Sierra Club celebrates historic decision to protect last unspoiled national forest areas

WASHINGTON — On January 5, 2001, the Sierra Club celebrated President Clinton’s announcement of the final decision on a plan that will protect the last unspoiled areas of our wild and scenic West. Protecting this pristine area completes the largest forest conservation initiative in generations — protecting millions of acres of wild forests from New Hampshire to California.

"Today’s announcement is a victory for us all," said Jane Fonda, who has fought in a forest, for the millions of us who rely on our national forests for clean drinking water, and for our future generations," said Carl Pope, the Sierra Club’s executive director. "By safeguarding unspoiled forests from coast to coast, President Clinton has achieved the greatest land conservation victory in a generation."

The final plan is an improvement over previous drafts because it provides real protection for our forests, National Forest in Alaska, America’s last great temperate rainforest. The Forest Service also finds a loophole that would have allowed destructive logging in our wild forests under the guise of stewardship.

"The plan should stand as a model of a multi-year public process that included more than 600 public meetings and more than one million public comments so wide.

Today we congratulate the President for leaving a legacy of wild forests for all Americans who love to hunt, hike, fish, and camp." continued Pope. "Congratulations are due to more than one million people who influenced this decision by sending a letter or using the Internet to tell the President what was important to them."

With this rule in place, environmentalists will now turn their attention to defending the Forest Service’s decision to grant the Title 10, which has already launched an effort to overturn this historic rule. The Sierra Club will join with others to challenge this plan.

Environmentalists will also work at the local level to ensure that this plan is fully implemented and that our last wild forests are fully protected.

Poet, author, columnist, and desert defender
drowns in Verde River

by Rick Isett

Arizona’s environmental community paused in December at the news of Jeffrey Platts’ death. He was known to many as a modern-day Thoreau, a John Muir of the desert.

Platts lost his life Tuesday, December 5, while trying to save a hiker who had fallen into the cold water of the Verde River northeast of Fountain Hills and north of Eastlake. The Scottsdale Tribune reported that Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office investigators pulled his body from the river about three hours after he lost his footing and dropped into the river after helping a companion, Diana Newson, to safety.

Platts was a tireless advocate for protection and preservation of desert and wilderness. Arizona author and historian, Marshall Trimble wrote that on a "hot summer afternoon, I drove by yet another new development cut out of the desert. Standing near the entrance was the solitary figure of Jeffrey Platts, carrying a sign protesting more destruction of the desert."

Trimble notes that he introduced Platts to Edward Abbey initiating a friendship that lasted until Abbey’s death in 1989.

Platts lived in a secluded cabin north of Carefree, Arizona. From this remote station he wrote thousands of letters and cards in defense of "public lands. Through his battles with passion, pen, and paper he was without center, face, computer, or on-site delivery. He lived in telecyrity or running water."

Dr. Robert A. Buckman wrote that Jeffrey Platts was a dangerously clear-sighted human being — often a highly educated, articulate, and passionate one.

In the foreword to his book, "Trek! Man Alone in the Arizona Wild," Platts writes. "These journals are, quite simply, my love letters to the Sonoran Desert."

The book is an account of “summer solo tracks which, with the passage of a dozen years, have turned into a collection of desert and wilderness stories." See Jeffrey Platts’ book page.

Bush and the Environment

carl pope, sierra club executive director

The 600,000 members of the Sierra Club take democracy very seriously and strive to promote it in all ways possible, both internally and externally. That’s why we vote on issues for our organization must be to learn from the election just past.

We must resolve that never again will environmentalists arrive at a polling place and find such long lines that the polling place closes while they are standing waiting to vote. Never again should voters have to confront a long queue that should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Read any mailers you might receive on the election. Visit the club’s web site, participate in discussion groups via e-mail, or contact the candidates and issue coordinators by telephone, e-mail or post. They do want to hear from you! You can also use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate and ballot question coordinator, make your choices, and then place your ballot. You will find your ballot is straightforward and easy to mark. You can even cast your vote electronically.

— The Inspectors of Election

Sonoran Desert National Monument! Thank You President Clinton

456,000 acres of untrammeled Sonoran Desert landscape now a national monument

details on page 4

Environmental groups join to oppose Norton nomination

Sierra Club launches campaign to defeat Norton and Ashcroft

Sierra Club Activist Outings Adventure and advocacy

Grande Canyon Chapter — Arizona

Vol. 37 No. 1

February 2001

McDowell Sonoran Preserve hearing critical step in protecting land

Mark your calendars for the meeting that everyone cares about the McDowell Sonoran Preserve must attend!

The planned 57 square mile McDowell Sonoran Preserve is now 45 percent protected. The bulk of the land left to protect is state trust land. By law it must be auctioned to the highest bidder, and it is in a unique development interests. The only current legal option is the Arizona Preserve Initiative (API) which allows certain interests to become an "inquire to be sold for conservation" and auctioned as such.

Scottsdale has applied to reclaim about 16,600 acres of the 8,000 acres of state land. A key part of the API reclamation process is a public hearing where state Land Department officials take testimony on reclassifying the land. The criteria they use in determining which lands qualify include unique scenic beauty, geological and topographical, features, wildlife and vegetation, protection, cultural resources, watershed integrity, soil, education, cultural impact, and regional benefit.

Whether you are a climber who trains on Little Granite Mountain, a mountain biker who rides the trails out of Pinnacle and Dynamic reads every weekend, an equestrian, hiker, or hider — this is your choice to speak for the land! A final factor in the reclassification process is whether-or-not this land is "in the best interest of the State Trust." That means the State Land Commissioners must find sufficient transit to ensure that the land, if development does not outweigh the need to preserve it. The State Land Commissioner has accurately stated that some of the 16,600 acres is the most valuable state land in Arizona. We must show them why preservation is better than development.

The hearing date is Thursday, February 13, 2001 at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria of Desert Canyon Middle School in Scottsdale. It is located at 10200 E McDowell Mountain Ranch Road. The north Parking of Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard over the bridge McDowell Mountain Road then turn right into the parking area.

Parking will be limited so we are encouraging homeowners and user groups to carpool or carp. You do not have to speak, if you attend (that it would be helpful) but your presence is critical. We have a huge crowd to get the attention of the media and to send a message to the State Land Department and the Commissioners. (State Land Commissioner) that all of the 16,600 acres should be reclassified. Every part of the planned Preservation is important.

While it is not necessary to register for this hearing, it would help if you call Carla (president@sierramtn.org 480-797-7917 x 1) and let her know if you are attending.

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Environmentalists, Labor and Civil Rights Groups Announce Opposition to Gale Norton Nominee’s extremist views conflict with American public opinion

Washington DC — More than 20 non-governmental organizations — environmental, civil rights, labor, conservative and liberal — announced their campaign to defeat Gale Norton’s nomination as Secretary of Interior at a news conference late Friday afternoon.

Confirmation hearings for Norton, whose radical views include suggesting that industry has a “right to pollute”, were held on the Senate Jan. 18 and 19.

The League of Conservation Voters Education Fund also released new polling data — done by both Democratic and Republican pollsters — that found “a majority of Republicans and Democrats alike want stronger enforcement of environmental laws,” said LCVP President Deb Callahan at an EMS press conference designating the National Press Club.

“Bush has turned a blind eye to clear public sentiment that crosses party lines,” she said. “He has ignored any constituencies who want to curb dirty water of polluting industries within the Interior Department.”

For example, the LCVP polls found that:
- 71 percent of all voters said clean air, clean water and open space were primary factors in their voting decision;
- 83 percent reject the notion that society must trade environmental protection for economic gain.

66 percent said the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) should be protected from drilling and designated as bearing a national monument. (25 percent said they supported or somewhat supported drilling.)

Only 1 percent said environmental laws are too strict and should be relaxed, a view held by Norton. “The paradigm of error in my opinion,” Callahan said. “You can’t get much more out of step with the American people.”

Julian Bond, chairman of the board of the NAACP and his group oppose Norton because of her controversial positions on the environment and civil rights.

NAACP stated a warrant sensitivity toward slavery and its descendants when she sensed the Confederacy’s defeat as a loss of states’ rights,” he said. “Just as surely as she won’t be ignoring trees, her record suggests she will not embrace efforts to end environmental racism.”

Martha Marks, president of REAP America (Republicans for Environmental Protection), with more than 5,000 members in 45 states said she was deeply troubled to have to oppose a Republican nominee.

A poll found 52 percent of voters who believe that conservation — fundamentally, conservative, are compelled to speak out against the nomination of Gale Norton,” Marks said at the press conference. “I think the Republican senators and representatives with to goodness, just as we do, that Bush has been put in this position. We have to learn our lesson.

We believe the Senate could do the president-elect no greater favor than to reject the nomination of Gale Norton,” said Sierra Club President Carl Pope. “We believe Gale Norton, confirmed, will be too much trouble for the Bush administration.”

Pope said the Sierra Club is launching a TV and radio ad campaign in states with key senators in the coming weeks. The ads explain why we believe the nomination of Gale Norton for Interior Secretary has been one of the worst decisions of the Bush Administration.

Bill Meadows, president of the Wilderness Society, said his organization had never received so many calls and emails from its members as it did the day after Norton said she supported opening ANWR to oil drilling.

“The American people do not want a Bush-Vichy Norton oil cartel,” he said.

Roger Schliefke, president of Defenders of Wildlife, said this was the first time his group had ever opposed a presidential appointment — we didn’t even oppose James Watt’s nomination.

Clearly, this is a political pay off to Mr. Bush’s extremist supporters in industry who have been working for decades to massively exploit the public lands, he said.

David Smith, public policy director of the AFL-CIO, said the 14 million member labor organization felt it was important to stand with the environmental community against Norton, who has questioned the constitutionality of the Fair Labor Standards Act and minimum wage. The AFL-CIO board adopted a resolution Thursday condemning the Senate for its NRD.

“At the end of the day, this is about whether the rights of politicians ought to stand before the rights of the American people,” Smith said.

Doug Kendall, executive director of the public employees union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said even among conservative scholars, Norton’s views of the Constitution and limits on federal authority are “for outside the mainstream.”

We’re not saying simply that we think Gale Norton would be a poor secretary. It’s much worse than that.

See Norton page 4

Thank You Don Begalek

Dear Don

Thank you for returning the Kenmore mailing and the recent notes. I will be able to process the material as soon as possible. Please keep in mind I have other tasks to complete.

Sincerely,

Rick Loetsch, editor

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February 2001 / Canyon Echo / Page 3

Geoffrey Platts, a renaissance man

Geoffrey Platts everywhere — the quintessential renaissance man. I remember letters, for which he sounded off on the Arizona legislature and that he was a keen one for hypocrisy, on the state of publishing (like me, he moaned about the use of computers and proofreaders), on great British and French authors, on citizens science, and on the travesty of not using a capital ‘I’ for Norton in my brief stint as a magazine editor.

Geoffrey was my favorite critic and a terrific friend — together we lampooned politicians, kept our French up to snuff, competed to find the best literary questions and talked Nature. It is an easy question because we only see each other about six times — like most folks who know Geoffrey, we kept up by writing letters (all too infrequently). Mine and Ken’s favorite meeting with Geoffrey was at our wedding, where Geoffrey graciously read some terse selections of poetry and prose after the ceremony.

Since his death, many have said that Geoffrey would tell us that when we missed him we should bury our face in Mother Earth, in Madrean, and walk along a favorite desert path. It’s too hot. But he’d have to be wrong. Maybe I’ll send a postcard once in a while. Just to see what happens.

Melville Voces, Geoffrey — Ecrasons nous a tous.

Reece Guerrieri and Ken Searl Card teach the world’s greatest.

Thank You Don Begalek

For several years Don Begalek has been doing a wonderful job organizing labels for the Canyon Echo mailings and running the elevated show for me when I’m going down the July/Aug tapers. He is retiring from his day job and is unsure of where if I’ll be moving so will likely be unable to continue. I’m grateful for his assistance and the Chapter owes him a big thank you for his efforts.

Thank you for your significant contribution to this essential work.

— Rick Loetsch, editor

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Grow Kathryn Platts, a renaissance man

Like many, I first met Geoffrey in 1994.

He wrote hundreds of them, by one report over 3,000 letters and cards in 1990 alone.

Later we met, attended his readings and again when he participated in the Sierra Club’s John Muir Festival at Spring Sprang Campground in the Tom’s National Forest near Phoenix.

I always Geoffrey well enough to know that he would disdain using valuable newspaper space to ramble about his good qualities. He would tell me to publish some of his favorite quotes.

On June 3, 1998, he wrote: Being a quotation aficionado from way back, I greatly loving the WOW’S (words of wisdom) you included. Loved the Nietzsche (with a thought like this, how can any man mad and was touched by the Marion Woodman, and tickled by the Lewis Carroll, and inspired by the St. Thomas Aquinas. He was the verse and chapter in that. I’ve seen it before but haven’t been able to look it up.

Soon after, Geoffrey mailed to me 16 pages of his favorite quotes.

Below are a few of these quotes, many of which were compiled by him in his book “Yard Man Alone in the Arizona Wilds.” Others are taken from our correspondence. Still others are quotes I believe he would have included.

Increasingly, the world around us looks as if we hated it.

— Alan Watts

The world is too much with us, late and soon.

— William Wordsworth

Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers.

— Little we see in Nature that is ours; We have given out hearts away, a somberlei.

— William Wordsworth

And lifting up mine eyes, I found myself alone.

— Tyrannion, “Holy Graal”

Somebody hidden. Go, and find it.

— Geoffrey Platts

Go and look behind the Ranges.

— Geoffrey Platts

Ranger, lost and waiting for you.

— Geoffrey Platts

An Earnest Request for the Reconsideration of Nature

Up until the early part of this century, the word “Nature” usually carried with it an capital N. The great writers of the past, in according her the respect due, seldom wrote “nature” as “the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations confirms this in selected excerpts from the works of such notables as” Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rob Browning, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, William Wordsworth, Ulyse Blake, John Milton, William Shakespeare, et al. I respectfully submit that today’s near-universal usage of “n” in “nature” symbolizes the small regard in which is held the scale of things by modern English speakers as a whole -viewing nature as a stage as a grove disregard for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your favorable consideration a return of a nature’s, Love, I appeal to you for your }
Sierra Club mounts vigorous campaign to defeat Norton and Ashcroft

Bush Makes Wrong Choices for Interior Secretary and Attorney General

Washington — The Sierra Club launched campaigns January 12, 2001, to oppose President Bush's nominations of Gale Norton as the Interior Secretary and John Ashcroft as Attorney General. Both nominees have demonstrated environmental records.

"Gale Norton would be a natural disaster as Interior Secretary. Norton is the oil, mining and timber lobby's golden child," said Ralph C. Cuff, Executive Director for the Sierra Club. Norton formerly served at the external Mountain Conservancy, where she was a protege of James Watt. Watt was later nominated as Secretary of Interior for his radical anti-environment agenda. During the Reagan administration, Norton served as associate solicitor at the Interior Department, authorizing legal opinions to support shifting the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and other approval of endangered species as an example of excessive regulation.

Norton is also the founder and serves on the advisory council for the environmental group, "1000 Rivers and Streams of the West," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group." The group is dedicated to the protection of the nation's parks, forests and wild lands.

"Gale Norton's record clearly shows that she is committed to protecting public lands and resources," said Cuff. "She knows increasing the commercial and environmentally destructive development of our national parks, forests and wild lands.

"Gale Norton's nomination is a threat to the future of our public lands and resources. Norton is opposed to a strong Interior Department, which authorizes legal opinions to support shifting the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and other approval of endangered species as an example of excessive regulation. Norton is also the founder and serves on the advisory council for the environmental group, "1000 Rivers and Streams of the West," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group." The group is dedicated to the protection of the nation's parks, forests and wild lands. Norton is a strong advocate of Colorado's "self-audit" law, which gives businesses immunity from legal penalties if they report and correct violations of environmental standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has objected to these self-audit provisions in the law. Norton is also the founder and serves on the advisory council for the environmental group, "1000 Rivers and Streams of the West," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group." The group is dedicated to the protection of the nation's parks, forests and wild lands. Norton is a strong advocate of Colorado's "self-audit" law, which gives businesses immunity from legal penalties if they report and correct violations of environmental standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has objected to these self-audit provisions in the law. Norton is also the founder and serves on the advisory council for the environmental group, "1000 Rivers and Streams of the West," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group," which is considered by the Sierra Club to be "an environmental group." The group is dedicated to the protection of the nation's parks, forests and wild lands. Norton is a strong advocate of Colorado's "self-audit" law, which gives businesses immunity from legal penalties if they report and correct violations of environmental standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has objected to these self-audit provisions in the law.

President Clinton's designation of Sonoran Desert National Monument hailed

Conservationists, archeologists, Native Americans join in support of

President's step to protect threatened desert near Casa Grande

President Clinton's designation of Sonoran Desert National Monument hailed as historic achievement.

President Clinton's designation of Sonoran Desert National Monument hailed as historic achievement.
Dear Sierra Club Family:

Y
ou did it! Thank you! Recently, President Clinton and Secretary Chafee signed the paper giving formal protection to 60 million acres of wild forests. Twenty-five years ago, the Sierra Club launched a campaign to protect all roadless areas from logging and roads building. Today, we have the victory.

This is the biggest single land protection measure since the Alaska Lands Act in 1980. It looks like the whole story of the Sierra Club - from Adeleau, to Sierra Club to Development, to our sister organization the Sierra Club Foundation. Thousands of volunteers and supporters combined with over 100 staff (both chapter and national) made this happen. At times, it seemed beyond our grasp, but at each roadblock we just reached deeper and pushed harder. When they tried to include the Tongass, we wouldn't let them. When they tried to create a loophole for helicopter logging, we wouldn't let them. Your determination and dedication in the lands we love made this possible. This is a proud moment for the Sierra Club.

Already the State of Idaho is preparing its lawsuit to overturn this decision. Sen. Larry Craig is looking at a Congressional override. Congress's new leadership could take office. But last year we spent this money, the careful analysis of huge million of letters of support we generated; all the media and Congressional support we developed will likely be of little use. We must remain vigilant, through the court and in Congress, to hold on to this victory. But for today, let's savour and celebrate. This weekend, go to your favorite road less area and feel proud about the role you played in passing on 60 million acres of untampered wild forests to future generations.

Bruce Hamilton
Conservation Director
Sierra Club

In Teakle, Platts, a self-proclaimed "eco-quoter" wrote: "Old John of the Sierras, so much a spiritual inspiration to me, spoke for when he wrote: I will follow my instincts, be myself for good or ill - and use what shall be the upshot. As long as I live, I'll hear watersfalls - and birds and winds singing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the languages of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the whole thing as I can. "I know just what Mount Means.""

On the Sequoia Monument trip, leaders Carl and Leuty Feich and renowned conservation leader Joe Fontaine take you to one of the most significant national monuments newly designated by President Clinton in the southern Sierra Nevada. You'll learn what still needs doing to assure real protection for these awesome ancient giants.

Now for July's activist trip, leader Bill Evans takes you to Montana - where famous conservationist and wilderness guru Howie Wolfe will accompany the moderate seven-day backpack trip Traversing the Bitterrooters. Be there as he shares his experiences with reproduction of major predators like wolf and grizzly into America's wildest unprotected wilderness. The trip surrounds the Great Selway-Bitterroot Ecosystem in northwest Montana and central Idaho. July 7-27, Aug. 3-13, 1995, 1605. Idaho - the focus of a major Sierra Club wilderness effort - gives us a thrilling fall backpack trip. Exploring the Canyons of Utah's Dirty Devil River. This wilderness west of Canyonlands Park evokes the dazzling but delicate unspoiled red rock landscape for which wilderness is sorely needed.

On our annual backcountry trip, Vicky Stone brings the river's intricate mazes while leading us to a key point of the landmark campaign. Sept. 25- Oct. 5, 1995, 1604A, $1495.


Some images will live on after we're gone. And we get to choose which ones those are.
The Acctic National Wildildlife Refuge is a process secretary.
Yet right now, all our drrting interests
and their allies in Congress
intervene 1.5 million acres
of its pristine wilderness.
Join us now, so together
we can protect these
and other precious wildlands
for generations to come.

100 Years of Sierra Club Outings!

The Sierra Club has been offering exciting outings for over 100 years. Join today - Celebrate 100 years of Sierra Club Outings!

FOR 2000

The Sierra Club has been offering exciting outings for over 100 years. Join today - Celebrate 100 years of Sierra Club Outings!

IF YOU NEED REGISTRATION INFORMATION, CALL SIERRA CLUB AT 1-800-328-1550.
More Outings...  

FEB 24 (SAT) *A* "Red Tank Loop Day Hike. Our outing meets at 8:00 a.m. at the front of the Superstitions, leads us through some of the most rugged terrain in the Superstition Mountains. The spectacular 2001 flower displays. We start at the Penita Trailhead. Please make our way to the Dutchman, and head down to the Randolph Canyon to hopefully encounter some water. We will do a lot of climbing up next Tank Canyon. We make our way up the Upper La Barge Box. Then we head along the bluffs overlooking this beautiful canyon and hook up with the Wickenburg Springs Trail. We return via the Dutchman Trail back to the Penita Trailhead 20 miles, 1000+ ft. Elevation. Very steep on the way up. Call Doug Ten at 800-474-5205 or Steve Witzel at 842-882-2085.iative.

FEB 24 (SAT) *A* "Lost Dutchman Ridge Day Hike. On this challenging 15-mile deathdefying, for fast and strong hikers only, we will get to Tortilla Trailhead in the Superstitions near Tortilla Flat, take off roads and trails to Lost Dutchman, and climb and find ridge high between Fish Creek and Lost Dutchmen to the JF Trail, which we will follow back to Tortilla. On our ridge walk we will bag high points exceeding 4,000 feet and see terrain rarely seen by hikers. Our absolute elevation gain is 1,300 feet. Of course, such a hike requires that you be in good shape, the usual Sonoran Desert activities, steep and slippery slopes, brush and sharp cactus will be on the forefront. Driving distance is 40 miles. Steve recommends Flashlights make sure you have a map. Drive 65 miles one way from Tempe. Call Ken Mc looty at 602-285-2060.

FEB 23 (SAT) *B* "Peak 3004 Loop Day Hike. On the western fringe of the Goldfield, peak 3004 is isolated, rugged and highly scenic from all directions. We follow a popular trail, a seldom-used trail, and a cross-country route to complete a grand loop. Driving distance is 8 miles, 1,000+ ft. elevation change Drive 15 miles one way from Phoenix. Call Ken Ten at 602-385-3399 or email potbrock@sothome.com.

FEB 26-3 MAR 1 (MON-THURS) *B* "Superstition Loop Backpack. From Penita Trailhead we hike to theLost Dutchman Trailhead, then up to Tortilla Flat, we return via a forest service road to the Trailhead. Call 602-285-2060 or email potbrock@sothome.com.

MARK 3 (SAT) *A* "Astrona Peak Dead March. Morning only. Prepare yourself for a pre-dawn ascent on Monument County's highest peak. This will be an all day adventure backpacking an approach and climb along with cholla bushes, and over boulder piles, with a class four scramble up a highly exposed rock face to the summit. This will be the best of the best.

HELP WANTED to work on the Green Machine

Part or full-time technician(s):

- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Electronics
- PT Administrative assistant

Good advancement opportunities at Indian School, Phoenix

Contact: Lou King

602-955-8514

Beyond the Slab

by Sue Patton

GEE, ISN'T THAT OUR HELP REMOVE OUR PROP 202 SIGNS?

WOULDN'T WE BE EVEN BETTER IF WE'D ALL BEEN BUSHWACKED!
Y
ou are invited! The Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter is pleased to present five groups (see page two for listing). Attending meetings is the first step in getting active. Conservation, and Sierra Club administrative work are just a few areas of volunteer opportunities. All are open to members and we encourage you to come and learn more about the Sierra Club. We are working to make this world a better, more livable place. We need your help.

Dave Foreman
Sky Islands Wildlands Network Conservation Plan
February 8, Thursday. Dave Foreman is one of America's top conservationists and a recognized leader. He is the founder of Earth First! and has been the chairman of the Wildlands Project, and international effort to end the destruction of biodiverse conservation science and advocacy, since 1991. He also is a co-founder and publisher of WILD EARTH, a leading journal of wilderness, protection, and biodiversity conservation movements. Dave will also be selling and signing copies of his new book "The Lunar Outback Funeral Home." His talk is sponsored by the Southwest Forest Alliance, the Sierra Club, and the Biology Department of Arizona State University. His presentation will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Great Hall in Arizona State University Law School.

Canyon Echo mailing party
February 26, Monday. Starts at 5:30 p.m. as social hour. The meeting is limited to 25 people. Extra help is needed! Help to label and bundle the July issue of the Canyon Echo. It’s easy! It’s fast! It makes the extra lives easier and is a great way to meet new members. Help with mailing (mailing or list), mailing label, packing, and general group. Your participation helps save several thousand dollars each year in mailing costs! Also, label covers have come over $11,000 — more help is needed! Confirm date with Terry Nelson, (602) 279-3402, Sierra Club headquarters, 812 N. Third Street, Phoenix. Call for directions needed.

Palo Verde Group—Phoenix
Conservation Committee
February 8, Thursday. The Palo Verde Group conservation committee holds its monthly meeting to discuss regional environmental issues concerning mining, growth management, etc. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., 812 N. Third Street, Phoenix. (one block north of the Arizona Center). For information call Don Steuter, (602) 956-5057 (donsteuter@aol.com).

Palo Verde Group ICO
February 14, Wednesday. Inner City Outings (ICO) meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Sierra Club "Clubhouse," 812 N. Third Street, Phoenix. ICO is a program that helps children from urban centers experience the outdoors in a special setting. Please call to confirm the meeting may be canceled due to the date changed depending on participation. Call Denise Berringer-Wood at (602) 667-5017 for information.

McDowell Sonoran Preserve Hearing
February 15, Thursday. Mark your calendars for the important hearing at everyone's favorite preserve. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve must attend! The Palo Verde Group I have suspended this month so that you can attend an important hearing. The hearing date is Thurs., February 15, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room, Desert Canyon Middle School in Scottsdale. It is located at 10203 E. McDowell Mountain Ranch Road (go north on Thompson-Palm Parkway off of Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard over the bridge to McDowell Mountain Ranch Road and turn right to the school). For more information (see article on one page) please contact Ted Gardner 480-961-0370 (gardenerted@azcentral.com).

Palo Verde Group Executive Committee
February 22, Thursday. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 812 N. Third Street, Phoenix (one block north of the Arizona Center). For information, call Ted Gardner (480) 961-0370 (gardenerted@azcentral.com).

Activity Groups
Palo Verde Group Fundraisers:
For information about Palo Verde Group "Sierra Club Singers" contact Brian Knowles, (602) 422-3186. The Sierra Singers activity group shares the common mission of all branches of the Sierra Club, "to enjoy, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth." We publish a bimonthly newsletter with a complete listing of all Singers activities. Visit the Palo Verde Group website at www.azrizona.siercalclub.org/singlers.

RINCON GROUP • TUCSON
Executive Committee meeting
February 8, Thursday. 7:00 p.m., Historic Y, first floor conference room, 738 North Fifth Avenue (tucson), and University. Call 620-640-1 for more information.

ICO Meeting
February 20, Thursday. 7:00 p.m. Contact William, 791-7717, sprangman@msn.com or ICO Co-chair Matt Nelson, 770-0668, mujocomy@juno.com for details and directions. (Please note that these meeting are not held at the Historic Y.)

Issues Meeting
February 21, Thursday. These meetings cover a wide range of important environmental issues. It's not too late to sign up for the Sierra Club backpacking class!
Take a Hike! With the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with an active local outings program for members and non-members alike. You are invited to explore the beauty of Arizona while making friends and possibly finding new hiking enriches. Simply find an outing that appeals to you and phone or write for more information. The club informative phone the Brinkle at (602) 267-8459 or visit our World Wide Web site at: http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/az/

FEB. 21 (SAT) "B" West Fork on Ice. 10. Miles. West Fork is very cold weather so please visit the West Fork of Oak Creek Canyon for some of the most absolutely huff photos ever last year's attempt was warmed out, but it seems colder this year. Wear plenty of layers and have extra blankets, keep a few pieces of sprints from softing the climb John Morgan or Margaret Pios 808-456-4615 or email karen16500@yahoo.com Phoenix.

FEB. 25 (SAT) "B" Agua Caliente Hill Day Hike Rincon MHN. We will go to top of Agua Caliente Hill, which is that small mountain between the Calabans and the Rinconos, though it doesn't seem very small when you get there. This is a very beautiful area, and anyone who has never been there should visit it. M. C. Scott Andy Page 526-376-2114 or email karen16500@yahoo.com Tucson.

FEB. 25 (SAT) "B" Black Mtns. Day Hike. On this 10.5 mile hike, we will hike towards the highest peaks in the Black Mountains. The rocky trail, with some steep step, thick and very thorny vegetation, and other adversities will be more than compensated for by the view of the rugged mountains and the ever-changing spectacular views. Gloves recommended. Drive 95 minutes. Call Ken McCarthy at 602-265-2654.

FEB. 25 (SAT) "B" Music Min. Loop Day Hike. This hike begins as we head up steep and slippery slopes through thick and very thorny vegetation to the top, where views should be excellent. Gloves recommended. Drive 95 minutes to Tempe. Call Ken McCarthy at 602-265-2654.

FEB. 25 (SAT) "B" White Tanks Tower Day Hike. You probably watch the Sun go down behind the White Tank Mountains almost every night. How many times have you wandered where it is and how the Goat Camp trail and find out? Well keep going on the way to summit, and we will take until the Sun's secret has been revealed! Tent, 20000, E. 7th St. Call Jim Reynolds 731-1371, e-mail jre@yahoocom or Brian Blanchard 480-734-6519, a-mail-bob, and xh@comcast.com for details. Phoenix.

FEB. 25 (SAT) "B" Pickpost Day Hike. Pickpost is a mountain just east of Boeing Thoms- son. This hike will be a 2,000-foot Eaglepectacular views of the Superstition and the East Valley. Top to the top, on the top, panoramic views in all directions. Bring water lunch, water breaks, and the sun will be some rock scrambling/hand-pluss. The hike will take about 3 hours with a lunch break on the top. For more information contact Steve Waidorek 480-735-3622 (Melissawaidorek@hotmail.com or Stonewall 1000 892-2127 (sandstream@hotmail.com) Phoenix.

FEB. 11 (SUN) "D" Goldwater Lake Day Hike. This is a 4 mile walk around lake. Take the entrance off 89A, go 1 mile then take the second left. Contact Carolyn York, 520-541-1922. Prescott.

FEB. 17 (SAT) Threading the Needle. Sport hik- er's paradise on the Pinal Raton and San Rafael Mountains. We will take the road less traveled to the summit of Whispering Water, one of the most dramatic points of the Superstition Mountains and one of the most distant and fa- mous landmarks in Arizona. 8 miles RT. 8 hours. Contact and hump the Needle. Requires Sierra Club members, backpacking experience and some knowledge of the parking. Toping equipment: climbing helmets, rappel de- vice, helmet, rock climbing shoes, rope, and harness. Mesnick 937-2345 or Arlene Bob at 480-802-0570 if you're up for the challenge. Phoenix.

FEB. 18 (SUN) "C" Pt. Meade Yoga Hike. 5 miles. Call Andy Page 526-376-2114 or email karen16500@yahoo.com Tucson.

FEB. 17 (SAT) "A" Trans-Grandfather Day Hike. 13 miles and off-trail hike for fast hikers only. This hike begins as we make the rugged Goldthwait ridge and into the desert of Meas, from the Salt River to the Apache Trail. Surrounding nature and wildlife. This trail is scandals and colorful canyons through a range of easily walked area. Expect rock hopping, sand stepping, steep and rocky steps, grass, scrub, and a lot of walking. Call Ken McCarthy at 602-265-2654. Phoenix.

FEB. 18 (SUN) "C" Usery Min. Loop Day Hike. This is a hike for the fitness oriented person. We will hike to the Usery Mountain Park northeast of Mesa, with a 7.5 miles round trip. Call Ken McCarthy at 602-265-2654. Phoenix.

FEB. 18 (SUN) "A" Usery Min. Loop Day Hike. This is a hike for the fitness oriented person. We will hike to the Usery Mountain Park northeast of Mesa, with a 7.5 miles round trip. Call Ken McCarthy at 602-265-2654. Phoenix.

FEB. 18 (AUG) "B" Holman B-15s. Day Hike. This is a hike near the Alstrom's house. Contact and hump the Needle. Requires Sierra Club members, backpacking experience and some knowledge of the parking. Toping equipment: climbing helmets, rappel de- device, helmet, rock climbing shoes, rope, and harness. Mesnick 937-2345 or Arlene Bob at 480-802-0570 if you're up for the challenge. Phoenix.

FEB. 24 (SAT) "B" Phoenix Min. Preserve Hike and Aunt Chillida's Lunch. We will meet at the Dreamway Draw parking lot at the end of Northern Avenue under the Superstition Freeway. From there we will take the trails to the main Superstition area and possibly hike the trail that leads to the Cave Creek Trail. We will take a lunch to Aunt Chillida's for lunch. After lunch we will have a short 1.5 miles "Hike back to the trailhead or about 3 miles with some elevation changes. Runn Harris 505-827-6673 e-mail mhriss@compuserve.com Phoenix.

FEB. 24 (SAT) "B" or "C" Hieroglyphic Canyon Day Hike. If you haven't taken to Gold Canyon hik- ers be to the petroglyphs. Now the petroglyphs are worth seeing and the canyon's rock faces offer great turking or napping. This spot in the Superstition Moun- tains is reached in 1.4 miles with a 550 feet. An off-trail exploratory hike with extensive bush- walking, some rather small trail, maybe 1600 to the rim will be offered for those participants inter- ested in the petroglyphs. Contact and hump the Needle. Requires Sierra Club members, backpacking experience and some knowledge of the parking. Toping equipment: climbing helmets, rappel de- device, helmet, rock climbing shoes, rope, and harness. Mesnick 937-2345 or Arlene Bob at 480-802-0570 if you're up for the challenge. Phoenix.