We are the ones we’ve been waiting for!

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

As I WRITE THIS, Trump has just nixed the United States’ commitment to the Paris Climate Accord, adding us to Syria and Nicaragua as the only countries not to join the global effort to address the impacts of climate change, and abdicating any formal leadership we may have enjoyed in building a 21st-Century economy.

If we didn’t know it already, Trump’s announcement confirms that we cannot rely on our federal government to lead efforts minimizing the toxic legacy of our fossil-fuel economy. The Paris pull-out, the completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline, the opening of the Arctic for oil drilling, the rollback of the Clean Power Plan, and the review and possible de-designation of national monuments (see more on this page), prove the administration’s only goals are monuments (see more on this page), prove the administration’s only goals are to sacrifice global air, water, species, and public health for corporate profits.

Luckily, the administration has only limited power to pursue these goals. The real power lies with the millions of people, representing hundreds of companies, and dozens of states, cities, and towns across the country, who are beating back attacks and moving the ball forward, laying the foundation for a better, cleaner, more prosperous future for everyone. And Sierra Club is right in

Your comments are needed to protect the Antiquities Act and the national monuments it makes possible. Now is the time to show Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke (who’s overseeing the review) that Americans want our lands and waters to remain protected. PLEASE help us demonstrate the overwhelming public support for our national monuments, locally and across the country. History is proof that the Antiquities Act is a valuable tool presidents have used to protect threatened, essential landscapes and ecosystems. They are beautiful and diverse sources, advocating for a healthier future, and introducing others to the healing power of nature through our outings programs.

Thank you for being part of the nation’s largest volunteer-powered nonprofit organization, for stepping up to tackle the challenges ahead, and for being part of the solution. The quality of our future depends on each of us to make choices that make a difference. Together, our power grows exponentially. Knowing this, what do you think we can create together to produce an even better future? I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

NOTE: Brian Beffort lives in Reno. Contact him at any time at Brian.Beffort@sierraclub.org.

Public comment needed to protect your National Monuments

DEADLINE: July 10

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

On April 26th, President Trump an executive order to “review”, and possibly eliminate, national monuments protected by previous presidents under the Antiquities Act. These include Gold Butte and Basin & Range national monuments in Nevada; Mojave Trails, Carizzo Plain, and Giant Sequoia in California; and Grand Canyon-Parashant, contiguous with Gold Butte, across the Arizona line. This is an attack on our protected public lands, our shared American history, and our heritage.

Your comments are needed to protect the Antiquities Act and the national monuments it makes possible. Now is the time to show Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke (who’s overseeing the review) that Americans want our lands and waters to remain protected. PLEASE help us demonstrate the overwhelming public support for our national monuments, locally and across the country. History is proof that the Antiquities Act is a valuable tool presidents have used to protect threatened, essential landscapes and ecosystems. They are beautiful and diverse sources, advocating for a healthier future, and introducing others to the healing power of nature through our outings programs.

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Act. They also put together another to Secretary Zinke concerning the national monument review. Continued action was encouraged by feedback through a followup survey via SurveyMonkey.

**Activity Hours**

Heads Up! Beginning September 14, an Activism Hour will be held from 6 to 7 pm before each monthly GBG program meeting at Bartley Ranch Center. Stay active and keep the dialogue moving!

**GBG ExCom Meetings**

The Great Basin Group monthly ExCom meetings are held the first Tuesday at 5:30 pm at The Swill. All are welcome to attend.

**August 27 (Sunday)**

**Great Basin Group Annual Member Picnic**

Everybody’s invited! See details on this page!

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### GBG Program Meetings

All program meetings held

2nd Thursday of month

**Activism Hour (new)!**

Before each program meeting get the latest updates on local issues and take action. Come hear/share info about local/state/federal issues of importance to Sierra Club and take some action. Specific topics will be announced prior to program. Social time: 6:30p (with refreshments). Program: 7p (see below for dates and details). Where: Bartley Ranch, Western Interpretive Center, Reno. Info: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741).

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### Raising Wild: Dispatches from a Home in the Wilderness

By John C. Sagebiel

WITH MIKE BRANCH, CHARLOTTE COX, CATHY SCHMIDT, AND DAVID VON SEGGERN.

This activist Furnish Hot Coals.

*Bring your personal BBQ main course and a dish to share. Sierra Club will furnish hot coals.*

**Directions:** From intersection of 395 south and Mt. Rose Highway, drive west ap 3 mi before each monthly GBG program meeting at Bartley Ranch Center. Stay active and keep the dialogue moving!

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### TOYABE TRAILS

Sierra Nevada & California’s E. Sierra

**Toiyabe Trails**

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

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (805-286-4774; LFoster@schat.net)

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

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

**Subscriptions** – Toiyabe Trails is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is $12 per year. To subscribe, send check for $12, payable to “Toiyabe Chapter,” to Toiyabe Trails Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. (See Chapter address in first paragraph, above.)

**Change of address** – Postmaster & Members, please send change of address to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80302-2968 or add changes.sierrachurch.org.

**Membership Information** – There is a membership coupon in each issue of Toiyabe Trails. You can also call a Group Membership Chair (see directories on pages 4, 8, and 10) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5653).

**Other Sierra Club information** – Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Page Directory online at http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653).

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**Great Basin Gatherings**

**Great Basin News**

By Katy Christenson

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ON MAY 15, the Great Basin Group held a special workshop, arranged by Brian Beffort, Charlotte Cox, Cathy Schmidt, and David von Seggern. This activist workshop solicited new GBG members, and welcomed long-time members at Bartley Ranch.

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**October 12**

**What is Sustainability?**

with John C. Sagebiel. With some calling into question the word “sustainability” and even the concept, maybe it’s time to consider what it really means and how a university can demonstrate its values and assess its performance.

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**November 9**

**Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway**

with Janet R. Phillips, President. Janet will show slides of the 2017 trail construction done by the Bikeway near Floriston and also plans for completing the trail in 2018. If successful, it will complete the connection along the Truckee River from Tahoe to Reno.

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**Holiday Party.** Save the date! Details coming.

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**Action evenings in the Great Basin Group**

**BY DAVID VON SEGGERN**

**OUR GROUP IS PICKING UP the Sierra Club mantra of “Resist, Recruit, Train, & Sustain”, an initiative national Sierra Club started after the November 2016 election. The national leadership knew that we would be facing several years where leadership in Washington, DC would be harmful to our mission of “Explore, Enjoy, & Protect the Planet”.

**Planning for action.** The Great Basin Group began discussing what organized action we might take locally at the beginning of 2017. With “Resist” and “Recruit” in mind and also the fact that our membership jumped by 16% between November 2016 and May 2017, Charlotte Cox, Cathy Schmidt, and David von Seggern of the group leadership met with Brian Beffort to plan events around action items relevant to issues raised in Washington DC.

**First events.** Our first two events were May 15 and June 8. The first session was announced in an email to all GBG members while the second session went to a smaller list including those who participated in the first session. Facebook and MeetUp notices were also posted. The first session drew significantly more participants (17). In these sessions, we presented hot spots in the agenda of the President and the Congress which should get all members’ attention.

**Issues we focused on.** We started with attacks on the national monuments, attacks on the EPA, and oil & gas leasing in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We had open discussions around these issues and ended the sessions with writing postcards focused one or more of these issues to Senator Heller, Secretary of Interior Zinke, or EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Members who attended enjoyed the opportunity to take action.

**Recruitment ahead.** We’ll likely make these sessions into regular get-togethers to precede our monthly meetings at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. (See announcement on page 2 for an “Activism Hour” before each program meeting.) By making such sessions regularly scheduled events, we hope to recruit more activists!

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**Kids explore, enjoy, & protect the planet**

**BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@GMAIL.NET**

Nearly 300 children from six Reno, Sparks, and Dayton schools have enjoyed outdoor learning expeditions with help from our “Get Kids Outdoors” fund so far this year. Most explored snowshoes or by biking and studying water quality aboard a research boat during multi-day over-night science camps on the shore of Lake Tahoe.

**Utah Peak Adventure**

**BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX**

Oct 4, 2016, we headed to Utah on Larry Dwyer’s Sierra Club trip to Black Crook, Lewiston, Flat Top, and Deseret Peaks. First stop was the Sheepcreek Range near Dugway, Utah. We camped off of Erickson Pass in a recent burn area.

**Stillwater Range**

**BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX**

After an exciting month in Antarctic waters on an incredible adventure, I questioned the ease of a transition back to life at home. The first morning back, I sipped my coffee as I sleepily opened a month of unchecked email. The first email that caught my eye announced a hike in the Stillwater Mountains the next day. Logic told me to stay home, rest, and catch up with life. However, I immediately signed up for the hike. Hiking might be the new cure for jet lag!

Consequently, my second day home I joined Larry Dwyer’s Sierra Club/Friends of Nevada Wilderness trip into the Stillwater Range. As I drove to our meeting location, Mount Rose and Peavine Mountain displayed their lovely rosy morning glow as the sun burst over the Virginia Range. This welcome home from my Nevada mountains assured me that there was no issue in my transition home.

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**Deadline! September 1**

**FOR OCT-NOV-DEC ISSUE**


The Stillwater Range, about an hour from Reno, provides unlimited exploration opportunities. We drove through the old ghost town of Stillwater, the 1868 county seat of Churchill County (when the town was a mail stage stop). Our drive skirted the edge of Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge (excellent bird watching). We also had a good view of Job Peak (on the GB Peaks list).

Larry introduced our hike up Sheep Canyon to Peak 7002 with a discussion of areas proposed for military expansion by the Fallon Range Training Complex. This expansion withdraws public lands including portions of the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and several FW proposals for lands with wilderness characteristics currently managed by the BLM. The military expansion proposal also overlaps portions of three wilderness study areas: the Stillwater Range, Job Peak, and the Clan Alpine Mountains.

We spent a sunny day hiking to Peak 7002 and savoring the solitude of the Stillwater Range. It saddened me to realize how our public lands in this area could be taken from us by the proposed expansion.

**What you can do.** I encourage you to contact your representatives. These wild areas must be preserved as public lands that we all can explore and enjoy. For more information, maps, an easy-to-send letter, and how you can take action, check the following link on the Friends of Nevada website: www.nevadawilderness.org/fallonexpansion.
CONTINUATION ROUNDUP

Changing climate or wet year?
2017 ends Truckee River’s 5-year drought
BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

The fish and wildlife dependent on the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake and Lake Tahoe could cheer, we’d certainly be hearing it, because of winter’s huge rain and snow events bringing near record river flows this spring. After such a long drought and long-term rain and snow deficit beginning in 2000, this year has been an event to be cheered. So, is it just a wet year following a drought or are erratic swings in precipitation to be expected from Climate Change? Are having the driest year on record in 2014-15 to the wettest year on record in 2016-17 the new “normal” for the western US? And what will the effects of the USA’s withdrawal from the International Climate Agreement be?

This is a winter and spring of superlatives for Truckee River flows. Pyramid Lake has risen 9.1 feet since January 1, 2017 and on June 1 was at a water surface elevation 3801.24. This is a tremendous benefit to the endangered cui-ui fish found only in Pyramid Lake. The Truckee River, as I write this on June 8, 2017, has flows of 3900 cubic-feet-per-second (CFS) or five times the long-term average flow on this date — higher flows only occurred once before, in 1983, which was a wet year preceded by several wet years.

Lake Tahoe has gone from below its rim — no water flowing from the Lake into the Truckee River — to within 6 inches of its maximum legal elevation, on June 8, 2017 — a rise of more than 6 feet, totaling 736,000 acre-feet of water and large flows into the Truckee River from the Lake.

Another wet year could bring Pyramid Lake back to levels not seen since 1999, when Pyramid Lake’s water surface elevation was 17 feet higher than today. Flows in the Truckee River are typically higher in multiple wet years in a row when reservoirs are already full and water must be released from reservoirs like Lake Tahoe rather than stored.

So, with wild swings in precipitation observed over the past 17 years, what can we expect from the winter of 2017-18? With President Trump’s withdrawal from the International Climate Agreement, it appears that, at least from the Federal Government, it is a reversal of action to protect the earth from the most disastrous effects of a warming world caused by burning fossil fuels. Each of us and individual states and businesses can, however, choose to reject returning to the coal-style economy of the last century. Expect the wild ride to continue.

Nevada – finally – new State Parks & upgrades
BY TINA NAPPE

Kudos to Governor Sandoval and the Nevada State Legislature. Governor Sandoval asked the Legislature to approve $15,000,000 in State Park Funding this session, providing upgrades to many state parks and creating two new ones. Governor Sandoval is also promoting the Explore Your Nevada program, encouraging Nevadans to visit every state park – as he did before developing his budget.

The new Tule Springs Park in southern Nevada complements the Tule Springs National Monument of 22,650 acres created in 2014. The new park utilizes 315 acres of state land adjacent to the Monument and will provide facilities for visitors who are interested in visiting the fossil beds. During his park review, the Governor was offered an opportunity he could not refuse. Three ranches along the Walker River in Lyon County were purchased under terminal lake legislation, the brainchild of Senator Reid, to move water from irrigated lands back into their historic terminus of Walker Lake. The lands were offered to Nevada at no cost. The Walker Basin Conservancy has pledged to restore the irrigated lands to their natural landscape. The state will invest in recreation facilities. The total park area is 12,000 acres and includes 28 miles of the Walker River. Visitors will be welcomed as accommodations are completed.

The Governor’s budget reflects his enthusiasm and new investments in state parks. State Parks were initially created to encourage tourism. The upgrades in park use such as cabins at South Fork Dam in Elko and upgrades for trailers reflect a trend in “glamping”- camping with amenities. Tents are being replaced with trailers, campers, or cabins.

While older campers, like me, find getting up and down more difficult, even younger campers prefer easier camping and may not be able to afford the campground or space to store camping gear, yet still like to visit and be in the outdoors.

Sierra Club focus has been on public (i.e., federal) lands. Isn’t it time to invest our volunteer energy, raise money for, and comment on state park policy? Not only do State Parks have some superb scenery, hug our limited water resources, protect historical sites, provide habitat for wildlife, and offer hiking and biking opportunities, but now include thousands of acres of open space. So get your Explore Your Nevada pass and see Nevada’s parks, historical sites, and recreation areas!

Water Law: Nip & Tuck @ the Nevada Legislature
BY ROSE STRICKLAND

When the 2017 Nevada Legislation session adjourned for an indefinite period on June 6, supporters of Nevada water law were greatly relieved. While some good water bills were passed, the bad water bill died and could not be revived in the last minute chaos, when rules are suspended.

Chapter conservationists had been closely following the many water bills which proposed to strengthen or actually weaken current water law. The Sierra Club provided testimony to Senate and Assembly committees, with opposition or support and suggestions for language improvements.

Several urgent alerts were sent to members to contact legislators, and eventually the Governor, throughout the session.

Water bills which did pass:

• a significant change in state policy to conjointive management of scarce water resources, whether groundwater or surface water, ending a legal fiction in Nevada that the two were not connected and could be appropriated separately
• allowing collection and use of small amounts of rainwater from the roofs of single family homes for landscaping and other non-potable uses -- a clarification that it is legal for a family’s use -- not commercial gathering
• allowing collection and use of small amounts of water for wildlife guzzlers
• without the need to obtain a permit for a water right
• directing the State Engineer to prepare a water budget and calculate an inventory of groundwater for every basin in the state -- very important, as over 25% of water basins in Nevada are over-appropriated

Water bills which failed to pass.

On the other hand, several water bills failed to pass, including those with proposed severe restrictions on domestic well rights. These proposals were of great concern to Nevadans for whom the proposed curtailment of well water threatened their homes and lifetime investments.

SNWA & AB 298: A bad water rights bill. Of greatest concern to the Sierra Club and others was AB 298, a bill which would have undermined the prior appropriations doctrine, the current basis of Nevada water law. Instead of requiring the State Engineer to deny applications which conflict with senior water rights, the bill would have allowed the State Engineer to approve junior applications along with a 3M (monitor, manage, mitigate) Plan. But without placing the constraints of the persons losing their water rights, this 3M provision threatened due process.

Please see WATER LAW, page 7.
Devils Hole pupfish population increasing
BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

The Devils Hole pupfish – a brilliant, iridescent, blue fish – lives only in the warm, crystalline waters of its namesake cavern in a part of Death Valley National Park (DVNP) in southwestern Nevada’s Amargosa Valley. The pupfish lives in water that is very warm (93°F) with little dissolved oxygen and is dependent on a submerged shelf of rock where they feed on algae and reproduce. The tenacious little fish has persisted for millennia, but is currently struggling under both human-caused climate change, nearby groundwater pumping for agriculture, natural events like floods and earthquake-induced tides, as well as problems caused when research equipment fell into the hole in 2012, killing many fish.

At the 2017 Devils Hole Workshop held in Beatty, Nevada, many presentations focused on the hydrology and biology of Devil’s Hole and the pupfish. On June 30, 2016, a large flood event occurred which flooded Devil’s Hole from surface water runoff into the cavern opening, resulting in covering the shallow shelf that the fish need for food and reproduction. The rainfall event was nearly 2.1 inches in just 90 minutes. DVNP experts have made small changes to the shelf and supplemented food supply to help the population through what remains a historic low in pupfish population. Flood events bring more nutrients to Devil’s Hole, which is a benefit in the long-term.

In 2006 an interagency study showed the Devils Hole pupfish lives only a year, so annual reproduction is essential to the fish’s survival.

A USGS study presented at the workshops concludes that pumping of groundwater in the Amargosa Desert west of Devil’s Hole continues to affect the water level count around 110. The spring count is typically low prior to breeding. The Devils Hole pupfish lives only a year, so annual reproduction is essential to the fish’s survival. Of course, the Toiyabe Chapter supported this opportunity to express interest in broadening support for all wildlife.

Investing in ALL Wildlife – SJR 13
BY TINA NAPPE

States are responsible for the management of wildlife within their borders. State wildlife agencies are primarily funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses matched with income derived from federal taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. The Pittman-Robertson Act of 1936 taxed firearms and equipment; in 1950 a similar bill was passed on fishing equipment. With this stable and sufficient funding source, the Nevada Department of Wildlife has been able to inventory wildlife and establish statewide management.

This program has been very successful but basically remains focused on game species. However, please recognize that Nevada has a small nongame general fund program since 1973 that can boost in the early fund match. This Bio-Valiantly attempts to nongame species. Nevada State Board of Commissioners adopted the idea of Wildlife’s Wildlife Nominating that 256 species are needed for conservation. The national Blue Ribbon Commission on Wildlife Management in concert with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife – created an ecosystem approach to protecting and managing the Devils Hole Pupfish. Recent management shows an increase from the low population count of 60 in the fall of 2014. The count in the fall of 2016 was above 140 and the recent spring 2017 count around 110. The spring count is typically low prior to breeding. The Devils Hole pupfish lives only a year, so annual reproduction is essential to the fish’s survival.

Bill Bowers retires from Toiyabe Chapter service

ON APRIL 30, BILL BOWERS gave up the Bookkeeper position of the Toiyabe Chapter. Although this has been an independent contractor position, Bill steadily did more than the contract required. The new bookkeeper is Carole Terrell of Reno. Bill also held many volunteer positions over the years with Toiyabe Chapter and Great Basin Group. The group is planning to honor Bill in the future with an event, so stay tuned for an announcement.
Las Vegas ICO youth show perseverance

BY BETTY GALLIFENT

The young hikers sprinted ahead and led the group the entire way. Older youngsters found the uphill climb at 7200 feet more difficult, making frequent stops to catch their breath. Exhaustion set in early, so the group stopped for a snack break.

The ICO leader decided that the group needed a goal to spur them on. “We’ll keep hiking until we get to water,” he said. That was enough to get everyone energized and back on the trail. Appearing soon was Fletcher Canyon.

The group continued the hike to a waterfall. “For me, that was enough to see a surge of appreciation,” said another.

At the next turn-around point, But now other hikers returning from the narrow canyon above were telling ICO youth about the beautiful waterfall up ahead. “Can we go on?” some of them wanted to know.

By lunch’s end, all the youngsters were refreshed and back at the Falls. Although they were ready to return to the trail, the ICO leaders, a geologist, explained that the gray rock of the canyon walls was limestone, formed under the sea many millions years ago, and then pushed up by earthquakes to where it is today. These limestone walls closed in as the group continued to the waterfall. Now they were purposefully walking in the shallow water that covered parts of the trail, all aches and pains gone, all moans and groans silenced.

Hikers and cheers echoed in the canyon as the group rounded the last bend to see a surge of water pouring out of a smooth rock trough carved by many years of erosion. Not a big waterfall, but a powerful one. The youngsters helped each other take turns standing next to the falls to feel its powerful force and pose for pictures. The magic of the fresh mountain water seemed to have a transformative effect on the spirit of this once tired group. On the return trip down the mountain, there was a sense of bravado, joy, accomplishment.

“I feel I am part of nature,” one child said. “I don’t like this hike, I LOVE this hike,” said another.

Las Vegas ICO — Inspiring Connections Outdoors — conducted 20 outings from January through May of 2017, serving 220 participants. To find out how you can help Las Vegas ICO get more youngsters outdoors, visit their website at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada, or email to Lasvegasciocoj@gmail.com. or go to Facebook at “Las Vegas ICO” or email to lasvegasciocoj@gmail.com.

JULY 15 (SATURDAY)

South Loop to Griffith Peak, Hike through different climate zones and an old forest. About 10 mi, gain over 3200 ft. At what elevation do Ponderosa pines yield to bristlecone pines? Level 5, strenuous hike. Leader: Sasson Jahan (702-499-9218, sasson702@gmail.com).

AUGUST 12 (SATURDAY)

Fletcher Peak via North Loop Trail. About 7.5 mi, gain 2500 ft. Hike through beautiful bristlecone pine grove at about 10,000 ft. Why do the trunks of these old trees have twisted forms and why are the tops often bald and charcoaled? Level 4-5, mod. hike. Leader: Sasson Jahan (702-499-9218, sasson702@gmail.com).

AUGUST 19 (SATURDAY)

Trail Canyon to Lee Canyon Overlook.

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

JULY 1-3 (SAT-MON)

FOURTH OF JULYPLAYA.

Expect several dozen people at this event on the edge of the Black Rock Desert about 100 mi north of Reno. This will be a busy weekend on the playa as many Burning Man attendees use this time to have a “down and out” trip. We usually camp on the edge of the playa and visit hot springs, see the Lassen-Applegate branch of the emerald Grant Trail, talk with new visitors, etc. There are usually large fireworks! The Playa is flooded at end of April; future conditions will dictate July activities, but it will probably be dry by then. There’s normally a potluck one night. Also a lot of Ham Radio activity, so if you have a license, bring a radio! Call for repeater frequencies. David Book (KDY7YM, 775-843-6443).

JULY 2-6 (SUN-THU)

CENTRAL NEVADA BACKPACK: TWIN RIVERS LOOP, ARC DOME

This area has been described as one of “deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk, and wet feet.” Begin on the North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour’s drive northeast of Tonopah, at about 6300 ft. From the trailhead, hike in 2-3 mi to our first camp. Next day hike about 5 mi and camp. On day 3, do a day hike (bring a daypack) to the top of 11,773-ft Arc Dome; 12 mi RT, 4100 ft. gain. Day 4 start down South Twin, with a camp after several mi.

S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

continued from page 6

Upper Bristlecone Trail to Bonanza Trail. A pleasant hike with few switchbacks through pine forest and then along ridgeline. On clear day there is a view of Telescope Peak in Death Valley (over 11,000 ft). About 4 mi, gain 1500 ft, before our lunch break. What is an “island effect” and what ecosystems does it produce? Level 4, mod. hike. Leader: Sasson Jahan (702-499-9218, sasson702@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 16 (SATURDAY)

Pahrum overlook via Bristlecone Loop & Bonanza Trail. Pleasant hike through a less-traveled part of this mountain range, with view of city of Pahrump. About 7 mi; 1500 ft gain. What kind of mammals live in this mountain range, and do they migrate? Level 4, mod. hike. Leader: Sasson Jahan (702-499-9218, sasson702@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 18 (MONDAY)

Red Spring Thrust Fault Hike, Red Rock Canyon NCA. Back to Red Rock Canyon! Join geologist Nick on hike to Red Spring Thrust Fault by way of Turtlhead Peak Trail. Red Spring Thrust Fault is part of Keystone Thrust System. We will hike along fault, see interesting petrology, and hike through beautiful sandstone terrain, including little slot canyon. This is one of my favorite hikes in Red Rock Canyon. How do we recognize a fault in the field? Level 3, mod. strenuous. About 3 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (geatuncan@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

SEPTEMBER 25-28 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)

Escalante, Utah: Day Hikes, Canoeing, & Art Festival. Leave Monday morning. Three nights in motel. Return Sunday night. Day hikes in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We may hike Coyote Gulch or Calf’s Creek on Tuesday. On Wednesday, hike in Petrified Forest State Park, with canoes on lake in afternoon. We will make time to enjoy Escalante Art Festival which is being held that week. This is an exploratory trip. Levels 3-4, mod. strenuous day hikes. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (geatuncan@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

SEPT 28- OCT 1 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY)

Annual National Public Lands Day Service Project in Zion National Park. Join us in giving service in one of our nation’s most beautiful national parks. We will once again be working with Native Nursery staff promoting good plants and getting rid of bad ones. Come just for Friday or Saturday’s service if you can’t make both days. Free park admission and group campsite from Thursday noon to Sunday noon. What is biggest challenge ZNP is currently facing? A video Invite will be available by July 1st with all the details you’ll need. Leader: Par Rasmusson for video link & or to RSVP (parasrus@ymail.com, 702-215-9119).

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

With our help we can fight global warming

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America’s waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world’s water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our planet safe. Join Sierra Club.
The making of an environmentalist

BY LYNN BOULTON

How did I become a dyed-in-the-wool environmentalist? I often think about that, as I grew up in a household where I was the only one to become one. I attribute it to a couple of key events in my life. My parents never bound me to the ways of “our tribe”, so I was free to make my own choices.

I watched a lot of TV growing up in the 60s, when there were many movies about the horrors of WWII, the injustice of slavery, and the continued persecution of Blacks. This turned me into a life-long advocate for the underdog, one willing to fight the injustices of the world. At the same time, I was unconsciously learning about the environment around me — the good and the bad. I was outdoors a lot in different settings, playing golf, swimming, going to summer camp, and playing in the neighborhood. It was safe and fun to be outdoors then.

I grew up in southern California with eye-burning smog. I was told one could see Catalina Island from where I lived, but I never could through the brown haze. In high school I did a research paper (and I have no idea why I picked this topic) on the California State Water Project/Peripheral Canal and was shocked by man’s rearrangement of natural resources. Somehow all that melded me into an environmentalist. I became conscious of this in college when I took Environmental History from Roderick Nash, author of Wilderness and the American Mind at UCSC. At the time, it seemed the easiest history class I could take to satisfy my liberal arts requirement.

There are no accidents, right? Nash presented the idea that landscapes, nature, wildlife, even rocks had value in their own right — beyond their exploitable value. That class cemented my environmental values. Since then, I have continued to spend time outdoors, to lead a life that treads lightly on the Earth, and to support environmental causes with time and money.

When I die, my estate will be divided among my favorite environmental organizations. I’m always thinking, “What more can I do?” Being an environmentalist is a way of life for me.

Benton Crossing Rd Bridge. No dogs. Call Maurica to reserve a space (760-932-7175, Maurica_And@yahoo.com) or Melissa (760-937-0499, melissai1@verizon.net).

JUNE 29 (THURSDAY)

Laurel Pond & Wetlands. This area is designated by the California Watchable Wildlife Committee as being good for viewing birds and wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have them. We may walk around the pond. Meet at Union Bank parking lot at 4:30 pm for carpooling to the Pond. Contact Mary & Mike for info (805-217-5563 marylouisehersh@gmail.com).

JULY 16 (SUNDAY)

Starkweather Trail Wildflower Walk. Hike the Starkweather Trail on this slow-paced, 3 mi wildflower discovery walk from Minaret Vista to Starkweather Lake. Allow 2-3 hours for this mostly downhill hike to view flowers and learn about distribution of trees by elevation. We will supply hand lenses. Bring $7 shuttle fee (exact $). Optional extension: ride the shuttle to Devil’s Postpile and hike to Rainbow Falls, 4 mi. Meet 9a at Minaret Vista Kiosk. No dogs. Contact Jean for info (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

AUGUST 6 (SUNDAY)

Family Walk. Families meet at Hayden Cabin in Mammoth Lakes at 10a to look for stream invertebrates that are food for fish. ALL AGES WELCOME. Families will walk along the creek for a short outing before returning to Hayden Cabin picnic area. Bring shoes that can get wet and dry ones for the walk. Prepare for both warm and cool weather. Bring water, along with a picnic lunch. Contact Jean for info (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

JULY 16 (SUNDAY)

Kayak/canoe Benton Crossing to Crow Canyon. Drive south for about one mile, turn uphill at Hilton Creek Road to dirt parking area. Contact Lisa for more information (720-238-2581, lgbuckley@gmail.com).

JULY 16 (SUNDAY)

Hike the Starkweather Trail on this slow-paced, 3 mi wildflower discovery walk from Minaret Vista to Starkweather Lake. Allow 2-3 hours for this mostly downhill hike to view flowers and learn about distribution of trees by elevation. We will supply hand lenses. Bring $7 shuttle fee (exact $). Optional extension: ride the shuttle to Devil’s Postpile and hike to Rainbow Falls, 4 mi. Meet 9a at Minaret Vista Kiosk. No dogs. Contact Jean for info (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

AUGUST 13 (SUNDAY)

Range of Light Group 25th Landmark Celebration Picnic. A time to recognize founders and leaders of the Range of Light Group and to enjoy our beautiful, scenic Eastern Sierra. Mark your calendars and look for more information to follow.

SEPTEMBER 10 (SUNDAY)

Ghost busters: A Search for Mammoth City Graves. Join local historian Robert Joki, as we start at the old Townsend grave and explore local bluffs for the original 1880 Mammoth City Cemetery. This will be an easy to moderate hike with some off-trail scrambling. We will attempt to locate graves based on 20th century photographs and 19th century newspaper reports. Robert is convinced that we might come across a ghost or two, wandering the woods along the bluffs in search of a way home to Mammoth City. Meet 10a at Twin Lakes Gallery. Contact Robert for info (760-924-7300, Proprietors@TheGalleryAtTwinLakes.com).

SEPTEMBER 17 (SUNDAY)

Bird Outing. Local bird experts lead a morning of birding in the Mammoth Lakes area. Look for resident birds, migrants, and some surprises. Location to be determined pending weather conditions and bird activity. Binoculars necessary. Meet 7:45a at Mammoth Lakes Union Bank, no dogs. Contact Karen for info (760-709-3050, rhihno@gmail.com).