



Palm and Pine

A publication of the San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties



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Protect America's Environment For our Families... For our Future

MAY—JUNE 2009

In This Issue

- Contacts for Chapter office2**
Plus website & membership
- Group News.....3**
Moreno Valley, Los Serranos, Mountains, Mojave, Santa Margarita
- Calendar5**
Something for everyone: Outings, Activities and meetings
- Chapter Positions8**
Contact information
- Cutting Emissions.....9**
"Not offsetting them"
- Island Hopping in Channel Islands.....9**
2009 Fundraising Trips
- Huts, lodges available.....10**
Local Club mountain facilities
- Moreno Valley Warehousing.....11**
More trucks/more smog
- Sierra Student Coalition.....11**
Get involved/get trained
- Membership Application.....11**
Not a member yet?
- Chapter Awards Presented.....12**
Joe Whyte/Steve Farrell honored

Membership Meetings

Tuesday, May 5

San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust

Peter Jorris will provide an update on the activities of the Trust. (See accompanying article on page 12)

Tuesday, June 2

Green Path North

San Bernardino County Supervisor, District 3, Neil Derry will discuss the controversial path for LA's Renewal Energy Power Corridor.

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands (California St exit 10 Fwy)

Desert Tortoise On Grizzly Path?

By Sidney Silliman

The desert tortoise and the grizzly bear are obviously quite different. Yet their relationship with human beings is tellingly similar. The parallels are so striking that the grizzly-human relationship holds important lessons for the future of the Mojave desert tortoise. Although there were perhaps as many as 10,000 grizzly bears within the boundaries of what is now the State of California (Storer and Tevis), those magnificent animals were decimated through human extirpation and habitat destruction. The irony is that the Golden Bear is the official animal of California. And what of the desert tortoise, the official State Reptile? The tortoise today is a threatened species, perhaps on the path of the grizzly.

When Lewis and Clark began their exploration in 1803, as many as 50,000 grizzly bears roamed freely from the Great Plains to the California coast and south into Texas and Mexico. By the 1920's, the grizzly bear was extinct in over 95 percent of its ancestral range in the Continental United States; the last of the wild California grizzlies was killed in the early 1920s. By the 1970s, there were

fewer than 1,000 bears confined to less than two percent of the grizzly's original range in the coterminous U.S. Only the Yellowstone, Northern Continental Divide, Selkirk, Cabinet-Yaak, and Northern Cascades areas contained small and isolated populations. The cause of the grizzly bear population's decline and the near extinction of the bear in almost every state was human-caused mortalities coupled with habitat usurpation. The Golden Bear was shot, trapped, and poisoned in California for sport, for its pelt and gallbladder, and to protect property. Its habitat was occupied by ranchers along the coast, farmers in the valleys, and miners in the foothills as people streamed into what was once a grizzly paradise.

Although the tortoise is certainly more endearing than the grizzly, desert tortoise populations are declining throughout their range and have been in decline for several decades. The specific factors are different, yet the general explanation for the downward trajectory of



the tortoise population parallels the history of the grizzly bear: mortalities and habitat destruction linked to what we do as humans. Desert tortoises are removed from the wild population to serve as pets - being small and cute is nearly as risky as being large and fearsome. Turtles are run-over by passing cars along our highways and by off-road vehicles racing across the desert. Human subsidized predators like ravens, coyotes, and domesticated dogs kill even more turtles. Livestock grazing, road construction, and housing subdivisions all consume valuable tortoise habitat. Cities like Ridgecrest and Barstow encompass what was once desert tortoise habitat.

(Continued on page 2)

Children's Forest Youth Leaders Stick to Nature's Way



Children's Forest youth leaders Drew Martin, Danny Ellison and Akyll Boyer are planting a Ponderosa pine in the Heaps Peak burn area.

By Ann Olander

"Hiking is no longer relevant to kids," read a headline in the last issue of *Palm and Pine*. Indeed, statistics show that today's young people spend less time in nature than in former years, and the off-highway vehicle community (OHV) has offered strategic plan solutions. But Sierra Club cares too.

That's why the Mojave Group asked readers to share views with the OHMVR Division of the Calif. State Parks. That's why the Mountains Group continues to donate generously to Children's Forest near Running Springs in the San Bernardino Mountains, and why our San Geronio Chapter once sponsored programs for inner-

city youth.

It's also why, in 2007, our Chapter donated a \$2,500 grant to the **Children's Forest Youth Leadership Team**. The Chapter matched funds established with profits from the sale of *Call of the Mountains* to Sierra Club members. Since then, the Youth Leadership Team has blossomed full speed ahead.

"This has been an incredibly successful year with the youth from our mountains," said Children's Forest Program Manager Alison Bates at the end of the 2008 season. The Youth Leadership Team grew from 80 youth volunteers in 2007 to almost 100. These young leaders, ages 11-17, volunteered more than 3,500 hours during the last 12-month cycle.

Josh Hodges, 14, is a four-year veteran who has cross-trained and served in many Children's Forest areas. When asked his favorite, Josh didn't hesitate, to say "trail crew," which means keeping the 4.5 mile Exploration Trail free of brush and V-ridges made by mountain bikes. Trail work is a natural for Josh because he likes to hike and backpack with his dad, a volunteer with the San Geronio Wilderness Association. Josh also helps maintain the ¾ mile paved Interpretive Trail, where he gives tours.

Before each tour, Josh gives an overview about the mountains. When working at the Visi-

tor Center, he and other youth leaders give out information and answer questions, such as where to hike. Or they help youngsters with activities at the Naturalist Table. Josh volunteered about 400 hours last year, possibly he said, because he broke his wrist, which took him out of baseball.

Last spring youth leaders - including Josh - planted pine seedlings at Heaps Peak. "They planted about 10,000 seedlings," said Bates. "Although volunteers in the community helped, the kids did most of the work." The seeds were gathered locally and grown by the forest service.

Grant money like ours helped re-establish the native plant greenhouse. Youth leaders manage a greenhouse near their visitor center. (The larger greenhouse in Big Bear is in collaboration with the Forest Service.) "They love it," Bates said, speaking about youth volunteers who watch the seeds grow to plants and then transfer them from greenhouse back to areas burned in the 2003 Old Fire. Native plants in the greenhouse include oaks, sage, rabbit brush, flannel bush and local wild flowers. "You come back in a week and you see everything's growing," she said.

Similarly Bates and her assistants nurture the team leaders. After two years in the program they learn many skills such as public speaking and working in teams with peers or people of all

(Continued on page 2)

20th Annual Idyllwild Earth Fair May 16

By Holly Owens

Join us and spend the day in the breath-taking San Jacinto Mountains and experience one of Riverside County's most unique community events. The 20th annual Idyllwild Earth Fair will take place on Saturday, May 16th from 12-5pm at the Idyllwild Town Hall (25925 Cedar Street). Admission is free.

Earth Fair 2009 promises a variety of attractions, including live musical performances throughout the day, great food, and activities for adults and children. Fairgoers can also enjoy a diversity of interactive booths fea-

turing earth-friendly products, organic and ethnic foods, composting, wild-life conservation, henna painting and more!

The All Species Walk will mark the start of Earth Fair. Participants will meet at 11:30 in front of the Tree



Paul Jacobson

(Continued on page 2)

Idyllwild Earth Fair

(Continued from page 1)

Monument in the center of town. Kids of all ages are invited to dress as their favorite animal and bring drums or other musical instruments to play while they make their way to Town Hall to kick off the day's events.

Our emcee this year is Magic Frank, who literally brings a touch of magic to the day's events. Musical entertainment includes the a cappella stylings of Local Color, and the rockin' blues of the Chuck Alvarez Band who always gets people up on their feet, so don't forget your dancin' shoes!

Each year Earth Fair also presents the Greenwood Award to an individual or group for exemplary action in service of our regional environment. Come to Earth Fair to see who this year's honoree will be!

The Idyllwild Earth Fair balances festivity and education as we celebrate the diversity of the natural world. Come celebrate our 20th year with us! For additional information, email 4hollyo@gmail.com or visit www.earthfair.com

Palm and Pine Advertising

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Deadline: 1st of the month preceding the issue date. (Feb 1, Apr 1, Jun 1, Aug 1, Oct 1, Dec 1)

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E-mail copy directly to ralphsalisbury@att.net
Send payment to: Sierra Club, San Gorgonio Chapter, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501. Please note that payment is for Palm and Pine advertising and make Attn: Ladd Seekins. Payment must be received by treasurer prior to deadline. Allow at least 2 weeks.

Preserve The Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
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85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

TORTOISE

(Continued from page 1)

Human expropriation of turtle habitat continues with expansion of military bases and the construction of power plants and transmission lines in pristine areas of the desert. The proposed expansion of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twenty Nine Palms would include the transfer of 356,906 acres of public land, including habitat critical to the survival of the threatened desert tortoise (and the desert bighorn sheep). BrightSource Energy, in the first of many applications that may be processed by the California Energy Commission for the siting of power plants in the desert, proposes to construct a solar electric generating system on 4,065 acres of what is biologically Category I habitat for the tortoise and inhabited by a breeding population. Translocation of resident tortoise is a common prescription to mitigate the effects of such projects. Yet moving tortoise to a new location may dramatically increase the rate of mortality. The relocation of tortoise in 2008 in connection with the expansion of Ft. Irwin resulted in the tragic deaths of an unacceptable number of tortoise, animals that otherwise would have been basking in the sun near their burrows.

Like the grizzly, the survival of the tortoise depends on reducing human-caused mortalities and preserving habitat. Both the grizzly in the Continental U.S. and the Mojave portion of the desert tortoise are listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act, with the grizzly listed in 1975 and the tortoise fully listed in 1990. Once protected, the Yellowstone bear population increased from less than 200 animals to some 600 bears today. While multiple factors explain the recovery of the grizzly in the Yellowstone ecosystem and its delisting in 2007, two factors from the grizzly-bear recovery experience are particularly applicable to the protection of the tortoise in the Southwest: (1) on-the-ground actions to reduce threats (rather than the "adaptive management"

emphasis in the Fish and Wildlife Service attempt to revise the Tortoise Recovery Plan) and (2) a focus on specific population units. The garbage dumps in and around Yellowstone National Park were closed to reduce the bear-human interactions that result from habituated bears seeking human food and then the almost inevitable killing of the bear as a "nuisance." There is a parallel in tortoise recovery as ravens, which especially prey on young tortoise, are subsidized by human garbage. As in the case of grizzly recovery, concrete steps must be taken to control human behavior. Grizzly bear conservation and recovery is structured around defined ecosystems like Yellowstone and the Northern Continental Divide so that recovery actions can be tailored to the bear population within each unit. Likewise, the Fish and Wildlife Service ought to manage the delineated recovery units of the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan as separate, distinct population segments. The published science supports the validity of the recovery units and shows measurable genetic differentiation within them (Connor).

Humans commonly incorporate wildlife symbols into their narratives and their art and then ascribe meanings to those symbols. The turtle, among the Chemehuevi, symbolizes enduring patience, stamina for survival, and courage in hopeless situations (Schneider). Humans sometimes ignore the real animal or bird or reptile that is the source of the symbol, with disastrous results for wildlife. The grizzly bear is hoisted on the State flag, yet the Golden Bear is extinct in California. Is the desert tortoise -- our official State Reptile -- on the same path?

References:

Conner, Michael J. "Saving the Desert Tortoise." *Desert Report* (March 2009): 6-7.

Schneider, Joan S. *The Desert Tortoise and Early Peoples of the Western Deserts*. Riverside: Special Report, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, 1996.

Storer, Tracy I. and Lloyd P. Tevis, Jr. *California Grizzly*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1955 and 1996.

FOREST

(Continued from page 1)

ages. In turn, Bates writes letters of recommendation for the young leaders -- perhaps one day for Josh, who's thinking about a career in law enforcement or forestry. Sometimes the program nurtures students mandated for a required number of community service hours; occasionally these youths stay and become youth leaders.

Youth leaders designed both the 3/4 mile paved Interpretive Trail and the Exploration Trail. They actually built the latter collaboratively with firemen, Forest Service staff and volunteers. Every year since the trail's 2005 opening, the Mountains Group hikes up and down this 4.5 mile trail as part of their annual Shady Cove car camp.

The 3,400 acre Children's Forest was established in 1992 as a program of the non-profit San Bernardino National Forest Association. Since 2005, the Mountains Group has been supporting the Youth Leadership and other Children Forest programs -- totally \$12,000 thus far -- initiated by Heather Sargeant, Thrift Shoppe volunteers, and Steve Farrell. "We do not have the time or resources to do youth programs ourselves, so this is the next best thing," said Chairman Dave Barrie.

Diverse efforts seem to be sprouting -- or getting press attention -- throughout the U.S., possibly in response to more awareness or books like Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*, *Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. For example Teen Green is an active youth-led movement of environmental work projects in Claremont, near Los Serranos Group members.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Nov.-Dec. issue of *Mothering Magazine* carried a story, *Forest for a Classroom*, extolling the benefits of outdoor kindergartens, where schools are literally outdoors, rain or shine, snow or sleet. As readers might guess, these *Waldkinders* are popular in Scandinavia and Germany, spreading to Switzerland. Yet their philosophies are spreading here, along with studies linking nature-based education to improved academic performance, better mental and physical health, and more environmental stewardship.

More to the point, in 2008 the stick -- just an ordinary stick -- was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame. Curators praised its no-cost, versatile qualities and its ability to inspire children's creativity in myriad ways.

The Children's Forest Visitor Center is located 1 mile east of Running Springs on Hwy. 18. Hours are Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. Youth hosts and naturalists lead interpretive hikes and guided tours. For information call weekdays (909) 382-2600 x 4024, weekends (909) 867-5996

Greenhouse Days are every 3rd Sat of the month and open to the community for working on certain projects alongside youth leaders, 9 a.m - 3 p.m. The collaborative Children's Forest/Forest Service greenhouse is by the Big Bear Ranger Station flagpole (Hwy 38 in Fawnskin, next to the Discovery Center.)

Sat. night summer campfire programs, Dogwood Campground, Lake Arrowhead, include skits performed by youth leaders.

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There is a membership coupon in this issue. You can also contact the Membership Chair (see Chapter Executive Committee Directory this issue) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415) 977-5663.

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Group and Section News

Moreno Valley Group

By Ann McKibben

The Moreno Valley City Council approved the Highland Fairview Corporate Park at their February 10, 2009 meeting with a 5-0 vote. Despite the city's Planning Commission voting 4-2 against the project, city council members voted to put the 2.42 million square foot logistic center along southern edge of Highway 60 between Redlands Boulevard and Theodore Street. The proposed project will add 2,200 daily diesel truck trips to the already congested Highway 60. The developer apparently is working to modify the city's general plan to make 1,500 acres of the Moreno Highlands Specific Plan into warehouses and logistic centers. If he is successful, traffic on Highway 60 will increase to 40,000 trips a day for polluting diesel trucks. In previous articles we have mentioned that the developer gave about \$250,000 to the Moreno Valley Taxpayers Association. The organization in turn funded two candidates who

support the suit. If you want to remain anonymous, your request will be honored. Please make your check payable to the Sierra Club and send it to: Sierra Club, Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. A HUGE thank you to those who have already made donations! They are sincerely appreciated. Please keep this lawsuit in mind and feel free to donate again. Call George Hague, Group Conservation Chair at (951) 924-0816, or e-mail the Moreno Valley Group at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com for more information. Updated information can be found at the Group's web site: <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html>

Two other warehouse/logistics centers are being planned for eastern Moreno Valley. The first is ProLogis Park along the southern border of Highway 60; it would be 2,244,000 square feet. Please contact planner Jeff Bradshaw at (951) 413-3224 for



Ann McKibben/Moreno Valley

Bluebird Box Nature Walk, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, March 14, 2009.

successfully ran against Frank West and Charles White. The two new council members voted to approve the Highland Fairview project. City council meetings agendas can be found at: <http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/> Project planner is Mark Gross, Moreno Valley Planning Department, (951) 413-3222.

Because of this massive project's health, safety and welfare effects on the residents of Moreno Valley and surrounding communities the Sierra Club is suing the city of Moreno Valley over their approval of the Highland Fairview Corporate Park saying that the city did not adequately consider the environmental impacts of the project and did not adequately reduce the effects of the project or consider cumulative impacts of the project. Air quality, traffic, quality of life, noise, availability of water, lack of considering alternatives to the project are the reasons for the lawsuit. Attorney Ray Johnson of Temecula is handling the lawsuit. We urge you to support our efforts by making a donation. Any amount (large or small) is valuable to

more information. The second is Ridge Property Trust, also along the southern border of Highway 60 in eastern Moreno Valley. It would be a single building of 944,000 square feet. Please contact planner Kathleen Dale at (951) 413-3228 for more information.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Villages of Lakeview (VOL) Specific Plan 342 was released by the Riverside County Planning Department on February 19, 2009. Comments were due on April 22, 2009. The project proponent, Lewis Operating Corp, is moving quickly to seek approval of the VOL project. It is possible that the project will go before the Riverside County Planning Commission in July, and it may go before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for approval before the end of the year. If approved, the Villages of Lakeview project would put 10,000+ homes in the rural communities of Lakeview and Nuevo. The project proponent plans to build 3,000 units (mostly apartments) of the project on 350 acres be-

tween the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Marvin Road) and the northern border of the Ramona Expressway. Apparently, high density housing units are an appropriate and compatible land use next to the wildlife area, a cornerstone reserve in Riverside County's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Other issues of concern include: availability of water (as California suffers its worse drought), loss of prime agricultural lands, leap frog development, noise and light pollution, and creating a 'divided city' since the Ramona Expressway is slated to expand to a six to eight lane freeway as part of the Mid County Parkway. There is strong opposition to the project from Lakeview and Nuevo residents. For more information on the project, contact project planner Matt Straite, Riverside County Planning Department at (951) 955-8631. Planning Commission agendas can be found at: http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/hearings/pc/current_pc.html The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley will have information posted at their web site: www.northfriends.org You can e-mail the Moreno Valley Group at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com or the Friends at: northfriends@northfriends.org if you would

like more information. The draft Environmental Impact Report is posted at the Riverside County web page at this link: http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/planning/content/temp/villages_of_lakeview.html Even though the deadline for comments was in April, you can let the county planning department and county supervisors know that this is not a compatible project to put next to the wildlife area. Please take time to submit your ideas and list your concerns about the project and the major significant impacts on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Send your comments to: Planner Matt Straite, County of Riverside, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92502-1629; Fax: (951) 955-3157. You can e-mail the Riverside County Supervisors at: <http://www.countyofriverside.us/portal/page/portal/cornew/Government/BoardofSupervisors>

A new project is being proposed for the former site of the McAnally Chicken Ranch on the corner of Gilman Springs Road and Bridge Street. Since the chicken ranch project has been withdrawn, another project for the same site is moving through the planning

(Continued on page 10)

Los Serranos Group

By Mary Ann Ruiz

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is the largest botanical garden dedicated exclusively to California's native plants. Founded in 1927, the Garden is nestled into 86 acres in the city of Claremont, near the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

"California, with over 6,000 kinds of native plants, has the richest flora of any state in the continental United States. Susanna Bixby Bryant, a member of one of California's pioneering families, recognized the need to conserve this incredible plant diversity. She first established her "wild native garden" in 1927, on her rancho in Orange County. Surrounded by California's burgeoning interest in horticulture, Susanna created an ambitious and unique botanic garden, in her words, "...to preserve our native California flora, try to replenish the depleted supply of some of our rarest plants, and bring together in a comparatively small space as complete a collection...as can be made to grow in this

southern section of the State." Relocated to Claremont in 1951, the 86-acre Garden is the largest botanical garden dedicated exclusively to our state's native plants.

In June the Los Serranos Group meeting will again be held at the RSABG in Claremont. Our friends at the Garden are graciously inviting us to enjoy our third annual evening picnic and tour. This was a very successful event last year and we invite any and all from the Chapter to attend this great evening. This year our meeting on June 16 will start early, at the Garden, with gates opening to Sierra Club guests at 5:00 pm. Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy under the oaks and sycamores at your leisure. At 7:00 pm, we will have a tour through the garden. After the tour our normal business meeting and announcements will wrap up a super evening. We especially invite NEW MEMBERS to come to this meeting event to get to know our group and see this wonderful resource.



Mary Ann Ruiz/Los Serranos Group

Join the Los Serranos Group June 16 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Group and Section News

Mojave Group

The Mojave Group continues at a fast pace to keep up with the times, distractions and threats in our area which stretches across the Mojave Desert from the Victor Valley to Needles. Sprawl and Sludge developments continue to appear on the San Bernardino County planning agenda despite Climate Change laws. Off Road Recreation continues to degrade the viewscape and fragment habitat because some people refuse to remain on designated open routes. There is a land grab going on across the desert for gigantic wind and solar energy production along with corridors 5 miles wide for transmission lines (at a cost of several millions of dollars for each linear mile)! The Military wants to expand in order to use live fire for practice.

We would like to hear your views too! Join our email list for updates on hikes, issues etc. and feed back-contact Estelle at estelledelgado@verizon.net for details. Our sincere thanks to all who have already answered our call! Keep up the good work. Enjoy the Mojave Desert.

Hacienda at Fairview Valley

By Jenny Wilder

On March 17, 2009 members of the Mojave Group, some residents and representatives from the Strata Equity Group met on site off Cahuilla Road and Central in Apple Valley. We were treated to a tour of the property from the Strata Equity Group who is proposing the zone changes in the County General Plan and a site specific plan to accommodate 3,100 houses including age restricted deeded properties (55+ ages) and reduced acreage equestrian zoned lots in a currently very rural area. The Strata Equity Group representatives, including the Vice President of Community Planning, Eric Flodine, engineer, Ray Allard, and biologists Shay Lawrey and C.J. Fotheringham were all very helpful in describing the proposed project and answering our questions. We very much enjoyed the perfect weather and a show of wildflowers on our hike through the property.

The development is expected to bring needed housing to the area while preserving the look of a rural neighborhood.

The plan has been carefully modeled and the company is taking into consideration the comments from neighbors and others. We find that the current plan largely neglects the impact it will have on continued sprawl development in the High Desert, traffic congestion, water availability and costs, and on Climate Change. It is a large residential development that is being proposed well outside existing city limits, which will lead to excessive sprawl. If the plan is approved, it will forever change the rural character of the surrounding properties and would encourage more land owners to split their 40, 20, 10 and 5 acre parcels, speeding the overall sprawl effect of this one site specific plan. The many good features in the overall plan could be increased (e.g. 100% energy generation from roof top solar instead of a fraction of that, alternative transportation choices to supermarkets, schools

and hospitals) and this type of concentrated housing development would be better suited in a different location within the Town limits.

The number of daily vehicle trips would exceed 6,000 at completion and may double that figure. This alone would contribute considerably to climate change and traffic congestion on the nearby roads- Joshua, Central, Highway 18, Navajo, Bear Valley Road etc.

We are very concerned about the availability of water for the project, which would require water piped in from elsewhere. The costs associated with this piped in water and its source are unknown.

For further information contact: Jenny Wilder, Mojave Group Chair JensOasis@aol.com or contact the San Bernardino Planning Department with your concerns regarding the Hacienda At Fairview Valley: Doug Feremenga, AICP Senior Planner, 385 North Arrowhead Ave, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182 909 387 4147 or email: dfere-menga@lud.sbccounty.gov. By the time this goes to print, the EIR is expected to be ready for review.

Read about Sprawl on the Sierra Club website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/>

Join us in helping to find some workable solutions for the Victor Valley.

Wilderness is near and dear to our hearts in the Mojave Group.

The article below is from a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein from one of our members, Kathy Corbett. Kathy expresses so perfectly a deep appreciation for the desert that we wanted to share it with everyone:

"Have you ever seen a desert sunset? It's nature's way of going out in style. Sometimes she's understated--classy with subtle hints of magentas and lavenders gracefully shading lazy, cotton candy clouds. She blushes with the waning sunlight, bashful lashes fluttering behind silhouettes of sandy, rounded hills or craggy, wind-swept mountains. Sometimes she slow dances with Joshua, standoffish with his sometimes prickly personality, but ultimately a sturdy and steadfast companion who blossoms with her shy smile.

At other times she goes out like a brash, outspoken hussy, hugging hilly curves, splashing their cleavage with bold colors. She sashays across the landscape, laughing at her imminent demise, turning heads wherever she goes. She's in your face flaunting her boldest colors, brilliantly outlining stormy gray clouds with loud yellows, oranges and reds, dangerously playing peek-a-boo with the fiery sun. Tossing her head, she abruptly dismisses the day, choosing to burn out rather than fade away.

No matter which breathtaking desert sunsets you have been lucky enough to enjoy, one thing is certain: we need to preserve the desert landscape for both ourselves and our children.

(Continued on page 10)

Mountains Group

By Bob Sherman and Bill Engs

Winter in earnest slowed down the Mountains Group a bit, with several postponements, but as the weather relented, we finally held our Monday General Meeting on March 9, at St Richard's Episcopal Church in Sky Forest. Sierra Club member Dave Ficke provided a most fascinating talk and PowerPoint presentation about his visit to Mongolia last Summer. Dave, a biology teacher at Upland High School, told us of his experiences as a volunteer teacher in Mongolia in a program sponsored by the Asia Foundation, Dave visited remote areas, to train Mongolian teachers and community leaders about water/stream analysis and the importance of monitoring their drinking water for a better understanding of pollution and fostering public health. His presentation provided fascinating insights into the culture, geography, educational system and environmental problems in this expansive, but sparsely populated country, bounded on the north by Russia and on the south by China. Dave is continuing to try to marshal resources to send science supplies to these areas, where the students are willing learners, but educational resources are meager.

Mountains Group Outings included:

On Saturday, Feb. 7, a **Green Valley Lake Snowshoe Hike**, led by Heather Sargeant

On Saturday, Feb. 21, a **Lake Gregory Winter Bird Walk**, led by Bill Engs

On Saturday, Feb. 28, a **Pacific Crest Trail, Silverwood Lake Hike**, led by Billie Wolff

And on March 6, 7 and 8th, the **Joshua Tree National Park car camp** (at the Black Rock Campground). Friday was a clear, cool and windy day, and a short 4 mile hike was held. On Saturday, a 10 mile hike was held up Eureka Peak via Burnt Hill. Lots of Gambel's Quail were seen, and Pinyon Jays back



Cheryl Emoto

Hikers to Pinnacles on March 14th.

in the campground. The Saturday night air was more agreeable. Campers on Sunday hiked the Panorama Loop Trail. Though no desert wildflowers were blooming, from the high point of the trail, hikers had a great 360° view of snow-capped Mt. San Jacinto and Mt. San Geronio.

During a clear window in the otherwise stormy weather, on March 3, Heather Sargeant and Bill Engs joined a **Pacific Crest Trail Association work party** to help maintain the trail north of Lake Silverwood. Brush saws cut the overgrowing vegetation, then volunteers, following behind, picked up and dispersed the cuttings. Others used hand tools to recondition the trail tread.

On 14 March Heather Sargeant led a group of mountain residents and people from below up the **Pinnacles**, north of Lake Arrowhead. The three mile trail gains over 1,000 feet in elevation and culminates in some challenging rock scrambles near the summit. Everyone made it to the top, where they enjoyed the 360 degree view. Then, climbing down, all faced rock challenges in reverse before hitting the more gentle part of the trail.

The **Mountains Group** encourages all readers to join in with the replanting efforts of Forest Aid. <http://www.forestaid.net/>

Santa Margarita Group

By Jim Mitchell

The Santa Margarita Group was among those asked by San Diego State University to sponsor an Open House at its Ecological Reserve Field Station in the Temecula Foothills on March 28th. This was a rare opportunity for the public to visit the canyon retreat that is hidden at the end of a narrow mountain dirt road with a spectacular view of the Santa Margarita Canyon and River. The 4400 acre site, under the guidance of SDSU since 1962, has been preserved for use by students, teachers and researchers to study many aspects of our local environment. More than 300 people turned out for the event that included a fascinating description by Professor Matt Rahn of the many significant research projects underway at the Field Station. The visitors also had the opportunity to take a scenic hike down the edge of the canyon to the Santa Margarita River below.

The Santa Margarita Group has some excellent Outings on schedule for May and June. You will find full details in the Calendar of Outings, Meetings, and Other Events section of this Palm and Pine. For example, on May 3, Shauli Rosen Rager will lead a 3-1/2 mile hike through the northern edge of the new Wilderness designated area of Beauty Mountain. Then on May 17 Shauli will lead a slow paced hike to explore the new Wilderness area of Cahuilla Mountain climbing. The slower pace, according to Shauli "will give us time to watch the bird's activity and enjoy the views, so bring your binoculars and camera!" And, on May 31, Shauli will



Jim Mitchell/Santa Margarita Group
Hikers of all ages reached the Santa Margarita River during SDSU's Open House March 28.

lead yet another Santa Margarita Group Outing to the South Fork of the San Jacinto River. This will be a hike of "Moderate" level of difficulty of about 5 miles to an area that was recently designated as a Wild and Scenic River.

On June 6, Rick Estes will lead our "New Member" hike at the Santa Rosa Ecological Preserve west of Murrieta. This has become a popular monthly event that is open to both "old" and new members. It is an easy 5 mile roundtrip hike to the original Adobe ranch house, and may go by way of the beautiful Vernal Pools.

Laurie Webster, our Activities Chair has become a master at organizing urban outings with docent guided tours for our members. Recently we carpoled to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Quail Botanical Gardens in Escondido. In late April, Laurie arranged a tour of the Getty Villa in Malibu.

(Continued on page 10)

Calendar of Outings, Meetings, and Other Events

MAY—JUNE 2009

The outings calendar is available on the Internet at <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: Items for the JULY/AUGUST 2009 Calendar are due by June 5. FORMAT items similar to those below. Send items electronically if possible. SUBMISSIONS: Except for below, send to ralphsalisbury@att.net. OUTINGS: Send outings write-ups to your group or section Outings Chair. MEETINGS and other events: Send to iwfladd@eee.org

GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES AND DISCLAIMERS

All Outings Leaders are Chapter Certified Leaders having appropriate Outings Training Courses, First Aid Courses, and experience for the Outings they lead. LEADERS may exclude individuals from participation if they believe they may not be qualified. Non-Sierra Club members may join outings unless otherwise stated in the write-up. All participants agree to abide by the Leader's rules. Participants should CALL THE LEADER AHEAD TO SIGN-UP.

WHAT TO BRING

Many Outings specify items to be carried by EACH participant. Do not attend Outings without the specified items unless you have first discussed it with the leader. Often the TEN ESSENTIALS are required. They are: 1) map, 2) compass, 3) flashlight, 4) knife, 5) windproof/waterproof matches in waterproof case, 6) fire starter, 7) first aid kit, 8) extra food and water for emergency use only, 9) extra clothing including rainwear, and 10) sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat.

ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE

Outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service "Adventure Pass" for each vehicle. These Outings will be preceded by ** in the listings that follow. Be sure to contact the leader regarding permits. The permits cost \$30 per year or \$5 per day, however they may not be obtainable the day of your outing. If you arrive at the meeting place without making arrangements with the leader and you don't have a pass or find a ride in a vehicle with a pass, you will not be able to attend the outing. You are expected to share the cost of the daily passes equally with the others in the vehicle. A \$.50 contribution from everyone in the vehicle is reasonable for annual passes (above normal mileage contribution). America The Beautiful Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of the Adventure Pass.

CARPOOLING POLICY

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. Drivers should have adequate insurance coverage and their vehicles should have no safety defects. Drivers of carpools agree to not consume any alcoholic beverages. It is customary for riders to share expenses with the driver. Ten cents per mile per person for short trips is suggested while six cents per mile per person over 100 miles is usually reasonable.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign the following liability waiver.

Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death ("Injuries and Damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel and the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, and the services and amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

- I have read any rules and conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs and fees for the Outing; and I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
- The Outing begins and ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader and participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club ("Trailhead"). The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the Trailhead, and I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club after the commencement and before the end of the Outing.
- If I decide to leave early and not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, and I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.
- This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.
- To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, and to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.

I have read this document in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing. Note: If the participant is a minor, the minor's guardian must sign on the minor's behalf.

RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS

(LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

(1ST MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb 2, Apr 6, Jun 1, Oct 5, Nov 2. Also at Shady Cove Campground on Aug 8, 3 PM and at Keller Hut Dec 5, 3 PM. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

(1ST TUE) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time and place, call MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379, ruizmaryann@gmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(1ST TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

(1ST TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. COST: \$1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS 909-888-0161 <iwfladd@eee.org>. CHAPTER

(2ND MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GRP

(2ND TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
(In July only the meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday, July 18.) Monthly meeting. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please come: we need your help! PLACE: San Gorgonio CHAPTER Office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@fastmail.fm, (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July and August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, earthlingwiley@aol.com MOJAVE GROUP

(3RD TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location and directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, gardens@netzon.net. SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

(3RD TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

(3RD TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Note: The June meeting is a picnic at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden starting at 5 PM. Monthly meeting except August. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 628-1285. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES 951-314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com> CHAPTER

(4TH THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting/public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589 SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

WEEKLY REOCCURRING FITNESS ACTIVITIES

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings

MON 6:00 PM RIVERSIDE MT. RUBIDOUX ONE HOUR FITNESS WALK
MEET: Ninth Street entrance to Mt. Rubidoux. INFO: JUDY SMITH (951) 369-5117. SAN GORGONIO SIERRA SINGLES

MON 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road in Apple Valley. BRING flashlight, jacket and comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels, so please call before hike. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com> MOJAVE GROUP

WED 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP, VICTOR VALLEY WALK
Conditioning walk every Wednesday except Group meeting night on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Walks are paced for participants. Enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars and moon on a three mile walk around Jess Ranch and along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley. INFO: BILL SPRENG (760) (951) 4520, bspreng@verizon.net or JENNY WILDER (760) 220-0730, JensOasis@aol.com. MOJAVE GROUP

THU 6:00 PM LA SIERRA TRAILHEAD, CITY OF CHINO HILLS HIKE
Shed those weekday worries with a rejuvenating walk, about 2-3 miles, some good ups and downs to get the heart-rate up! MEET: Trailhead. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ ruizmaryann@gmail.com (909) 815-9379. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APRIL 27 – MAY 3

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

APR 28 (TUE) 9:00 AM SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL SOUTH OF GLASS RD HIKE
Moderate, 10 mile round trip hike along the Santa Ana River Trail with an 800' to 1000' elevation gain. MEET at Vons in Big Bear Lake and carpool to the trailhead. Those coming from the Redlands area can meet us at the intersection of Glass Road and Route 38 at about 9:30. BRING sturdy boots, plenty of water, layered seasonal clothing and snacks. INFO & RESERVATIONS: LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 28 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. (No December meeting.) PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com>. CHAPTER

APR 29 (WED) 4:30 PM BOX SPRINGS "M" HIKE
4 mile round trip hike to the "M" on Box Springs. Trail has some very steep areas. BRING water, sturdy shoes. MEET: From 60fwy in Moreno Valley go north on Pigeon Pass to left at the light on Hidden Springs Drive. Driveway into Box Springs Park is on the left off Hidden Springs Drive. Drive up the gravel road and park near the picnic tables. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

****MAY 2 (SAT) 9:00 AM SOUTH FORK TO SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL HIKE**
Moderate, 7 miles. Leaving Hwy. 38, we follow the South Fork of the Santa Ana River. A lush rushing stream environment changes to piñon pines then to grassy, oak meadows above the river on Barton Flats. From there we will connect with the Santa Ana River trail and loop back to the starting point. BRING: 1-2 quarts of water, snacks, hat, sun screen, insect repellent, layered clothing and hiking boots. National Forest Adventure Pass required. MEET in the Vons parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 am. LEADER: REGISTER: Call LEADER ED WALLACE (909) 584-9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 2 (SAT) 8:00 AM SANTA ANA RIVER BOTTOM BIRD WALK
MEET: Sierra Club office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. Bill will guide you to the birds. Breakfast at local restaurant after walk (optional). LEADER: BILL ENGS (909) 338-1910. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

****MAY 2 (SAT) 7:00 AM TWO T'S/TIMBER/TELEGRAPH PEAKS HIKE**
This hike is 12.8 miles round trip, with 3,387 ft elevation gain. Considered moderate to strenuous. MEET at the Ice House Canyon trailhead at 7:00 A.M. Possibility of some snow. Be prepared. BRING: Layered clothing, snack, and 3 quarts of water, and the 10 essentials National Forest Adventure Pass required. RESERVATIONS: You must contact LEADER: MITCH ANDERTON <mitchasn@aol.com> (909) 881-7844. CHAPTER

MAY 2-3 (SAT-SUN) 11:00 AM KELLER HUT SPRING GATHERING
Join us at Keller Hut for group meals, hikes, bird and nature walk, games, and conversation. BRING food for the weekend including a dish (salad, desert or main dish) to feed six for a potluck dinner on Saturday. We furnish hot beverages and table service. We will provide breakfast on Sunday. For information call OVERSEER MARGARET SPIESS, (909) 867-9152. MOUNTAINS GROUP

MAY 3 (SUN) 8:00 AM CUCAMONGA WILDERNESS: CEDAR GLEN HIKE
This hike will be part of the San Gabriel Mountains Forever East Campaign to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards and mailing will be provided. This will be an uphill hike on Chapman Trail up Cedar Canyon through oak, spectacular stands of incense cedar, yucca, chaparral, sugar pine, and ponderosa pine to Cedar Glen, just inside the Cucamonga Wilderness. Not for beginners, but not all that hard. 4.4 miles round trip, 1460 ft elev. gain. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. We will car-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

pool to Ice House Canyon Trail trailhead. BRING: water and snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. LEADER & INFO: DEAN SHIMEK, <dsierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAY 3 (SUN) 7:30 AM BEAUTY MOUNTAIN HIKE
Join the Santa Margarita Group for this foray into the northern edge of the new wilderness area, through the mature, redshank-dominated chaparral, hopefully with late spring blossoms. After stopping at a small seasonal spring, we will ascend Wire Hill for a dramatic view of Beauty Mountain, Anza Valley and Cahuilla Mountain. We will then turn back and return on the same route. Leader often stops to watch bird activity. Distance: 3.4 miles. Terrain: Rocks, gravel, some boulder hopping, and occasional branch to dodge. No trail! Level of difficulty: Moderate. BRING: Must bring: 2 liters of water per person, a snack or light lunch, hiking boots, sunscreen, hat. Dress in layers for unpredictable spring weather. Some driving on dirt roads, so high-clearance vehicles preferred. Children 10 and older welcome. MEET: Paloma de Sol Park, behind Home Depot on Hwy 79. Not coming from Temecula? Email for directions. LEADER: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER <rosenrager@gmail.com> (951) 767-2203. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

MAY 3 (SUN) 7:00AM PCT: TULE CANYON-TO HWY 74 HIKE
Tule Canyon Truck Trail to Hwy 74 is a moderate 15.7 miles along the Pacific Crest Trail. This is a great desert hike starting at about 3500 foot elevation and ending at an elevation of 4900 feet. We should see an excellent display of wild flowers along the way. INFO: For carpool information call LEADER. JOE WHYTE (909) 949-0899. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAY 4 – MAY 10

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

MAY 5 (TUE) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call DAVID THORNE, (909) 949-8046. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAY 5 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 5 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. COST: \$1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS (909) 888-0161 <iwfladd@eee.org>. CHAPTER

****MAY 7 (THU) 8:30 AM FORSEE CREEK TRIAL TO ANGELUS OAKS HIKE**
Strenuous 12 mile hike with a car scuttle required. This trail leads us through John's Meadow where the wild flowers should be in full bloom. We will meet at the Von's parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 8:30 AM. This hike is in a portion of the San Gorgonio Wilderness which requires a permit and limits the group size. National Forest Adventure Pass required for trailhead parking. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER ED WALLACE (909) 584-9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 8 (FRI) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE HIKE
Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is May 9.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 and 5 miles rt, 400 to 1200 ft elev. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and wear sturdy shoes/boots. RAIN CANCELS. INFO: LEADERS: PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAY 9 (SAT) YOUTH IN THE DESERT: VASQUEZ ROCKS HIKE
Please join us for another Youth in the Desert adventure to Vasquez Rocks in Aqua Dulce. This is a 745 acre park full of history and unique geological rock formations. We will hike approx 5 miles or less while we explore a history trail-tour of the Tatavian Indians and Spanish Settlers as well as keep a look out for wildlife and local vegetation. BRING 2 qts of water, lunch & Snacks, sunscreen & hat. Please dress for weather changes (layers), wear good hiking boots MEET: For starting time and meeting location please contact LEADER MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com> MOJAVE GROUP

MAY 11 – MAY 17

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

MAY 11 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

****MAY 12 (TUE) 5:30 PM PCT: HWY 18 TO SHADOW RANCH HIKE**
Come join the Big Bear Group for this easy hike. We will enjoy the wildflowers. An easy 2 mile round trip hike with less than 150' elevation gain. Enjoy panoramic views of the Mojave Desert along the trail. From above Shadow Ranch you can see the Big Bear Valley below. MEET: 5:30 pm at the crest of Highway 18 before it begins its winding descent into Lucerne Valley. There is a parking area on the right as you are leaving the Big Bear Valley. A National Forest Adventure Pass will be needed to park in the forest. CONFIRM with LEADER CHRIS COOK (909) 878-4524. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 12 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimffloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

MAY 13 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <earthlingwiley@aol.com> MOJAVE GROUP

MAY 16 (SAT) 9:00 AM SAN BERNARDINO FOREST CLEAN UP SERVICE
This is our annual Snow Valley area clean up. Please help us clean up the mess left by our snow-play visitors throughout the winter. MEET: Snow Valley Ski area gate at 9:00. BRING: Gloves, trash bags, sun screen and water. We will haul the bags to the dump. LEADER: CHRIS COOK (909) 878-4524. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 16 (SAT) 9:00 AM PCT: VAN DUSEN RD TO HWY 18 HIKE
Come join me and other hikers for an easy 9 to 10 mile hike along the PCT from Van Dusen Rd to Hwy 18 at Cushingberry Pass. This is a great hike through a pleasant wooded section of the PCT. BRING 2 to 3 quarts of water, sturdy boots and lunch/snacks. MEET at the Cushingberry Pass on Hwy 18 near Baldwin Lake at 9am. INFO: LEADER TERENCE MCCORKLE (760) 252-2194 cell (760) 412-1688 <oldhikerdude@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

MAY 16 (SAT) 8:00 AM SB MTS: MILLER CANYON LOOP HIKE
Experience a variety of woodlands from dry to moist as we walk on dirt roads and trails through Miller Canyon, along Tunnel Ridge and through forest to starting point. Distance: 9 miles. Elevation gain: 1,600 feet. WEAR: hat and boots, BRING at least 2 qt. water and lunch. MEET: Call for place and other info. LEADER: BILL ENGS (909) 338-1910. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

MAY 17 (SUN) 8:00 AM CAHUILLA MOUNTAIN HIKE
Join the Santa Margarita Group and explore this new Wilderness Area. Starting near Juan Diego Flats, this popular trail will take us through chamise-dominated chaparral, open meadows and mature black oak forest to the 5,635 foot peak. Overlooking Anza Valley, we will enjoy spectacular views of the San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, Beauty and Palomar Mountains. The trail is mostly well graded. The average pace of one mile/hour will give us time to watch the birds' activity and enjoy the views, so bring your binoculars and camera! Children 10 and older (with some hiking experience and a parent) are welcome! MEET: Cahuilla Indian Casino, on Hwy 371, Anza, at 8:45 AM or rideshare from Temecula at 8:00 AM from Paloma de Sol Park, (behind Home Depot on Rt. 79). Some dirt roads, high clearance vehicles preferred. Hiking time: 5 hours+-. Distance: 5.2 miles. Elevation gain and loss: 1,200 feet. Level of difficulty: Moderate, all trail hiking. BRING: Hiking boots, lunch and a snack, 3 liters water, sun and/or warm hat, sunscreen. Dress in layers for unpredictable weather. Email your name and phone # for last-minute changes. LEADER: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER <rosenrager@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

MAY 18 – MAY 24

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

MAY 19 (TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location & directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, <gardens@netzon.net> SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MAY 19 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 19 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Afoot and Afield in the Inland Empire authors David and Jennifer Harris will be our May speakers. Their book covers nearly 200 hikes all over the Inland Empire, from easy family hikes to strenuous hikes for the experienced. These hikes explore Southern California's three tallest mountains, the stark beauty of the high desert, including Joshua Tree National Park and Mojave National Preserve, as well as trails that wind through urban and regional parks. Come hear firsthand about this informative new book. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

****MAY 21 (THU) 5:30 PM PCT: RT 18 TO HOLCOMB VALLEY RD HIKE**
Come see the wildflowers (if we get some rain this spring). An easy 4 mile round trip hike with little elevation gain. Great views of the desert as we wind our way along this portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. BRING: Water, layered clothing and hiking boots. MEET: Crest of Highway 18 before it begins its winding descent into Lucerne Valley. There is a parking area on the right as you are leaving Big Bear Valley. A National Forest Adventure Pass will be needed. CONFIRM: Call LEADER CHRIS COOK (909) 878-4524. BIG BEAR GROUP

****MAY 23 (SAT) 9:00 AM SB MTNS: GRAY'S PEAK HIKE**
This is a moderate 7-mile round-trip hike with an 1100-foot elevation gain. The trailhead is located on the west side of Highway 38, about ½ mile west of Fawnskin, across from the Grout Bay Picnic Area. This is a Peaks of Big Bear hike. Hikes to the five major peaks overlooking the Big Bear Valley will be made at least twice during the 2008 hiking season. Those reaching all five peaks will be given a patch commemorating the effort. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required for parking. BRING 2 quarts of water, snacks, hat, sunscreen layered clothing and sturdy hiking boots. MEET at the trailhead. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Call LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 23 (SAT) 7:00 AM MT BALDY HIKE
This hike is one of the most strenuous in the San Gabriels with 5,800 elevation gain and 15 miles round trip. BRING: The 10 essentials, at least 4 quarts of water and a snack. Even on a nice warm day, it can be windy and cold up at the top. MEET: For meeting place, contact LEADER MITCH ANDERTON (909) 881-7844 <mitchasn@aol.com> CHAPTER

MAY 23 (SAT) 8:00 AM LAKE GREGORY IN SPRING BIRD WALK
MEET: South Shore parking lot, just east of the water slide. See new spring arrivals and year 'round residents as we walk around the lake. Optional breakfast afterward. LEADER, BILL ENGS, (909) 338-1910. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

MAY 25 – MAY 31

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

MAY 26 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com>. CHAPTER

MAY 28 (THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting/public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

MAY 29-31 (FRI-SUN) PANAMINT MTNS WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE
Work project in Middle Park/South Park area of the Panamint Mountains. We will work with the Death Valley National Park Service to help repair vehicle trespass damage by installing wilderness restoration signs and using rock or vertical mulch. Requires 4 WD. (Possibility of carpooling at trail head.) MEET Friday afternoon and drive up Pleasant Canyon to campsite. Work Saturday and Sunday. Happy hour/potluck on Saturday night. INFO: Contact LEADER KATE ALLEN <kj.allen@wildblue.net> (661) 944-4056. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

****MAY 30 (SAT) 9:00 AM SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN HIKE**
This is a difficult 10-to-11-mile round-trip hike with a 2000-foot elevation gain. MEET at Von's in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 AM and carpool to the trailhead near Greenspot Campground. This is a Peaks of Big Bear hike. Hikes to the five major peaks overlooking the Big Bear Valley will be made at least twice during the 2008-hiking season. Those reaching all five peaks will be given a patch commemorating the effort. A National Forest Adventure pass is required for parking. BRING 2 quarts of water, snacks, sun protection, layered clothing and sturdy hiking boots. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Call LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 31 (SUN) 7:15 AM SOUTH FORK OF THE SAN JACINTO RIVER HIKE
This area was recently added as a Wild and Scenic River. The trail is mostly well graded, traversing the southwest-facing slope with views of the river gorge, then descending into the riparian area along the creek. Level of difficulty: Moderate. Distance: 5 miles. BRING: Comfortable hiking boots, sun hat, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, 2 gallon water, lunch and a snack. Dress in layers for unpredictable weather. Children 10 and older welcome with parent/guardian. MEET: Taco Bell at corner of Hwy 47 and Ramona Expressway, Hemet, 8:00 AM. Temecula ridesharing: 7:15 at the Sprouts parking lot. From Idyllwild: e-mail for directions to trail head. Please email with name and phone # for last minute changes. LEADER: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER <rosenrager@gmail.com> (951) 767-2203. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JUNE 1 – JUNE 7

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JUN 1 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Even numbered months plus November (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Nov. & Dec.). LOCATION (Unless otherwise noted): Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JUN 2 (TUE) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call DAVID THORNE, (909) 949-8046. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JUN 2 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

JUN 2 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. COST: \$1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS (909) 888-0161 <iwfladd@eee.org>. CHAPTER

****JUN 6 (SAT) 7:00 AM SAN BERNARDINO PEAK HIKE**
This hike to San Bernardino Peak is considered to be strenuous. It is 16 miles round trip and 4,600 elevation gain. This has been one of my favorite hikes. We will start at Camp Angles trailhead, then to Manzanita Flats, Limber Pines Springs, and onto the peak. BRING the 10 essentials, 4 quarts of water, and snacks. National Forest Adventure Pass required. RESERVATIONS: You must contact LEADER: MITCH ANDERTON (909) 881-7844 <mitchasn@aol.com> CHAPTER

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

JUN 6 (SAT) 9:00 AM S B MTS, GRAY'S PEAK HIKE
A moderate enjoyable trail to the summit of Gray's Peak at 7,952 ft. Elevation gain: 1,200ft. Good views of Big Bear Lake and surrounding mountains. BRING lunch, 2 quarts of water, jacket, sun protection. MEET at the signed Gray's Peak trailhead parking lot on the left side of Hwy 38 before you reach Fawnskin. INFO or if you want to carpool from Lake Arrowhead, contact LEADER: HEATHER SARJEANT (909) 336-2836.
MOUNTAINS GROUP

JUN 6 (SAT) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE HIKE
"New Member" hike (all are welcome, though). Enjoy an easy 5-mile roundtrip hike to the original ranch adobe and, while you're there, meet local Group leaders and learn about your local Santa Margarita Group under the shade of ancient oaks trees. BRING: Hat, water, lunch and wear sturdy shoes/boots. We will stop at the vernal pools if they have water. The trails we use may vary. Rain cancels. MEET at the vernal pool trailhead. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER: RICK ESTES (951) 303-4071 <rickestes92595@gmail.com>
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JUN 6 (SAT) 4:00 PM SUNSET PEAK EVENING HIKE
Afoot and Afield in the Inland Empire author David Money Harris will join us for An evening walk up Sunset Peak. With a fine view of the San Gabriel range, we will hear about places to hike, and how you can help with the San Gabriel Mountains Forever Campaign to add wilderness protection to some of this vista. BRING: Wear hiking boots, pack a dinner to eat at the top, jacket and a flashlight. Full moon will help us down. MEET: Contact leader for meeting place. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379 <ruizmaryann@gmail.com>
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JUN 6-14 (SAT-SUN) HELLSGATE WILDERNESS, ARIZONA GORGE SCRAMBLE
Spectacular four-day gorge scramble of Tonto Creek, a seldom-visited granite canyon in the Mogollon Rim. It offers unadulterated wilderness, varied colors and geology in the canyon walls and a desert riparian habitat, which includes Sonoran desert with its saguaro cacti at the lower elevations. This canyon bottom occasionally receives large scouring flushing flows thru it's numerous narrows, offering lots of polished granite and many lengthy pools to float thru on your air mattress. INFO: <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/deltaSierra/GSPAGES/gspage0.htm>. RESERVATIONS: Call for participant requirements, available space, itinerary and outing details. LEADER: PAUL PLATHE (209) 476-1498.
DELTA-SIERRA GROUP

****JUN 7 (SUN) 10:00 AM GRAND VIEW POINT HIKE**
Come join Robbie for his very first hike of the year. Enjoy the native white fir, the Jeffrey pine, and the greenleaf manzanita while cruising up the Red Ant Canyon to Grand View Point. This half day, moderate to difficult, 6 mile round trip hike will have less than a 1,000 foot elevation gain. From the Aspen Glen Picnic Area we follow the Pine Knot Trail (1E01). We will stop at the Deer Group Campground for lunch and talk of local native plant uses. Then we walk a little farther to enjoy the amazing views from Grand View, so bring your camera and binoculars. BRING your hiking boots, water, lunch and snacks, and appropriate layered clothing for this 7,784 foot peak summer mountain hike. MEET: Performing Arts Center in Big Bear Lake at 10:00 am for carpooling. Drivers will need a Forest Adventure Pass for parking. INFO, directions, and details, contact LEADER: ROBBIE BOS (909) 866-5006.
BIG BEAR GROUP

JUN 7 (SUN) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE HIKE
Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is June 7.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 and 5 miles RT, 400 to 1200 ft elevation. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and wear sturdy shoes/boots. INFO: LEADERS PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813.
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JUNE 8 – JUNE 14

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JUN 8 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JUN 9 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimffloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.
CHAPTER

JUN 10 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <earthlingwiley@aol.com>
MOJAVE GROUP

JUN 11 (THU) 8:30 AM GRINNELL MOUNTAIN HIKE
A moderate to strenuous 10-mile round trip hike with 2400 ft elevation gain. We will start at the Fish Creek Trailhead and hike to the Fish Creek saddle. From there we will follow the trail less ridge ½ mile to the 10,284 foot peak with its expanded views of the San Geronio Wilderness. BRING water, snack, layered clothing and hiking boots. RESERVATIONS: Because a wilderness permit is required please call in advance. MEET: Von's parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 8:30 am. INFO: call LEADER: ED WALLACE (909) 584 9407.
BIG BEAR GROUP

JUN 13 (SAT) 8:00 AM PCT: VAN DUSEN TO COUGAR CREST HIKE
Come join other hikers for a beautiful hike through the mountain forest along the PCT from Van Dusen Rd. to the Cougar Crest Trailhead in Big Bear. BRING 2 to 3 qts of water, sturdy boots and lunch/snacks. MEET at the Cougar Crest Trailhead parking lot near the Big Bear Discovery Center on the north side of Big Bear Lake at 9 am. INFO: call LEADER: TERENCE MCCORKLE (760) 252-2194, (760) 412-1683 <oldhikerdude@verizon.net>
MOJAVE GROUP

JUN 13-14 (SAT-SUN) DOMELAND WILDERNESS BASECAMP BACKPACK
In the very southernmost Sierras, this wilderness includes ponderosa pines, sage meadows, and the flowing South Fork of the Kern River. Elevation is modest and weather should be comfortable. On Saturday we backpack four miles to Rockhouse Basin, set up camp, and explore the valley and along the river. Sunday will be a leisurely return to our cars. This will be an easy to moderate journey for learning backpackers. LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE <craig.deutsche@gmail.com> (310) 477-6670.
CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

JUN 14 (SUN) 8:00 AM CHAPMAN/ICE HOUSE CANYON TRAIL LOOP HIKE
This hike will be part of the San Gabriel Mountains Forever East Campaign to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards and mailing will be provided. This will be an uphill hike on Chapman Trail up Cedar Canyon through oak, spectacular stands of incense cedar, yucca, chaparral, Sugar pine, and ponderosa pine to the junction with Ice House Canyon Trail. We will loop back on Ice House Canyon Trail. Moderate, 8.2-mile round trip, 2000 ft elev. gain. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. We will carpool to Ice House Canyon Trail trailhead. BRING: extra warm layers, gloves, water, and extra snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain/snow cancels. INFO: Call LEADER: DEAN SHIMEK <dsierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795.
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JUNE 15 – JUNE 21

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

Thank you for Remembering

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting this chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your back yard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

JUN 16 (TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location & directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, <gardens@netzon.net>
SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

JUN 16 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006.
BIG BEAR GROUP

JUN 16 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
A chance to spend a summer evening at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is something you don't want to miss! Join us for our third annual picnic in the Garden, beginning at 5:00 pm for Sierra Club members and guests. BRING your picnic dinner and your friends and enjoy dinner under the trees. Afterward, we will have a docent-lead tour of the gardens. PLACE: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont INFO & DIRECTIONS: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379.
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JUN 18 (THU) 9:00 AM CASTLE ROCK AND GUNSIGHT HIKE
This is a moderate to difficult 6- to 7-mile round-trip hike with a 1200-foot elevation gain. In route we will see Castle Rock, the champion lodgepole pine, Bluff Lake and Siberia Creek. BRING: 2-quarts of water, snacks, clothing appropriate to the weather and sturdy hiking boots. MEET at the east parking lot of the Performing Arts Center in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 AM and carpool to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Call LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232.
BIG BEAR GROUP

****JUN 20 (SAT) 7:00 AM MT SAN JACINTO HIKE**
This hike to Mt. San Jacinto will be the longest so far. At 19 miles, it will be more of a gradual climb to the top. but still very strenuous with a 5,184 elevation gain. There is no extra place to get water. BRING: 5 quarts of water, the 10 essentials, snacks, and lunch. National Forest Adventure Pass required. MEET at the Deer Springs trailhead if you would like to try your luck on his one. RESERVATIONS: You must contact LEADER: MITCH ANDERTON (909) 881-7844 <mitchasn@aol.com>
CHAPTER

JUN 20 (SAT) 9:00 AM SB MTS: HERE AND NOW HIKE
While on this moderate hike, we will focus on what is around us at the moment; sights and sounds of the forest and our reactions to them. While on the trail, by talking about only what we see, hear and experience, we should be able to better appreciate what is out there. We will hike the North Shore Trail to Little Bear Creek. Distance: 5 miles RT. Elevation loss and gain: 600 feet. WEAR: hat and boots. BRING: water, snacks and lunch. MEET: Call for the meeting place.: LEADER: BILL ENGS, (909) 338-1910.
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JUNE 22 – JUNE 28

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JUN 23 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. PLACE: The San Geronio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com>.
CHAPTER

JUN 25 (THU) 9:00 AM HWY 38/SANTA ANA RIVER TO BIG MEADOWS HIKE
An easy 9-mile round trip hike above the Santa Ana River with an 800 ft. elevation gain. Great views of Sugarloaf as the trail winds through Jeffrey and ponderosa pine forests. MEET at Von's parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 am. INFO: Call LEADER ED WALLACE (909) 584-9407.
BIG BEAR GROUP

JUN 25 (THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting/public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JUN 28 (SUN) 8:00 AM CEDAR GLEN HIKE
This hike will be part of the San Gabriel Mountains Forever East Campaign to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards and mailing will be provided. This will be an uphill hike on Chapman Trail up Cedar Canyon through oak, spectacular stands of incense cedar, yucca, chaparral, sugar pine, and ponderosa pine to Cedar Glen, which is just inside the Cucamonga Wilderness. Not for beginners, but not all that hard. 4.4 miles Round Trip, 1460 ft elev. gain. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. We will carpool to Ice House Canyon Trail trailhead. BRING: water and snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. INFO: Call LEADER: DEAN SHIMEK <dsierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795.
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JUNE 29 – JULY 5

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JUN 30 (TUE) 9:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
This is a moderate to difficult 6- to 7-mile round-trip hike with a 1400-foot elevation gain. BRING at least 2 quarts of water, appropriate clothing, snacks and sturdy hiking boots. MEET: Cougar Crest Trailhead (1/2 mile west of the Discovery center) on highway 38 at 9:00 AM. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Call LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232.
BIG BEAR GROUP

****JUN 30 (TUE) 5:00 PM COUGAR CREST TRIAL TOWARD PCT HIKE**
A moderate 2-4 mile round trip hike with a 1300' elevation gain. We will hike 1 hour up and one hour back. This is a well-maintained trail, which passes through a wide variety of Big Bear's natural environments. BRING: Water and appropriate clothing. A National Forest Adventure Pass is needed to park at the trailhead OR you can park at the Discovery Center for free and hike the 0.6 miles west to the trailhead. LEADER: CHRIS COOK (909) 878-4524.
BIG BEAR GROUP

JUL 5 (SUN) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE
Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is July 7.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 and 5 miles RT, 400 to 1200 ft elev. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and wear sturdy shoes/boots. INFO: Call LEADERS PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813.
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FUTURE OUTINGS & EVENTS

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JUL 10-12 (FRI - SUN) E NEVADA WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE
3-day car camp service trip. Eastern Nevada's White Pine County has MANY new wilderness areas. We'll help the BLM Ely office enhance wild values as we put up vehicle barriers, rehab old routes, or remove old guzzlers. The specific area to be known later. Cost: \$15 for central commissary. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER VICKY HOOVER <vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org> (415) 977-5527.
CNRCC WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

JUL 11-12 (SAT-SUN) WHITE MTNS CANYON EXPLORATION CARCAMP
We'll camp in the Hamill Valley east of Bishop and explore Pellisier and Birch Canyons in two day hikes. I have not found any information on Pellisier Canyon and don't know whether we can get past the formidable looking narrows shown on the topo map, but we should definitely take a look. I know the Birch Canyon narrows can be surmounted, but there may be some route finding involved. We won't attempt any real rock-climbing. Group size limit 12. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER: JOHN WILKINSON, <johnfw1@mac.com> (408) 876-8295.
CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

Other Outings & Outdoor Classes

In addition to the Natural History Classes and Outdoor Field Study Classes listed elsewhere in the Palm and Pine under The Desert Institute, UCR Extension and Rancho Santa Ana, you can find additional outings and classes at www.desertreport.org

(Continued from page 7)

JUL 12 (SUN) 9:00 AM SAN ANTONIO CANYON CLEANUP SERVICE
 Los Serranos Group members have organized several trash cleanups in the canyon, with Ranger Sarah telling us it is making a difference! This time we are partnering with the San Gabriel Mountains Forever Campaign to pull in a full crew to help with this work. Come and help and learn how you can also help with adding wilderness protection to more of the San Gabriel Mountains. MEET at 9:00 am at the lower fire station where Mt Baldy road crosses the bridge heading to Claremont or Upland. BRING: Sturdy shoes or hiking boots, sunscreen, hat, gloves, water, snacks. Bags and pickers will be provided. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379 <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

AUG 11-16 (TUE-SUN) SOUTHERN SIERRA: OLANCHA PEAK BACKPACK
 The backpack begins at Kennedy Meadows above Owens Valley (not to be confused with Kennedy Meadow near Sonora). We will hike 2 miles from the trailhead to a camp by the Kern River, then continue up the Kern for the next two days to our highest camp at 9300 ft. Day 4 is the hike with daypacks through the wildflowers and an optional hike to the top of Olancha Peak at 12,123 ft., then back the 4 miles to the previous night's camp. Next day we will hike 8 miles to the first night's camp, then 2 miles out the last day. Much of the trip is on the Pacific Crest Trail. LEADER: DAVID HARDY (702) 875-4549, <hardyhikers@embarqmail.com> email preferred. SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following activities, meeting & events are neither sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

NON-SIERRA CLUB RECURRING WEEKLY & MONTHLY MEETINGS
 (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

(1ST FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

(1ST SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
 Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance Instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: Please call to verify the location. At this writing, the dance is still being held at All Saints Episcopal Church, which may be closed for renovation at any time. We don't know from month to month when the church hall remodeling will start. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: While the church is being remodeled, we will meet at the Ballet Arts Studio in downtown Riverside. CALLER/BAND COORDINATOR: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GOSSELIN <SGOSSELIN@riversideca.gov> Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

(3RD TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
 Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

(3RD WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Note that the December meeting will be a potluc holiday dinner starting at 6:30 PM. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I 10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

(3RD FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB

Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAY 1 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

MAY 3 (SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
 Caller: Ginger Alberti, Band: Atlantic Crossing. Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance Instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: Please call to verify the location. At this writing, the dance is still being held at All Saints Episcopal Church, which may be closed for renovation at any time. We don't know from month to month when the church hall remodeling will start. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: While the church is being remodeled, we will meet at the Ballet Arts Studio in downtown Riverside. CALLER/BAND COORDINATOR: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GOSSELIN <SGOSSELIN@riversideca.gov> Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

MAY 15 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

MAY 19 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
 Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

MAY 20 (WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I 10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

JUN 5 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

JUN 7 (SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
 Caller: Barbara Stewart, Band: Les Amis. Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance Instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: Please call to verify the location. At this writing, the dance is still being held at All Saints Episcopal Church, which may be closed for renovation at any time. We don't know from month to month when the church hall remodeling will start. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: While the church is being remodeled, we will meet at the Ballet Arts Studio in downtown Riverside.
 (Continued on page 9)

Chapter Executive Committee

San Gorgonio Chapter Website http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org	CNRCC Delegates *George Hague 909-924-0816 Sid Silliman 909-946-5027 gssilliman@csupomona.edu	Chapter Conservation Issue Chairs	Los Serranos Group Chair—Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379 ruizmaryann@gmail.com Meets 3rd Tuesday Upland Presbyterian Church, Ed Building 7 p.m.
San Gorgonio Chapter Excom	Group Representatives To Excom	Desert Issues — High Desert Kim Floyd 760-680-9479 Kimfloyd@fastmail.fm	Mojave Group Chair—Jenny Wilder 760-220-0730 jensoasis@aol.com Meets 2nd Wednesday except Jul. & Aug. Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville 7 p.m. (just north of Bear Valley and Ridgecrest) (also contact earthlingwiley@aol.com)
Chair *Rick Estes 951-314-3328 rickestes_92595@yahoo.com	Big Bear Group *Christie Walker 909-866-5006 Christie.mountaincreative@verizon.net	Desert Issues — Low Desert Joan Taylor	Moreno Valley Group Chair—Michael Millsbaugh 951-653-2068
Vice-Chair Open	Los Serranos Group *Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379 ruizmaryann@gmail.com	Desert — Eagle Mountain Donna Charpied 760-392-4722 laronna@earthlink.net	Mountains Group Chair—Dave Barrie 909-337-0313 barriemail@mac.com Meets 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m. Except Aug & Dec. St Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Hwy 18, Sky Forest
Secretary Kim Floyd 760-680-9479	Mojave Group *Estelle Delgado 760-241-7327 estelledelgado@verizon.net	Forestry Issues — Mountaintop RD East—Ed Wallace 909-584-9407 West—Steve Farrell 661-449-2867 mr_sqf@yahoo.com	Tahquitz Group Chair—Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696
Treasurer *Ladd Seekins 909-825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net	Moreno Valley *George Hague 951-924-0816	Forestry Issues San Jacinto RD Holly Owen 951-303-7922 Joyce Burk 760-252-3820	Santa Margarita Group Chair—Jim Mitchell 951-506-9607 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com Meets 4th Thu, 7 PM at Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd, Temecula 92589
Conservation Chair *Kim Floyd 760-680-9479 kimfloyd@fastmail.fm	San Bernardino Mtns. Group *Dave Barrie 909-337-0313 barriemail@mac.com	Forestry Issues Cleveland NF Gene Frick 951-689-2283 gfrick@cosmoaccess.net	California Wild Heritage Campaign Joyce Burk 760-252-3820
Litigation Chair *Joan Taylor	Tahquitz Group *Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696	Water Issues Steve Farrell 661-449-2867	Group Directory
Membership Chair *Bill Cunningham	Santa Margarita Group *Jim Mitchell 951-506-9607 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com	Big Bear Group Chair—Christie Walker 909-866-5006 Meets 3rd Tuesday, Discovery Center North Shore, 6:30 p.m. www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org	
Outings Chair *Ralph Salisbury 951-686-4141 ralphsalisbury@att.net	Wilderness Skills/Leadership Training ralphsalisbury@att.net		
SC Council Delegate *Steve Farrell 661-449-2867 mr_sqf@yahoo.com			

(Continued from page 8)

side. CALLER/BAND COORDINATOR: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GOSSELIN <SGOSSELIN@riversideca.gov> Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

JUN 16 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

JUN 17 (WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I 10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

JUN 19 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

JUL 3 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net>

JUL 5 (SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE Caller: Chris Page from San Diego, Band: TBA. Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: Please call to verify the location. At this writing, the dance is still being held at All Saints Episcopal Church, which may be closed for renovation at any time. We don't know from month to month when the church hall remodeling will start. All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: While the church is being remodeled, we will meet at the Ballet Arts Studio in downtown Riverside. CALLER/BAND COORDINATOR: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GOSSELIN <SGOSSELIN@riversideca.gov> Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

CUTTING EMISSIONSNOT "OFFSETTING" THEM

By Bill Magavern, Director SC California

If a polluter pays someone else to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, should the polluter get credit? Such "offset" projects may include emission reductions in a different local industry, planting trees in a deforested region, or paying a factory in China to stop producing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The logic behind offsets is that carbon reductions anywhere in the world are equally effective at controlling global climate change.

Unfortunately, carbon offsets can be a dicey proposition when it comes to cleaning up our air. They have been compared to the indulgences sold by medieval clerics--by paying some money (which ostensibly will go toward reducing or sequestering emissions somewhere) a polluter is considered to be compensating for its discharges into our atmosphere.

Minimally, offsets need strong safeguards to ensure that the promised emission reductions are real, additional, verifiable, permanent, and enforceable. It may be difficult, though, to oversee offsets, especially in distant places, to ensure that the benefits are real. And, of course, it would be far better to reduce both the carbon discharges in Los Angeles and the CFCs in China, and to save the rainforests, rather than create offsets that allow businesses to choose one or the other.

Further, offsets may interfere with reductions in other forms of pollution. When a facility is modified to lower carbon emissions, typically other pollution is reduced in the process. It may not matter where in the world carbon reductions happen, but to the neighbors of a polluting facility, the location of other kinds of pollution matters greatly. Since unhealthy air is concentrated in some of California's most impoverished communities, some offsets could harm the cause of environmental justice.

Excessive reliance on offsets could open up huge loopholes that undermine the very purposes of a law like California's AB 32 cap on emissions. The Air Resources Board's AB 32 Scoping Plan would allow up to 49% of emission reductions to come from offsets anywhere in the world. Sierra

Club California believes that offsets should be much more strictly limited.

Curbing global warming will require a fundamental transformation of our energy economy, a task that cannot be outsourced to other countries. Requiring California's largest polluters to reduce their own emissions will spur technological advances that can be exported to the rest of the world, bringing green jobs to the Golden State. If polluters are allowed to outsource their emission reductions to other sectors and jurisdictions, the clean-energy revolution will be delayed. If big oil and utilities can comply with the law by paying for tree planting in Canada, then they will not have to develop clean technologies to green their own operations and products.

In addition, according to a new study from UC Berkeley, allowing out-of-state offsets would increase emissions of harmful smog-forming and toxic pollutants here in California. AB 32 requires the ARB to ensure that its implementation rules "complement, and do not interfere with, efforts to achieve and maintain federal and state ambient air quality standards and to reduce toxic air contaminant emissions." The study found that by limiting offsets to in-state emission-reduction projects, we could slash emissions of six out of eight air pollutants.

A new bill, AB 1404, authored by Assembly members Kevin de León and Manuel Perez, would improve environmental justice and air quality in California communities by setting some sensible limits on offsets. The bill would limit the use of compliance offsets to no more than 10% of the emission reductions needed, establish requirements for verifying and tracking compliance offsets to ensure that they are real and do not cause harm to the environment or public health, and require the ARB to prioritize offsets that provide air-quality benefits to communities already suffering from disproportionate air pollution—particularly in the same air basin as the offset purchaser, and that provide environmental and public-health benefits to California. Sierra Club California supports AB 1404 as a balanced approach to compliance offsets.

SANTA MARGARITA

(Continued from page 10)

The more people who show up supporting annexation, the better the chances annexation will be approved. You need not be a Temecula resident to attend and make a difference. If you have any questions or want more information, please email me at sierra-clubsmsg@gmail.com.

The Santa Margarita Group is new and growing with many enjoyable activities and important challenges for local Sierra Club members. No matter what your area or level of interest there is something for you at the Santa Margarita Group. Your involvement will also help make the Group a success. Please feel free to call me at 951-764-1290 or email at sierraclubsmsg@gmail.com. I look forward to hear from you. Jim Mitchell, Santa Margarita Group Chair.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Parks 2009 Fundraising Cruises: May 1-4; Jul 17-20; Aug 7-10; Sep 11-14

Come and explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice both snorkelers and kayakers in all seasons. Watch for the highly endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the

guel for white sandy beaches and a huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for a rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling waters and a colony of friendly sea lions who will swim with snorkelers and follow kayaks.



San Miguel Island Hike

Joan Jones Holtz

sight of whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. All islands are ringed with rugged shorelines and dotted with sea caves. Each island offers special charm: San Mi-

Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel *Truth*. The fee, \$950, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and present evening programs. The proceeds from these fundraising cruises will benefit Sierra Club's political programs in California 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)

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Natural History Classes & Field Trips

The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont has an extensive list of classes and field trips including Horticulture and Botany classes, Natural History classes and field trips and Art classes. For a complete description and fees go to www.rsabg.org and click on "View Full Calendar" or contact Cotton Coslett at ccoslett@rsabg.org or 909-625-8767, ext. 224.



Earth ShareSM
OF CALIFORNIA

One Environment...
One Simple Way to Care for it

Join us in protecting the future by doing your share today.

How can you choose between the eagle and the buffalo? Between the elephants and the whales?

Between drinking clean water and breathing clean air? Between parks and beaches? How can you choose? Would there be a right choice?

Now there's a way to help not just one, but all these things. It's called Earth Share of California — the world's leading environmental and conservation charities working together.

Through Earth Share of California you can make a one-time gift, or a payroll deduction donation that helps every day to preserve and protect the environment — locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Earth Share is not part of your employer's workplace giving campaign? We'd like to do something about that. Call Ladd Seekins at 909-888-0161 weekdays or 909-825-4427 evenings and weekends. Address e-mail to iw-fladd@eee.org.

MORENO VALLEY

(Continued from page 3)

stages of the Riverside County Planning Department. The proposed project is an on-site composting facility with storage and sale of green waste materials, Plot Plan No. 24009 – EA42133, APN: 425-080-052. There is not much information available at this time. Anyone with questions about the project can call Riverside County Planner Jeff Horn at (951) 955-4641.

The next Household Hazardous Waste collection day for Moreno Valley is Friday and Saturday, June 5 & 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Moreno Valley Corporate Yard, 15670 Perris Blvd. Please verify dates and times at: http://www.rivcwm.org/hhw/hhw_schedule.html

Save Our Skyline: Box Springs thru the Badlands is a local group based in Moreno Valley which is committed to preserving the city's northern skyline. Meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd. For more information, call Dan Clark at (951) 924-2545 or e-mail saveourskyline@roadrunner.com

For current outings offered by the Moreno Valley Group, please check our web page at: <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html> Theresa Carson, Janet Deen,

and Dan Clark have organized some fun hikes for the group so join us as we explore our local hiking trails.

The city of Moreno Valley Parks and Community Services Department Recreational Trails Board is sponsoring a "Hike to Olive Mountain" on May 23, 2009. They will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Palm Middle School, 11900 Slawson Avenue, Moreno Valley. Please call the department at (951) 413-3702 for more information.

As we head into late spring, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area still offers many good birding and wildlife watching opportunities. It is a good time for bird watching, hiking, and wildlife photography in the northern San Jacinto Valley. The wildlife area is off the Ramona Expressway in Lakeview. Take Davis Road 2.2 miles to the area headquarters. The wildlife area is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. Please check www.northfriends.org for current nature walks at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

The Moreno Valley Group has many issues to follow, and we are looking for more volunteers. Any amount of time you could contribute would be appreciated. For more information on group meetings and volunteering with the Moreno Valley Group, contact Ann McKibben at (951) 924-8150, Theresa Carson, (951) 242-4752 or George Hague at (951) 924-0816 or e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com.

MOJAVE GROUP

(Continued from page 4)

I reluctantly landed in the high desert as the wife of a career Air Force officer over 25 years ago. A native-born Ohioan, I initially balked at the high desert's starkness, scarcity, and remoteness. No rolling green hills here. However, over time I have come to appreciate the desert's subtle change of seasons, the abundance just beneath its surface, and the promise of its solitude. Like the local flora and fauna, my family and I have adapted and flourished here. Both as a family and the core of two Girl Scout troops, we have enjoyed hiking, camping, and exploring our desert home. There's nothing like getting "down and dirty" in the desert. Dusty boots, parched throats, and sunburned faces are our proud badges: outward

signs that we took what nature dished out that day and became better people for having experienced it. Literally stopping to smell the flowers, we slow our life's pace and renew ourselves by reconnecting with nature, reveling in the bounce of the jackrabbit, the harsh caw of the crow, and the scuttle of the lizard."

Support Wilderness efforts

Contact Estelle Delgado (estelledelgado@verizon.net or 760 2417327) to explore and monitor current Wilderness Areas.

Contact **California Wilderness Coalition** to explore (go on hikes), support and help with efforts to include more areas in Wilderness designations. Laurel Williams, Desert Field Organizer, office: (909) 946-1855; cell: (909) 260-8833; lwilliams@calwild.org
Visit the website: www.calwild.org

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

(Continued from page 4)

Organizing interesting programs for our monthly general meeting is the job of Program Committee Chair Lynn Davis.

Group Program Committee Report by Lynn Davis

At the SMG General Meeting on March 26th, Susan Frommer brought a breath of spring with colorful slides and vivid, amusing and informative descriptions of Southern California's native plants. A member of the California Native Plant Society and the "Team Stream" volunteer group dedicated to replanting native flora and tending the health of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve, Susan sparked a lively Q&A session on the multiple uses of native plants to control erosion, promote fire safety, and attract wildlife as well as bringing year-long bloom to your landscape.

As part of SMG's spring focus on state & local drought conditions and water conservation, Mike Evans, co-owner of Tree of Life Nursery in Orange County, will continue the discussion of drought tolerant landscape. Evans will address the TOLN's contributions to ecological restoration projects and their popular workshops in the "Replace your Lawn Series". An SMG outing to the TOLN workshop is planned as a follow-up.

Future programs will include an introduction to the Audubon Society and the art of bird-watching; ecological film night and special events marking Earth Day.

Group Conservation Committee Report by Tom Bond

Donna Tisdale, East County Community Action Coalition together with Back Country Against Dumps and the Protect Our Community Foundation filed an Appeal in Federal Court to the decision by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authorizing the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission lines to proceed without compliance with applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Also, on February 20th, 2009, a Request For Stay (a court order) was filed in Federal Court that would suspend the BLM's decision pending the hearing on the Appeal.

The filing of these actions is good news for opponents to the Sunrise Powerlink which fails to provide any renewable energy, threatens our delicate National Forest and presents a huge additional fire risk for San Diego County and western Riverside County.

Group Political Committee Report By Meryle Hammatt

As you probably know, the City of Temecula wants to annex approximately 4900 acres south of Old Town to preserve Open Space and have Local Control. Temecula designated this area as Open Space in its 1993 General Plan. It includes the San Diego State University's Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve as well as an important "Special Linkage" wildlife corridor and the headwaters of the Santa Margarita River.

Temecula is moving forward now with its 1993 General Plan for Annexation because a major mining company is attempting to change the character of the land from Open Space to Heavy Industry. Annexation will give the Temecula City Council local control over land use decisions instead of the Board of Supervisors who may be unaware that preservation of this Open Space is priceless.

Annexation will guarantee research at San Diego State University's Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve will continue unabated. Some of the most important issues challenging our planet such as climate change, air pollution, earthquakes, watershed management, wildfires and endangered species are currently underway.

Annexation will protect the "Special Linkage" wildlife corridor connecting the Santa Ana and the Palomar Mountains. Annexation also will protect the Santa Margarita River, the main drinking water source for Camp Pendleton, from potential pollution from industrial runoff.

In February 2009, the City filed an Application for Annexation with the Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO). The decision to approve or deny the City's application will soon be made by LAFCO. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for June 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Riverside.

Public Support or Opposition strongly influences LAFCO's decision making process. Unconfirmed reports indicate the major opponent of Annexation intends to pay Opponents to show up on June 4. Therefore, it is important to all of us who value Open Space and Local Control to be at this LAFCO hear-



Huts and Lodges

Want to escape to the mountains? Try visiting one of the Sierra Club Huts or Lodges. Stay overnight at the best rates in town.

Keller Ski Hut, built in 1938 is at an elevation of 6800 feet on Highway 18 between Running Springs and Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mountains, across from Snow Valley Ski Area. An adventure pass is required. There are two rustic living/dining rooms; fully equipped kitchen with cookware, dishes, utensils, stove, refrigerator; two dormitory sleeping lofts with 30 sleeping pads on floors; and bathroom. On open weekends or work parties/overseer training, call Jacqueline Meese (714-427-0457). Keller rates (SC): \$3.00 Day; \$8.00 overnight.

Harwood Lodge, built in 1930 to honor Aurelia Harwood, the first woman president of the Sierra Club is located in the San Gabriel Mountains on Mt. Baldy at 6000 feet elevation. It is about 2 miles after Icehouse Canyon and across from Snow Crest Park on the way up Mt. Baldy Road. The driveway on the right is shared with the Zen Center. There is a fully equipped kitchen, dormitory sleeping facilities and restrooms with showers. On Open Weekends, no reservation is required. Check in with the Overseer between 10:00 a.m. Saturday until 3:00 p.m. Sunday. SC Rates: \$5.00 Day; \$12.00 overnight.

San Antonio Ski Hut, built by the Ski Mountaineers in 1937. At 8200 feet, it is reached by a steep 3 mile hike with 2200 feet of gain. Rates: \$1.00 Day; \$10.00 overnight.

Open weekends/Work Parties/Overseer Training for these huts and lodges can be found by visiting the Angeles Chapter Website (access through sierraclub.org) or in the Angeles Schedule of Activities.

MORENO VALLEY WAREHOUSING

By George Hague

The almost 2-million square foot Highland Fairview Corporate Park (HFCP) warehouse/distribution/logistic center will add 2,200 daily toxic diesel truck trips on SR60 and adjacent freeways. If the Moreno Valley developer fulfills his additional desire for a Logistic Modified General Plan on his adjacent 1,500 acres, there will be a total of almost 40,000,000 square feet of warehousing and approximately 40,000 daily toxic diesel truck trips added to our local freeways. While there are now laws that will, over the next 14 years, make diesel trucks “cleaner”, they will still not be *clean*.



Photo courtesy Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Do Moreno Valley roads need more of this?

The Sierra Club has filed a lawsuit to stop this first warehouse of what could be a sea of diesel pollution-causing warehousing in our already non-attainment area. Our chapter has funded a matching grant to encourage you to donate towards this very important litigation. Every dollar you send to the address below will be matched by our chapter.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

- Diesel particulates are 71% of the major pollutants contributing to cancer risk in the South Coast Air Basin
- The largest source of diesel emissions in the South Coast Air Basin, which includes Riverside and San Bernardino counties, is the goods-movement industry
- The Inland Empire has the worst air pollution in California
- Riverside County is first in the nation for asthma, heart disease and respiratory ailments
- Air pollution (PM 2.5) in the South Coast Air Basin is responsible annually for up to 5,400 premature deaths, 2,400 hospitalizations, and 980,000 lost work days

Those who support the project say it will bring much needed jobs. What it will bring is very unhealthy jobs, where these employees breathe toxic diesel pollution all day long, which will subject them to significant health risks.

Penny Newman, Executive Director of the Riverside-based Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, testified about the warehousing/goods-movement industry, before Senator Barbara Boxer’s committee, saying “To expand an industry that is currently killing people without addressing the current health crisis is criminal. The message is clear: the health and well-being of our families does not count. Our neighborhoods are expendable.” (October 10, 2007)

The developer of the HFCP warehouse also decided he needed to get rid of two Moreno Valley City Council members who were questioning his project, which would change the vision of the Moreno Valley General Plan. He spent more than \$250,000 to remove them and put in two of his choice. He got what he wanted – a city council that voted 5-0 for the project, even though the Planning Commission voted 4-2 against what would almost assuredly be the first of almost 40 million square feet of warehousing and their related 40,000 daily toxic diesel truck trips.

The Moreno Valley Group of the Sierra Club, realizing not only the impacts of all this warehousing on their community but also the health and traffic impacts throughout much of our chapter’s area, urged the Sierra Club to litigate this important case. We hope those of you who read this will take a moment to donate. No amount is too small, and should you wish to remain anonymous, we will honor your request. All donations will be used only for this important litigation. Remember that the amount you donate will be matched by the chapter.

Please make your donation payable to the Sierra Club, and send it to P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA, 92556-1325.

“The issue of how much business these new warehouses would bring to the community is clearly overshadowed by the health costs which would rise from this heave source of pollution.” (Patricia Gonzalez of the American Lung Association of California in a letter to the Moreno Valley Planning Commission regarding the HFCP warehouse – January 8, 2009)



Boots McFarland

.....The Artist—Geolyn Carvin

A native of Southern California, Geolyn enjoys all the natural advantages of living in such a vast and varied state. As a child she camped every summer in Yosemite, hiked the local mountains and played in the surf of the Pacific ocean.

January 1st of 2002 Geolyn put her mind to hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. With her busy schedule completing it in sections seemed the wise thing to do. As she hikes she writes a journal documenting her many adventures. Passing these “short stories” around for all to read, it became apparent that it was comedy. This is how “Boots” McFarland was born. Why not draw some of these ridiculous situations. Every hiker experiences them and better to laugh at than cry. Geolyn is also a musician/songwriter and has performed with many bands across the country. She is currently working on her third solo album.



Membership

YES, I want to help safeguard our nation’s Precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
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Cardholder Name _____

Card # _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	\$25	
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SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
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SENIOR	\$24	\$32
STUDENT	\$24	\$32

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Sierra Club

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80322-2968

Sierra Student Coalition

We Can Do It!



Forging a clean energy future



Students: Check out <http://www.ssc.org>

Get Involved—Whether you’re brand-new to activism or you’ve been organizing for years, the Sierra Student Coalition offers many ways to plug into the youth clean energy movement.

Stay Connected—Sign up for the SSC Update, our monthly newsletter, to stay up to date on the SSC’s campaigns and highlights. Join the SSC Energy Forum to receive e-mails about energy campaigns and new opportunities and events.

Get Trained—Learn more about the SSC’s phone trainings or summer trainings, where you can get the skills you need to win victories for clean and just energy solutions.

Questions? - E-mail sierra.student@sierraclub.org

San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust

The SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST has been a leader in working for greater wildland protection throughout the popular San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) for nearly 15 years.

There are approximately 50,000 acres of unprotected lands in our local Forest still vulnerable to urban sprawl. The *San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust* has helped to save over 9,000 acres forest-wide in the past decade and a half. Highlights include 120 acres in beautiful Bluff Lake (the most pristine part of Big Bear), 150 acres in Grass Valley Creek, 700 acres in Deep Creek, 1000 acres in Forest Falls and 1,500 acres in the upper Santa Ana River watershed.

Everyone drives past scenic areas we think are part of the National Forest, but instead are privately-owned real estate that someday will be invaded by bulldozers, unless the Land Trust is able to buy them first. We are in a race to protect what's left, before it's too late. Joining the Land Trust empowers all of us to help save these threatened places. Every conservation purchase of threatened forest land (some costing a million dollars or more) greatly enriches the quality of our National Forest and prevents future destructive impacts. The Land Trust keeps a special inventory of all threatened lands throughout the Forest. In Big Bear, for example, the list includes about 5,000 acres.

What makes forest land protection so vital and the role of the Land Trust so essential?

Threatened Forest

Few people realize that the SBNF is both the most *popular* and the most *threatened* National Forest in America. *Popular*, because it serves the most heavily populated region in the whole country. *Most Threatened*, because too many developers want to cash-in by crowding more and more housing tracts and urban sprawl into the scenic forest.

There is profit to be made by developing the hundreds of private parcels (called "inholdings") inside the National Forest. And local county government has been overly permissive in allowing detrimental sprawl into the local mountains, even though our Forest already has the highest percentage of urbanization of any National Forest in the country.

Buying Land for Conservation

The best solution for safeguarding the quality of our National Forest is by buying threatened parcels of land for conservation, so their scenic and natural resource values continue to last.

The Forest Service cannot accomplish this task alone, because its staffing and budget levels are presently inadequate. The assistance of the nonprofit San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust is indispensable for saving vital forest land.

Willing sellers depend on conservation organizations like the SB Mountains Land Trust, because it is able to process land transactions much more quickly than government.



Photo courtesy San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust Bluff Lake—Saved from invasive development by Land Trust partnership with the Wildlands Conservancy.

Celebrating Our New Wilderness Areas

When President Obama signed the sweeping public land management bill March 30, Riverside County was the big winner. Of the over 2 million acres of new wilderness created, 190,000 acres are in Riverside County as part of the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act, sponsored by Rep. Mary Bono, R-Palm Springs, and Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Beyond wilderness more than 30 miles of creeks and rivers in Riverside County are also protected by the legislation.

This issue, the San Gorgonio Chapter will celebrate by taking participants to three specific added areas: Beauty Mountain Wilderness (16,700 acres), Cahuilla Mountain Wilderness (7,131 acres) and South Fork San Jacinto Wilderness (21,760 acres).

Sunday May 3 - Beauty Mountain. Join the Santa Margarita Group for this foray into the northern edge of the new wilderness area, through the mature, Red-shank dominated chaparral, hopefully with late spring blossoms. After stopping at a small seasonal spring, we will ascend Wire Hill for a dramatic view of Beauty Mountain, Anza Valley and Cahuilla Mountain. We will then turn back and return on the same route. Leader often stops to watch bird activity. Distance: 3.4 miles Terrain: Rocks, gravel, some boulder hopping, and occasional branch to dodge. No trail! Level of difficulty: Moderate. Must bring: 2 liters of water per person, a snack or light lunch, hiking boots, sunscreen, hat. Dress in layers for un-predictable spring weather. Some driving on dirt roads, so high-clearance vehicles preferred. Children 10 and older welcome. Meeting place and time: 7:30 AM Paloma de Sol Park, behind Home Depot Hwy 79. Not coming from Temecula? Email for directions rosenrager@gmail.com 951 767 2203 Leader: Shauli



Courtesy Doug Steakley

Sunday, May 17 - Cahuilla Mountain. Join the Santa Margarita Group and explore this new Wilderness Area. Starting near Juan Diego Flats, This popular trail will take us through chamise dominated chaparral, open meadows, and mature black oak forest to the 5,635 foot peak. Overlooking Anza Valley, we will enjoy spectacular views of the San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, Beauty and Palomar Mountains. Trail is mostly well graded. The average pace of one mile/hour will give us time to watch the birds' activity and enjoy the views, so bring your binoculars and camera! Children 10 and older (with some hiking experience and a parent) are welcome! Meeting place: Cahuilla Indian Casino, on Hwy 371, Anza, 8:45. Rideshare from Temecula: 8:00 AM @ Paloma de Sol Park, (behind Home Depot on Rt. 79). Some dirt roads, high clearance vehicles preferred. Hiking time: (+-) 5 hours. Distance: 5.2 miles. Elevation gain and loss: 1,200 feet. Level of difficulty: Moderate, all trail hiking. Equipment: Hiking boots, lunch and a snack, 3 liters water, sun and/or warm hat, sunscreen. Dress in layers for unpredictable weather. Leader: Shauli. Email your name and phone # for last-minute changes. rosenrager@gmail.com



Courtesy Doug Steakley

Sunday May 31- South Fork of the San Jacinto River. This area was recently added as a Wild and Scenic River. The trail is mostly well graded, traversing the south-west facing slope with views of the river gorge, then descending into the riparian area along the creek. Level of difficulty: Moderate. Distance: 5 miles. Bring: Comfortable hiking boots, sun hat, sun-screen, mosquito repellent, 2 gallon water, lunch and a snack. Dress in layers for unpredictable weather. Children 10 and older welcome. Meeting place: Taco Bell at corner of Hwy 47 and Ramona Expressway, Hemet, 8:00 AM. Temecula ridesharing: 7:15 at the Sprouts parking lot. From Idyllwild: email for directions to trail head. Leader: Shauli. Please email with name and phone # for last minute changes. rosenrager@gmail.com 951 767 2203.



Courtesy Doug Steakley

San Gorgonio Chapter Awards Presented

By Carol Wiley

The annual chapter awards were presented at the April meeting. These awards are given each year to honor those individuals who have given of their time, energy and talents to further the work of the Sierra Club and bring about awareness and good outcomes on environmental issues. While these people give willingly and selflessly, not expecting recognition, we like to honor them for the outstanding work that they do.



This year the Marjorie and Clark Service Award was presented to Joe Whyte of the Los Serranos Group for this long time service to that group. Joe has been a Sierra Club member since 1971, and feeling that the outings program was an important part of the Sierra Club, he became an outings leader and has been leading outings for many years. He has lead a variety of outings including hiking many sections of the Pacific Crest Trail, backpacking to San Jacinto Peak, bike rides, cross country skiing and also became outings chair for his group. He worked on an Earthday event in San

Antonio Canyon and oversees the Los Serranos elections. Joe served as group chair for the Los Serranos group in 1998-1999 and has worked on conservation efforts, advocating for clean air, clean water and slower growth for the Inland Empire. He continues to be an asset to the group, leading very popular hikes which bring in new members, including weekly summertime conditioning hikes in the Claremont Wilderness Park. It is a pleasure to present the service award to Joe Whyte for his years of dedication and service to the Sierra Club.

The Joe Momeyer Conservation Award went to Steve Farrell of the Mountains Group, who stated that he is the groups primary activist/expert on all conservation issues. If he does not already know the details of an issue that arises, he is quick to



learn them and can recognize flaws and items of concern that others would miss. The Mountains Group has successfully fought development projects through the court system and now ground has legally been broken on Steve's watch. He uses his contacts with the county to monitor projects that require comments, involvement and action. Steve's communication skills allow him to communicate with county planners and supervisors, with developers and builders, with lawyers on

both sides and with Sierra Club leadership. He also has a special skill in his ability to review large volumes of information and pick out the significant issues, and is able to provide sound and valuable council on a variety of issues that others are working on and is always willing to help review or comment on an issue to help others. He brings a big picture perspective while having ability to understand and comment on details. Steve has worked very hard on conservation issues and has shown great commitment to the conservation effort, earning great respect from the Mountains Group, the San Gorgonio Chapter and with all others he has worked with. Steve has long deserved this recognition.

The Alice Krueper Service Award and the Ralph Salisbury Outings Award will be presented at the May San Gorgonio Chapter meeting and reported in the next issue of the Palm and Pine. (A very big thank you to Terry Wold, Ralph Salisbury, Letty French and Dave Barrie for their help in getting this information together .It could not have been done without their assistance.)