Sierra Club achieved most of our environmental goals during the 2019 Nevada Legislature in large part because people like you attended Conservation Lobby Day, submitted comments supporting or opposing legislation at the Legislature’s website, signed digital petitions, and spoke out to your legislators about concerns you have.

For example, the Forest Service denied proposals to drill for oil & gas in Nevada’s Ruby Mountains, because thousands of people signed our digital petitions, and hundreds of people showed up in blizzards to public meetings opposing the drilling.

Also, the Reno City Council recently passed a Sustainability & Climate Action Plan because they heard support from broad sections of our community.

In addition, I recently met with two staffers of Nevada’s Congressional Delegation in southern Nevada. After laying out my concerns about the proposed military expansion over the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and sprawl in the Las Vegas Valley, each encouraged our members to communicate their (your) concerns often and vocally.

Based on these experiences, I can say confidently that democracy belongs to those who show up and speak out — that is, to the squeaky wheels — and that most leaders listen (of course there are many exceptions). But there is a lot more work to do, and it’s time for us to speak out more.

If we want to save our communities and local habitats from the worst impacts of climate disruption, we need to do more. We need to turn up the volume and build overwhelming public support for Sierra Club’s priorities before it’s too late. Write your senators, representatives, county commissioners and city council members, your local paper, the restaurants that keep serving Styrofoam to-go containers, and the companies that are not delivering the sustainable products and services the world needs.

And, of course, if you don’t know what else to do, post your well-considered treatise on Facebook; that’s what it’s made for.

We need to speak out more often to more people — to our friends and perhaps most important, to those with whom we disagree. We need to learn the American art of discussion, which means both speaking our truth and listening sincerely to the truths of others.

There’s a great article online (thank you to ExCom member Cathy Schmidt for sharing it) called “How to Have a Useful Conversation About Climate Change in 11 Steps,” by Dan Rubin. Google it, read it, and practice having conversations about climate change and other sensitive topics. Start with your friends, then work up to people who have differing views.

Remember, every fellow American has just as much right to weigh in as you do, even if they’re wrong. If we’re going to come together around solutions, we need to learn the fine art of polite disagreement while searching for common ground.

If you’re not sure what to say, go to sierraclub.org/Toiyabe, and look for the “Get Involved” link in the blue menu bar at the top of the page. Click there and look for our “Speak Out” link, where you’ll find recommended talking points.

It’s time to speak up

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

TOIYABE CHAPTER REPRESENTS about 6,500 members in Nevada and Eastern California. We take our responsibility to these members seriously and act throughout the year for their interests within our Chapter’s area. We work on renewable energy, protection of public lands, on water and habitat issues, on getting people outdoors, and much more.

We need new ExCom members with a commitment to the Sierra Club mission, with solid interpersonal skills, and with the enthusiasm to lead our group forward. Now, more than ever, with our Chapter Director in place and two paid organizers coming on board soon, we have the potential to expand our influence and better serve our members and mission. Yet we still face a Washington never-ending. We ask all Sierra Club members to step up in one way or another — this may be the place you could make a difference.

What you can do. No Sierra Club leadership experience? There are people here to support you if you simply have the eagerness and willingness to learn. And if you have leadership experience outside the Sierra Club, consider joining us, as your skills will be an asset. There are several seats up for election this year, so there are people outdoors, and much more.

Join outside the Sierra Club, consider joining and if you have leadership experience the eagerness and willingness to learn. What you can do.

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It’s time to speak up.

BY ANNE MACQUARIE

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other — this may be the place you could help.
Great Basin Group Monthly Programs. The GBG hosts monthly programs at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month, except June, July, and August. Please see outings websites for more details. Social hour begins at 6:30 pm, followed by the program at 7 pm. Future programs include the following:

October 10, 2019. Gold Butte National Monument. Jim Boone will provide a presentation on this wild and remote 300,000 acre reserve in southern Nevada. The area offers much historic and prehistoric information, and many opportunities for exploration and recreation will be discussed.

November 14, 2019. Sierra Hikes. Roleane Martin will entertain members with a slide show presentation on his 2015-19 hikes in the Sierra, including his recent hike on the Pacific Crest Trail through Lassen National Park.

December 7, 2019. Great Basin Group Holiday Party: The GBG annual members’ Holiday Party is scheduled for December 7, 2019, at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share and non-disposable tableware. Please check website for additional details. All members and their families are welcome!

Outings. Many, many hikes are planned for fall 2019. GBG’s motto is, “We GET YOU OUTDOORS!” Join us by checking these websites: www.meetp.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno and www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events.

Tahoe-Pyramid Trail Update. July 22 was the first Sierra Club Trail Maintenance Day on the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail. The Great Basin Group adopted a section of trail near Fleish Bridge between Farad and Verdi. Seven members spent the morning cutting down weeds, pruning bushes, taking out invasive thistle, and repairing the trail.

A big thank you to Shelene S., Melanie Scott, Gina Lauer, Cathy Schmidt, Den Fusso, Tom Fusso, and Lori Bellis for spending their morning giving the trail some love!

Webmaster. A note of appreciation to Rhonda Jarrett, who has accepted the role of webmaster for the Great Basin Group. The GBG ExCom meets at 5:30 pm at the Swill Coffee & Wine on the first Tuesday of the month, except during summer months. All are welcome! Check website for updates on location.

Chapter Service Trip helps re-wild Sheldon NWR

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

CONTINUING OUR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, members of the Toiyabe Chapter and others engaged in a fence-pulling workday on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Every year the refuge gets wilder as volunteers erase the impacts of human activities. Refuge manager Brian Day joined us to conduct the work party and to give us an update on the Refuge status Saturday evening. The refuge, at over 500,000 acres, surprisingly has just two full-time staff. Toiyabe Chapter has had a long relation with the Refuge, led by members such as Tina Nappe, Rose Strickland, and Dennis Ghiglieri. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe members Norm and Beverly Harry joined us once again on this trip.

Accommodations at Catnip Reservoir were primitive but made nicely comfortable with the canopies supplied by Mike and Cindy Goddard. Thanks to Sharon Marie Wilcox for the group photograph.
Implementing land acknowledgements across Sierra Club*

BY SERGIO AVILA, LOCAL OUTDOORS COORDINATOR, SIERRA CLUB (SERGIO.AVILA@BIRAELLA.ORG)

As Sierra Club strives to center our values of equity and justice, it is important to acknowledge the past from which we are emerging. We can help lead the way in forming a more just society by acknowledging our own movement’s problematic roots, as well as the colonialist history of the United States. The Sierra Club’s Our Wild America Campaign is establishing a new norm to begin all gatherings and planning meetings with a Land Acknowledgement.

A land acknowledgement is a recognition of the original inhabitants of an area. It is designed to do just that: build a voluntary connection to the surface the often-suppressed colonial history of our country. It is a way to recognize that Native land was here before the continent, and that we now reside on occupied and often stolen native territories. Countries like Australi, New Zealand, and Canada commonly practice the use of land acknowledgements, by opening government functions, sporting events, and even school days with such acknowledgements — but the United States has yet to widely adopt this norm.

These acknowledgements can raise awareness about this part of our past that is too often ignored, while showing respect for the indigenous people still living here today. We encourage teams to start their own Land Acknowledgement at the start of any meeting for which the majority of attendees traveled to participate, or whenever it feels relevant to your team.

Land Acknowledgements are also a challenge to our teams to ensure indigenous communities and leaders have agency in decision-making and resource allocation decisions about environmental protection efforts. Through use of this norm, our efforts to protect the natural and human environment can be guided by the leadership and wisdom of indigenous communities. Meeting with and listening to indigenous leaders and organizations to research about the original inhabitants of land where you are gathering, prior to the meeting, is another way to acknowledge the start of the agenda.

What you can do. To find more resources, we recommend watching the following pages and documents:

- Guide to Acknowledging First Peoples & Indigenous Nations, Canadian Association of University Teachers.


*This article is a modified version of a Land Acknowledgement norm established by the Sierra Club’s Our Wild America Campaign in April, 2018.

Getting to be... plastic free

BY CATHY SCHMIDT

RECYCLING. IT MAKES US FEEL LIKE good environmental citizens and exposes us to the news stories about whales washing ashore stuffed with plastic and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch will stop appearing in our newsfeeds. Hope that our tossing yet another plastic bottle into the blue bin will mean it will magically be worked into something new. Hope that we can keep on consuming, confident that recycling will save the planet, the animals, and us.

In my mind, I justified my plastic consumption. But this year I daftly signed up for the Plastic Free July (www.plasticfreelyjuly.org) challenge, just like I had for the past two years I got serious. I pledged not to buy or take any single-use plastic for the month. Why? Because I started doing research. I began with National Geographic’s December, 2018 issue and I found some alarming facts:

- the bulk of our plastic waste has been incinerated, thrown into the ocean, or amassed in landfills around the world.
- only 9% of all plastic produced since its inception in the 1950s has ever been recycled (this was Great Britain’s Royal Statistical Society’s “statistic of the year” in 2018).
- nearly 1,000,000 plastic Beverage bottles are sold every minute around the world.
- 40% of plastic produced is single-use.
- plastics production is expected to double within the next 20 years (according to www.nature.com).

I realized we have a huge plastic pollution problem. I also realized that if we are going to make honest efforts reducing the glut of garbage in which we find ourselves, we must start taking the hierarchy of Gary Johnson’s original Reduce-Reuse-Recycle symbol to heart. REDUCE is at the top. What would I need to do to begin to

Save Lake Tahoe from aquatic weeds & herbicides!

BY TOBY TYLER

UNQUESTIONABLY THE WORST THING ever to happen to Lake Tahoe is the invasive species known as Myriophyllum spicatum, which was not recognized as problematic until it was introduced, probably in the 1960s to 1980s.

Lake Tahoe’s largest wetland, purifying the larg- est tributary of the lake, and providing beauty and wildlife habitat, was damaged beyond repair to build a 740-acre, 1500-home development (with nearly as many boat docks). Now the Tahoe Keys development and marine have become infested with invasive aquatic weeds that threaten all of Lake Tahoe.

Eurasian milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum) is a true invader and survivor. although it can re- produce by seeds, its broken fragments re-grow independently. Propellers from hundreds of boats slice it up and spread it throughout the lake.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board have proposed a dangerous precedent by using herbicides to control the weeds. The two agencies have just ended the scoping comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Method. Although only non-chemical methods have been used to control these weeds in the past, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association requested the use for the use of aquatic herbicides for years and TRPA and the Lahontan Water Board have now proposed to “test” them in the lagoons.

Without any other alternatives proposed in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) besides the no action alternative and a test to “see what the weeds do with other non-chemical methods, the Sierra Club provided comments that the NOP was sorely lacking in both alternatives non-chemical methods of weed removal. Comments included that the EIS/EIR must evaluate all non-chemical methods and alternatives, including restoring some or all of the lagoons and marsh to a more natural non-chemical methods of weed removal. It’s time to start mitigating the damage caused over 50 years ago (this was great britain’s royal statistics society’s “statistic of the year” in 2018). The mining in which we find ourselves, we must start taking the hierarchy of Gary Johnson’s original Reduce-Reuse-Recycle symbol to heart. REDUCE is at the top. What would I need to do to begin to

Range of Light Reflections

Prospecting for gold in the Bodie Hills . . . again

BY LYNN BOULTON, ROLG CHAIR

That’s gold in them there hills . . . well, yes, there is. How much, we don’t know. Most of the gold present in the Bodie Hills was formed out of volcanic eruptions that occurred from 5 to 15 million years ago leaving mineral deposits with gold, silver, and mercury. The Bodie and Aurora mining potential was discovered during the California Gold Rush.

Gold exploration companies have searched Bodie Hills for the hydrothermally altered rock areas. If they find gold in those rocks, then they assume the gold came up with hot water from veins of gold below. The mining districts have been played out, but the alteration zones are still attracting prospectors. In recent decades, gold seekers have been eyeing the Paramount-Bald Peak alteration zone for gold: Homestake, Molycop, Noranda, Equinox, Cougar Gold and now Radius Gold, which is applying for permits to do exploratory drilling in the Bodie Hills from Mono County and the State Lands Commission. The company is asking for permits to drill holes at nine locations, using helicopters to slice it up and spread it throughout the lake.

Because there is a road part way to the Beauty Peak site from the south, they hope to drive the crew in to the site through the Bodie Wilderness Study Area. There are many issues and concerns with this proposal: source for water for drilling, road access across a WSA and potential damage to rare plants and cultural resources, waste water and rock disposal, reclamation, impacts to the sage grouse, wildlife potential, etc. We think this plan will trigger a CEQA process.

The Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership (BHC P) will be mounting a campaign pushing for a “Developing the Range of Light” to be the agenda. It is one of the partners. The goal of the BHC P is to protect Bodie Hills with national monument status or a similar conservation design- ation. It would help protect the crossroads of the Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin, and have wide species and habitat diversity. The area offers stunning views of the Sierra crest, Mono Lake, and the Sweetwaters.

For more information, contact www.bodiehills.org.
Southern Nevada Group

Group News

AS 2019 WINDS DOWNS, our S. Nevada Group is looking forward to two major events in the year ahead. 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020! Our Executive Committee (ExCom) is laying groundwork for a major commemorative activity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020. It is a project that will involve everyone in Clark County, adults and youth alike.  2020 Political Team! On November 3, 2020, we will be going to the polls with the rest of the country to elect new environmental champions. Making endorsements, political fundraising, and promotional activities require a well-organized grassroots effort, and we have plenty of opportunities for volunteers to make a difference.

If you are interested in being part of our Southern Nevada Political Team, please register online at http://tinyurl.com/sng-excom-2020 or email Group Chair Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com).

Meetings & events

ExCom Meetings. Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 5:30-8 pm at the Sierra Club Office (address). Please join us on October 2, November 6, or January 2 (Thursday), dark in December. Open House & New Members Orientation. Among other events scheduled at the new office, this enjoyable gathering will be on November 14, from 4pm.

- Annual Holiday Potluck Mixer. Don’t miss out on this! Please join us for fun, food, and socializing on Wednesday, December 4, from 6pm. See details in Outings Calendar.
- More activities. Look for announcements of additional activities via email, on the Chapter website, and on our Facebook Page (Sierra Club, Southern Nevada Group).

In Memoriam

Remembering ICO Volunteer Jeanette Bucklew

The Southern Nevada Sierra Club community was saddened by the passing of a dedicated volunteer, Jeanette Bucklew on May 23, 2019. Jeanette had volunteered with Las Vegas ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors) for the past seven years. Her leadership initiatives helped build the foundation of Las Vegas ICO through her work as Outdoor Leader, Secretary, Membership Chair, Training Team member, Fundraising Committee, and Steering Committee member.

As an Outdoor Leader, she shared her adventurous spirit with young people, choosing hiking destinations that had the “wow” factor. She knew how to encourage first-time hikers to accomplish things that they never thought were possible, building their self-confidence and connection to nature. Jeanette became the face of ICO in her most recent job as Membership Chair, working right up to her last days, sharing her leadership experience with potential new leaders. Her spirit lives on through all the young people she introduced to the outdoors.

Contributions to the Jeanette Bucklew Memorial Fund will benefit Las Vegas ICO. Find out more by emailing lasvegasico702@gmail.com.

Las Vegas ICO: Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Fall Fundraiser

Friday, October 18, 2019 • 6-8 pm
at Bridge World Club,
5500 W Flamingo Rd, Suite 101, Las Vegas, NV

FREE admission reception featuring:

- Light Bites • Wine & Beer • Live Music
- Silent Auction • Live Auction • Raffle

Come and enjoy an evening of fun with Sierra Club friends and outdoor enthusiasts. Contributions help Las Vegas ICO get urban youth into the outdoors.

To donate early, go to: https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico and click on “donate”!

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

NOVEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)
North Loop Trail to Fletcher Peak, Spring Mountain NRA. Hike 7.4 mi RT, gain 2200+ ft. On summit there is a 360-degree view from Kyle canyon to desert below and Sheep Range to E. At what elevation does desertscape transition yield to bristlecone pines? Level 4. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com).

NOVEMBER 14 (MONDAY)
La Madre Miners’ Cabin. Hike continues past La Madre Springs, out & back, total of 6 mi, gain 1300 ft. Guided then silent meditation followed by lunch at Cabin. At least 1/3 of hike is along stream that has always been running when I have done this hike. Leader: Vern Quever (715-587-4341, vqpurple@hotmail.com).

NOVEMBER 12 (SATURDAY)

NOVEMBER 18 (SATURDAY)
Valley of Fire, Five Slots Loop. Moderate, 4 mi, about 200 ft gain. Hike covers area S of The Wave, 4-5 slots, an arch, very colorful rock areas, and some scrambling. All off trail. Leader: David Morrow (702-702-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

NOVEMBER 23 (SATURDAY)

NOVEMBER 27 (SATURDAY)
Valley of Fire State Park, moderate, all-day hike, 4-5 mi, 200-300 ft gain, some light scrambling. Back in town by 5 pm. Explore an area N of White Dome and White Wash, with surrounding formations. Lots of very colorful geology with some fossils and petroglyphs. How old are these fossils? Dog-friendly hike. Bring water and lunch. Level 3-4. Leader: Bill Marr (wrmarrwilliam@aol.com, 702-433-0743).

DECEMBER 1 (SATURDAY)
Valley of Fire, Top of World Arch. Moderate, less than 4 mi, 700 ft gain. Hike to very high viewpoint and an arch. Considerable scrambling in some steep places with little exposure. All off trail. Leader: David Morrow (702-702-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

DECEMBER 21 (SATURDAY)
Atrai Trail to Pine Creek, Red Rock Canyon NP. Gentle hike from trailhead at Oak Creek Canyon along escarpment to Pine Creek, passing Juniper Canyon, descending into Pine Creek along beautiful section of trail, picking up cars at Pine Creek trailhead. Why is Juniper Canyon different from Oak Creek and Pine Creek Canyons? Gain/loss less than 200 ft, 2.5 mi total. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, geoutcom@aol.com).

DECEMBER 28 (SATURDAY)
Valley of Fire, P2 Wash Washashuate, 5 mi, 300 ft gain. Hike is section of Vegas if you have not hiked before. On E side of road from P2, hike NE toward Wave, then down Wave wash (E) till we meet another wash on right that goes west back up to road. It is all wash walking with sand and rocks, not much scrambling. There may be some colorful striped mini slot if I can find it again. Leader: David Morrow (702-702-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

JANUARY 1, 2020 (WEDNESDAY)
Hangover Hike: Valley of Fire, Five Slots Loop. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on scenic hike in Rainbow Gardens on E side of town. This uncrowded trail has spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes and volcanic mountains. How do you recognize volcanic rock? Level 3. Moderate, 4 mi, gain, 4 mi total. Two steep hills. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, geoutcom@aol.com).

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