



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Loo Wit Rumblings

Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington



May 11th Loo Wit program features Bill Sullivan

With outings season upon us, hiker-author Bill Sullivan will highlight the May 11th Loo Wit program. Sullivan will speak and do a slide presentation at 7 p.m.

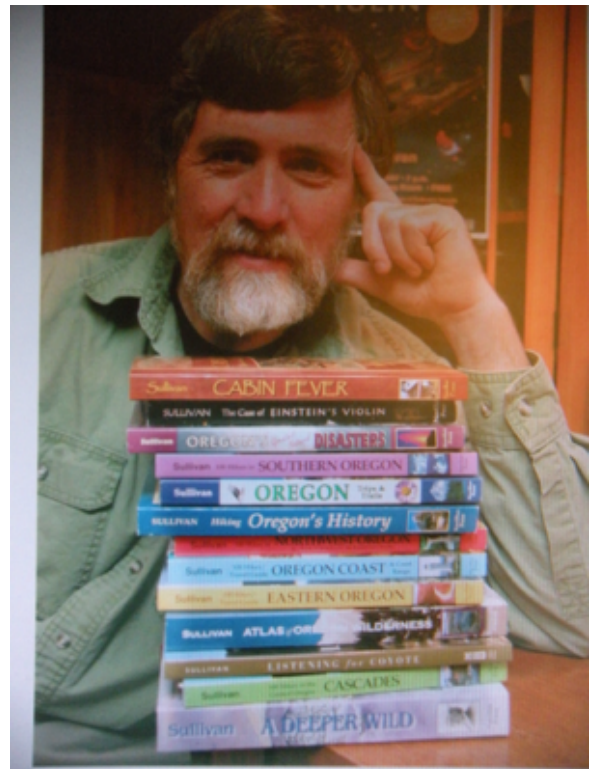
Date: Wednesday May 11th

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Place: Unitarian Church of Vancouver
4505 E. 18th St
just west of Ft. Vancouver High School**

Sullivan has hiked extensively in the Northwest, especially in Oregon and has authored numerous hiking guidebooks that are used by thousands of outdoor enthusiasts. Sullivan's last program for Loo Wit in 2011 resulted in an overflow crowd of a hundred-plus people.

Refreshments will be served, and Sullivan will be signing books available for sale following his slide presentation. Information will also be available on upcoming Loo Wit outings, including hikes, cycling and sea kayaking.



New outing leader recognition at program

Holly Swofford, Loo Wit Group conservation chair, has completed Sierra Club's certification process and will receive her outing leader emblem on May 11 prior to the Bill Sullivan program.

Required steps include OLT (Outing Leader Training) 101, basic first aid, and two co-leads with an already-certified leader. Please join us to congratulate Holly -- and then sign up for one of her outings!

Calendar of Events:

Tuesday May 3rd: Loo Wit
Conservation Committee
Meeting 5:30 pm
ExCom Meeting 6:30

Wednesday May 11th:
Member Program 6:30 pm

Tuesday June 7th:
Conservation Committee
Meeting 5:30 pm
ExCom Meeting 6:30

Meetings are open to the
public and all are
welcome

Loo Wit ExCom Leaders:

Mark Leed - Chair

Don Steinke - Vice Chair/Oil &
Coal

Steve Foster - Treasurer/Sales

Holly Swofford - Conservation

Mike Newsham: Outings
Liaison

Alona Steinke: Oil & Coal / at
large

Lehman Holder: At large

Loo Wit is seeking volunteers
to be Programs Chair,
Legislative Liaison or
Newsletter Editor. If you'd like
to contribute contact Mark at
markleed02@gmail.com or
Lehman at tripsguy@aol.com



Earth Day Celebration 2016

A bright, sunny day drew hundreds of families -- moms, dads and kids -- to Clark PUD's annual Earth Day Ecofair at Salmon Creek park on April 16th.

Loo Wit was there, too. ExCom chair Mark Leed and members Steve Foster and Lehman Holder spoke with many who stopped by Loo Wit's display table about Sierra Club objectives and priorities in both southwest Washington and around the state.

If you're a person who would enjoy engaging the public at tabling events, contact Mark Leed (markleed02@gmail.com) or Lehman Holder (tripsguy@aol.com), to assist. It's easy to do, and we'd love to have your help.



SIERRA CLUB

2016 bike, sea kayak outings under way

Loo Wit's 2016 schedule of bicycle and sea kayak outings have begun, and you're invited to sign up!

Bike outings started rolling on April 10 with a ride to Vancouver Lake/Frenchman's Bar County Parks, followed by an April 17 pedal across the I-5 bridge to Kelly Point Park and return. Sea kayak outings started on May 1 with a beginner/novice paddle on Lake River at Ridgefield. Instruction is included on beginner/novice ("A-level) outings, and rentals are available. All outing leaders are trained and certified.

Next sea kayak outing is on May 7, and next bike outing is on May 14. Additional outings are set through mid-October. For info on hikes, visit meetup.com or contact Mike Newsham, Loo Wit outings liaison at 2newshams@comcast.net.

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit



Our intrepid outings leader, Lehman Holder earlier this year - photo by Steve Foster



Sunday April 17th - Vancouver to Kelly Point bike ride and back - photo by Steve Foster

Find Loo Wit on the web:

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit

Find and like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

How to join outings using Meet Up

To join the Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up, you must first have a registered Meet Up account.

If you have not created a Meet Up account, copy and paste the following link <http://help.meetup.com/customer-portal/articles/615400> .

At the Sign Up screen, fill in your name, your email account and pick a password.

After you've created your account, you will get a confirmation email verifying your account.

Then you can click on "Find a Meet Up" next to the Meet Up logo at the top of the page. This will take you to the page that has a gray box near the upper middle part of the page. Type in "Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up" in the section of the gray box that has the words "All Meet Ups." This will take you to our Meet Up Group.

Joining our Meetup Group is pretty simple. Just click the "Join us!" button on the right side of the navigation bar.

You'll be taken to a page that will ask you to fill in your Group profile for our Meetup Group. You may need to add a photo or answer a few questions.

Our Meetup Group is open to anyone. You'll receive an automatic email when your membership in our Meetup Group has been approved.

Once you have reached this point, create a shortcut to our Meet Up group for your desktop so you can see all the latest postings quickly, or get the Meet Up app to get instantaneous notice of Meet Up outings.





All Hail The "King Of Trails"

"Mile Post 2016" — A plan to rebuild-reconnect lost segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway, to transform forgotten portions of "The King of Roads" into the "The King of Trails."

Samuel Hill's vision for the Columbia River Highway was made a reality by its designer and lead engineer Samuel Lancaster in 1916. Soon after construction this scenic route became known as the "King of Roads." As the Historic Highway's Centennial approaches this June, a calendar of celebratory events throughout the summer may be viewed by copying and pasting this link: <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e8fe77bc7345df22c240be015&id=b81b470756>

In 1908 Hill and Lancaster were inspired by mountain paths and roads they toured in Europe. They returned to the Pacific Northwest full of ideas for what would become the first scenic automobile highway constructed in America.

The overall design was as important as construction details. This included its alignment and relationship to the geology and geomorphology of the Gorge. The Highway was laid out to be interesting to drive with graceful curves and changes in grade. It unrolled before the eyes as a dynamic sequence of views, vistas, and scenic "events" such as waysides, fountains, and waterfalls.

Many unique segments of the Highway were lost in the 1950s when a straighter and faster route (now known as I-84) was blasted and graded to accommodate modern interstate commerce. This included destruction of the 390 foot long Mitchell Point Tunnel — the "Tunnel of Many Vistas" with its unique five adits ("windows") with magnificent views from 200 feet above the Columbia River.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of 1986 directed the State of Oregon to reconnect these abandoned sections as a pedestrian and bicycle trail. Then, in 1987, the Oregon Legislature directed the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) "To preserve and enhance existing portions of the Historic Highway and plan for reconnection of this scenic route as a "State Trail." A portion of the original sixty million dollar budget is still being sought for amenities and re-boring the Mitchell Point Tunnel. Geologic engineering for this is complete.

Wikipedia has a fascinating new page devoted exclusively to "Historic Columbia River Highway." Further details for this "World Class Adventure between Portland and The Dalles – the King of Trails" may be found at ODOT's massive HCRH website: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/HCRH/pages/index.aspx> In addition to a number of videos, the original 9 minute info video remains available at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/HCRH_video.shtml as well as other items including an Oral History and extensive maps. Please copy and paste links.

As part of the Sierra Club's decades long Adopt-A-Park partnership with Oregon Parks & Recreation for maintaining the Latourell Falls Trail in the Gorge there is an annual community Earth Day tree planting at Roster Rock State Park. For more information, please contact David Bybee at 360-993-4247 or DaveBybee@washington.sierraclub.org.

by Dave Bybee & Kristen Stallman, updated by Dave from originally story published in 2010



Showing my commitment to renewable energy

Last summer I got sick of sitting on the sidelines, watching big, dirty, fossil fuel companies continue to destroy our environment. It's so depressing but what could I do? I'm only one person who doesn't even own my own home. I figured something was better than nothing so I started by joining the Sierra Club. Then I went to a couple Loo Wit Group events. I was dumbfounded when I learned that the largest oil by rail terminal in the country might be built right here in Vancouver, but I was also encouraged by all the past dirty fossil fuel projects that Loo Wit stopped. I attended more Loo Wit events and I was invited to run for Ex Com so I said yes. I started to feel like maybe there was something I could do. So now I was doing something and that felt great but when I started talking to people about stopping these projects, I felt a little like a hypocrite. After all, I was driving an SUV and enjoying a warm home that was heated by fossil fuels just like everyone else. If we didn't have oil or coal, how would I get to work? How would I keep my home warm in the winter and cool in the summer?

So the next thing I did was trade my Jeep Patriot in for an electric Nissan Leaf. I love this car. It is so fun to drive and requires absolutely no gas whatsoever. It gets about 85 miles to a full charge so it takes some planning to get around but get around I do. I'm so excited about the future of electric cars. National Drive Electric Week is September 10-18 this year and I'm starting to plan an event for Loo Wit Group here in Vancouver. Let me know if you are interested in helping out.

So now I'm driving an electric car, but what about the electricity that's required to make it run? How can I be sure that is clean? Well it's sort of difficult since I don't own my own home and can't install solar panels or a windmill at my apartment, so now what? It's hard being an environmentalist.

The easiest answer I found to this little dilemma is Clark Public Utilities Green Lights program. This program is a low cost way to demonstrate a commitment to environmental responsibility and at the same time

offset the impact of electricity consumption. Plus it's affordable and flexible. You choose the number of 100 kilowatt-hour "blocks" of Green Lights you wish to buy. One block of Green Lights is \$1 per month. I use about 500 kWh hours of electricity in my home every month so I purchased 500 kilowatt-hour "blocks" for \$5 per month. Cheap and easy, I can do that, so I did. There's no time commitment, I can chose to stop my monthly Green Lights participation at any time. I signed up online in minutes. For information, and to sign go to <http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com/community-environment/what-we-do/green-programs/green-lights-signup/>.

This is how I show my commitment to renewable energy. I just keep putting one foot in front of the other and doing what I can with what I have. I think I'm making a difference. It's not hanging off a bridge or living off the grid, it's just every day, doable things but at least I'm doing something. I'm doing my best to be part of the solution instead of adding to the problem.

- By Holly Swofford, Conservation chair



Oil campaign news: Terminal Fights and more

- by Don Steinke & Alona Steinke

Vancouver Oil

Tesoro and Savage asked the Port to extend the contingency period of the lease for several years while waiting for a decision from EFSEC and the Governor. Port staff recommended the request be denied. Commissioner Wolfe offered a compromise proposal, to extend the lease for 8 months, with the possibility of additional 3 month extensions after that.

Although LaBrant didn't have the votes to prevent the lease extension, he did what he thought was the next best — secure a foreign export ban in the lease amendment.

The Port of Vancouver missed a huge opportunity to end the highly controversial and unsafe oil terminal proposal. The Port had all the reasons to make the right decision, but they've chosen to defer to others. Commissioner Wolfe has repeatedly stated his desire for EFSEC and the Governor to make the decision - and now they will.

EFSEC adjudicative hearings

The adjudicative hearing will last for five weeks. The first and last week of hearings will be at the East Vancouver campus of Clark College on Mill Plain near 180th Ave. We encourage a large crowd on the first and last day, June 27 and July 29.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2016/apr/26/port-commissioners-hear-again-about-oil-terminal/>

Longview Coal

Plan on attending the public hearing for the Millennium Bulk Coal Terminals on May 24 at the Cowlitz County Event Center. We will meet-up for rides at 12:00 noon at the Salmon Creek Park and Ride.

Our coalition has stopped 22 fossil fuel projects in the last 6 years. We've won by showing up and speaking up.

Please let us know if you will be coming. Email: "Don and Alona Steinke" <crVanWash@gmail.com>

How to subscribe to Don's Coal and Oil Forum:

Send an email from your email account to:
Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org

Then leave the subject line blank, and in the message field . . . paste the following message.
SUBSCRIBE CASCADE-LOOWIT-COAL-FORUM

If you don't subscribe, you might not get any updates for two months.



more Oil campaign news...

Accelerating the Transition to a Clean Energy Economy

For several years the Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club has been working with other organizations to accelerate the transition to a Green Energy Economy. We recognize how important it is to get it right. We need a just transition that will have a broad base of support.

To that end, the Sierra Club is part of the **Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy**, involving more than thirty organizations. This is the first time in the nation that a coalition this diverse has joined together to draft climate policy and move it forward.

Their draft proposal has finally been released. It reflects the diverse values of the many constituencies of the Alliance and makes major progress on carbon pollution and clean energy. The proposal:

- Invests revenue in clean energy solutions, resilient forests, and clean water infrastructure;
- Raises revenue by putting a price on carbon pollution, initially \$15 per ton of CO₂e
- Provides a just transition for workers and highly impacted communities in the shift to cleaner sources of energy;
- Provides flexibility for energy-intensive, trade-exposed businesses to help them meet carbon emission reduction goals and keep good, family-wage jobs in Washington.
- Puts a cap on carbon pollution

There's still a great deal of work to do this year. This summer, the Alliance will be taking its policy proposal out on a listening tour across the state – to frontline communities, workers, and businesses that will be impacted in a variety of ways by climate change and the transition to a clean energy economy.

A [white paper](#) lays out the structure of a way to account for the devastating costs of carbon pollution and accelerate transition to a clean energy economy. Contact Don or Alona for a link to the paper.

Our victories were achieved by:

- Raising Public Awareness
- Organizing
- Visible Public Opposition -- showing up at hearings
- Speaking up at hearings

Most important is to continue to pay attention, be involved, and to act as mentioned above.

- by Don Steinke & Alona Steinke, Oil and Coal

Sierra Club Position on Carbon Washington Ballot Initiative I-732

Sierra Club has taken a position of “**does not support**” on initiative I-732 even though on its face it addresses a key environmental goal.

Reducing emissions of dangerous, climate-altering greenhouse gases is one of the Sierra Club’s most important objectives in Washington State and nationally. Placing a cap or price on carbon emissions could and should be part of spurring the transition to a clean, renewable energy economy. Sierra Club members initially helped with signature gathering to get I-732 on the ballot. We appreciate their work to highlight the value of carbon pricing and to push for climate action.

Sierra Club does not support the Carbon Washington initiative because of the following issues:

- Revenues from its carbon tax would not be invested in ramping up jobs in clean fuels infrastructure or energy efficiency. Nor would they be invested in aiding communities impacted by polluting facilities or workers who will be caught in the transition process. I-732 misses the opportunity to enact a statewide price on carbon and use that to transition to a more equitable, sustainable clean energy economy.
- While the stated intent was to be revenue neutral, the State Department of Revenue predicts I-732 will result in \$900 million dollars of lost revenue, putting already underfunded budgets for education, social services, and the environment at greater risk. In sum, Sierra Club has chosen not to support I-732 because it does not meet key tests for an effective and equitable climate policy.

Instead, the Sierra Club will be hard at work as part of the kind of broad, inclusive coalition that can succeed at building public support to address climate change in ways that will benefit all communities in our state. This includes communities of color, low income, environmental justice, and labor.

Sierra Club will continue working on many important clean energy and climate efforts, such as Governor Inslee’s proposed cap on carbon, support for Sound Transit’s next phase funding, stopping exports of greenhouse gas fuels, and replacing dirty coal-generated electricity with clean renewable energy throughout the Northwest.

Sierra Club will be very busy working for Washington’s clean energy future, but not for ballot initiative I-732.

National Park Service centennial approaches

August 25, 2016 will mark the centennial of the congressional act creating the National Park Service. Although 14 national parks and 21 national monuments already existed, they had never before been placed under the care of a single agency. In the earliest days, parks were mainly designated to showcase spectacular and unique scenery. Later on, wildlife conservation and historic preservation became goals. Over 100 years the National Park system has grown to over 400 units, including national lakeshores and seashores, national recreation areas and national historic sites like Fort Vancouver. The system's most recent additions are 3 national monuments in southern California's desert, designated by President Obama in February.

Today the national park system faces several challenges. Budget cuts have led to crumbling infrastructure and inadequate staffing. Parks are affected by invasive species, climate change, and development in nearby areas. Although more people than ever are visiting the parks, they have been drawing a crowd that is aging and does not reflect America's diversity. The Sierra Club invites people of all ages and backgrounds to explore these spectacular areas and advocate for their protection.

If you haven't visited Washington's three spectacular national parks - Mt. Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades - this summer would be a great time to plan a visit. And don't forget Vancouver's local unit -- Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site. It's fun, too.

- by Mark Leed, Loo Wit chair



Southwest Washington
Sierra Club

Loo Wit Group

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