Sierra Club draft policy on wildlife trapping

RECENTLY THE CLUB’S NATIONAL Board agreed to consider the issue of wildlife trapping and appointed a task force. The task made recommendations which they presented to the Board. The Board voted to approve a draft policy, and it available for view here: <http://clubhouse.sierrクラブ.org/conservation/policy/trapping-policy.aspx>. The comment period ended on March 30, which unfortunately was not in sync with this issue of the Toiyabe Trails. Despite the

Las Vegas Field Organizer moves on

BY JEAN STOESS

VINNY SPOTLESON, who served as Associate Field Organizer for the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign in Las Vegas, has joined the nonprofit, nonpartisan Western Clean Energy Campaign in Washington state. He will be based in Seattle and will work with many WCEC campaigns across the region. At the Sierra Club, Vinny led campaigns to stop construction of the Toquop Power Project in Mesquite, NV, and led the coalition effort to secure an early transition of the Reid Gardner facility near the Moapa Band of Paiutes reservation.

Vinny’s phone number is still 702-285-6588. He is expected to make a relatively painless transition from life in the high desert of Las Vegas to the emerald state amid the Huskies.

Thanks for all your hard work in Toiyabe Chapter, Vinny!
GMO RIGHT-TO-KNOW... continued from page 12

Member (650-520-7954, labelgmos12@gmail.com). The campaign website is <http://www.carighttoknow.org/>.

NOTE. “The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act” was endorsed by the Sierra Club California on January 8, 2012. This endorsement gives full support for all Sierra Club chapters to petition and campaign throughout California. This right-to-know labeling initiative complies with the 1993 Sierra Club policy calling for—among other things—the labeling of genetically engineered foods. The Sierra Club National Genetically Engineering Committee supports the initiative. The Sierra Club Policy is posted at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conversion/biotech # Genetically engineering” allows the transfer of genetic material from one organism into a host organism of an unrelated species . . . the altered characteristics will be passed on to future generations and continue to be reproduced in the environment.

FROM THE CHAIR . . . continued from page 1

to pack meetings, get people to the legislature to block laws that would have allowed the lespag sprawl even if reform was even for the mais of Reno, finishing with 25% of the vote.

I want to give the Toiyabe Chapter heartfelt thanks for their early and consistent support of the lawsuits, and the victorious WWC ballot initiative that emerged from this struggle. Today, there are hopeful signs of a permanent and beneficial resolution to the Winnemucca Ranch struggle.

Thank you for your trust and I look forward to working with and for the Chapter in the future.

Sierra Club Draft Policy on Wildlife Trapping

Use of body-gripping devices—including leghold traps, snares, and Conibear® traps—are indiscriminate to age, sex and species and typically result in injury, pain, suffering, and/or death of target and non-target animals.

The Sierra Club considers body-gripping, restraining and killing traps and snares to be ecologically indiscriminate and unnecessarily inhumane and therefore opposes their use.

The Sierra Club promotes and supports humane, practical and effective methods of mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and actively discourages the use of inhumane and indiscriminate methods. Implementation and application of this policy should be based on the most recent and relevant science and should minimize harm to ecosystems.

Also, the Rio Grande NM Chapter, in affiliation with Trap Free New Mexico, has put together a FAQ on trapping which can be viewed here: <http://www.carighttoknow.org/sites/default/files/FAQ-ON-TRAPPING_1.pdf>.

— contributed by Tina Nappe & Malcolm Clark

Toiyabe Trails

Serving Nevada & California’s E. Sierra

Toiyabe Trails is published four times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

Editor— Lynne Foster (94 Mountain View Drive, Swall Meadows, Bishop, CA 93514-9207; 760-387-2634; foster@sierraclub.org)

Assoc. Editor— Kathy Money (760-938-2050). Kathy usually does one issue each year.

Deadline— Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month’s issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

Submissions— Call or e-mail before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor by e-mail (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don’t have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. The Toiyabe Trails reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

Subscriptions— Toiyabe Trails is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is $12 per year. To subscribe, send check for $12, payable to “Toiyabe Chapter,” to Toiyabe Trails Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. Treasurer, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) for address.

Change of address— Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80302-2968 or [address changes@sierraclub.org].

Membership information— There is a membership coupon in each issue of Toiyabe Trails. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

Other Sierra Club information— Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chairman or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5663). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.


gmoglobe.org
Winter Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee’s purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert,* by Lynne Foster.

If you have questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

APRIL 7-9 (SAT-SUN)
*MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE TOUR*
Meet Saturday morning at Teutonia Peak trailhead on Cima Road for hike to peak and out onto Cima Dome. Camp at Sunrise Rocks (primitive camping). Sunday, hike from Middlefoot to Hole-in-the-Wall. About 8 mi, downhill. If timing is right, there could be wonderful windflowers. For those arriving on Friday, we can go out to Rock Springs Loop Trail. For those staying overnight on Sunday, we can primitive camp near Kelso Dunes and hike dunes on Monday morning. Reservations: contact Carol Wiley (de-sertfily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 14-15 (SAT-SUN)
*BIRDS, FLOWERS, & FENCES IN CARRIZO*
Opportunity to visit and assist in Carrizo Plain National Monument. Saturday, help monument staff remove and/or modify fences to allow pronghorn antelope freeer access to range. Sunday, sightseeing or hiking, as group decides. Views from Caliente ridge, just south of Great Basin national Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles from damaging trees, and fence to allow pronghorn antelope to use the trail. Work with Owens Peak Student Conservation Association crew, a group of college age interns who have been doing restoration work in this wilderness area for several months. Meet 8:30 in Ridgecrest and caravan to work area. Work project not yet determined, but probably either building fences or camouflaging illegal roads. Work Friday and Saturday. Potluck Saturday night with SCA crew. Sunday, crew will lead hike of area. Leader: Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee/Anwlope Valley Group

APRIL 29-5 MAY (SUN-SAT)
*ESCALANTE RIVER CANYON: SERVICE TRIP BACKPACK*
Work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian olive eradication program. So far, 42 mi of Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small hand saws, and herbicide. Meet in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to trailhead and hike in about 7 mi. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. Work four days, day hike one day, hike out Saturday morning. Participants must follow work clothing requirements, provide own food and gear on trail, and travel expenses to trailhead. Info: contact leader, Paul Plathe (209-476-1498).

Delta-Sierra Group/Mother Lode Chapter

**JULY 13-16 (FRI – MON)**
*HIGHLAND RANGE NEVADA SERVICE*
Once again partner with ranger John from Ely, Nevada office of BLM for scissiling wilderness service project in Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles on designated cherry-stem route, inventory historic Arborglyph in aspen stand, maybe also put up small post and rail fence, route obliteraction/rehab, etc. Good work at beautiful location. Central commissary offered. Reservations: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierracclub.org, 415-977-5527).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**APRIL 7-9:** Mojave National Preserve Tour. Meet Saturday morning at Teutonia Peak trailhead on Cima Road. Camp at Sunrise Rocks. Sunday, hike from Middlefoot to Hole-in-the-Wall. About 8 mi, downhill. If timing is right, there could be wonderful windflowers. For those arriving on Friday, we can go out to Rock Springs Loop Trail. For those staying overnight on Sunday, we can primitive camp near Kelso Dunes and hike dunes on Monday morning. Reservations: contact Carol Wiley (desertfily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

**APRIL 14-15:** Birds, Flowers, & Fences in Carrizo. Opportunity to visit and assist in Carrizo Plain National Monument. Saturday, help monument staff remove and/or modify fences to allow pronghorn antelope freeer access to range. Sunday, sightseeing or hiking, as group decides. Views from Caliente Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles from damaging trees, and fence to allow pronghorn antelope to use the trail. Work with Owens Peak Student Conservation Association crew, a group of college age interns who have been doing restoration work in this wilderness area for several months. Meet 8:30 in Ridgecrest and caravan to work area. Work project not yet determined, but probably either building fences or camouflaging illegal roads. Work Friday and Saturday. Potluck Saturday night with SCA crew. Sunday, crew will lead hike of area. Leader: Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

**APRIL 29-5 MAY:** Escalante River Canyon: Service Trip Backpack. Work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian olive eradication program. So far, 42 mi of Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small hand saws, and herbicide. Meet in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to trailhead and hike in about 7 mi. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. Work four days, day hike one day, hike out Saturday morning. Participants must follow work clothing requirements, provide own food and gear on trail, and travel expenses to trailhead. Info: contact leader, Paul Plathe (209-476-1498).

**JULY 13-16:** High Range Nevada Service. Once again partner with ranger John from Ely, Nevada office of BLM for scissiling wilderness service project in Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles on designated cherry-stem route, inventory historic Arborglyph in aspen stand, maybe also put up small post and rail fence, route obliteraction/rehab, etc. Good work at beautiful location. Central commissary offered. Reservations: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierracclub.org, 415-977-5527).

**Hiking the Web**

SIERRA CLUB SOCKS! Parker Legwear, a family-owned company and a Sierra Club partner, produces men’s, women’s and kid’s Sierra Club socks right here in the U.S. from recycled and organic materials. To order yours, go to www.sierracclubsocks.com.


CALIFORNIA PARIK PROTECTION. To help protect pikas under California’s Endangered Species Act and reverse their march to extinction, go to http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/.

CNRCC DESERT REPORT. For all the latest news on the California desert, see the latest (and past) issues of the Desert Report at www.desertreport.org.

CAPITOL VOICE. To receive all the Sierra Club legislative news from Sacramento, sign up for this excellent newsletter at http://sierracclub.org/california/.

Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET on a Monday each quarter. Our next meeting is Monday, May 14, 5:15 pm, at Malcolm Clark’s home. All are welcome but please confirm date, place and time (Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639 or wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), as meeting dates frequently are changed in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP!
May 16, July 18, & Sept. 19, 2012
By John Walter
Will Bud Light, designer water, or Red Bull win the “drink of choice” award this year?
Find out when you join Range of Light Group members in the Mammoth area to clean “our” section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth this summer.

The cleanups are on Wednesday morning after our third Tuesday eve monthly group meeting: May 16, July 18, and September 19. Meet at the Crestview rest area, about 5 miles north of town at 8 am. We provide required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags – along with picker-uppers and gloves. When 10-12 people show up, we normally finish by 10:30 and then enjoy some light refreshments together. If the State is too broke to open the rest stop, we’ll meet at the junction of Scenic Loop road and 395, about 2 miles south of rest stop.

You’re Invited!
Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings
Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own non-disposable table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program. NO food allowed when we meet at Mammoth Lakes Community Library.

April 17 (Tuesday)
Potluck & Social, 6:15 pm
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
Program: 7 pm
“Virtual Tour of Panum Crater” Rich Foye, Mono Lake Interpretive Guide, will take us on a virtual tour of Panum Crater, the most accessible of the 21 Mono Cones.

May 15 (Tuesday)
“Mighty Mammoth: Geological Insights into Eastern California’s Most Majestic Volcano”
You are invited to attend the SNARL Lecture by Dr. Brandon Browne, Dept of Geological Sciences, CSU Fullerton. Program will begin at 7 pm at the Green Church, (Hwy 395 and Benton Crossing Road). These programs are very popular, please arrive early. Admission is free.

June 19 (Tuesday)
Potluck & Social: 6:15 pm
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
Program: 7 pm
“Climate Science Updates”
Doug Grandt, trained to present Al Gore’s slide show, “An Inconvenient Truth,” will refresh and update recent developments in climate science. He will also touch on entrepreneurial developments in alternative energy.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (mary.shore@gte.net). We always need fresh ideas!
Thursday & Sunday time & meeting location. Meet at 10 am, in parking lot be-"hind Union Bank, Mammoth (except April 15). There may be a secondary meeting area on Sundays closer to the trailhead, so check your ROLG e-mail newsletter, the ROLG website, or call one of the leaders mentioned above.

Conservation education. All trips will give participants a chance to familiarize themselves with the natural history of the area and with local conservation issues.

MAY

Higher altitude ski trips. These skis will be held on Saturdays so as not to conflict with the Sunday hikes (no Thursday ski). Meet at 9 am so we can travel further. The exact wheres and whens depend on the snow gods and the Cal Trans clearing schedule.

If you want to participate on a May outing, call one of the people listed above in “Trip info” or in the local papers at least a day ahead to find out details as to meeting location, destination, whether dogs are al-"lowed, etc. -- and if conditions allow outing to happen.

Same equipment as in April but bring ex-"tra quart of water and pint of suntan lotion cuz of the sun and altitudes over 10,000 ft. Prepare for 5-10 mi.

SUMMER HIKES

MAY 6 (SUNDAY)
Lower Rock Creek. Start at 395 junction, lower Rock Creek at top. Follow creek 7 mi down, watch spring unfold before your eyes as you descend 1900 ft to Paradise. Beaver dams near top, Aspen sprouting new green, wildflowers beginning, then down to a magnificent Jeffery/Ponderosa hybrid forest. Geology is lava spilling over granite into deep canyon. Car shuttle back to 395. Shorter trip possible by driving midway down. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunblock, camera. Meet at Union Bank, 9 am, or junc-"tion Hwy 93, 930 am, S of Tom’s Place. Leader: Mary K. Prentice (760-934-0355). Dogs OK.

MAY 13 (SUNDAY)
Spark Plug Mine & Geology Talk. Ex-plore historic Jeffery Mine, located on W flank of White Mountain near Hammil Val-ley. Restored mining camp is 2 mi. in, 1600 ft above trailhead. Presentation on geology, history of camp, mine. After lunch hardy hikers can go an additional 1400 ft to see actual mine. Bring water, lunch, hat, sun-"screen, hiking boots. Meet 8am at Union Bank parking or 845 am at White Mt. Rd. off Hwy 395 in Bishop. Leader: Brigitte Herman (760 934-214).

MAY 20 (SUNDAY)

MAY 27 (SUNDAY)
Bodie Hills & Rough Creek. Co-sponsored by Friends of Inyo. Loop of 6-8 mi mostly x-c. Gain about 1200 ft. Route depends on snow conditions. Start at Paramount Mine. This is sage grouse country. See a variety of wildflowers, birds, trees, perhaps mule deer fawns, even pronghorns. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, camera, layered clothing. Meet 8 am, Union Bank parking in Mammoth or 9am at Hwys 395 and 270 (Bodie turn). Leaders: Maurica Anderson (760-932-7715), Stacy Corless (F01). Dogs OK.

JUNE 3 (SUNDAY)
McGee Canyon to Grass Lake. About 11 mi RT 2200 ft gain. Moderate pace with stream crossings. May see beautiful wild-"flowers beginning in canyon. Final destination will depend on trail, stream conditions. Bring 10 essentials, extra water. Meet at Union Bank parking, Mammoth, 9 am or trailhead at 930 at end of McGee Creek Canyon Rd. Leaders: Sandy & Keith Burns (760-935-4004). Dogs OK.

JUNE 10 (SUNDAY)
Kayak or Canoe Benton Crossing to Crowley Lake. Float, paddle, birdwatch down Owens River about 4 mi. See wide variety of waterfowl, spectacular views of E. Sierra. Bring boat, paddle, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. Life vest mandatory. Waterproof bag for camera, binoculars ad-"vised. Some space in boats available. Call to reserve space. Meet 9 am, Union Bank in Mammoth or 930 am, Benton Crossing Rd Bridge. No Dogs. Leaders: John Walter (760-934-1767), Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109).

JUNE 15-17 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

JUNE 24 (SUNDAY)
Barney Lake near Twin Lakes, from Bridge-
port. Hike from Twin Lakes, 1300 ft gain, 8.6 mi RT. Ascend into Hoover Wilder-"ness through many plant and bird species via good trail with spectacular views of Sawtouh Ridge, Matheron Peak (Little Switzerland). Meet 8 am, Union Bank in Mammoth, or 915 am, Hwys 395 and 182 (in Bridgeport). Bring water, lunch, hiking boots, layered clothes, camera, sunscreen. Leader: Maurica Anderson (760-932-7715). Dogs OK on leash for first 0.5 mi.

Wednesday is now Thursday!
New day for “Fun & Fitness” hikes from May thru August

OUR LONG-TIME LEADER of Wednes-"day summer evening hikes, Dick Baggett, has retired. It looks like we have found volunteers to continue this activity, but the new day is Thursday at 6 pm, instead of Wednesday. Meet at Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth.

Explore local trails, learn about our natural surroundings, geology, wildflowers, trees. All hikes moderate to easy – beginners welcome. Back to trailhead by dark. Bring water, layered clothes, sturdy shoes.

As we are still finalizing our plans, call or email Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com) to confirm the hikes are a go. Or you can check our website and local media. Also check first if you want to bring your well-behaved dog(s).

Summer flowers in the Bodie Hills! (Photo: John Dittli.)

Exploring the Bodie Hills

BY LESLEY BRUNS

Summer flowers in the Bodie Hills! The spectacular Sierra Crest can make the sage-covered mounds of the Bodie Hills look rather uninteresting. However, after a trip through what proved to be a unique and beautiful landscape, I changed my mind.

Last July, I joined a hike sponsored by the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership (www.bodiehills.org) -- in which Range of Light Group participates. Our guide, Urs Willmann, teamed up with Friends of the Inyo and the Santa Clarita Community Hiking Club. Together, we set off in search of old mines and wildflowers.

Our caravan bounced up Aurora Canyon for fifteen minutes until we parked and clambered up to Chemung Mine. Here, there were a crumbling stamp mill, remnants of streamside shack, and a few outbuildings. I was surprised there were no fences or “keep out” signs around the teetering structures.

Next, we headed higher up the dirt road, each curve bringing more spec-tacular vistas and bountiful blossoms. The extremely heavy and late winter snowed hillsides lush with fields of white and blue lupine.

As the Geiger counter crested the spine of the hills, we stopped to get a closer look at the flora and a grand 360-de-gree view of this varied landscape. The craggy Sierra rose in one direction, while opposite the terrain undulated away from us in gentle swells toward Nevada. At our feet were desert paintbrush, mule’s ears and Mariposa lilies, set in beds of glinting obsidian chips.

Continuing, we jostled along to the site of the proposed Cougar Gold mine, where we picnicked at a spot that may one day become an open pit excavation, if we’re not vigilant. The breezy hillside offered a gorgeous view of Beauty Peak and the Dry Lakes Plateau – just begging to be explored. Nearby, we scouted tui-lings left from previous mining activity.

As the day waned, we exited the hills via Cottonwood Canyon, keeping an eye out for pronghorn antelope along the way. More bumps on the road, more colorful blooms on the hillsides. You can’t know a place until you’ve been there. This spring, on Sunday, May 27, Range of Light Group and Friends of the Inyo are co-leading a hike along Rough Creek in the Bodie Hills. Once you’ve seen this wild and rugged landscape, I bet you’ll agree that it’s an American treasure, and worth saving.

For more info on lodge activities, to receive a schedule, or to make a reservation, please go to <www.sierranubc.org/lodging/lodges/ctb> or call 800-879-6775.

For more info on lodge activities, to receive a schedule, or to make a reservation, please go to <www.sierranubc.org/lodging/lodges/ctb> or call 800-879-6775.

Time and date are not provided in the above text. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the ROLG website or e-mail newsletter.
Water grab decisions due in 2012

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Will the Nevada State Engineer, Jason King, decide to grant water applications filed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) for its groundwater mining project in eastern Nevada? The Engineer could approve or not approve of SNWA’s applications. His decision is due in March, 2012, after the TRAILS publication deadline. For the latest information on the ruling, check the Toiyabe Chapter Website, <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>.

SNWA wants to pump and pipe billions of gallons of groundwater from four remote valleys in White Pine and Lincoln Counties over 300 miles away to southern Nevada at a cost conservatively estimated to be over $15,000,000,000. Protesters presented evidence at the water hearing last fall that there was no need for the groundwater, nor was the project financially feasible. Supporting the protesters’ case, SNWA director, Pat Mulroy, told the State Engineer that even if SNWA applications were approved this year the agency would not build the pipeline possibly for years – until the economy recovered and there was an actual demand for additional water.

SNWA is already proposing substantial increases in its rates to pay for its other huge construction projects, including the “third straw” water intake pipe into Lake Mead. Ratepayers would also be on the hook for additional rate increases to pay for the water pipeline costs.

The decision by the Bureau of Land Management on SNWA’s request for a Right-of-Way for the water pipeline is due out in the summer of 2012. The BLM could ignore the findings of its Environmental Statement on the severe impacts of the SNWA project on over 4000 square miles in eastern Nevada and western Utah.

Impacts include drying up of springs, creeks, wetlands, and meadows and massive ground subsidence in the four valleys, caused by the proposed groundwater mining. This wholesale destruction and harm to public lands, to wildlife habitat, to wild horses and to grazing, recreation, and invaluable cultural resources in the four valleys would violate BLM’s Congressional mandates to protect and manage public lands and resources.

Sierra Club will work with Great Basin Water Network and our allies to support good decisions by both the Nevada State Engineer and BLM on this environmentally devastating project and to challenge bad decisions.

What you can do. Go to our website to learn how you can support our efforts to avoid another Owens Valley disaster from the last century’s water grab in the Eastern Sierras, <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>.

Deadline! June 1 FOR JULY-AUG-SEPT ISSUE
New Tahoe Forest Plan coming this year

By Lauren Thorpe

Did you know that nearly 80% of all the forests within the Lake Tahoe Basin are public lands that are slated for a new management plan this year? It’s true; the U.S. Forest Service oversees the vast amount of the beautiful greenery sounding Lake Tahoe, and for the first time since 1983, they will be redoing their plan on how to best manage these lands.

We know that Lake Tahoe’s forests are not only important wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities; they also provide critical environments for maintaining snowpack and filtering the water that contributes to Lake Tahoe’s unique blue color, as well as providing clean drinking water for thousands of people.

Not only will this plan decide what the future of the Lake Tahoe Basin will look like, but this management plan is the first of near four thousand homes were lost and many residents who survived were forced to move to other states. Today the debris has been cleared but few houses have been rebuilt. We came belatedly, I will admit, to work together with the community.

Our first assignment was under the direction of Green Light New Orleans (GLNO**). GLNO recruits residents wanting to lower their energy costs and volunteers willing to visit people’s homes to make a light bulb exchange. We enjoyed an unparalleled opportunity to meet residents inside their homes while changing light bulbs and sharing energy efficient tips. In two days, volunteers installed 573 energy efficient light bulbs. According to GLNO residents will save 225,762 KWH of energy and $26,358 in energy costs. The carbon footprint will be reduced by 256,131 pounds of CO2.

The painting team in front of Mrs. Bailey’s home. Photo: Anon.

Another goal was painting the exterior of Mrs. Bailey’s home. Mrs. Bailey had been a victim twice, first by the flood and then by a thief who walked off with all the copper wiring. Grandma Bailey wanted to move back into her home with her family by Christmas. The Sierra Club, one of several organizations helping her, provided paint and labor. On the day we completed our task, Mrs. Bailey received her occupancy permit.

We also volunteered at the Besthoff Sculpture Garden, raking leaves in the rain. A fabulous garden with 60 sculptures, the garden relies on volunteers for all its grounds work. On another day we headed into Bayou Segnette Waterway with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Wetlands**. There, we planted cypress trees whose roots hold the soil banks. We carried 5-20 pound trees in pots threading our way along the soil bank to find the perfect spot to plant.

Check out the Sierra Club service trips. You will enjoy the volunteering, other Sierra Club members, new country, and contributing!

http://www.celsjr.org/  
** http://www.greenlightneworleans.org/  
*** http://www.crcel.org/
**Chair’s Report**

**DAVID VON SEGGERN**

The Great Basin Group is looking at a number of issues in 2012. The ongoing Southeast Connector is still on our radar, awaiting action on the permit application by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Recently, this issue is being impacted by UNR’s request to rezone 104 acres of prime flood-land control to commercial status in order to get top value for the land.

The Jungo Landfill issue near Winnemucca is probably headed for the courts as the Nevada Division of Environment seems poised to grant it an operations permit. The Nevada Division of Environment seems poised to grant it an operations permit. The Great Basin Group is looking at a proposal of flood-control land to commercial status in 2012. We are looking forward to the regular monthly ExCom meetings and regular monthly program meetings for both members and the public (see our Calendar, which begins on this page, as well as the web, for details).

We are looking forward to the summer hiking season and probably some changes related to “Meet Up” opportunities.

**Great Basin Peak Section News**

**Who will find GOLD?**

**SHARON MARIE WILCOX**

**GOING FOR THE GOLD!** Who will be the first to achieve Gold with all 116 peaks? Bob, Sue, and Vic are all at Silver with over half the peaks under their belts, so one of them could be first. However, a couple of hikers say they will apply to all levels at once with their completed list of all 116 Great Basin Peaks. The race to the first GBPS list completion is on!

**E-mail problems fixed.** The glitch in e-mail communications concerning the Great Basin Peak Section has been solved, thanks to our webmaster, Dennis Ghiglieri. For a number of months, anything sent has not been received, so if you have not had your e-mails answered, please try again.

**Join us!** For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peak Section at: <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/Great-Basin-Group-2nd-
Thursday-Programs>

**On the Trail to Middle Sister & Her Northeast Ridge**

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

We LEFT RENO AT 4 PM in late October, planning to arrive at the trailhead in the Sweetwater Mountains before dark to...
have for saving money in this hands-on tour. Learn practical steps you can take to lower your bills and maintain your quality of life in your homes and offices. If you would like to participate in the energy conservation activities of this committee, please contact Charlott Cox (322-7567; cox@tmce.edu) or Mary Winston (323-3078; marywinston@hotmail.com).

Getting kids outdoors!

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

“BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE OUTDOORS” is a national program of Nevada Outdoor Action. After a program at our general meeting on this theme last year, Great Basin Group ExCom took note of the need to get kids outdoors and contributed money to Sun Valley Elementary School to help children go to an outdoors school.

Two fifth grade classes traveled to Lake Tahoe in October to hike and learn local ecology with Great Basin Outdoor School, and we were thrilled to get a binder with nearly 20 thank-you notes from them.

One of the notes, for instance, said, “Thanks for donating money for us to go to science camp. I had lots of fun for three days, but I wanted to stay longer.” More student quotes from their last day at science camp:

“I could.”

“. . . “that I can do stuff that I did not know I can.”

“. . . “I can help the environment,”

“video games,”

“for donating money for us to go to science camp,”

“. . . “I need restoration to help preserve our beautiful desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails National Conservation Area. We are helping BLM identify springs in conservation area that may need restoration to help preserve our beautiful native wildlife.”

DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com).

Co-Leader: Brian Beffort (324-7667; brian@nevadawilderness.org). Easy.

APRIL 21 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Earth Day Idlewild Park & Spring Invention Training, Join Graham Stafford and Brian Belfort of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at Reno EARTH DAY in Idlewild Park. Besides having great time at event you can learn how to officially inventory springs in Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails National Conservation Area. We are helping BLM identify springs in conservation area that may need restoration to help preserve our beautiful native wildlife. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com).

Co-Leader: Brian Beffort (324-7667; brian@nevadawilderness.org). Easy.

APRIL 25 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 14 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

APRIL 28 (SATURDAY) TBA

Map & Compass Class. For beginners. We’ll talk about both hiking navigation with map, compass, navigation compasses and use of Black Rock Trail. We’ll also talk about safety and survival from Search & Rescue point of view. About 1/2 day. Instructor: Lizzie Rait and Search & Rescue member. Classroom portion in parking lot, then brief hike to put it into practice. Sign up April 15 - April 27. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY) 10 AM

Kayak the Marina. Practice your kayak skills at Sparks Marina. Observe various water fowl as we paddle our way around our marina. Must have life vest. Lunch on shore afterward. Bad weather cancels. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

May 2009

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY) 830 AM

Incandescent Rocks Day Hike. Join us on favorite hike through the fascinating landscape of Pyramid Lake. Learn about flora, fauna, geology of this fascinating landscape. About 6 mi, 1600 ft gain. Some sections make this outing a bit more difficult. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Easy.

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY) 830 AM

Jumbo Falls. Visit fall and our own local post-pile on way back. Strenous hike of about 12 mi with 2500 ft gain. Totally on roads, but some parts are difficult because of road. Experience mature pinyon pines, junipers, birds. Worth work. DOK. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jim Gozar (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Strenuous.

MAY 1 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 for details. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjrome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 2 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

MAY 3 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjrome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 4-6 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Black Rock NCA Spring Dam Restoration. Join Graham Stafford and Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at Mustang Springs in Black Rock NCA. Repair catchment dam at spring. Fairly strenuous hike. High clearance vehicles required. Transportation can be provided. All meals except lunch are provided. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Bruce (815-5958). Strenuous.

MAY 5 (SATURDAY) 930 AM

Kayak at Little Washoe Lake. Get your kayak out of garage for leisurely trip around Little Washoe Lake, into tributaries to S end. Great bird watching and life view. Lunch on beach afterward. Bad weather cancels. Parking fee for day use: $4. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

MAY 5 (SATURDAY) 5 PM

McCellan Peak/Flume. Historic Virginian pack-train route to McCellan Peak near Carson City. Day hike. Hike
The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group

ExCom meetings, new member orientation, & Spring Action Training

Our Executive Committee Meetings are typically held on the last Monday of each month, holidays notwithstanding, in the Sierra Club office at 708 S. 6th Street, Las Vegas 89101. ExCom meetings are open to all members. Please feel free to join us on April 30 or June 25 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 pm.

Our next New Members Orientation will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in the Sierra Club office at 708 S. 6th Street, Las Vegas 89101. Current and prospective members are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

99% Spring Action Training is an opportunity to learn how meaty peace protests. Sierra Club Southern Nevada Group will host a Nonviolent Direct Action Training as part of the nationwide 99% Spring Action in conjunction with MoveOn.org. The training will be held at The Blvd, 1545 S. Las Vegas Blvd., 708 S. 6th Street, Las Vegas 89101. To reserve your place, please register online at <http://tinyurl.com/743z6w6> or call Taj (702-682-9361) for details.

Please see SIN PROGRAM MEETINGS, page 13.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

S. Nevada Group Calendar

grade. Great views of Lake Mead. Learn some history, geology. About 4 mi RT. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

APRIL 22 (SUNDAY)

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up. Join us at Pizza Hut on Charleston at Antelope, 8:30 am, for trip to make Red Rock more pristine and inviting to visitors looking for spring flowers. Walk about 2 mi, past Cactus Joe’s, along Blue Diamond Road, SR 159. Then back to Hut for lunch. What’s pcholla? Bring hat, sunscreen, water. Leaders: Sandy Gogatz (248-4443), Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

APRIL 28 (SUNDAY)

Lovell Canyon Trails, SMNRA. Join are in forest! About 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 2.

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY)

“Little Zion” (on back of Red Rock). Begin near Mountain Springs Summit, climb to lime- stone ridge overlooking city, canyons below. Route drops from there into sandstone valley resembling something like you may see in Zion National Park. After lunch, hike up then down to where we connect to trail and back to cars. About 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Leader: David Hardy. Email preferred; hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; 875-4826. Level 3-4.

MAY 5 (SATURDAY)

Big Falls, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA. Let’s look for a spring cave! Or at least a good sized pool at base of falls. Why does snow last longer on this side of mountain? About 5 mi RT, 7800 ft to almost 9000 ft. Rock scrambling in creek bed with avalanches below. Leader: George McDonald (808-3853). Level 2-3.

MAY 6 (SATURDAY)


MAY 12 (SATURDAY)

White Rock Loop, RRCNCA. These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise: scenic views while we lunch. Is that broken down wall man-made or natural? From which strata? Leader: George McDonald (808-3853). Level 2-3.

MAY 13 (SUNDAY)

Red Rock Escarpment from Mountain Springs, RRCNCA. Begin near Mountain Springs Summit, climb up to ridge overlooking Red Rock, then trek back down to cars. View of Spring Mountain Ranch. What kind of trees are on top? About 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred; 875-4826).

MAY 19 (SATURDAY)

Fletcher Caynon to…, SMNRA. We’ll follow creek bed past springs, and into Slide Rock. Who knows, maybe up to Trail Canyon Saddle? About 3.5 mi RT. What causes spring to emerge and then disappear? Leader: George McDonald (808-3853). Level 4-5.

MAY 20 (SUNDAY)

Horse Canyon Up & North Loop Down, SMNRA. Short but steep, says Grace. About 4 mi RT, 1200 ft gain. How does this lesser traveled canyon differ from heavily traveled North Loop? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 3-4.

JUNE 2 (SATURDAY)

Almost Full Moon Hike: Rain Tree, SMNRA. Wear layered clothes, bring headlamps, extra batteries! About 6 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. How are sounds along trail different at night? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 5.

JUNE 9 (SATURDAY)

South Sister Peak, SMNRA. About 5 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Begin in Mack’s Canyon. At road’s end, trek up and cross year-round arroyo, then go steep x-route to ridgeline. On ridgeline, route turns back into path. Can you id bristlecone pines (some of oldest living things)? At summit you’ll be blown away with 360 degree spectacular view: Sheep Range Mountains, Lee Canyon, Mack’s Peak, McFarland Peak, and last but not least, Mt. Charleston. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 5.

JUNE 10 (SUNDAY)

Mummy’s Toe. Begin hike on North Loop. At Rain Tree, take another trail to Mummy Spring and continue on trail to top of Toe. What trees are on top? Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred; 875-4826).

JUNE 16 (SATURDAY)

Trail Canyon, North Loop Trail, to Lee Canyon Overlook, SMNRA. About 6-7 mi, 2500 ft gain. What microbe are likely present in water dripping from pipe into horse trough at Cave Springs? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4-5.

JUNE 17 (SUNDAY)

Old Bristlecone Loop, SMNRA. Let’s find some snow and ancient bristlecone pines! About 9 mi, from 7200 ft to 9000 ft. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4-5.

JUNE 24 (SUNDAY)

Cave Spring: Up Trail Canyon, SMNRA. Leisurely pace, about 2.5 mi, 2000 ft gain and return. Look for aspen to be quaking. Lunch at horse trough. Which species of tree came back first after burn in this canyon? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

JUNE 29-20 (THURS-FRIDAY)

Backpack Trip, Grand Staircase-Escalante Area. Drive to start of hike on June 24, hike in about 3-4 mi. Creek has water after first 1.5 mi (needs to be purified for drinking). Springs are found at two of our three campsites. Campsites are in cathedral-like alcoves/overhangs that never have sun, which makes them cool, even at this time of year. See brilliant red walls of this deep canyon and enjoy waterfalls. Trip will include side hikes to other canyons and Escalante River. What kinds of fish do you think may be present in water dripping from pipe into horse trough at Cave Springs? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

JULY 13-16 (FRIDAY-MONDAY)

Highland Range (Lincoln County) Service Trip. Again partner with ranger John from Ely, Nevada office of BLM for scintillating wilder- ness service project in Highland Ridge, just S of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historical trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles on designated cherry stem route. Historic Arborglyph inventory in aspen stand, maybe also put up small post and rail fence. Possible route exploring etc. Good work at beautiful location. Central commissary. USGS topo: “Highland Peak, NV” (this is not Clark County Highland Range). Reservations: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

Don’t forget to visit the Chapter website: <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>
Hunters Fall Day Hike. Celebrate Mother’s Day with pleasant hike to Hunter Falls just outside Reno. About 6.5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. See fauna, flora, and geography of the “true” cave spring. Younger flowers should be fantastic. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (311-7488; ladyhiker@att.net). Moderate.

**MAY 15 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM**
Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

**MAY 16 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**

**MAY 17 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

**MAY 19 (SATURDAY) 12 NOON**
Pah Rah Mountain Eclipse Hike. Range to two of highest summits of Pah Rah Range: Virginia Peak (8366 ft), Pah Rah Min (5240 ft). Panoramic vistas of Pyramid Lake, points north. Mostly x-c over rolling volcanic terrain. Hope to see desert wildlife, including eagles and antelope. Late start is coincide with annual solar eclipse (“Ring of Fire”) which occurs late that afternoon. We hope to see it as we get to our vehicle. About 10 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Co-leader: Karen Taintor (775-365-8085). Easy.

**MAY 21 (MONDAY) 5:30 PM**
Outings Meeting. Calling all Outings Leaders, others interested in learning about Outings! Join us for our meeting to put together outings for July, August, September. Bring potluck item to share, all beverages provided. It’ll fire up BBQ, hope everyone is good to go out on our vehicle. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (311-7488; ladyhiker@att.net). Easy.

**MAY 22 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM**
Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sj Jerome@att.net). Easy.

**MAY 23 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**

**MAY 24 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 15 trip details. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Easy.

**MAY 25-28 (FRIDAY-MONDAY) TBA**
Black Rock Rendezvous. A long weekend of tours, visits to hot springs, speakers, raffles, dough cut-off cook, similar events on edge of Black Rock Desert. Great “first trip to the Black Rock,” as you can learn your way around with people who already know the area! RVs, trailers OK. Most even happens on Saturday and Sunday. Additional fees apply. Visit www.blackrockrendezvous.com for more info, to purchase tickets. Dogs must be on leash. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

**MAY 25-28 (FRIDAY-MONDAY) TBA**
Car Shirt, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. A great trip created in 1930s to protect pronghorn habitat. One of largest blocks of ungrazed sagebrush-steppe and high desert habitat for wildlife. Rich in wildlife, solitude, primitive unconfined recreation. Average elevation is 6000 ft. This is an exploratory touring trip with car camping and easy day hikes. High clearance vehicles, no trailers, 4WD nice but not necessary. Bring all own drinking water, camping gear. Be ready for any weather (snow flurries to sun); lows in 40s. Bring warm hiking clothes, boots and food, binoculars, spotting scopes, to view wildlife across great expanses. Enter refuge from Cedarville, CA. Best itinerary (including Badge Camp and Camp Reservations) is Rockrendezvous.com for more info, to purchase tickets. DOK. Leader: Marri Weidert (530-474-4306, marriw@frontier.com). Shasta Group, Motherlode California Chapter.

**MAY 29 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM**
Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sj Jerome@att.net). Easy.

**MAY 30 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**

**MAY 31 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 15 trip details. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Moderate.

**JUNE 1-2 (FRIDAY-SATURDAY) TBA**
Backcountry Trail Maintenance Training. Join Graham Stafford and Wes Hoskins from Friends of Nevada Wilderness in Falcon Canyon outside of Austin. Wes and Forest Service will be training volunteers on all aspects of trail maintenance. All meals except lunch provided. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-866-8478; graham@graftstafford.com). Co-leader: Wes Hoskins (762-6730; wes@nevadawilderness.org). Moderate.

**JUNE 3 (SATURDAY) 5:30 PM**
Lagomarsino Canyon Dayhike. See petroglyphs on this 11 mi RT hike with minimal 600 ft gain, but numerous stream crossings. Bring poles for rock hopping. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (311-7488; ladyhiker@att.net). Easy. Co-leader: Pat Kleemas (851-9279; patkleemas@att.net). Easy.

**JUNE 5 (TUESDAY) 8 AM**
The John C Two Enigma Hike. This hike is near Dayton. Discover some of the history of the area as we visit two features possibly associated with the old mining operations. One-way hike of about 8 mi with vehicle shuttle; gain about 1200 ft. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Cell phone viewing. DOK. Leader: N. A. Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate. Co-leader: Pat Bruce (815-5598). Easy.

**JUNE 6 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**
Wednesday Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 15 trip details. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sj Jerome@att.net). Easy.

**JUNE 7 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 15 trip details. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

**JUNE 9 (SATURDAY) TBA**
Mount Rose Wilderness Invasive Plant Pull. Join Graham Stafford and Wes Hoskins of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at Hunter Creek in Mount Rose Wilderness to pull invasive weeds. About 5-6 mi RT. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-866-8478; graham@graftstafford.com). Co-leader: Wes Hoskins (762-6730; wes@nevadawilderness.org). Moderate.

**JUNE 9 (SATURDAY) 8 AM**
South Yuba River. Hike along South Yuba River from North Bloomfield Road trailhead to Hum- bug Trail. About 8 mi RT. Minimal elevation change. The light winter will make good swimming. DOK. Leader: Craig Mastos (775-348-1862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

**JUNE 10 (SUNDAY) 8 AM**
Sunflower Peak Day Hike. Start near Thomas Creek in Mt. Rose Wilderness. Flower Peak is aka Snowflower Peak. There should be many wildflowers as we wind our way along trail. About 10 mi, 800 ft gain. Trip limit 10. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (311-7488; ladyhiker@att.net). Mod. Strenuous.

**JUNE 12 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM**
Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

**JUNE 13 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**

**JUNE 14 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 11 trip details. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Moderate.

**JUNE 15-17 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA**
Summit Lake IS A Fence-Exclosure Project. Join Graham Stafford and Wes Hoskins of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. We’ll build an exclosure on spring near Mahogany Creek, near Summit Lake Reservoir, so friend and family can enjoy some history! All meals except lunch provided. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-866-8478; graham@graftstafford.com). Co-leader: Wes Hoskins (762-6730; wes@nevadawilderness.org). Moderate.

**JUNE 19 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM**
Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sj Jerome@att.net).

**JUNE 20 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**

**JUNE 21 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 15 trip details. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sj Jerome@att.net). Easy.

**JUNE 22-24 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA**
Santa Rosa Wilderness Trail Maintenance. Join Graham Stafford and Brenna Archibald of Nevada Outdoor School. This is general trail maintenance.
Dan Suzio shares his favorite places within Death Valley National Park for photographers who want to take photos that capture the beauty of the Park. Throughout the guide he offers up photographic hints and tips (and plenty of non-photographic tidbits, too) which make the reader want to plunge ahead to see how to shoot photos that make the park come alive.

In the first half of the book he orient the reader to the Park’s environment and specific challenges of photographing – for example, wildlife or wildflowers or sand dunes. In the last half of the guide Suzio gives critical details and narratives for 62 well-known and not-so-well-known Park locations. These listings include highlights for the area, when flowers may be present, the approximate elevation, and what access is like. Following that, a narrative gives more details such as “there are no trails here” or “use a telephoto lens” or “if you’re willing to walk a little farther, you’ll be rewarded with sweeping views”.

Every photographer can benefit from Suzio’s experience on how to best approach photographing places in the Park from dunes to springs to mining ruins to popular tourist spots like Zabriskie Point. He gives tips, too, for dealing with the Park’s extreme environment of intense sun, wind, sand, dust, and, of course, heat.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the many Suzio photographs that capture the Park’s wildlife, history, and scenery in stunning images many of us wish we had taken. These photos help illustrate the tips and locales he writes about. This is a guide you’ll want to pack along for your next trip to Death Valley.

— Dennis Ghiglieri

**Bookshelf**

**DEATH VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHER’S GUIDE**

WHERE AND HOW TO GET THE BEST SHOTS

By Dan Suzio


**Great Basin Group Calendar**

**JUNE 23 (SATURDAY) 8 AM**

Kings Canyon to spooner Summit Day Hike. Begin near Carson City. About 18.2 mi, 2000 ft gain on this in-and-out on old mining route. Learn some history of area, enjoy views. Several springs along route, some wildflowers. Option to view scant remains of one-time logging railroad. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

**JUNE 25 (TUESDAY) 530 PM**

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-1445). Easy.

**JUNE 27 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM**

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-4451). Moderate.

**JUNE 28 (THURSDAY) 530 PM**

Longest Day Easy Hike. Hike to top of “Road to Nowhere” Peak, highest one on skyl ine east of Reno. Discover this little-known locale, learn geology of surrounding terrain. About 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Brisk pace, not for beginning hikers. We’ll take advantage of latest sunrise, longest twilight of year, to march beyond sunset. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc[at]unt. edu). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

**JUNE 29 - JULY 1 (FRIDAY THROUGH TBA**

Emigrant Trails in Black Rock. Probably leave Friday evening, head up to meet group of Trails members doing survey of Emigrant trail between Double Hot Springs and Mud Meadows (about 20 mi N). Some hiking, driving, time in hot springs. Probably visit ghost town site of Hardin City and Lassen-Clapper Marker site nearby. Sorry, no RVs or trailer; 4 WD strongly preferred. Sign up 6/15-6/27. ND. Leader: David Brooke (775-1445). Easy.

**JUNE 30 (SATURDAY) 830 AM**

Loch Leven Dayhike. Hike to middle lake for lunch, swimming. See flora, fauna along way. About 8 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (7573481362; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

Should you say YES!

To learn more about The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act Initiative, see it at the Attorney General's website: http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/110441_110446(genetically_engineered_food_v2).pdf.

To join the Sierra Club’s effort to help collect signatures, e-mail your name, address, telephone, and email and ask for the best time to reach you to: Cynthia A. Denny, Sierra Club California Executive Committee Member (650-520-7934, labelgmos12). Please see GMO RIGHT-TO-KNOW, page 2.

**continued from page 7**

In order to place the initiative on the November 2012 state ballot.

If it passes, the initiative will allow voters to choose whether foods containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) should be labeled as such. Labeling food packaging would allow consumers to make informed decisions about the food they eat. GMOs are pervasive in the food system, and current state laws do not require labeling of GMO foods. Products containing GMOs will no longer be able to say the product is “natural.”

Polls show that more than 90% of the public want to know if their food was produced using genetic engineering — potatoes altered with bacteria genes, corn altered to produce pesticide, “super” pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes.

Industry backed groups may argue against informing consumers. But this initiative simply seeks the labeling of genetically engineered foods. This is about your right to choose what you put in your body.

Some old arguments against the labeling initiative include that it would take away the right of farmers to plant genetically engineered corn or soybeans. It would not; the initiative only deals with labeling. In fact, in the last year, the USDA approved five new GMO crops from Monsanto. In December, the Obama administration quietly approved two brand new Monsanto GMO seeds.

Another argument against the labeling initiative is that there is simply no need to label GMOs because they are perfectly safe. But 50 countries, including entire European Union, require the labeling of genetically engineered food. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with the determination of their safety left up to the manufacturer and no toxicology testing by the Food and Drug Administration required.

The U.S.’s head-in-the-sand way of doing things could be viewed as the largest ongoing science experiment in history – an experiment that’s being conducted without the consent of the experimental subjects. Also, some believe that pro-GMO industries are trying to suppress the mounting evidence of adverse environmental and health effects and to discredit scientists who report such effects.

The U.S.’s position is that there is essentially no difference between GMOs and conventional crops and therefore no need for extensive testing — despite evidence to the contrary coming from the Union of Concerned Scientists, the UK Medical Research Council, the Royal Society of Canada, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, and the FDA’s own scientists.

Action at the federal level on labeling genetically engineered food is unlikely. Federal labeling legislation has been before Congress and asked if you would like to sign a petition to put the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act on the ballot, you should say YES!
Acap 9 (MONDAY)
General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm; UNLV Student Union Bldg. Green Room (1st floor), 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas (SW Corner of Harmon and Maryland Pkwy). Program: “Wild Utah: Protecting Utah’s Redrock Wildlands.” Terri Martin, SW Regional Organizer of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will share with us how to help protect the gorgeous Redrock Canyon country of southern Utah. Enjoy stunning images in a multimedia slide show narrated by Robert Redford and hear an insider’s update about new opportunities to protect Utah’s wild lands – including the campaign to convince President Obama to protect the Greater Canyonlands, the utterly magnificent wild region surrounding Canyonlands National Park. All members and general public are welcome. Announcements, refreshments, door prize, and free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

May 14 (Monday)
General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm; UNLV Student Recreation & Wellness Center, Room 1020, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas (SE Corner of Thomas and Mack Arena (park in parking garage after 7pm ). Program: “Enjoying Mt. Charleston and the Spring Mountains Today In Many Ways!” Jascha Zeitlin, Recreation Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, will offer us important-to-know, up to date info on the various kinds of trails, current and recent recreation projects openings/closures, and several volunteer opportunities to enhance our enjoyment of a true local gem, the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area surrounding Mt. Charleston. This event is a must for avid hikers to this beautiful area, as the summer hiking season comes on! There will be plenty of time for Q & A after the presentation. All members and general public are welcome. Announcements, refreshments, door prize, and free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

June 11 (Monday)
General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm; UNLV Student Recreation & Wellness Center, Room 1020, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas (SE Corner of Thomas and Mack Arena (park in parking garage after 7pm ). Program: TBD. Please check SN Group website for updates. All members and general public are welcome. Announcements, refreshments, door prize, and free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).