

# BONANZA On Line



Spring 2012

Newsletter of the Mother Lode Chapter, Representing 11 Local Sierra Club Groups

## MOTHER LODE CHAPTER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET: MAY 5, 2012

### Keynote Speaker: Phil Isenberg,

Join us for both honoring and celebrating the achievements of outstanding environmental activists, connecting with like-minded souls, sharing stories, and having a great time at this gala event. You'll also have the opportunity to take home wonderful silent auction and raffle items—who could ask for more!

Phil Isenberg, Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, former California State Assemblyman (representing portions of Sacramento, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties), and former Mayor of Sacramento, Phil, will be the keynote speaker at our Annual Awards Banquet and fundraiser in Sacramento. See biography on page 3.

The event will once again be held at:

LIONSGATE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

3410 Westover Street, McClellan, California 95652

No-Host Happy Hour 6 pm; Dinner at 7 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 either \$40 or \$45 depending upon your selections.

Make your reservations by mailing the reservation form on page 8 by **April 27, 2012** (firm date!).

Or find the reservation form online:

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

## Protect California Campaign Launched—Clearcutting Panel Unites Labor and Environmental Advocates

You could have heard a pin drop after a Sacramento labor leader pressed legislators about the need to end clearcutting in California recently.

The labor leader, a member of a panel on clearcutting, was participating in the launch of the Protect California Campaign, a concerted educational effort led by Sierra Club California, environmental and environmental justice groups, and other allies to push back on anti-environmental rhetoric and the influence of heavily funded special interests at the state Capitol.

“I could feel tears welling in my eyes as the clear cutting panel testimony ended with Bill Camp's impassioned plea to give working people sustainable jobs by keeping the forest sustainable,” said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California. “The entire panel provided such a great balance of data and heart—exactly the balance that will help

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## Values Galore at Clair Tappaan Lodge This Winter

By Olivia Diaz, Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee  
Special Offers and Savings in times of low snow!  
Winter at Lake Tahoe

Despite you may have heard, there is plenty of snow for all of your winter adventures. Sledding, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Alpine Skiing, Tubing, and Ice Skating are all happening right now at Clair Tappaan Lodge and throughout the Tahoe area. First hand reports of great skiing continue to come to the Lodge from guests returning from their fun day on the mountain.

For the remainder of the winter season we will be offering a free snowshoe tour for all overnight guests every Saturday. Weekly specials will also be announced via our Facebook page so become a "fan" of Clair Tappaan Lodge today and save tomorrow.

Clair Tappaan Lodge's on-site winter amenities include a groomed sledding hill and cross country ski/snowshoe trails and a large general snow play area. The Lodge is conveniently located near three major ski/tubing resorts -- Sugar Bowl, Donner Ski Ranch, and Soda Springs -- all accessible from the Lodge by a complimentary shuttle. Additionally, Royal Gorge, the country's largest cross-country ski resort, is just a short drive away.

There is plenty of winter left so make your reservation at Clair Tappaan Lodge by visiting us online [www.ctl.sierraclub.org](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call us at (800) 679-6775.

See you on Donner Summit!

## Fundraising Trip to Benefit Sierra Club California.

If you always wanted to see some of the most famous historical spots in and around the state of Virginia, this 8 day/7 night trip is for you: September 23-30, 2012.

Fly into Washington Dulles Airport, then bus to the historical sites: Restored Revolutionary Era Town of Williamsburg; Jamestown the first English settlement in America; Yorktown Battle-

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## A Call for Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to collect signatures for a 2012 ballot initiative which would require the labeling of genetically-engineered food. Training will be provided.

Signatures will be collected at regional Whole Foods Markets; the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-Op; the Sacramento Farmers' Market held on Sunday under the Hwy. 50 freeway and other locations.

If you are interested, please contact Olga Mandrussow, [OMandrussow@yahoo.com](mailto:OMandrussow@yahoo.com) 916-612-0559.

## MUIR MARCH 2012

The fight led by famed naturalist John Muir about a century ago continues to strengthen with the announcement that the fourth annual "Muir's March" has expanded to include six stunning guided backpacking trips (including a trip just for families) in Yosemite National Park, from July 29 – Aug 4, 2012. The march, which takes backpackers and hikers into scenic areas rarely experienced by tourists, raises awareness and funds for the campaign to bring the Hetch Hetchy Valley back to life. The treks literally and figuratively follow in Muir's footsteps, and are open to anyone who can raise a minimum of \$90.\*

Muir called Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley "one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." Despite his urgent pleas, in 1913 the federal government approved San Francisco's request to clear-cut and flood the valley for use as a reservoir. The decision horrified wilderness-lovers and helped spur the creation of the National Park Service and the international environmental conservation movement.

Muir's March participants can choose from 6 scenic treks, each led by an experienced guide, and varying in length from one to seven days, where they will enjoy stunning vistas, camaraderie, campfires and stories.

For more details on Muir's March or to read the full release, see below or visit For more information visit [www.muirmarch.org](http://www.muirmarch.org) or click here: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/2/prweb9162752.htm>

For more information on Restore Hetchy Hetchy contact Melanie Webber at 424-603-4340 / [melanie@mwebbcom.com](mailto:melanie@mwebbcom.com) or Angela Jacobson at 714-454-8776 / [angela@mwebbcom.com](mailto:angela@mwebbcom.com).

## **Phil Isenberg: Keynote Speaker-Mother Lode Chapter**

Awards Banquet and Fundraiser — May 5, 2012

The Mother Lode Chapter is honored to have Phil Isenberg as our 2012 keynote speaker—his credentials are formidable. As an elected official, he focused on land use planning, water and resource issues, state budget and fiscal matters, redevelopment reform and healthcare issues.

Mayor of Sacramento: 1975-1982

Member CA Assembly: 1982-1996

Chair, Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force: 2004-2008

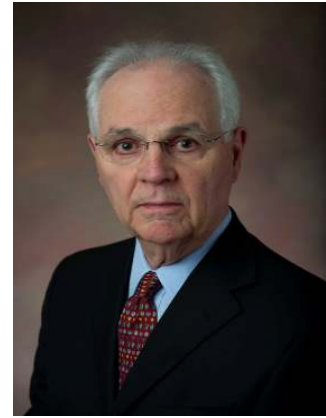
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force: 2007-2008

Chair, Delta Stewardship Council 2009: current

Isenberg holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law and a Bachelor of Art in Social Science and Government from California State University, Sacramento. He was in private practice and also served as President of Isenberg-O'Haren Government Relations from 2004 to February 2010. He is currently an inactive member of the California State Bar.

Isenberg served as chair of the California Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force from 2004 to 2006 and served as chairman of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force from 2007 to 2008. The recommendations of the Delta Vision Task Force provided much of the structure of the major water/Delta policy changes adopted by the legislature in 2009 and signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger.

He was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to a six year term on the Delta Stewardship Council, and elected Chair of the Council by his colleagues.



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### **The Film “Mother.....Caring For 7 Billion”**

The Committee for a Sustainable World Population (CSWP) continued its recent showings of the film, “Mother.....Caring for 7 Billion,” with very good public response, on Dec. 28, 2011 in Auburn, Jan 15 in Fresno, and Jan. 26 in Coloma. The film will be shown at an environmental youth film festival on Feb. 13 in San Rafael, Feb. 22 in Modesto, Feb. 27 in Stockton, April 3 at ASRACK in Auburn, April 24 at Placer Group in Auburn, and April 27 at Shasta College, Redding. The film describes how we reached 7 billion people in such a short time and stresses the importance of women's empowerment in stabilizing the global population. It has won many film festival awards and many renowned organizations have endorsed this film. Dr. Paul Ehrlich calls this film “A must-see for anyone interested in saving our planet and humanity.” See [www.motherthefilm.com](http://www.motherthefilm.com) or contact CSWP member Evan Jones, 916 442 2661, [revwin@yahoo.com](mailto:revwin@yahoo.com), to reserve the film for your group.

Other News :

A proposed November 2012 ballot issue would require prior parental notification before an abortion, for teens under 18. Voters have rejected three previous attempts to pass similar initiatives, and it needs to be defeated again.

We have alerted the media to environmentally-preferred alternatives to high speed rail, unsustainable water use, and deforestation. Conservation measures and investment in voluntary family planning are preferable to continued population growth and environmentally destructive projects.

We sent recognition letters to several organizations which have made outstanding contributions on population-related environmental issues. Also, we polled candidates for MLC ExComm and Sacra-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Label GMOs Initiative Filed, Will You Sign?

*Genetically Modified Organisms via Shutterstock*

*By Gabriela Worrel / Special to LAist*

Californians are one step closer to voting on a ballot initiative requiring labeling of genetically engineered foods. Last week, the coalition It's Our Right To Know filed a ballot initiative with the California Attorney General's office. Volunteers must collect at least 850,000 signatures by April 2012 in order to place the initiative on the November 2012 state ballot.

If successful, the initiative will allow voters to choose whether foods containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) should be labeled as such. Labeling food packaging would allow consumers to make informed decisions about the type of ingredients in the food they eat. GMOs are pervasive in the food system, and current state laws do not require labeling of GMO foods.

According to one of the initiative's sponsors, the Organic Consumers Association (OCA), over 80% of Californians polled favor GMO labeling. The OCA asserts that the initiative has been carefully crafted to prevent costs on food consumers or producers. The initiative language will be posted on the Label GMOs website in the coming days.

Monsanto, an international leader well known in developing and selling seeds used in GMO crops, notes on its website that "Monsanto is dedicated to providing full transparency about our company."

Will the company also support transparency of its products in the marketplace? That much remains to be seen.

Check out our previous Label GMO 2012 Campaign coverage:

- Is California Poised to Change the Nation's Food Landscape?
- Hidden in Our Food: GMOs & Your Right to Know
- Exercise Democracy at The World Food Day Rally
- Mary's Gone Crackers & Speaks Out Against GMOs

Contact the author of this article or email [tips@laist.com](mailto:tips@laist.com) with further questions, comments or tips. Contact Cynthia Denny, CNRCC Steering Committee member at [labelgmols12@gmail.com](mailto:labelgmols12@gmail.com) to volunteer for signature gathering!

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us recapture the environmental debate.”

The panel was organized by the Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats Campaign and Sierra Club California. It was one of five that drew more than 100 audience members and 15 legislators during a three-hour update on the environment.

"Over the past fifteen years, a major shift has been occurring in California's forests particularly in the Sierra Nevada and the Cascades. While clearcutting – an extreme, intensive form of logging – has largely been phased out of public lands due to public pressure, thousands of acres of forests and the public trust resources they sustain – water, wildlife, and air, as well as the climate – are coming under what the timber industry terms even-aged management,” Juliette Beck, the Sierra Clubs' Stop Clearcutting Campaign coordinator testified. "One company alone is in the process of converting nearly a million acres of forest to industrial, chemical-intensive tree plantations that will not sustain the benefits that natural forests provide for free. The magnitude of this extreme and arcane logging method is unprecedented in the Sierra and out of touch with a modern, 21st century approach to the responsible management of California's forests. We need forestry for the 99%, not clearcutting for the 1%."

Forestry panel speakers and topics included:

- Juliette Beck, Sierra Club's Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats Campaign, Overview of forestry's shift to private lands clearcutting
- Addie Jacobson, Ebbets Pass Forest Watch, Clearcutting's environmental impacts on all Californians, including urban dwellers
- Steve Wilensky, Member, Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and labor union advocate, Clearcutting's social and economic impacts
- Bill Camp, Executive Secretary, Sacramento Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Clearcutting's impact on California economy and labor

The event also included panels focused on air pollution, water pollution, toxics exposure and state parks closures. For more information on the stop clearcutting campaign, contact Juliette. [beck@sierraclub.org](mailto:beck@sierraclub.org), (530) 902-8407.

-- *By Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California*

## Develop Those State Parks at Tahoe—New TRPA Idea to Commercialize State Parks

In order to provide ever more recreation in the crowded Tahoe area, the TRPA staff has decided to change the zoning for Tahoe's state parks to a zoning that will permit tourist accommodations (not camping), commercial facilities and residential (as in condos). In the interests of obfuscation, they call the new park zoning - - get this - - Recreation!

Currently Tahoe state parks are zoned Conservation, which is an open space zoning that allows camping, beaches, hiking, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, etc.

The parks that will be re-zoned to allow hotels, condos and recreation businesses are:

Washoe Meadows  
Sugar Pine Point  
Burton Creek

The current State Recreation areas that will now be able to build hotels, condos and commercial facilities on site are:

Kings Beach  
Tahoe State Recreation Area  
Lake Valley (south shore golf course) (Stay and Play)

Parks that would remain as pure parks and be protected from the developers are Emerald Bay and DL Bliss, the two iconic state parks in the Tahoe basin.

Nightmare or Great Opportunity? Say hello to the Sugar Pine Point Luxury Lodge and Spa! Fly down the Burton Creek Zip Line! Play golf in Washoe Meadows State Park!

Let your concerns be known and write John Laird, Secretary for Resources at 1416 9th St, Room 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814. Email is [John.Laird@resources.ca.gov](mailto:John.Laird@resources.ca.gov) Message: Save our Tahoe Parks from the TRPA.

### WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Join the 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 elected representatives and public agencies know your concerns. This email list is low volume, and your email will never be shared. 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).

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field where George Washington won the climactic battle of the Revolutionary War; Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered his army to Grant; Monticello home of Thomas Jefferson; Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian Trail; Harpers Ferry site of John Browns revolt; Gettysburg Battlefield; Fort McHenry site of the Star-Spangled Banner; Annapolis and the US Naval Academy, ending with a cruise on Chesapeake Bay.

Includes lodging, transportation in Virginia to and from Dulles Airport, admission fees to scheduled locations and all breakfasts. Lunches, dinners, airfare not included. \$1250 with SC# / \$1350 non members. \$500 deposit to reserve, balance due 7/1/12.

For information and application forms email Mike Sappingfield, at [mikesapp@cox.net](mailto:mikesapp@cox.net) or, if you prefer mail service, send request to Mike Sappingfield at 25352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691 and include 2 SASE.

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mento Group election vacancies to determine their stands on global population growth.

CSWP had a booth at the Film Festival in Nevada City, Jan. 14-15, with over 6,000 attendees. We will again have a booth at the annual ECOS Fair, Sierra College, April 18-19, and at nine other Earth Day venues.

For a wealth of information on population issues, check out CSWP member Karen Pitts' website, [www.overpopulation.org](http://www.overpopulation.org).

GPEP has adopted an event tracking and evaluation form, proposed by CSWP member Elaine Gorman.

The U.C. Davis newspaper, the Aggie, now carries a daily message relating to global population growth...circulation of the Aggie is over 10,000 a day.

Contact Chuck Knutson at (916) 441-4144

**Book Review by Bern Kreissman**

**Dan Suzio, DEATH VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUIDE**

Nolina Press, 114 pages, \$17.95

Dan Suzio's Guide is more than a "where to" or a "how to," though it fulfills those aspects wonderfully well. With photographs on almost every page, the book is a delight for the eyes. The work covers more than 60 locations blanketing the Park, and provides maps and route suggestions for every site.

For the visitor, the index has been cleverly designed to provide each site with its associated map, and gives the history and related information to make any visit truly eventful. For the photographer, the book is a "must have." Each site shows its elevation, times of floral displays, morning and evening light, bird life, history, descriptive notes, and access roads. The book will help photographers to develop an "eye" for natural areas, to be applied anywhere in our park systems.

It is a book you will return to again and again.



**Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2012**

**3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises**

**May 6-8; July 8-10; September 9-11**

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters--- or just relax at sea.

All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel *Truth*. Fee for all tours, **\$590**, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Sierra Club California political programs. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com)).



**Eureka to San Francisco  
Sept. 9-13, 2012 5 days 320 miles!**

You can enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride in Northern California while supporting **Sierra Club California**.

*Climate Ride* is a fully supported bicycle ride from Fortuna to San Francisco under towering redwoods, through the Russian River Wine Country, and along the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route.

*Climate Ride* is more than a bike trip. It's an inspiring journey with 150 like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles—the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. *Climate Ride* also features an acclaimed nightly speakers series, known as the 'green conference on wheels,' where we hear from bright minds in policy, advocacy and innovation.

**Please Sign Up for Climate Ride 2012 and Support Sierra Club California**

Registration for Climate Ride is \$75 (which includes a beautiful jersey and more), and then you raise at least \$2400 to participate in the five-day, all-inclusive event. The ride is fully-supported by a team of talented leader-hosts, bike mechanics, medics, and massage therapists.

When you sign up, you'll be joining many other people who want to do something to help create a better future for us all. Climate Ride is a great way to get involved and experience an amazing adventure, powered by your own energy. The best bet is to sign up early not only so you have time to fundraise and train, but also because spots fill up!

Visit [www.climateride.org](http://www.climateride.org) to find out about the route, tips for getting in shape, and finding sponsors for your trip.

**Everyone who registers for the ride gets to choose which organization they will be raising money for – and we hope you will choose Sierra Club California!**

Please visit [www.SierraClubCalifornia.org](http://www.SierraClubCalifornia.org) to learn about the work the Sacramento advocates do at the Capitol and state agencies. If you would like to learn more about the event or other ways to support Sierra Club California, please contact Vicki Lee at 510-741-1201.

**Eye Protection and Comfort  
for the Outdoors**

Quality sunglasses are the main strategy for protection from the radiation and glare of the sun. They should be certified to block all, or very close to all, ultraviolet rays, and of good sturdy materials. Sunglasses can be grouped also by their effect on light; i.e. reduce all light reaching the eyes, reduce direct light and reflected light especially well (polarized), and variable tints which respond to the UV level (photochromic). The latter two tints are often incorporated in prescription eyewear.

The first type of sunglass tint can be useful for a hike in terrain with moderate to bright daylight, and little reflected light. (e.g. off granite or snow). Polarized lenses are notably superior to reduce glare from snow, water, rocks, etc. They are vastly underutilized. Photochromic lenses are very widely used, e.g.: Transitions, and change tint dramatically when exposed to different light and UV levels.

In dim light, prescription lenses with Anti-reflective coating can allow more light to reach your eyes, whether you are hiking or driving. This can noticeably enhance vision in dark conditions.

An eye exam every 1-2 years is a good investment in your eyesight, especially if you have a family history of eye disease, such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, or retinal problems.

Hats and visors are also useful to block the sun's radiation, and tree limbs from injuring you, as is eyewear.

Modern contact lenses with high oxygen ratings are better than ever, but caution should be used to avoid excess wearing time, which can lead to sudden red, inflamed eyes. Good hygiene when handling contacts is crucial whether you are home or outdoors.

Michael Molamphy, O. D., DS Group

**NEED A TAX BREAK?**

A donation to our chapter foundation account is tax deductible and ensures that your contribution helps our local efforts. Please make your check out to "**Sierra Club Foundation MLC**" and send to Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club, 801 K Street, Ste 2700, Sacramento, CA 95814. For more information call (916) 557-1100 x 108.

**Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club  
Annual Awards Banquet - May 5, 2012  
Keynote Speaker: Phil Isenberg  
Reservation Form Due by Friday, April 27, 2012**

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

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

Email address (preferred) and/or phone #:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Choice of Entrée:**

Spinach and Garlic Ravioli	_____	\$40
Seared Salmon	_____	\$45
Seared Chicken Breast, Roasted Wild Mushrooms	_____	\$45

Number of Reservations @ \$40.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_ Sub total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations @ \$45.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_ Sub total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Parties of 8 to 10 may request a table reservation)

Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I'd like to help sponsor the dinner—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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form to: MLC Sierra Club    Online reservations also  
801 K Street, Suite 2700    available through PayPal:  
Sacramento, CA 95814    www.mlc.sierraclub.org

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



**The Bonanza** is the official news publication of the Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter and is published four times a year by volunteers. The deadline for submissions are: February 7 (Spring), May 7 (Summer), August 7 (Fall) and November 7 (Winter).

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Meeting dates and contact information for chapter leaders are posted on the chapter website:

**www.motherlode.sierraclub.org**

**Bonanza** articles need to be submitted to the Editorial Committee by the deadlines and should be approximately 400 words or less (with photos if appropriate). Send to:  
bonanza@mlc.sierraclub.org.

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**The Bonanza** could use a volunteer with desktop publishing skills to help put together this newsletter four times a year. If you are interested in creating a more dynamic, pleasing, and exciting layout, please contact either Terry Davis or Dale Stocking.