Power to the people!

When Sierra Clubbers witnessed early Fourth of July fireworks when Patricia Spearman defeated John Lee in the recent primary election! It is important to remember that, despite all discouraging news to the contrary, we the people hold the ultimate power...through our vote! Primary elections are important. They attract the most informed and engaged voters, and in this election, Lake Tahoe, democracy won! Congratulations, Las Vegas voters, and to Sierra Club, Progress Now, and other activists! We made a difference!

Notice the tiny vote totals and realize that those of us who vote have enormous power. Even the annoying robo calls testify to that power...they are calling US!

So, please help your favorite politician this fall.

Most run for office because they believe they can make our world better. They need our help!

We in Washoe County also have an important election. We have an impressive slate of candidates for your consideration.

It is important to remember that, despite all the economy slowly revives, that issue will require increased attention.

We are always looking for people who wish to help in the Sierra Club and their Executive Committees (ExCom).

We are always looking for people who are willing to step into these leadership roles. Please contact someone on either the Chapter or your Group ExCom if you are interested. The election cycle for 2012 has the following important dates.

October 10. Deadline for receipt by Chapter or Group Nominating Committee of names for consideration as candidates for the Chapter and all Group Executive Committees (ExCom). Please see CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTION, page 12.

Holly Coughlin receives Club's Oliver Kehrlein Award!

W e are so proud of Holly Coughlin, our Great Basin Group outings chair. She will receive the Oliver Kehrlein Award from the national Sierra Club. Toiyabe Chapter has had a few individuals over the years receive a national award, but that has been rare.

Almost every active member of the Great Basin Group has been on a hike led by Holly Coughlin. Holly not only has been Outings Chair since 2000, but she frequently leads hikes herself, either on weekends or for the well-known Wednesday evening conditioning hikes. Holly’s avocation as a hike leader began well before that, and as Outings Chair she has brought an era of exceptional participation in our local outings.

Holly has also attracted many outings leaders into our active program. The participant list may run into the thousands for sign-ons to her trips alone. It is no wonder that we were able to assemble either at the local or national level. Holly will receive her award in San Francisco on August 6 at the Sierra Club’s Annual General Meeting in San Francisco.

A very competitive nomination package for Holly this year. You can read the nomination letter on our website at http://sierraclub.self-help-sites.com/documents/news-item_109.pdf. The Oliver Kehrlein Award is given once every period of time to the Sierra Club for their outstanding service to the Sierra Club Outings Program over an extended time.
CHAPTER 2012 ELECTIONS...
continued from page 1
ExComs. Each Nominating Committee will contact possible candidates, but any member can submit name(s) of any member, including himself or her, for consideration by the Chapter or Group Nominating Committee. Members interested in a Group ExCom nomination should contact their Group Chair. Chapter Nominating Committee members are Taj Ainlay and Laura Cunningham.

October 15. Each Nominating Committee reports its slate of willing nominees to the relevant ExCom and to the Election Committee and notifies any member if he or she has or has not been selected as a candidate.

October 29. Deadline for receipt at Chapter Post Office Box of any issue petition or any petition by a Chapter member seeking to be placed on the ballot for Chapter ExCom. To qualify for candidacy by petition, petitions must be signed by 1.5% of chapter members on the prior year’s eligible-voter list of members (72 of 4770 members).

November 26. Ballots and candidate statements will be sent to Toiyabe Chapter members in a separate mailout.

January 2. Date by which ballots must be received by the Toiyabe Chapter Election Committee. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

January 2. Ballots will be counted at the home of David von Seggern, 2585 Sunline Dr., Reno, at 6 pm. Results will be communicated to the ExCom Chairs and the winning candidates the next day.

LANDS & LEGACY FUN RIDE
in the beautiful Eastern Sierra Saturday • July 21 • 9 am

This summer Bill Walton, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) will join together to bring attention to the beautiful lands of the Eastern Sierra with a 23-mile bike ride around some of the most beautiful scenery to be found anywhere. The “Lands & Legacy Fun Ride” around the June Lake Loop’s jaw-dropping scenery.

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust came together 11 years ago, to help find a balance between development and conservation of private land in the Eastern Sierra Nevada region. ESLT has so far helped preserve over 7800 acres of important land for over 700 members, including people from far beyond the Eastern Sierra.

One of these out-of-area supporters is NBA Hall of Famer and UCLA basketball great, Bill Walton, who says “I always do whatever I can to support the awesome purpose and mission of Eastern Sierra Land Trust. If we don’t take the time now to realize that conservation of private property plays a vital part . . . the legacy that we leave for future generations will not be worth anything.”

Details of ride. The ride will start and finish at June Mountain Ski Area and include lunch at the mid-chalt of June Mountain afterward. This event is just one of several exciting activities ESLT is offering during its two-day Lands & Legacy event.

For more info, contact Eastern Sierra Land Trust (info@eslt.org, 760-873-4554, <www.eslt.org>).
Dan Heinz

Dan Heinz of Nevada’s Pah Rah Mountains died peacefully at home April 30, at the age of 75. A “tough, bearded outdoorsman of the first order,” Dan’s storied career as a U.S. Forest Service ranger led to another in conservation -- in defense of wild lands and wildlife. Dan cultivated activists like he shepherded the land at the high mountain home he shared with his wife, Karen Boeger.

He was a co-founder of non-profit organizations American Wildlands and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and served as board member of many other conservation organizations including the Executive Committee of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.

An outfitter, guide, and black powder enthusiast, his hunting stories have been recounted around many a campfire. In addition to his five children (John, Anne, Joan, Madonna, and Mark), 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, he leaves Karen, her children Patrick and Carolyn Tanner, and granddaughter, Ruby, of Reno.

Donations in Dan’s honor will be gratefully accepted at Backcountry Hunters & Anglers or any conservation organization of the giver’s choosing.

Charlie Watson

Charles S. Watson, Jr., the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, and The Lands That No One Knows may not be well-known to many, but those who have heard of them know that we are talking about the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the BLM. Charlie Watson died quietly on April 17, 2012 in a nursing home in Carson City, Nevada. Those who encountered Charlie knew that there was no stronger advocate of the BLM and our public lands. He will be tough for anyone to follow in his footsteps.

The Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association (NORA), which Charlie cofounded and directed until 2011, had its start in 1964. It is the oldest BLM public lands advocacy organization in the nation. Charlie coauthored the book, The Lands That No One Knows, in 1975 and was instrumental in creating the Federal Lands Management Act. This organic act for the BLM provided a new road map for the BLM in managing the “commons.” While a lot of focus has been on our public lands managed by the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and other agencies, public lands managed by the BLM are an important part of the fabric that makes up much of the West. (Charlie would point out that important BLM holdings are in the East as well.)

The BLM lands have long been regarded as lands that could be grazed, mined, and disposed of because they were of little value. When people looked at early maps of Nevada, public lands were blank, with no BLM wilderness areas or National Conservation Areas. Charlie traveled the West documenting the hidden treasures of the BLM lands. He put together a “Big Book” of Nevada and was eager to show anyone who would listen of the biological, geological, and cultural wonders found on the BLM lands. He encouraged, in his travels, others to band together to promote the BLM and its lands. He lobbied members of Congress to view our public lands in a different light. He and the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association would go to court if that’s what it took.

Nevada was his stomping ground. Long before Red Rock National Conservation Area was formally designated by Congress, Charlie talked BLM lands at Coyote Springs for a rocket test facility and later conveyed those lands to a private developer, Charlie cried foul. Sagebrush rebels, who wanted to dispose of our public lands to the states found their match in Mr. Watson. Charlie was a stalwart in protecting our public lands that he knew and loved.

Charlie traveled the world looking at lands that had been overlooked, and he urged better management of the commons. He played a key, if not the key, role in the protection of Alaska public lands by weighing in on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1980. Charlie will be missed. Let us hope that his strong, passionate defense of our public lands and his efforts to strengthen the stewardship of our public lands by the BLM will continue by those who follow in his path.


— Rose Strickland
ExCom. Next meeting in the 2nd half of July. E-mail for details.

Conservation Committee. Contact Mary Kay Prentice with items for committee consideration and for information on next meeting (mkp@npgeable.com).

Meetings. In March the Walters gave a travelogue on their return trip to Kyrgyzstan to 40 attendees. In April, Rich Foyle, a volunteer guide at Panum Crater (adjacent to Mono Lake), shared with 24 people his experience with and understanding of the crater. There was no meeting in May as many of us wanted to attend the SNARL lecture on the geology of the Mammoth Mountain volcano.

Outings. Outings are being handled by a committee of outing leaders. Contact me if you are interested in becoming our Outings Chair. “Fitness & Fun” hikes have been switched from Wednesday to Thursdays at 5:30 pm. Outings leaders (and potential leaders) remember to review (or get) outings leader certification every four years. This only takes two to four hours on line. Also, renew your first aid certification every four years.

Conservation. Together with the Owens Valley Committee and the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, ROLG filed a lawsuit against Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power (LADWP) regarding plans to use ground water pumping to make up for water used in the Regreening project.

The Bodie Partnership Coalition (ROLG is a member) continues efforts to protect the Bodie Hills, including a training session for activists held in April (Lesley Bruns attended).

Sarah Tomsky, new deputy district ranger for Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts will be working out of the Lee Vining Ranger Station.

Plans to develop the “Royal Gold” mining claim near Mammoth Lakes have been shelved.

Malcolm attended a meeting on Adaptive Management Planning for new Forest Rule planning in Region 5, including the Inyo National Forest. He also attended a BLM RAC meeting field trip updating participants on sage grouse issues in our area and the meeting of the South Lahontan Regional Forum of DWR.

ROLG ExCom nominations needed!

Our group is seeking candidates for this year’s ExCom election. The three members whose terms end this year are Jean Dillingham, Mauricia Anderson and Malcolm Clark. Continuing members (term not expiring) are Lesley Bruns, Sandy Burnside, and Mike Shore. Please send your suggestions for anyone you think could make a valuable contribution to our ExCom and who might be willing to serve. Don’t hesitate to suggest yourself (self-nomination), if you have time and willingness to serve.

The ExCom committee normally meets four times a year. It is the voting and final decision-making body of the Range of Light group. We would appreciate having self-nominations and suggested names of other possible candidates by Sept 14. See page 1 of this Trials issue for details of this year’s Chapter and group elections.

What you can do. Send nominations to the Range of Light Nominating Committee: Shalle Genevieve (marshalle@emailink.net) or Lesley Bruns (lestravel@gmail.com). When possible, we like to offer a choice by fielding more than three candidates.
Dome. About 8 mi RT, no dogs allowed on trails in Yosemite. Bring water, lunch, and snacks, hiking boots, hat, sun screens, layered clothing, camera, sun screen, bug spray, hiking sticks, binoculars. Fee or pass required to enter Yosemite NP. Meet 8 am, ML Union Bank parking lot, or 8:30 am, Lee Vining Ranger Station on Tioga Road. Leaders: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungber- man@mts.net), Mary K (760-934-1767, mkp@npgcable.com). ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

JULY 17 (TUESDAY)
Mono County Park, Lee Vining, Outdoor Potluck & BBQ. arrive early to independently explore this lovely valley. Follow board walk to lake edge, view many species of birds, walk up a creek just down road, and more. By 6 pm BBQs will be ready. Bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own chair, non-disposable place setting, drinks, binoculars. More: Mary K (760-934-1767, mkp@npgcable.com), Shaye (760-934-9668, salt1143@gmail.com). No dogs allowed in park.

JULY 18 (WEDNESDAY)
Highway Cleanup. Join our cleanup day -- who knows what treasure you may find? Meet Crestview rest area, about 5 mi N of Mammoth Lakes, 8 am. We provide required reflective vest, hand-held trash bags, picker-uppers, gloves. We normally finish by 10:30 am and then enjoy some light refreshments together (provided). Bring water, sun screen, hat. More: John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com), Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup. No dogs.

JULY 19 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Explore local trails, learn about our natural surroundings, geology, wildlife, and trees. All hikes moderate to easy — beginners and parent-accompanied children welcome. Back to trailhead by dark. Rain cancels. Bring water, snacks, sturdy hiking boots, layered clothing recommended. Meet ML Union Bank parking lot, 5:30 pm. Leaders: Andree (760-934-4333, awallis@gte.net), Shannon (760-934-4798, lowersherin@earthlink.net), Mary Ann (760-924-5982, maryann17@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

JULY 22 (SUNDAY)

JULY 26 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Please see details, July 5. Leaders: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

AUGUST 2 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Explore local trails, learn about our natural surroundings, geology, wildlife, and trees. All hikes moderate to easy — beginners and parent-accompanied children welcome. Back to trailhead by dark. Rain cancels. Bring water, snacks, sturdy hiking boots, layered clothing recommended. Meet ML Union Bank parking lot, 5:30 pm. Leaders: Andree (760-934-4333, awallis@gte.net), Shannon (760-934-4798, lowersherin@earthlink.net), Mary Ann (760-924-5982, maryann17@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

AUGUST 5 (SUNDAY)
Ragged Peak Plateau via Young Lakes Trail from Lembert Dome, Yosemite. About 8 mi RT, strenuous hike at high elevation. Optional peak climb if you sign out from group. Fee or pass required to enter Yosemite NP. No dogs allowed on trails in Yosemite. Meet ML Union Bank parking lot, 8 am, or Lee Vining Ranger Station on Tioga Road, 8:45 am. Leaders: Dave & Clarice, Laua, & Althea. Fee or pass required to enter Yosemite NP. More: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com). ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

AUGUST 9 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Please see details, July 5. Leaders: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

AUGUST 12 (SUNDAY)

AUGUST 19 (THURSDAY)

AUGUST 21 (TUESDAY)
Rock Creek Lake Campground (day-use area): Outdoor Potluck & BBQ. Hwy 95 to turn-off at Tom’s Place, marked Crowley Lake Drive/Rock Creek Lake. Head south on Rock Creek Rd to just past Rock Creek Lake Resort/Pic-in-the-Sky restaurant, turn left at Rock Creek Lake Campground, follow road to end (about 0.6 miles), to day-use area on right. We will be at one of table/fire pit areas near road. Bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own chair, non-disposable place setting, drinks. Meet at campground early for optional activities kayaking, hiking, fishing, photography — your independent choice. BBQ’s ready by 6 pm. All dogs need to be on leash outside area of gathering. More: Mary K (760-934-1767, mkp@npgcable.com), Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

AUGUST 23 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Please see details, July 5. Leaders: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

AUGUST 26 (SUNDAY)
Tuolumne Cascades. Moderate hike on a little known fisherman’s track along Tuolumne River, following cascades to a swimming hole. Learn about late season wildflowers, with possible sightings of American dipper. Distance about 6 mi. No dogs allowed on trails in Yosemite. Fee or pass required to enter Yosemite NP. Meet ML Union Bank parking lot, 8 am, or Lee Vining Ranger Station on Tioga Road, 8:45 am. Leader: Jean, (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com). ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

AUGUST 30 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Please see details, July 5. Leaders: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

SEPTEMBER 6 (SATURDAY)
Mono Lake Kayak/Canoe. Explore shoreline of Mono Lake starting at Navy Beach. See and learn about wide variety of birds, Tufa, brine shrimp, Mono Lake story. Bring boat, paddle, lunch, hat, water screen, PFD (lifejacket) mandatory. Waterproof bag for camera and binoculars advised. Some space in boats may be available, call to reserve. Meet ML Union Bank parking lot 9 am, or Navy Beach, 9:45 am. Leaders: John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com), Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com), 8:45 am. More: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup. No dogs.

SEPTEMBER 13 (THURSDAY)
Take a Walk in the Woods! Thursday Summer Fun, Fitness, & Discovery Evening Hikes. Don’t miss fun and great exercise! Please see details, July 5. Leaders: Malcolm (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), John (760-934-1767, salt1143@gmail.com). Well-behaved dogs usually OK. ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

SEPTEMBER 16 (SUNDAY)
Birding with local expert birders. Details to come. Leaders: Karen (949-240-3956, kmschaep@cox.net), Mary K (760-934-1767, mkp@npgcable.com). Check ROLG website: http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup.

SEPTEMBER 19 (TUESDAY)

SEPTEMBER 19 (WEDNESDAY)
Highway Cleanup. Join our cleanup day -- who knows what treasures you may find! Meet Crestview rest area, about 5 mi north of Mammoth Lakes, 8 am. We provide re- ROLG GROUP continued on page 12.
**CONSERVATION ROUNDPUP**

**Conservation Briefs**

**BY MARGE SILL**

**WILDERNESS.** The Pine Forest Range Wilderness Bill has still not been passed, despite its favorable hearings in both the House and the Senate. The legislation has been introduced for Gold Butte National Conservation Area with wilderness although the Clark County Commission and many businesses in Southern Nevada have given strong support to the idea.

In the meantime, the so-called “Sportsman’s Heritage Act” has been passed by the House and sent to the Senate. This bill would have a deleterious effect on wilderness and the national park system. It has been opposed by all major conservation groups including the National Wildlife Federation as well as major conservation groups including the National Wilderness Preservation System as well as many hunting groups, including Back Country Hunters & Anglers. The Sierra Club Wilderness and Wildlands Committee is taking the lead in opposing this legislation.

A national celebration of the 1964 Wilderness Act will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in October, 2014. We are working on local celebrations in Las Vegas, Reno, and Eastern California. Any help or suggestions would be appreciated by Marge Sill (msill@juno.com) who is acting as Toiyabe Chapter coordinator.

**NATIONAL FOREST NEWS.** The Lake Tahoe Management Unit released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement and proposed management plan on June 1. The comment period on this plan and its four alternatives lasts until August 30.

**What you can do.** Anyone interested in the management of the forests of our magnificent national treasure -- Lake Tahoe -- should contact our Sierra Club coordinator, Lauren Thorpe (lauren.thorpe@sierraclub.org) for further information and how to get involved.

The Inyo National Forest has started scoping on its management plan revision under the new Forest Service Planning Rule. Issues to be addressed include fire, summer and winter recreation, wildlife and wilderness management.

The huge Toiyabe-Humboldt National Forest, which covers all of Nevada and much of Eastern California, has not started revising the existing Forest Management Plan which has been in effect since the late 80s. The new planning rule will require some differences in approach.

The Center for Biological Diversity has impaled the northeast Nevada Travel Management Plan which came out in May because of the proliferation of questionable roads.

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS.** The Carson City BLM District is doing scoping on its Management Plan Revisions. The Wilderness Committee has submitted comments on management of of Wilderness Study Areas and on inventory of lands with wilderness characterististics.

The Draft Plan for the Battle Mountain District and the final revised plan for the Winnemucca District have not been issued to the public yet for review.

**States’ & Interior’s sage grouse ruling**

**BY TINA NAPPE**

SAGE GROUSE ARE A STATE MANAGED species. Since 1950 their numbers have been declining. State wildlife agencies have responded by underwriting research, protesting incursions into sage grouse habitat and creating state initiatives. Unfortunately, wildlife agencies are no match for livestock grazing, mining, renewable energy, utilities, and wild horses, or recreational use. The Ruby pipeline, for instance, recently bulldozed through hitherto untouched sagebrush habitat, leaving in its wake a new road covered with cheat grass.

Today the sagebrush ecosystem is regarded as the most endangered eco-system in the United States. Yet for most of Nevada’s history the sagebrush steppe was a low priority. Founded in 1957, the Toiyabe Chapter, for instance, focused on Lake Tahoe and the Sierra, or on selecting mountain ranges appropriate for wilderness status. The Sierra Club’s recent focus on renewable energy also presumes use of public lands.

In March, 2010, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service determined that listing the sage grouse was “warranted but precluded” and set a 2015 deadline for BLM to ensure protection. States were encouraged to help. Wyoming has issued a Governor’s Executive Order protecting sage grouse habitat; and enabling energy development and other uses move forward.

Nevada’s Governor Brian Sandoval established The Governor’s Greater Sage Grouse Advisory Committee, with a deadline of July 31, to develop a similar Executive Order protecting sage grouse habitat and enabling energy development and other uses move forward.

**Citizens monitor springs in Black Rock National Conservation Area for BLM**

**BY DOROTHY HUDIG**

There are 2000 springs indicated in the Black Rock National Conservation Area north of Gerlach. This water is the life blood of the desert. Most of the springs have flow rates less than a gallon a minute. People, climate, cattle and horses are impacting the springs.

The project started as a dream of two ecologists, Roger Farshon, of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Don Sada, Ph.D., of the Desert Research Institute. In 2008, they organized an intergovernmental agency workshop in Gerlach. The costs of professional field technicians would be prohibitive, so top priority became inventory by trained citizens. Today, under BLM sponsorship, specific assignments are made by Brian Beffort of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. The BLM provides the monitoring kits, each worth more than $1000.

Data gathered include locations, flow rates, water temperature and conductivity (an indicator of how hot the water is), and damage by cattle and horses. Photos have landmarks such as boulders and mountains so that someone can return later to re-photograph and track changes in vegetation. This field work is a challenge for the legs and brain.

Our results are straight from Milton’s Paradise Lost. A volunteer may find nothing or a dry spring. The spring may be pristine, gurgling, green with moss and watercress, and have snails (Paradise) or trampled, oily, and stinking of horse urine like the race track at New Orleans Jazzfest after rain (Hell).

**What you can do.** Monitoring is fun and worthwhile. More volunteers are needed! If you’d like to help, contact me (hudig@sbcglobal.net) or Mike Thorsen (sorethumb@att.net). For the next training, contact Brian Beffort in Reno (brian@nevadawilderness.org) or Karen Dallett of Friends of the Black Rock in Gerlach (info@blackrockdesert.org).

**Deadline! September 1 for Oct-Nov-Dec issue**

How we spend your days, of course, is how we spend our lives.

— Annie Dillard

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**How to contribute to Conservation Briefs:**

Please send stories, photos, or ideas to: marge.sill@juno.com.
Unfair decision: Groundwater mining approved by state
BY ROSE STRICKLAND

On March 22, 2012, the Nevada State Engineer approved all but four of the applications filed by Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to pump and export 84,000 acre feet of groundwater annually to southern Nevada from four valleys in Eastern Nevada. The ruling was issued despite protesters’ arguments, evidence challenging the need for the rural groundwater, SNWA’s ability to finance the $15.7 billion project, and the unacceptable environmental and social impacts.

BLM says pumping not sustainable. The draft Environmental Impact Statement written by the Bureau of Land Management disclosed that SNWA’s proposed pumping is not sustainable and would seriously harm the environment and existing water users. The pumping would cause over 200 foot declines in water tables, subsidence over 500 square miles, and reductions in flows in creeks and in springs on which endangered species depend. Other impacts include drying up of water sources and vegetation on which ranching, wildlife, and wild horses depend in eastern Nevada. There would also be increased dust pollution as far as the Washatron Front in Utah.

The State Engineer’s ruling did require monitoring and mitigation for adverse pumping impacts on affected senior water rights holders and the environment. But farmers, ranchers, tribes, and communities will have to “prove” adverse impacts through hiring water attorneys and expert witnesses to challenge the expected SNWA denials: “It’s the drought — it’s climate change — it’s somebody else’s pumping.”

State Engineer ignores evidence. Also, the State Engineer ignored the arguments of Dr. John Bredehoeft and other hydrologists that even if SNWA is ordered to cease pumping, drawdowns will continue for months to years, while recovery from overpumping could take decades or hundreds of years. This delay will doom many species of plants and animals whose habitat requires specific amounts of spring flows, temperatures, and water chemistry. For other pumping impacts, including the loss of water, subsidence, and loss of cultural sites, there is also no mitigation.

Groups appeal unreasonable decision. In April, the Great Basin Water Network, White Pine and other rural counties, tribes, the Sierra Club, and dozens of rural residents appealed the State Engineer’s ruling to state district court. Why? The huge amount of evidence presented by protesters in support of their case in during the six-week water hearing — including the draft Environmental Impact Statement — was not considered or was dismissed.

Perhaps the truth depends on a walk around the lake.
— Wallace Stevens

Glover’s silk moth found again in Spring Mountains!

Glover’s silk moth found again in Spring Mountains!

BRUCE M. BOYD (BBODY20@COX.NET)

The Spring Mountains located just west of Las Vegas are arguably the most ecologically important and the most studied mountain range in the Mojave Desert and in the state of Nevada. On any summer day teams of researchers can be seen gathering data on a well documented suite of rare and endemic species of plants and animals.

Despite decades of intense scrutiny new and unique species are still being discovered in the Spring Mountains: -- and, not all of those species are tiny, colorless and living underground. A relict population of Glover’s silk moth (Hydaphora columba gloveri) the largest species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) now known in the Spring Mountains was documented and described in a paper submitted to The News of the Lepidopterists Society earlier this month.

Glover’s silk moth is widely distributed in North America. Regionally it is known to occur in eastern California (in the Panamint and White mountains), central Nevada, southwestern Utah and northern Arizona.

Adults in the Spring Mountains population appear similar to those found elsewhere but the bright green ground color and color of the scoli (fleshy spines) of the larvae are unique to this population indicating a long period of genetic isolation from other populations, possibly since the end of the Pleistocene era.

Because of its rarity almost nothing is known about the natural history of the Spring Mountain population. The flight period appears to be in late summer; adults do not feed and probably live about one week.

The photographs depict a fully developed larva and a prepared adult male (about 5 inches from wing tip to wing tip). The specimen will be donated to the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity in Gainesville, Florida.

Info. For information on the butterflies of the Spring Mountains, go to <www.butterfliesofthespringmountains.com>.

“This is another example of the species richness and uniqueness of the Spring Mountains. It also illustrates that, in what is arguably the most studied mountain range in Nevada, new discoveries continue and proper habitat management is needed to protect additional species still unknown to science.”
— Bruce Boyd

Sierra Club Benefit Cruise
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2012
3-Day, Live-Abord, Multi-Island Cruise
August 12-14, 2012

EXPLORE THE WILD, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds, and for whales and dolphins.

Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea.
All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68-foot twin diesel, Truth. Fee for all tours, $590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead

Please see CHANNEL ISLANDS, page 12.
Summer hiking. We have already started another active hiking season, with choices on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings plus all the great weekend hikes to our favorite places. There’s been a change in the leader line-up this year though: David von Seggern is doing the Tuesday hikes while Yvonne Jerome has switched to handling the Thursday hikes. Holly Coughlin still remains leader of the infamous Wednesday night conditioning hikes (aptly named). ExCom takes a holiday? The group ExCom is taking the summer off (mostly) — we resume in September with our ExCom and general meetings (see our Calendar). However, we have one big event lined up for this summer and invite all Great Basin Group members to join us on July 22 at Galena Park (see Calendar again) for a fundraiser party and potluck for our Get Kids Outdoors campaign (see accompanying article). No vacation for conservation. Great Basin Group continues to be involved in a number of conservation issues, and our new Conservation Chair, Graham Stafford, is chasing numerous developments in this area. We plan to participate in the comment period for the forest plan revision of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit this summer. Did you know that 90% of the Basin is U.S. Forest Service land (= our land)?

This year the Great Basin Peak Section celebrates its third birthday! In July 2009, the Great Basin Peak Section was formally recognized by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Toiyabe Chapter covers most of the area known as the Great Basin and includes four Sierra Club Groups: Great Basin Group, Range of Light Group, Southern Nevada Group, and Tahoe Group. The GBPS peak trips are listed in the outings schedules of these groups or as impromptu trips e-mailed to Peak Section members. Some overlap exists with the Desert Peak Section list, so also check their outings since they organize fun trips to Great Basin Peaks.

Wanna lead? If you are interested in leading trips to Great Basin peaks or want to share trip reports on our website, please let us know. E-mail glitch. 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.

Tickets! A number of articles have recently cautioned that this is an early and abundant tick year. For great information on ticks and their removal check out the Center for Disease Control link: http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/.

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-BasinPeaks.html.

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FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet, they need our help! Our Great Basin Group is dedicated to supporting more outdoor experiences for local kids and invites you to a fun fundraiser at Galena Creek Park on Sunday, July 22, from 5-8 pm.

Sunday, July 22, Mountain Girls will entertain at Galena Creek at the old Fish Hatchery building, with proceeds from the event supporting outdoor activities for local kids. Mountain Girls will entertain the whole family! Activities. The lively bluegrass and folk tunes of the Mountain Girls will get you kicking up your heels!

Great Basin Outdoor School will lead outdoor activities for kids and families and will have kid-friendly pocket field guides of local plants and animals available. (See Bookshelf on page 12 for details!)

What to bring. Bring a potluck dish (main dish, salad, or dessert) to share and your beverages (wine and beer OK). Also bring a donation to support outdoor activities for kids ($10 or more suggested, tax deductible). And, of course, bring the kids or grandkids to explore and enjoy with you. All donations, including donations for great raffle prizes, will help children who rarely get off the pavement to get out on our forest trails.

How to get there. The park is seven miles up the Mt. Rose Highway from the intersection with U.S. 395. You’ll reach the historic old fish hatchery above Marilyn’s Pond by entering the park at the “Galena Creek South Entrance” sign.

About the “Fling.” Our youth need the physical and psychological benefits of outdoor activity and connecting with nature, and our planet needs advocates and conservationists. This family fling is a fun way to fund activities for tomorrow’s outdoor leaders.

What you can do. We hope to see you there, but even if you can’t make it, please help! To donate a raffle price, to assist with the event, or to make a special tax-deductible contribution for children, you can reach Sue Jacox at suejacoxx@nvbell.net.

Don’t forget to visit the Great Basin Group website http://nevada.sierraclub.org/gbgroup & the Chapter website http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/rneno
Our hiking terrain consisted of rocky slopes we toured the ridgeline to the summit. Most of the highway), we took a hard right onto S. Swarth, then headed north on NV SR 447 to Black Warrior Peak.

Saturday, September 11

JULY 17 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM
Tuesday Evening Hike. Please see July 3 for details. Easy.

JULY 18 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderately Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Please see July 11 for details. Mod. Strenuous.

JULY 19 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see July 5 for details. Mod. Easy.

JULY 20-22 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) 2 PM
Range Allotment Survey (1 hr & Tenonah). Grazing monitoring in Alta Toquima Range. Work with Forest Service to gather info on impacts of grazing on public lands. All meals included except lunch. ND. Details: contact leader, Graham Stafford (775-686-8578; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Wes Hoskins (762-6730; wses@nevadawildness.org).

JULY 21 (TUESDAY) 930 AM
Ginny Lake Day Hike. Stroll through verdant valleys above Tahoe Meadows to seldom-visited glaciated basin that holds Ginny Lake. Hope to see deer, marmots, grouse. After lunching there, climb to N, loop back home along Tahoe Rim Trail. About 8 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk (410-5562).

Moderate.

BLACK WARRIOR PEAK... continued from page 8

miles on numerous dirt roads that braided through the area before pulling off of the road just beyond the capped well.

We hiked up to the saddle and then contoured the ridgeline to the summit. Most of our hiking terrain consisted of rocky slopes camouflaged by dry golden cheat grass. We found an easy route weaving our way through to the final rocks towards the summit. We signed the peak register and had a quick lunch, but an icy breeze didn't make it comfortable for long enough to linger for the superb 360-degree views. Great surrounding views included Pyramid Lake, Anne's National Wildlife Refuge and nesting site for American white pelicans, plus the surrounding Great Basin Ranges. We kept our eyes peeled all day for area pronghorn antelope, but failed to spot them. A blue heron spotted in a wetland did soar overhead on our return.

An interesting feature on the upper slopes of the surrounding hillsides are dark parallel rows of rock known as “stone stripes”. Thought to result from the freeze thaw cycle, they contrast with the dry ground.

Passing the time as we bounced around on the rocky dirt road, we created tales about the Black Warrior and savored the memory of another beautiful day spent in the Great Basin Campground in Graeagle area. Go by six mountain lakes, including Long Lake, which is quite large. Usually, there are many wildflowers, including tiger lilies. About 8 mi, 1760 ft gain overall. Lunch atop Mt. Elwell, enjoy vistas of Great Basin Ranges, study flora, enjoy the mountain lakes. Trip limit 14. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (313-748-1068; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Stephanie (sladhuk@peoplate.com)

July 21, 2021 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM
Jamison Lake, Hike to lake from Jamison Mine area near Graeagle. Observe Old West history. Hike through beautiful vistas, great volcanic formations. Hopping to see early flowers. Moderately strenuous because of 12 mi length, possible walk thru snow fields, snow patches in. Worth work. Bonus is visit to eagle. Because of high altitude at beginning, only about 1000 ft of gain. DL. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jim Gosar. Mod. Strenuous.

July 22 (SUNDAY) 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Sierra Club Member's Summer Party at Galena Lake Fish Hatchery. Join us for fun afternoon of socializing, eating good food, listening to entertaining live bluegrass music. Our social is geared for everyone, including families. Special games and other activities for children will be hosted by Great Basin Outdoor School. Bring dish to share, beverage of your choice. Look for Summer Party article for more details. DOK. Leader: Valerie Andersen (mtval@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

July 24 (TUESDAY) 5:30 PM
Tuesday Evening Hike. Please see July 3 for details. Easy.

July 25 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderately Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Please see July 11 for details. Mod. Strenuous.

July 26 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see July 5 for details. Mod. Easy.

July 28 (SATURDAY) 8 AM
Elephant's Back at Carson Pass/Hwy 88. Day hike to visit Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top Lake, including hiking on portion of Emigrant Wagon Train route. Wild flowers should be in full display. Learn about history of area. About 9.5 mi, 1700 ft gain of. DL. Leader: Craig Tresner (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

July 29 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM
Mt. Elwell, Lakes Basin Day Hike. Start at Lakes Basin Campground in Graeagle area. Go by six mountain lakes, including Long Lake, which is quite large. Usually, there are many wildflowers, including tiger lilies. About 8 mi, 1760 ft gain overall. Lunch atop Mt. Elwell, enjoy vistas of the mountain lakes. Trip limit 14. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (313-748-1068; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Stephanie (sladhuk@peoplate.com).

July 29 (SATURDAY) 8 AM
Eto Lake to Aloha Lake Day Hike. Take water taxi ($10/person each way) from lower Echo Lake, start hike into Declension Wilderness from there. Learn about this wilderness area. About 11 mi RT, 1000 ft gain.

basin, Nevada.org). Easy.

Saturday, September 10

July 31 (THURSDAY) 5:30 PM
Tuesday Evening Hike. Please see July 3 for details. Easy.

August 1 (Wednesday) 5:30 PM
Moderately Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Please see July 11 for details. Mod. Strenuous.

August 2 (Thursday) 5:30 PM
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see July 5 for details. Mod. Easy.

August 3-5 (Friday-Sunday) 2 PM
Sheldon National Antelope Wildlife Refuge (This outing may be canceled or changed due to fire conditions. Contact leader before trip for full details). Please see July 13-15 outing for details. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8578; graham@grahamstafford.com).

August 5 (Saturday) 6 AM
White Mountain Day Hike. Meet near Bishop, CA. White Mtn elevation 14,250 ft. Travel on “jeep road,” about 16 mi RT, about 2500 ft gain. Hikers must be experienced, well conditioned, must have hiked with leader before. Conditioning hikes offered before trip; please contact leader ASAP for conditioning hikes signup. At least one overnight stay, due to very early start; two nights would be safer to avoid driving back to this area in dark on day of hike. Transportation and lodging are hikers’ responsibility. Storms smoke will cancel hike. ND. Leader: T Tarpe (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

August 7 (Tuesday) 5:30 PM
Tuesday Evening Hike. Please see July 3 for details. Easy.

August 8 (Wednesday) 5:30 PM
Moderately Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Please see July 11 for details. Mod. Strenuous.

August 9 (Thursday) 5:30 PM
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see July 5 for details. Mod. Easy.

August 10 (Friday) 9 AM
Presid Meteor Shower Campout. Head up Friday evening to camp mid-playa, about 20 mi of Sleeping Giant east to provide viewing. Learn about Black Rock Desert on this easy camp. Expect sizeable group, as they’ll be setting up for Burning Man event, so cover your car. About 60 mi, 1000 ft gain, Leaf No Trace), be prepared to clean up after any dogs. Sign up after 8/1. DL. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443).

August 10-12 (Friday-Sunday) 2 PM
Summit Twin Springs Fence Removal. Volunteers will be hiking out wire and posts from an enclosure (strenuous). You need to be good hiker, able to work at high altitude to participate. Route to project can be extreme, requires high clearance vehicles. Transportation can be provided. All meals except lunch provided. DOK. Details: contact leader, Graham Stafford (775-686-8578; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Graham. See GB CALENDAR, page 11.

GB GROUP 2ND THURSDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

All programs open to the public.

On the 2nd Thursday of each month (September - May), come and enjoy socializing and informative programs with the Great Basin Group. All programs are free and open to the public.

For details on program topics and location, go to the Sierra Club web site (http://www.sierraclub.org/gb-group). Also check our Calendar, which begins on this page of the Trails.

For more information, contact the program chair, Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, mtnval@sbcglobal.net).

"Trailsafe & Nevada Trapping" Date: Thursday, September 13 Time: 7 pm social, 7:30 pm program Location: Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada Building, 605 Washington St., Reno (S of Hwy 80). Contact: Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, gbg@sierrabcnvalleynv.com). At the September program meeting, Trailsafe co-founder, Trish Swain, will discuss Nevada trapping laws and the organization’s efforts to reform them. Long-time wildlife activist, Dr. Don Molde, will also demonstrate how to release several types of traps. There will be a question-and-answer period after the presentation.

Trailsafe was formed in January 2007, when Sierra Club activist Carol Tresner and Swain were alarmed by newspaper reports of dogs trapped in the Galena area. Tresner’s dog, Shasta, had previously been trapped elsewhere in Nevada.

Their efforts saw success November 3, 2007, with a new regulation written into Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) guaranteeing no steel traps or snares would be permitted within 1000 feet of seven popular Galena area trail systems.

Today, the group continues efforts for public safety and humane treatment of pets and wildlife. For more information about Trailsafe, contact Trish Swain at info@trailsafe.org or visit the Trailsafe website at http://www.trailsafe.org, or check them out on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/TrailsafeNevada.

In addition, On May 19, 2012, the Sierra Club adopted a trapping policy which can be found at http://www.sierrabcnvalleynv.com/about/trapping/Wildlife.pdf. 

It’s not just a good basin, it’s a GREAT BASIN!
Outings are an integral part of Sierra Club activities, allowing us to explore and enjoy our local environs. We hold our outings leaders to a particularly high standard. Each one must meet seven criteria for certification, referred to collectively as “currency,” including a special Outing Leadership Training (OLT).

Outings leader regulations. Specifically, “Every four years from the date a leader first met all requirements to lead an outing, regardless of level, OLT101 must be refreshed and any lapsed first aid certifications must be renewed.”

In 2008, a new policy was adopted by the Club at the National level. Experienced outing leaders were initially exempted from the requirement to take OLT101 and OLT201 or comparable training. However, “four years after the date of the enactment of this policy (July 1, 2008), such persons must meet all currency requirements.” In other words, by July 1, 2012, all outings leaders must comply with the policy.

Chapter ExCom passes resolution addressing OLT policy. At the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting on April 28, 2012 in Reno, the following motion was passed: “Whereas uncertified outings leaders who lead outings for the chapter may expose everyone to liability, and whereas it is the policy of the Chapter ExCom that outings comply with all requirements of the Sierra Club, therefore move that after July 1, 2012, no outings shall be conducted within the Chapter without at least one certified leader, and that immediately, but not later than 90 days from now, the group chairs assure that all their outings leaders are certified and arrange that their outings leader data are input into the Club database, and that the chapter outings chair communicates these requirements to all outings leaders.”

SNG can list outings, but not leaders. Despite trying hard to meet the OLT requirement, the Southern Nevada Group was unable to complete the required verification process in time to publish the group’s outings schedule in this issue of the Trails. Therefore, although the outings listed below have been planned for July-September, please note that we cannot list the associated outing leaders or their contact information at this time. Group completing OLT certification as quickly as possible. Rest assured that steps are being taken to complete verification so that outings may continue without interruption.

Where to find OLT certified outings. Sierra Club sanctioned activities can be found online at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/sngroup/text/snevent1.asp>. Contact information will be added there as each leader’s credentials are verified. We aim to provide our members with unmatched opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors in the months ahead!

Questions? Those who have questions are encouraged to contact Southern Nevada Group Chair, Taj Ainlay (702-682-9361, tajainlay@aol.com).

Las Vegas Inner City Outings launches

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO) is a community-outreach program of the Sierra Club dedicated to providing outdoor recreational experiences to low-income youth of diverse cultural backgrounds.

The newly formed Las Vegas Inner City Outings group conducted its first outing on April 27, 2012, with 12 students from Burk High School. These students, from teacher Chris Axas’ science class, took a day hike along the First Street, Las Vegas 89101. ExCom meetings are open to all members. Please feel free to join us on July 23 or September 24, from 6-8:30 pm. There is no meeting in August.

SN Group ExCom meetings

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 see ICO outing, page 11.

Don’t forget to visit the Chapter website

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>
Tule Springs: Nevada’s next National Monument!

BY LYNN DAVIS, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

PICTURE THIS: HERDS OF ICE AGE COLUMBIAN Mammoths – with tusks longer than six feet and molars the size of a human head – each devouring 300 to 600 pounds of leafy vegetation in the lush and verdant wetlands of Las Vegas. That’s right, Las Vegas.

Neve’s newly proposed national monument right to left is located within 30 minutes of the neon lights of Las Vegas, Nevada. In an arid desert wash now dotted with scrappy salt brush and creosote, remain thousands of fossils of Ice Age mammoths, massive bison and American lions, camels (a larger version of today’s Bactrian camels), sloths the size of small sports cars, and at least two species of ancient horse.

Scientifically documented, Tule Springs is significant for the vast span of time the fossils represent. Fossils and pollenized soil in the area span 700,000 years ago, offering important insight into at least two Ice Ages and multiple warming and cooling periods.

The national monument is expected to attract scientists from around the world, and will offer travelers and local residents unparalleled access to observe fossil excavations.

The area also supports four unique and imperiled plants, Joshua trees and several species of cacti, in addition to threatened desert tortoise, burrowing owls, kit foxes, rattles, kestrels, barn owls, and by the butterscotch smell of the Pos- dorama pines. Downstream, the students discovered that the creek dropped over a waterfall and down into a pool surrounded by a grove of firs, moss, and conglomeration rock. Some cooled themselves from the day’s heat in the mist of the waterfall in the cool of the night.

At the end of the day’s journey, students declared this “the best field trip we’ve ever taken” and asked if they were welcome to return on their own. They also wanted to know when ICO was going to plan another trip for them!

This is an opportunity to visit some incredible country and to become involved in preserving your public lands. Learn about Black Rock NCA. Projects will include Trego Hot Springs Rehab and Cleanup. All activities include a family lunch. This is a car camping trip. DOK. Details: contact leader, Graham Stafford (775-686-8578; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Brucie (813-559-599). Co-Leader: brucae@nevadawilderness.org. Easy.

**ICO OUTING . . . continued from page 10**

Creek trail in the Red Rock National Conservation Area west of seven miles west of the city proper. The trail led the students through a desert area filled with cholla, yucca, Joshua trees and a colorful array of wildflowers, then up into a canyon fed by a natural spring. As they entered this riparian area with a running stream, scrub oak, manzanita, and Pondersona pine, the students may as well have been in a different world.

They cut their lunchtime short to explore upstream where they found the water alive with toads and tadpoles. They were awed by a hummingbird in her nest perched on a low branch, and

**Great Basin Group Calendar**

Great Basin Group Trail Calendar continued from page 9

This is a wonderful guide to some of the more common animals and plants you will encounter in the Tahoe area. It’s a handy reference that anyone in the outdoors will use again and again. And, as a bonus, it easily fits in your pocket – no cumbersome book to carry around. Enjoy!

— Alan Gabanich, Lahontan Audubon Society & Emeritus Faculty, Department of Biology, University of Nevada, Reno

Tahoe Pocket Naturalist Guide helps kids!

BY SUE JACOX

How to purchase the guide. The price is just $8, including postage. For your copy/es, send a check to “GBOS,” c/o Sue, 5535 Goldenrod Dr., Reno, NV 89511. You can also find them for $7 in Reno at Great Basin Group events, Sundance Books, Nevada Discovery Museum, Galena Creek Visitor Center, Swill Coffee & Wine, Nevada Museum of Art, and the Nevada Store. In Carson, look for them at the Legislative Gift Shop, and many places around Lake Tahoe. To purchase in bulk and raise funds for your own organization, contact Sue Jacox (suejacox@nvbell.net).

MAKE YOUR NEXT OUTING MORE ENJOYABLE BY IDENTIFYING FLOWERS, TREES, SHRUBS, ANIMALS, AND ANIMAL SIGNS LIKE SCAT, MARKINGS, AND FOOTPRINTS WITH A COMPACT POCKET FIELD GUIDE.

“The Pocket Naturalist Guide to Tahoe Area Plants & Animals” is light, water-resistant, and colorful -- perfect for introducing your kids and grandkids to our common species. Adults love them, too.

Every penny from the sale of these custom Tahoe area guides supports outdoor learning for local children when you order directly from Great Basin Outdoor School!

CHANNEL ISLANDS . . .

continued from page 7

hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs. For info & to reserve. Contact leader, Joan Jones Holtz (626-443-0706, jholtzhln@aol.com).

This fundraising cruise benefits Sierra Club California.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting
Saturday, July 28, 2012
Mammoth Lakes, CA

For details, contact the Chair, ERIK HOLLAND erikreno@aol.com 775-322-3582

TULE SPRINGS . . .

continued from page 4

owls, and great horned owls.

The proposed national monument is located at the base of the Sheep Mountain Range, an imposing and ruggedly carved mountain range that rises steeply from the desert floor. It adjoins the U.S. Fish and Wildlife-managed Desert Wildlife Refuge, the largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states, providing options for vital wildlife corridors and habitat protection.

The national monument also adjoins Red Rock National Conservation Area, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Nearby, to the west, is Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Public support for Tule Springs is noteworthy. Several years ago, an active friends group -- the Protectors of Tule Springs -- was formed by neighborhood leaders. The grassroots group launched a public awareness campaign and collected more than 10,000 signatures to protect the area. They have since sustained strong awareness and broad community support.

In June 2009, equipped with the National Park Service analysis of the area’s scientific significance and evidence of resource destruction, a campaign was launched by a coalition of supporters to make Tule Springs a unit of the National Park Service. Coalition members, including members of the Sierra Club, have worked tirelessly for nearly three years making presentations, conducting tours of the site, and organizing an impressive clean-up that involved state and city governments, University of Nevada Las Vegas, and several conservation groups.

Notably, three local government entities - the Clark County Commission, the City of Las Vegas, and the City of North Las Vegas – unanimously passed resolutions in November 2009 asking Congress to make Tule Springs a part of the National Park System. In addition to local support, the national monument has the bipartisan backing of Nevada’s Congressional delegation.

Once the necessary legislation is passed and the new Tule Springs National Monument is created, local elected officials and community leaders hope to work with the National Park Service to choose entrance points, plan visitor amenities, and establish best-management practices. These will make Tule Springs National Monument a world-class destination that adds to Southern Nevada’s economy and enhances the area’s quality of life.

FROM THE CHAIR . . .

continued from page 1

book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amazing. She has written a book which depicts California landscapes before and after development. It’s very interesting, and her art is amaz...