In the space of less than two months, I have sampled four different recreation environments: Bavarian Alps, Jarbidge Wilderness, Lake Tahoe, and the Adirondack Forest Preserve. What do these four environments represent insofar as how humankind interacts with nature? First of all, they span nearly the complete range of development. From the emptiness of the Jarbidge where I only saw three other hikers in five days to the rather advanced human footprint in Bavaria, they do offer different models of how humankind interacts with the natural environment. Bavaria shows the signs of a long history of human influence, and most of the land is still in private hands.

However, out of this private ownership, Bavaria has developed a fairly agreeable recreational experience, with well-maintained trails over private holdings, mountain huts to serve up food and drinks, and skiing opportunities, both downhill and cross-country. What is missing, in relation to many developed American recreational regions, are the glaring lights, the huge parking lots, the over-sized signs, the roaring small engines, and the roadway right-of-ways that are at least two times as wide as really needed. Instead, people have placed themselves and their infrastructure somewhat benignly in the landscape.

Returning to family “wilderness” roots

By Monica “Niki” Houghton

Growing up on West Plumb Lane in Reno during the late 1950s and early 1960s, my father, Sam Houghton, and my brother, John, served as Chairs of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. I remember attending Chapter slide programs at the Stein Hof-Brau. We also went on day hikes with the Sierra Club. My mother Edda enjoyed sketching, especially dead trees, and often we would stop along the way, where she would share an orange with me. At age 14, I headed east for school, married, and raised two children. And I became a composer. Even though I could only visit family occasionally, the language of my compositions often seemed to be infused with the spaciousness and light of the West.

Once my children were in college, I began participating in Sierra Club National and International Outings, enjoying memorable backpacking and service trips. Then, in June 2011, after retiring from teaching at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio, I returned to Nevada to rediscover all that I had been missing.

That first summer, after practicing on my map and compass skills, I embarked on my first-ever solo backpack into the Jarbidge Wilderness. The flowers were amazing after an especially wet winter. I also visited Great Basin National Park, High Rock Canyon, and many other wonderful places. In ensuing years I’ve explored such places as Monarch Divide, Milestone Basin, Hoover Wilderness, and Sonora Pass. Last summer I climbed Arc Dome and Wheeler Peak, thereby completing the seven peak requirement for membership in the Great Basin Peaks Section; my day pack now sports a patch proudly.

Recently, going through some of my late brother John’s slides, I recognized many of the places he visited as a young man. John was an avid mountaineer and geographer, and a member of the Faculty at UNR. After he perished in the 1979 Mt. Erebus Disaster, some of his friends petitioned the USGS to name a nearby mountain after him. Mt. Houghton sits building the Houghton Spur at Relay Peak, summer of 2014. Photo: Tahoe Rim Trail Association.

Please see story of the naming of Mt. Houghton in article just below. Photo: John Houghton.

Celebrating 50 years of the Wilderness Act

From the Chair

A trip through four outdoor recreation areas

By David Von Seggern

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a trait which American commerce has not acquired.

Turning to the Adirondacks, we see some similarities with Bavaria, some causes to be hopeful, and yet some characteristically American excesses. The Adirondacks has a history of preservation that extends over nearly 200 years, is larger than any national park in the coterminous U.S., and has adjusted fairly well to a nearly 50-50 mixture of public and private ownership. There is a strong culture of conservation and restoration. Numerous wilderness areas lay within the “Blue Line” which defines the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondacks offer a large range of recreational activities, from family theme parks to wilderness solitude.

Moving on to Lake Tahoe, we find a compact basin area that faces the challenges of increased development and tourist promotion. It is almost guaranteed that everything done in this small basin will have an impact in some way or another. Further, the watershed is relatively small, with all the main courses flowing through the most developed shoreline areas. What level of increased human “footprint” can Lake Tahoe withstand while keeping its pristine waters?

Lastly, I move from the western extreme of the state to the northeastern extreme at Jabridge. This was Nevada’s first designated wilderness and even today offers one of the best, if not the best, wilderness experiences in Nevada. Having little to nothing in common with Bavaria, for instance, it contrasts starkly to those areas where humankind has penetrated. Although Jabridge may be the model for what the Sierra Club considers to be the premier outdoor experience, we need to admit that there are other models that do work to get people outdoors, to offer exercise, and to acquaint them with the natural world. Yet we remain dedicated to the concept that, while it is possible for humankind to somewhat benignly take root in the natural world, we cannot and will not cede every bit of ground to a human makeover.

MT. HOUGHTON...

continued from page 1

between Mt. Rose and Relay Peak. (Remember to pronounce the “o” in the first syllable, as in “ho-ho-ho”!)

Whenever I go out into the wild areas around my new home in Reno, I feel close to my family, and to the powers that made us all. I’d like to say thank you to those who have devoted their powers and time over the past 50 years to obtaining our Wilderness designations.

*Tahoe Rim Trail volunteers built a spur off the Relay Peak trail this summer to Mt. Houghton.
Hal Klieforth 1927-2014

THE PASSING OF HAL Klieforth in July marks the end of an era for the Toiyabe Chapter. When he came to Reno in 1965 to work for the Desert Research Institute as a meteorologist, he immediately became active in the Chapter and was elected Chair of the Executive Committee. At that time the Chapter included all of Lake Tahoe and much of Eastern California, but Reno was the center of Chapter activity. Hal held Chapter meetings nearly every month and also led hikes in the Carson Range and cleanup trips for the Mt. Rose Highway.

He also started the Conservation Forum, a diverse group of individuals, who cared about all facets of conservation. The forum met monthly to talk about issues and to show slides. Emphasis in solving problems was placed on science and the gathering of data, because Hal was a dedicated scientist.

In addition, Hal served as the Chair of the task force which managed the University of Nevada research forest in the Carson Range. If you needed to know about the weather or the snow conditions when leading a trip, you called Hal.

For many years, Hal was extremely active in the Eastern Sierra Task Force of the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee. This task force held quarterly meetings in the Owens Valley and worked on issues involving all of the Eastern Sierras including such places as Eureka Valley.

When he retired from the Desert Research Institute in 1996, Hal spent most of his time in Bishop roaming his beloved Sierra Nevada and also the White Mountains. He began to accumulate a large library of maps, pictures, journals, reports, books, and other written information about the Sierra Nevada which he gladly shared with agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and interested individuals. Because of his great knowledge and positive attitude, he had many friends who shared his interests, even though few could walk the 20 or more miles a day that he could.

He was always a man of action up to the very end. Some of us “old-timers” who knew Hal well over many decades think of him as the John Muir of the Toiyabe Chapter, sending the message to all: “Climb the mountains and get their glad tidings. We shall miss him.

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.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact *list* in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact *list*.

**Death Valley Wilderness Restoration**

Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful National Park. Main project involves cleaning up debris from marijuana grow site on Friday. Gather early on Tuesday and return on Saturday. As moving campout in honor of both anniversaries.

**Explore & Serve in Carrizo Plains**

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under the fences. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Sunday will be, at choice of group, either hike in Caliente Range or else tour of popular viewing areas in plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craigh.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670)

**Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee**

OCT 30 - NOV 1 (THU-SAT)  
DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION  
Join Sierrra Club’s California/Nevada Wild-erness Committee in series of gatherings to celebrate 50th anniversary of Wilderness Act (50th) and CA Desert Protection Act (20th). Starting evening of Oct 31, join NPS’s “Mojave Fest” (Nov 1). On Nov 2, head to Mecca Hills Wilderness and continue as moving campout in honor of both anniversaries. End Nov 8-9 with Desert Committee in Saddleback Butte State Park. Attend one or both weekends plus any in-between time you can. For details as they develop, see <www.caldesert20.org>. Contacts: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5723), Judy Anderson (anderson-judith@att.net, 818-248-0942), or Pat Flanagan (patflanagan29@gmail.com).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

OCT 31 - NOV 9 (FRI-SUN)  
DESSERT WILDERNESS CAMPUPTS & CELEBRATIONS  
Join Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Wilderness Committee in series of gatherings to celebrate anniversaries of Wilderness Act (50th) and CA Desert Protection Act (20th). Starting evening of Oct 31, join NPS’s “Mojave Fest” (Nov 1). On Nov 2, head to Mecca Hills Wilderness and continue as moving campout in honor of both anniversaries. End Nov 8-9 with Desert Committee in Saddleback Butte State Park. Attend one or both weekends plus any in-between time you can. For details as they develop, see <www.caldesert20.org>. Contacts: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5723), Judy Anderson (anderson-judith@att.net, 818-248-0942), or Pat Flanagan (patflanagan29@gmail.com).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

OCT 15-16 (SAT-SUN)  
EXPLORE & SERVE IN CARRIZO PLAINS  
Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under the fences. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Sunday will be, at choice of group, either hike in Caliente Range or else tour of popular viewing areas in plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670)

CNRCC Desert Committee

DEC 29 - JAN 2, 2015 (MON-FRI)  
HOLIDAY SERVICE IN CARRIZO PLAINS  
Return once again to Carrizo Plain to celebrate end of year and offer service to pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. We’ve planned a Welcome Hike on Dec 29, 25 days of service on Dec 30 covering four dinners and breakfast on New Year’s morning. Info: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILDERNESS: VISIT CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS AREAS!**

**DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .** California is one of the few states to have its own Wilderness Area system? The 12 wilderness areas, part of the state park system and totalling 475,438 acres, are:

- Anza-Borrego Desert SP: 297,400
- Boney Mountain, Point Magu SP: 6100
- Bull Creek, Humboldt Redwoods SP: 10,450
- Cuyamaca Mountain, Cuyamaca Rancho SP: 13,210
- D ‘Olive W. Coe SP: 25,300
- Limkiln SP: 413
- Mount San Jacinto SP: 12,465
- Murredle Prairie Creek Redwoods SP: 6600
- Redwood Heritage, Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP: 5500
- Santa Rosa Mountains, Anza-Borrego Desert SP: 87,000
- Sinkyone, Sinkyone Wilderness SP: 7100
- West Buddell Creek, Big Basin Redwoods SP: 5810

—from Range of Light Newsletter, Sept. 14

UNZIP ZIP!

BY TINA NAPPE

TWO AM. THE ZIPPER BIRD song breaks the night silence. Hmmm. Who is that? The zipping stops. The sound of footsteps from tent to “dunny”, our portable outhouse. The moon is down; even the oak silhouette can’t be seen; the other tents are closed and silence prevails.

But privacy is not complete without a closed dunny door. The zipper sound starts then stops, starts again as the zipper stumbles going around the curved door.

Two weeks in the Western Australia outback; two weeks of camping, when zippers rule. Every afternoon, the tent, tightly packed in its compact bag, is discharged from the trailer, along with the stretcher, the sleeping bag, and the sleeping pad. Each item must be carried to a new site. Zippers have become essential components of modern camping. When did this dependence on technology occur?

Camping items are efficiently bagged, and except for the mattress pad are encased in zipperated duffles. For a half hour at the new camping site, zipping sounds, like buzzing bees, bounce throughout our little enclave. Tent bags are unzipped, the content, Coleman’s Instant Dome, is popped up, the doors unzipped and the windows as well, circulating the air. Then back to the trailer for the stretcher, also nicely compacted in its zipperated case. Unzipped, the stretcher is unravelled; I struggle with errant legs – then, success! Next, the mattress pad and, finally, the sleeping bag, which I unzip to open for airing.

Am I finished unzipping? Oh, no. There is my “suitcase” a zipperated duffle bag, containing among its contents of clothes a zipperated vest and zipperated “cosmetic” case. And, finally, emptying the contents of my nicely zipperated day pack in which my zipper windbreaker is stuffed and zipperloc bags are removed to determine whether they can be used another day.

Uh, oh – not quite through. Back to the Nissan Patrol, where my camera battery case. Time to explore the new site.
Letter from the Chair

ExCom meets October 22, 1 pm, Malcolm Clark’s home (time & date tentative). ExCom Candidates needed: see notice on this page.

Program Meetings. June 17: Kirstin Hein, Bishop Outdoor Recreation Planner for BLM spoke about implementation of the Wilderness Act by BLM, Forest Service, and Park Service. July 15: Alan Via took us on a photo journey from New York’s Catskills to the California’s Sierra. August 15: A small group met for an evening picnic (no program) at McGee Creek trailhead.

Outings. Thursday and Sunday summer outings ended on September 28. Cross-country ski and snowshoe outings will begin as soon as snow allows in January.

NEEDED. Volunteer to be Conservation Chair. In the meantime submit conservation items to rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com.

Blue Diamond Cross Country Trail Marker Restoration. Great progress was made by the 20+ participants working on 11 days to prepare and post signs in the Inyo Craters and Obsidian Dome areas. There’s more to be done next year?

Conservation Updates

On Sept 9, Fran Hunt, Sierra Club Eastern Sierra organizer, hosted a meeting with Friends of the Inyo to prepare for the public Inyo National Forest meeting in Bishop on Sept 18 on the future of Inyo National Forest. This is part of the process initiated by the NOI (Notice of Intent) published by the Region 5 forest service on August 29, with comments due September 29.

A house party organized by Fran Hunt and our environmental allies was held on September 2 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Devis Post Pile National Monument (near Mammoth Lakes) released the Draft and Environmental Review for its first ever General Management Plan. The draft includes 3 alternatives. Comments were due September 30.

Please see FROM THE ROL CHAIR, page 5.

ROL exCom nominations & election

Our group must have new candidates for our ExCom election later this year. At least two of the three members whose terms end this year – Mauricia Anderson, Jean Dillingham, and Malcolm Clark – have said they will not run for re-election. Continuing members (term not expiring) are Lesley Bruns, Mike Shore, and Joanne Hihn.

When possible we like to offer a choice by fielding more than three candidates. Please send your suggestions for someone you think could make a valuable contribution to our ExCom and who might be willing to serve (get the nominee’s permission first). Don’t hesitate to nominate yourself if you have time and willingness to serve.

The ExCom normally meets four times a year. It is the voting and final decision-making body of the Range of Light group.

In order to have material submitted to the Chapter in time, our deadlines differ slightly from Chapter deadlines. Submit nominations by Oct 18 so they may be considered at our Oct 22 ExCom meeting. Group deadline for anyone who is nominated but not included in the approved slate to secure and submit petitions (petition nomination) is November 1.

To submit nominations or for more information, email RangeOfLight.sc@gmail.com or snail mail Range of Light Group, P.O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Ballots for Group and Chapter ExCom election will be mailed about Dec 1 and must be received by Dec 31 to be counted.

ROL Group Website: <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup> & Chapter Website: <http://toiyyabe.sierraclub.org>
Jean Dillingham (middle, seated) helps a family from Argentina discover life in the waters of Mono Lake. Photo: Ann Brauer.

Jean Dillingham gets kids outdoors!

BY ANN BRAUER

Getting kids outdoors to discover the wonders of nature has been Jean’s “job” for many, many years. Currently serving as Education Chair for the Toiyabe Chapter, she has designed, taught, and promoted outdoor youth experiences for Sierra Club and other organizations. Her “courses” enable participants to explore, observe, and record the environment. In some cases, students contribute information to professionals who study the same areas. Because some of the programs occur annually, experienced students help introduce newcomers to the processes they use.

Recently, Jean took us to two of Mono Lake’s beaches to observe osprey nests on the tufa towers just off shore. She grabbed a small bag of materials and her Mono Lake Volunteer badge.

As we wandered along, Jean offered to catch some shrimp for us to see, which she did with simple materials — clear cups and a dip net stowed in her bag. This sparked the curiosity of a passing family from Denmark. Jean produced hand lenses, so the children, and the rest of us, could see shrimp “up close.” That led to exploring the life cycle of the myriad of sand flies that rose in clouds around our feet, and a demonstration of how tufa forms.

Before that experience was over, a family visiting from China joined in. Further along the shore, a family from Argentina was eager to learn about life in Mono Lake. The entire family enthusiastically caught, observed, and released the tiny shrimp.

What started out as a simple walk along the beaches of Mono Lake turned into an impromptu demonstration of how to get kids, and their families, interested and involved in the wonders of the world around them!

In July, several ROLG members joined a Sierra Club Mule Pack to Charlotte Lake. Although the weather didn’t always cooperate, we still managed to enjoy ourselves. The scenery, like this view, was spectacular!

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Mark Bagley represented Range of Light Group at a River Conference (July 29-31) of parties involved in Lower Owens River Water Project agreements. The meeting looked at the possibility of allowing for seasonal variations in water flow to replace the currently mandated constant flow rate throughout the year required of LADWP (Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power).

We toured the old Mammoth Gold Mines and remains of Mammoth City whose population reached 1000 in 1878 before closing down a year later.

On this Thursday evening hike above Red’s Lake we saw a spectacular display of light streaming through the clouds to illuminate the Minarets, Ritter, Banner and other nearby peaks.

The trail to Lamarck Lakes begins at North Lake, west of Bishop. We visited Lower and Upper Lakes.
Celebrate wilderness!
A brief history of the Wilderness Act
BY MARGE SILL

Although John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt strongly advocated protection for the wild areas of our country, the Wilderness Act of 1964 was the most important step in assuring that these wild places were protected. The Act, as it was finally passed by Congress and signed into law by President Johnson on September 3, 1964, stated, “A wilderness...is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

The bipartisan passage of the act occurred only after many revisions, compromises, and citizen input after introduction of the first draft into Congress. Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico wrote, “The wilderness is an anchor to windward.”

The Gila—was designated) wrote, “It is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending our resources as we should, not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water.”

For the next 50 years the Wilderness Act was expanded, and many wild areas in the 50 states were designated as wilderness. In Sigurd Olson’s words, “Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium.”

However, there are yet many wild areas that have not received wilderness protection. In 2014, citizens from all over our country are celebrating what we have achieved and advocating for areas that still need designation so that our wild heritage will be passed on to our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

What’s happening with disappearing water in the West?
BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Almost every newspaper or news show has some really bad news about the continuing and worsening drought in the western U.S.: photos of Lake Mead’s deepening white bathtub rings, graphs of diminishing Colorado River flows supplying water to millions of people and much of the U.S. food production, and horror stories of the current extreme water shortages for California farmers and residents.

Very bad water news. The latest bad water news is from the U.S. Geological Survey. You can find an article on this research, entitled, “GPS is Tracking West’s Vanishing Water,” by Dennis Ghiglieri.

GPS is Track water news is from the U.S. Geological Survey’s Global Positioning System (GPS) stations throughout the western U.S. The great weight of water warming of the water on the shallow rock shelf where spawning occurs and eggs are deposited has already cut a week from the 10-week optimal period for survival of newly hatched pupfish.

By around 2050, the research shows, that period will be reduced by an additional two weeks and will further reduce the number of young fish that can make it to adulthood. Because the pupfish have a 10-14 month lifespan, the researchers note that one breeding year with no new pupfish born could lead to extinction.

The National Park Service must now determine how to respond to the threat to the pupfish from global climate change induced warming.

For more information see:
• http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2014/devils-hole-pupfish
• http://toiaybe.sierraclub.org/pdfs/trails/13/13JAS/TT13JAS.pdf (Toiyabe Trails, June-July-August 2013, “Devils Hole Pupfish: Can they survive?”

Climate change threatens survival of Devil's Hole pupfish
BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

A new study reports that the “critically endangered Devils Hole pupfish” is threatened with extinction from climate change. A UNR web story quoted Mark Hausner, a hydrologist with Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas and lead author on the paper, saying, “Climate change is making it harder for the Devils Hole pupfish to survive and has most likely contributed to the decline we have seen.”

It went on to quote Scott Tyler, a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and lead scientist and co-author on the paper, saying, “There is no question that the temperature is going to rise on the shallow shelf, and there is no question that the fish are going to be affected.”

Devils Hole pupfish latest count was 92 — up from a recent low of 35 adult fish — but far below counts of over 500 adult fish in 1972. The new research, however, finds that climate change regulations are not seriously enforced in southern or northern Nevada.

The Nevada State Engineer held “listening sessions” across Nevada in July and August. Why? Quote: “to provide information to the public on water related issues in Nevada and, more importantly, to listen to any and all comments, suggestions and questions from the public about water-related issues.”

What do people want to know? Sierra Club members and Great Basin Water Network activists attended many of the seven sessions, along with farmers who have little or no river water for irrigation this year and homeowners and farmers whose wells are failing.

Citizens asked...— how the State Water Engineer is addressing climate change impacts to water supplies and water rights in Nevada — why the State Engineer approved municipal water conservation plans which are not working — whether any water will be left in creeks and springs for fish and wildlife There was also no answer to a question about the State’s Water Plan for now and for the future.

Proposed changes “arbitrary and capricious.” You may ask what information was provided to the public by the State Engineer. The details of proposed changes to the Nevada Water Law were not available at the sessions. The changes, when first proposed, were to counter adverse court decisions in which Nevada district judges twice found water right applications by the Southern Nevada Water Authority approved by the State Engineer “arbitrary.” Please see DISAPPEARING WATER, page 7.
Deepening honeybee crisis & our food supply

BY SIERRA CLUB GENETIC ENGINEERING ACTION TEAM

WHEN PEOPLE THINK of honeybees, honey comes to mind. Most people are not aware that honeybees are a major pollinator for crops that produce 1/3 of American food, including over 140 fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts. Yet honeybee populations are in significant decline.

There is a strong body of scientific peer reviewed papers linking the honeybee demise to a widely-used class of neurotoxic pesticides called neonicotinoids (“neonics” for short).

In 2004, Monsanto applied for patents to “coat” their proprietary genetically manipulated seeds with neonics, primarily manufactured by Syngenta and Bayer. Seed treatments became the new norm.

In 2006, beekeepers discovered their foraging bees left the colony in search of pollen and nectar but didn’t come back. This finding of neurobehavioral disruption is a significant distinction of Colony Collapse Disorder. Neonics also impair the bee’s immune system, leaving it more susceptible to parasitic infestation.

Many believe the crisis of worldwide bee deaths threatening the global food supply has been worsened by an industry-funded misinformation campaign distracting policy makers from identifying the causation of honeybee decline. What you can do

Call Congressional representatives to support the Saving America’s Pollinator Act

Please see HONEYBEE CRISIS, page 12.

DISAPPEARING WATER...
continued from page 6

and capricious.”

Costs of filing applications. In addition, the costs for filing applications and protests to the State Engineer are going up, along with a plethora of other charges, making it more and more expensive for anyone but the wealthy to participate in water rights hearings.

What should be done?

Many believe the crisis of worldwide bee deaths threatening the global food supply has been worsened by an industry-funded misinformation campaign distracting policy makers from identifying the causation of honeybee decline.

What you can do

Call Congressional representatives to support the Saving America’s Pollinator Act

Please see HONEYBEE CRISIS, page 12.

Marge Sill: Worker bee for the Jarbidge Wilderness

BY DOROTHY HUDIG

HOW DID IT HAPPEN? The Wilderness Act of 1964 created only one Nevada wilderness, the Jarbidge (from an Indian word meaning “monster that lurks in the canyon”).

In 1989 Congress extended the Jarbidge Wilderness by 75% from 64,667 to 113,167 acres. How were the new boundaries set and who did the work? The following story is Marge Sill’s account of what it was like to be a wilderness worker bee in the late 60s.

Within a year or two after the Jarbidge was made a wilderness, Marge and Dick Sill first went to the new wilderness on a Sierra Club trip led by Irving Pressman, a botanist from Carson City. They were struck by its beauty, its wildness, and the profusion of spectacular wildflowers. They vowed to return.

With the encouragement of the Superintendent of the Humboldt National Forest, the Silis started the exploring and mapping necessary to document the roadless areas which could be added to the existing wilderness.

For several summers, Dick and Marge returned to the Jarbidge in their four wheel drive vehicle. There were challenges: for example, the nearest gasoline line was 90 miles away in Elko. Dick was the mapper and explorer, on foot and by vehicle. Marge was the worker bee, doing the planning, the cooking, and the writing about what she saw on the ground and in the air.

After a day’s work, they threw their sleeping bags on the ground and slept under the light of the Milky Way. One special nightly sighting in this country was the pointed firs, the bats, who put on a marvelous air show – flittering, streaking, and swooping before the two spectators.

Dick drew the maps of possible wilderness additions on both the west side and the east side of the 1964 wilderness, using USGS maps, determining the locations of new potential boundaries. The two often visited with and sometimes camped with Forest Service employees and the few visitors to the area. It was hard work but completely satisfying to these two wilderness lovers.

Later, Dennis Ghiglieri and Phil Fellre explored and mapped the southern boundaries for possible wilderness extension.

In the 1980s, the Toiyabe Chapter Wilderness Committee drew the maps for the Jarbidge, the Ruby Mountains, Arc Dome, Boundary Peak, and other recommended wilderness areas which were eventually included in the 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act (sponsored by Senators Harry Reid and Dick Bryan and Representative Jim Bilbray).

It took many dedicated people to establish the wilderness that we enjoy today. How did the locals feel about the Jarbidge additions? Did they feel threatened by more wilderness? Actually, no, because none of the small mines was included. Today the town of Jarbidge has 13 to 18 winter residents. Visitors are warmly welcomed, summer and winter.

Dick Sill died in 1981, and Marge is now limited in what she can do as a “worker bee,” but remembering the summers in the Jarbidge gives her great joy.

NOTE. Article based on a July, 2014 interview by Dorothy Hudig.

Continued inaction on climate change: It will be irreversible

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

A DRAFT OF THE LATEST UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, leaked to the Associated Press, is quoted referring to impacts from global climate change as becoming irreversible and that “currently observed impacts might already be considered dangerous.”

The AP quotes from the draft report are even more alarming than those contained in the April 2014 report saying that the greenhouse gases we are increasingly releasing “cannot plausibly be undone for hundreds of years or more” and that “[f]ailure of greenhouse gas mitigation will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems” and “[w]ithout additional mitigation, and even with adaptation, warming by the end of the 21st century will lead to high to very high risk of severe, widespread and irreversible impacts globally.”

The report, summarizing research from thousands of scientists, says that we still can reduce the impacts from a 9 degrees F temperature increase in North America to 2-4 degrees F with “aggressive” action at a cost of only 0.06% of annual growth (see chart). Continuing to do nothing, however, will be “catastrophic.”


Humanity’s choice (via IPCC): Aggressive climate action ASAP (left figure) minimizes future warming and costs a mere 0.06% of annual growth. Continued inaction (right figure) results in catastrophic and irreversible levels of warming, 9 degrees F over much of U.S. (Source: <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/08/27/3476258/climate-scientists-draft-ipcc-report/>.)

Big increase in Carson City summer temps

BY TINA NAPPE

According to the Associated Press, federal temperature records show “Carson City has warmed the most over any other city in the nation in the last 30 years” (Reno Gazette Journal, June 9, 2014).

Temperatures in Carson City have risen 4.1 degrees F since 1984. Las Vegas is sixth with an increase of 3.4 F. Carson City’s summer time heat has risen an average of 6.8 F over the last three decades.

Some reasons for the increase include urban development (more asphalt) and increase in population: 35,000 in 1984 to 55,000 today. One result is increased demand for air conditioning in older residential areas.
SUMMER IS WITHOUT A DOUBT the busiest time for local Sierra Club outings. Many of us started getting our bodies in shape for summer hikes in April, and continued the workout until the end of September.

We saw a lot of new folks joining our hikes for the very first time as well as many of our outdoor enthusiasts who have been coming for years. People enjoy how leaders offer hikes geared for all ability levels, from getting ready to hike Rose on Mondays with Stephie, Easy Tuesday treks with David, Wednesday faster-paced hikes with Jim and Holly, or Thursday moderate hikes with Ed, Yvonne, or Karen.

These hikes were all after-work outings that generally lasted about two hours. Participation through our Meet-Up site increased from nearly 1000 in May to over 1900 in September. Huge kudos should be given to all the Leaders who took the time to plan and lead over 40 conditioning hikes between July 1 and September 30! Participants know that each Leader brings her or his own unique knowledge of local trails, flora, fauna, history, and/or geology to every outing.

Of course, all of these hikes were meant to prepare us for the fabulous all-day weekend hikes that all of our Leaders are known for. If you didn’t get out with us this year, be sure to check out next year’s Summer Conditioning Hikes to get in great hiking shape, learn new places to go, and meet new friends.

Message from the Chair
BY HOLLY COUGHLIN

Summer conditioning hikes

These hikes for the very first time as well as many of our outdoor enthusiasts who have been coming for years. People enjoy how leaders offer hikes geared for all ability levels, from getting ready to hike Rose on Mondays with Stephie, Easy Tuesday treks with David, Wednesday faster-paced hikes with Jim and Holly, or Thursday moderate hikes with Ed, Yvonne, or Karen.

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trailhead at Spooner Lake to Marlette Lake; view beautiful fall colors. About 10+ mi RT, 1200+ ft gain. Lunch at lake and learn about native fish species. State park parking fee, which can be split by carpooling. Dog must have leash. Trip limit 12. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, hlaudehiker1@att.net). Co-leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363, fernetcinarmott@gmail.com). Moderate.

**GB PEAK SECTION NEWS . . .**

continued from page 8

celebration on Glass Mountain. These continued from page 8

GB Peak Section News

A jovial time in the Jackson Mountains

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

In our continuing quest to explore new wilderness areas and enjoy their peaks, we left Reno early for North Jackson Mountains and a hike to their High Point (9095 ft). Last gas in Lovelock, and then from Rye Patch Reservoir we began a long drive on dirt roads to our starting point near the Redbird Mine. Numerous antelope sightings and assorted wildflower displays enhanced the journey.

An old mining shaft and other mining remnants provided various photographic subjects as we hiked about 2.5 miles to the summit. Cloudy, hazy skies limited our summit view, though we could see tomorrow’s goal, King Lear Peak (9923 ft).

King Lear Peak was named after the macabre play that descends into madness in Shakespeare’s tragedy. I reflected on this as we hiked upward and nearly to the summit. Our only day’s tragedy would be a storm preventing the group from sitting on the summit. However, I had to reflect on our madness level for continually ascending such summits.

We wound through trees and rock outcroppings, then continued up a steep ramp.

GB PROGRAMS . . .

continued from page 8

significance of rock art in Nevada. On October 9 we will be hosting Ned Tibbits from Mountain Education who will be talking about his charitable organization and its mission: “To minimize wilderness accidents, injury, and illness in order to maximize the enjoyment, safety, and personal growth, all through experiential education and risk awareness training.”

November 13 will feature Sierra Club leader David von Seggern, who will present a travelogue of his July 2014 Sierra Club trip to the Alps of Bavaria, Germany. Environmental comparisons between the Bavarian Alps and Lake Tahoe will be discussed in this travelogue.

Hope to see all of you at our programs! For any program-related activities, please contact Caron Taylor (cmtayloe@gmail.com).


**NOVEMBER 9 (SATURDAY) 3A**


**NOVEMBER 9 (SATURDAY) 10A**

Needle Peak & Beyond Day Hike. Trek in Virginia Mountains W of Pyramid Lake to visit Needle Peak and see other interesting geological formations. About 6-8 mi, 2000+ ft gain. Discuss flora/fauna sighted along way. Lunch at desti-nation with great views. Some rocky off trail hiking, so trail shoes necessary. Bad weather cancels. DL: Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363, fernetcinarmott@gmail.com). Moderate.

**NOVEMBER 22 (SATURDAY) 2A**

Burro Mountain (6992 ft) on Western Edge of Smoke Creek Desert. Climb to top of this desert peak with expansive views of Smoke Creek Desert. Explore area being considered for wilderness designation. This is sage grouse habitat; we could see pronghorn, deer, and rap-tors or, possibly stumble across archeological re-mains. Learn about sage grouse habitat and how wilderness designation may help these majestic birds. NL: Leader: Dave von Seggern (vonseg@bgsdblog.net). Easy.

**NOVEMBER 16 (SATURDAY) 10A**

Mountain General Meeting. David von Seggern will present a travelogue of his Sierra Club trip to Bavarian Alps this past summer. Meet at Bar Nunn Ranch Wern Heritage Center (aka, Ranch House) early at 6:30 for social. See <www.toyabe Sierraclub.org/gbgroup/> for details. General public welcome at our monthly meet-ings.

ND: Leader: Caron Taylor (cmtayloe@gmail.com). Co-Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg@bgsdblog.net). Easy.

**NOVEMBER 13 (THURSDAY) 7P**

Monthly General Meeting. David von Seggern will present a travelogue of his Sierra Club trip to Bavarian Alps this past summer. Meet at Bar Nunn Ranch Wern Heritage Center (aka, Ranch House) early at 6:30 for social. See <www.toyabe Sierraclub.org/gbgroup/> for details. General public welcome at our monthly meet-ings.

ND: Leader: Caron Taylor (cmtayloe@gmail.com). Co-Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg@bgsdblog.net). Easy.
Southern Nevada Group

Monthly ExCom Meetings
October 15 & November 19, 2014

EXCITING NEWS! WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE! It is located just off Sahara Avenue, in the business complex behind the Bank of Nevada Regional Headquarters, at 2330 Paseo del Prado, Building C, Suite 109, Las Vegas, NV 89102-4336. Open to all members, our monthly ExCom meetings will be on Wednesdays during the 4th quarter (October and November; dark in December) We’ll meet from 6-8:30 pm in our new office. Any member who would like to join the leadership team is invited to attend. The dates are October 15 and November 19. Contact the Group Chair, Taj Ainaly (702-682-9361), for details.

General Program Meetings
Programs: October 14, November 10, & December 9

General Meetings and Membership Mixers. These are also held at the Sierra Club office unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join in our activities on October 14, November 10, and December 9. See details in the Calendar. All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted. All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

Las Vegas ICO changes name to “Inspiring Connections Outdoors”!

The ICO program in Las Vegas, and in the 52 programs around the country, is changing its name. The new name is Inspiring Connections Outdoors. Each local organization participated in this robust search for a new name.

Consensus was finally reached this summer, with the ICO acronym and mission remaining the same.

Why the name change? The old name “Inner City Outings” had been used since the program’s inception in 1976. To many people the words “Inner City” reflected old attitudes and its negative connotations turned away agencies and individuals that ICO wanted to partner with. The old name also did not include the suburban and rural areas that many programs serve.

Southern Nevada Group

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Transportation: Jane Feldman* feldman.jane@gmail.com

* ExCom member

Las Vegas ICO Annual Friendraiser
Help us bring our urban youth into the outdoors! Friday, October 24, 2014 6 to 8 pm at Las Vegas World Bridge Club 5580 W. Flamingo Suite 101 Las Vegas, NV

Join us for a complimentary dinner, wine bar, jazz trio, raffle and silent auction.

For more info. Like us on Facebook at “Las Vegas ICO” or contact Barbara Gerhardt (gerhardt.barbara@yahoo.com). The new name, “Inspiring Connections Outdoors,” expresses a forward-looking attitude and better defines the full spectrum of people ICO seeks to reach. For more information about Las Vegas ICO contact Betty Gallifent (egallifent@cox.net).

A day of exploration at Robber’s Roost
BY BARBARA GERHARDT
THE SKY WAS CLOUDY on the days leading up to Las Vegas ICO’s scheduled Robber’s Roost hike with a group of 11-12 year olds from Helen Meyer Community Center. It seemed that the monsoon season had arrived early, as there had already been some heavy rain in the Mt. Charleston area. As luck would have it, the rain came early in the week – Thursday the 17th was a beautiful sunny day.

Exploring the cave with flashlights.
The Robber’s Roost hike was chosen for a number of reasons. First, there is a dilapidated one-room log cabin on a spur trail south of the Robber’s Roost trailhead which would be interesting to explore. Children’s literature has numerous references to log cabins and this would be an opportunity to see a log structure first hand. The young hikers could try answering questions such as: What happened to the bark that had been on the tree but is not on the logs of the cabin, why would the bark be removed, and why would people build a structure out of logs and not some other material?

ROBBER’S ROOST ICO OUTING... continued from page 10

On the hike itself, walking back up the hill to the actual Robber’s Roost Trailhead and the trail to the cabin, students saw there were different types of trees as they climbed higher. Of course, everyone was thrilled with the “butter-scootch” tree . . . the fragrant bark of the Ponderosa pine. The ascent to the cave area was short but a bit steep, yet this group of 12 children (10 boys and 2 girls) had no difficulty and even relished the challenge.

What a wonderful opportunity for city kids to feel like explorers -- and explorers they were. After a brief explanation and demonstration of how to approach the rock scrambling going up and down, the kids took turns (four or five at a time) going up the cave using headlights and flashlights to investigate. Some comments were: “This is better than Adventure Dome!”, “Oh, I want to spend the night out here!”, and “I want to bring my Mom here!”

The outing was a great success. The enjoyment for meingers on as I recall that day and the wonderful kids. My hope, and the goal of ICO, is that the experience we shared that day lives on in the children’s memories as well.

What you can do. Las Vegas ICO invites anyone interested in what we are doing to come to one of our meetings and consider becoming a member of our local chapter. For more information, contact: Betty Gallifent (egallifent@cox.net).

All photos: Betty Gallifent.
Bookshelf

THE GREAT BASIN FOR KIDS
By Gretchen M. Baker

Common praise of a good book is “I just couldn’t put it down.” That was true for me reading Gretchen Baker’s second book — this one “for kids.” Even though some of us aren’t so young anymore, it was fun to read about the Great Basin Desert as a place of discovery and wonder.

At a clean and crisp 40 pages, it’s just the right amount of information, games, and challenges for young readers. I think you’ll agree, it’s ideal for any kid out exploring the desert on a hike or just riding in the car. Gretchen’s book includes features and habitats of the Great Basin — for example, caves and sagebrush — and also the people who live in the Great Basin desert. She presents each topic along with a “fun fact” and “kid-friendly activity” (let’s find the north star!). The book is colorfully illustrated, with maps pinpointing areas of particular interest and encouraging kids to find more on their own.

The book is available at Great Basin National Park bookstores and online (just Google it). Gretchen also has a website at <www.gretchen-baker.com>.

— Dennis Ghiglieri

A PERFECT MORAL STORM
THE ETHICAL TRAGEDY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
By Stephen M. Gardiner
Oxford University Press, 2011.

A Perfect Moral Storm is a supremely written volume and requires much from the reader. However, it is well worth the attention. In a tight discourse of nearly 500 pages, the author presents his perspective on the moral challenge posed by global warming. If the text alone were not enough, ample footnotes on nearly every page carry details of the author’s arguments. Whence the title? The author states that “…climate change constitutes a perfect moral storm that threatens our ability to behave ethically.”

Gardiner is able to see every argument from nearly every perspective, and the treatment is thorough on most items. The author goes past covering whether global warming is real or not (he firmly thinks it is) and focuses on what we are morally bound to do about it. He poses the moral problem as an intergenerational one and one that has to do with justice for the disadvantaged. Take, for instance, his statement that “…many of the victims of our bad behavior (the poor, future generations, and nature) lack the ability not only to resist, but even to make their concerns heard.”

The cleverest chapter of the book may be Chapter 9 in which the author draws a long and solid analogy between the behavior of certain characters in Jane Austen’s Sense and Sensibility and that of principal geopolitical characters in the world climate forums. In both cases he demonstrates moral corruption, one at a very small scale and the other at global scale.

One of the themes he returns to often is that our current political systems are possibly incapable of dealing with the problem, if in fact they have not already shown it. The problems that local communities, or even nation states, have dealt with in the past are not global in extent, and the methods at their disposal are not developed or refined enough to deal with the current global moral challenge. He says “Perhaps existing institutions and theories must be radically reconceptualized to reflect new global and ecological realities.” With states failing, he even suggests that the burden falls back on individual citizens to take action, as in many other cases where the states could not seem to meet the challenge (think abortion, for instance).

The author makes a very cogent case for the fact that we (individuals and political entities) are failing to meet the climate crisis. He points out that this has been true for two decades now and that the outlook becomes grimmer with every year of inaction. His final sentence in the conclusion to Chapter 11 says “…what we do now falls far short of any morally defensible goal.”

Chapter 12, a discussion of the immediate future, begins with “We face a looming global environmental tragedy.” The work of Gardiner should be required reading for all who are working to mitigate global warming and especially all who are politically engaged with this problem at the world level.

Lastly, the author discourages waiting for solutions to come by “luck”. This approach, he says, is “morally impermissible, and a sign of deep corruption.” Some of the “luck” solutions may be a geoengineering breakthrough, a significant cost reduction in renewable energy sources, or some natural feedback mechanism that miraculously cancels global warming. Waiting for such a solution is not only reckless; but, were it to happen, we would escape from grappling with the moral challenge sitting before us now and therefore not progress as an intelligent species.

— David von Seggern

HONEYBEE CRISIS…
continued from page 7

Act of 2013 (H.R. 2692).

Show the outstanding documentary “Nicotine Bees” at community events. Replace grass with edibles and pollinator plants and install backyard beehives.

For more info, contact Laurel Hopwood at <lhopwood@roadrunner.com>.

— contributed by Laurel Hopwood