the same.

I have been active in the chapter throughout the period since I was last chair. Much of the change may seem subtle, as it has occurred gradually over time. But just as changes over time are apparent when comparing the photo accompanying this column and the photo I used with my previous columns, changes at the chapter are apparent too.

One change is highlighted by the circumstances that led to my election. Dale Stocking has served ably as chapter chair, and would have been elected to another term by acclamation if he sought it. But Lee Fennell decided not to continue as chapter treasurer after a long period of service, and Dale concluded that his services were more needed as treasurer than as chapter chair. It speaks volumes that chapter finances have become so complicated that the job of treasurer has become so important.

The change is not because we have more money – we don't.

*(cont on pg 4)*

**Inner City Outings**

MLC's Inner City Outings section has an ambitious agenda for 2013. ICO trips for youth kicked off on January 26<sup>th</sup> when leader Val Eviner introduced 36 excited teens and young adults from Grant High School's Environmental Organization to snowshoeing. Although there was initial skepticism, and it was the first experience of snow for some in the group, nearly all loved the sport.



Another snow trip is planned for March; this time with youth from Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services After School Academy. In addition to the snow hikes, day hikes, camping trips to Bodega Dunes and Samuel Taylor State Park, a work project at Cosumnes River Preserve, a whitewater rafting adventure, and a day at Stone Lake's Walk on the Wildside are already on the calendar for the spring and summer months. These outings and more will serve children and youth who

*(cont on page 5)*

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET — May 4, 2013  
MOTHER LODGE CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB  
Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center  
3410 Westover Street, McClellan, CA  
No-host bar at 5 pm; Dinner at 6 pm  
Reservations Deadline: Friday, April 26, 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email (preferred) or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Entrée (number of each):

\_\_\_\_\_ Spinach and Garlic Ravioli

\_\_\_\_\_ Seared Salmon

\_\_\_\_\_ Seared Chicken Breast, Roasted Wild  
Mushrooms

Number of Reservations @ \$48.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Sub total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a party of 8 – 10 and would like a table reserved for your party, please check this box:

Sorry, I can't attend but here's a donation toward event expenses:

\$45       \$90       Other      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation to help the event succeed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help sponsor this event. Sponsors will be recognized in the program.

Mountain Lion \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Wolf \$750 \_\_\_\_\_

Wolverine \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Spotted Owl \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed made out to MLC Sierra Club

I prefer to pay by credit card—Visa  Mastercard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form to: MLC Sierra Club  
801 K Street, Suite 2700  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Online reservations also  
available (credit card/PayPal)  
@ [www.MLC.sierraclub.org](http://www.MLC.sierraclub.org)

For more information: [info@MLC.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@MLC.sierraclub.org) or (916) 557-1100 ext. 108

*(Chair-cont from pg 2)*

Over time the funds available to the Club increasingly have been through donations earmarked to specific conservation campaigns, as opposed to unrestricted contributions, making it more difficult for the national Sierra Club to distribute funding to the chapters, restricting our flexibility on how we can use the funding available, and increasing the complexity of reporting.

One thing that hasn't changed is that the chapter depends on its own fundraising. Your Sierra Club dues and funds raised through the national fundraising efforts goes primarily for the national Sierra Club staff, and tight finances have resulted in painful layoffs. The Mother Lode Chapter depends on contributions to the March fund appeal, and to a lesser extent on funds raised at the May awards banquet. Keep an eye out for both. So long as we continue to cover the wide range of environmental issues facing our chapter, and do not shy away from taking controversial positions when protecting the environment requires us to speak up, we cannot rely on large donors, but instead depend on donations from a large percentage of our members.

We have made changes to cut expenses. Some of the largest changes have been with the *Bonanza*. To cut expenses for printing and postage, we first tried reducing the frequency of issues, but ultimately switched to publishing the *Bonanza* online only. It would be better to distribute the *Bonanza* in hard copy too, so we keep in better touch with our members, but we can't afford it. We need to find other ways to make sure our membership is informed and engaged.

As always, we accomplish a great deal, with relatively little funding, through the work of volunteers. These include members working through their groups on local land use issues; members of the chapter conservation committee working on timber harvest, public lands protection, and host of other issues; outings leaders helping to build appreciation for the wild places we work to protect; and many more.

The chapter has one employee, Terry Davis, and he is outstanding, but his work consists primarily of coordinating and supporting the work of a network of volunteers. Even more than your financial support, we need your volunteer activism. Thanks for your contributions. If you haven't started, now is the time.

*(Tahoe—cont from pg 1)*

Prior to filing our litigation, a number of political concerns were raised and considered. There were concerns about the State of Nevada, which two years ago adopted legislation to pull out of the TRPA Compact if they didn't get significant concessions on development regulations. Nevada was rumored to be threatening to pull out of the Compact if the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the RPU.

The stakes were high, and the pressure was on! The filing deadline for Earth Justice was Friday, Feb 8. Letters from the two Senators most closely connected to Tahoe, Sen Feinstein and Sen. Reid, suggested more moderate action. The Club swung into action and contacted the TRPA to discuss a tolling agreement between the Club and the TRPA to extend the filing date during which settlement talks could proceed. Eric, I might add, had suggested tolling early in the process, and his tactical advice came into play at the very last moment – on February 6.

Conversations were held with the TRPA leadership; TRPA agreed that the actual filing deadline was Feb 11, giving us more time. We sent a list of general issues raised in our lawsuit that we wanted to discuss. They sent back detailed responses to each of our issues, and TASC responded with clear explanations of the discrepancies in the TRPA statements. All of this proceeded under tense timelines and moving targets. The Club stuck to the position that we needed to talk—and not just over one or two days—that we wanted a tolling agreement to give us all time to have rational discussions.

All day Monday, Feb 11, we waited for TRPA to agree to set aside the legal filing deadline and to begin meetings to discuss our significant issues. Late on Monday, as the 5 PM deadline approached, the agency said it could not get the support from its Governing Board. We filed at 4:41 PM. Whew.

The TASC especially thanks the Sierra Club's Aaron Isherwood, Senior Attorney, and Bruce Hamilton, Conservation Director, for their tireless efforts to find solutions, soothe politicians, and authorize the final action and thanks Earth Justice that filed the legal Complaint with the Federal Court in Sacramento. Also, we want to highlight the role of Kathryn Phillips, ED of Sierra Club California, for her insights, advice, lobbying on our behalf, and especially her astute political skills.  
Submitted by Laurel Ames

(ICO—cont from pg 2)

have little chance to experience the beauty and mysteries of natural world: foster youth, homeless children and others with economic and demographic challenges.

While ICO leaders and volunteers are dedicated to introducing kids to nature by emphasizing simple, low-cost pleasures, some outings are expensive. The January snow trip costs were over \$500 and some of the camping trips may cost even more. To help cover our expenses ICO has planned two fundraisers. There will be a movie night at the Esquire IMAX in Sacramento on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Tickets to Born to be Wild 3D can be purchased for \$12, and either used by the purchaser or donated to the children and families ICO serves. ICO will also soon (date TBD) be raising funds through a Groupon for Good, which invites benefactors to donate through the Groupon site.

For more information about ICO fundraising or volunteering with ICO, please go to our website, <http://ico.sierraclub.org/sacramento> or call Ginny Volk-Anderson, ICO chair, at 916-485-5635.

#### MLC Leadership

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**Change of Address**—Please send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041,  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

**The Bonanza** is the official news publication of the Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter and is published (Summer), August 7 (Fall) and November 7 (Winter). Articles should be 400 words or less (with photos if appropriate).

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Meeting dates and contact information for chapter leaders are posted on the chapter website: [www.motherlode.sierraclub.org](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org)

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#### Elected ExCom Members

Rick Bettis

Sean Wirth

Eric Parfrey

Betsy Weiland

Barbara Rivenes

Andy Sawyer

Dale Stocking

Barbara Williams

Marilyn Jasper

#### ExCom Group Representatives

Alan Pryor (Yolano)

Grace Anderson (Tahoe)

Marilyn Jasper (Placer)

Anita Young (Yokuts)

John LePouvoir (Maidu)

Michael Molamphy (Delta-Sierra)

Jon Sturtevant (Tuolumne)

Grace Marvin (Yahi)

Chuck Kilmer (Sierra NV)

Warren Harding (Sacramento)

John Livingston (Shasta)

Visit and LIKE our Mother Lode Chapter Facebook Page at

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Or search Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club

## **CAN YOU REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YOU BETCHA!**

Join the Mother Lode Chapter Alerts email list which gives you breaking news about environmental issues so that you can write that letter, make that phone call, or send that email or fax to let your representatives and public agencies know your concerns. This important email list is low-volume, and your email will never be shared with anyone. To be added go to:

<http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/motherlode-alerts.html>

or email a request to [info@mlc.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@mlc.sierraclub.org)

### **Whales, Wildflowers and Wildlife!**

#### **2013 Cruises to Channel Islands National Park**

**April 7-9; May 5-7; June 2-4; July 21-23**

**August 25-27; September 15-17**

Join us for a 3-island, 3-day cruise to California's Channel Islands--Galapagos, USA!

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox.

Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel TRUTH. Each guest is assigned a bunk, with a reading light & privacy curtain. Delicious meals & snacks are served in the comfortable galley-lounge. The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of the ranger/naturalist.

To make a reservation, send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information call or email leader: 626-443-0706; [iholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:iholtzhl@aol.com)

### **Autumn Hiking in the Mokelumne River Watershed -- by Elaine Gorman**

If you desire an outdoor experience that is close to home, offers historic and scenic values, and isn't too difficult, you might want to check out the Pardee area of East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). There are over 36 miles of hiking and equestrian trails in the Mokelumne area.

On November 25, a group of 15 Sierra Club and Meetup members met near Valley Springs for a 10-mile hike. Even though we did not have spring wildflowers to admire as we walked, we had plenty of other special sights to attract our interest. Starting at 800 feet in the Sierra foothills, our trail (an historic gold rush era road) took us through grasslands, meadows, and oak woodlands.

Our first stop was the Wildermuth House, constructed of local sandstone in 1861. Next stop was the rustic Lawry Flat OK Corral, sans shootout. A bit further we took the short spur trail to a 100-yr. old olive orchard. We continued to McAfee Gulch crossing, where we were able to see grebes and ducks swimming on Pardee reservoir, and where we searched for Bald Eagles. When we headed back after lunch, our most

challenging part of the hike was the mile-long ascent (400 feet) from McAfee Gulch to the orchard.

Other high points of our hike included perfect weather, several raptor sightings, interesting rock formations, large mistletoe clumps in the half-bare oaks (good for smooching under), and congenial conversations among the participants. Hiking at this time of year minimizes contact with the foothill trifecta of poison oak, ticks, and rattlesnakes (but always hike with caution, these critters are present year-round).

For more info. on how to obtain a hiking permit and to download maps, go to <http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permit/sierra-foothills-trails>. You can purchase a one-day permit or a permit that is good for 1-3 years. Permits allow the holder to bring family and up to 3 guests. Pets are not permitted, there is no swimming (with a few exceptions), and bicycles are not allowed.

You can also call 209-772-8204 and request a "Trails of the Pardee & Camanche Watersheds" map that is very informative and includes mileage and trail profiles. You can learn about future hikes by signing up at Stockton-Modesto-Sonora Sierra Club Meetup. Go to <http://www.meetup.com/S-M-S-SierraClub/>.