Sierra Club & coronavirus

Dear Toiyabe Chapter members,

All stories in this issue were written and submitted before coronavirus was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. And Toiyabe Trails went to print weeks before you’re reading this. A lot will probably have changed by the time you read this.

As of March 12, all Sierra Club volunteer and staff in-person meetings and outings have been suspended until April 12th. Staff and volunteers equipped to work from home have been asked to do so. All travel has been postponed for at least 60 days. We are taking these measures in an abundance of caution during these uncertain times to minimize risks to ourselves, our colleagues, you, and the community at large.

If you have any questions about an upcoming outing or event, contact the leader for confirmation. And if you have any questions or concerns regarding Sierra Club’s response to the coronavirus situation, or any thoughts on how we can continue pursuing our mission during this time, please call me directly.

Take care of yourselves.

Brian Beffort, Toiyabe Chapter Director (775-848-7783)

What is “climate action”?

Experts tell us we have about a decade to take meaningful action to avert the worst impacts of global warming. But what does meaningful climate action mean? How can we mitigate the worst impacts here in Nevada and the Eastern Sierra? And what can you do to help?

As with most challenges that appear overwhelming, the key is to break the problem down to manageable pieces, then get to work on the lowest-hanging fruit first. Look for “What You Can Do” suggestions at the end of this article.

In January, Nevada’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources released a greenhouse gas inventory of emissions across every sector in the state. As an easy snapshot, emissions are summarized in this pie chart for the purposes of this article, I assume emissions for Toiyabe Chapter communities in California are similar.

Once emissions are broken down into these rough categories, it becomes easier to identify the actions needed to reduce them. Let’s start at the top.

Transportation. Thanks to the great work by Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign nationwide, more than 300 coal-fired power plants have been closed or are slated for closure soon (still more than 200 to go). This reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from electricity generation makes transportation the leading emitter of carbon dioxide (and sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, soot, and other toxins). According to the EPA, 59% of emissions come from light-duty vehicles (passenger cars).

Raising auto emissions standards will help bring these emissions down. But recently, Trump revoked California’s permit under the Clean Air Act to set stricter auto emissions standards. California, Nevada, and 20 other states are suing the Trump Administration against this move.

The Toiyabe Chapter is teaming up with Sierra Club’s Clean Transportation. For All Campaign to tackle emissions on other fronts in the transportation sector. Led by our organizer, Jasmine Vazin, our volunteer Toiyabe Transportation Team is working on the following fronts:

- **Electric Vehicles.** We are working to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles, and to support those vehicles with charging stations in public and private spaces throughout the region.

- **Mass Transit.** More efficient than passenger cars are buses and trains that

Passed see CLIMATE ACTION, page 3.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 9a-5p
June 13, 2020
Reno, NV or Clair Tappaan

For details, contact the Chair.

ANNE MACQUARIE
chair@toiyabe.sierraclub.org

Details forthcoming for this in-person meeting.

Email the chair for firm date and time. All members may attend ExCom meetings, in person or via Zoom meeting for e-meetings. (telecons are evening meetings by teleconference, often third Thursday of month, start at 7 pm and end by 8:30 pm). Please contact Chapter Chair for information on how to join the meeting by phone or computer and also how to arrange participation. You can call Anne at (775-303-2582) or email her (see email address above). Members are also encouraged to contact the Chair or any ExCom member to bring certain matters before the ExCom.

National Sierra Club elections are underway

A DEMOCRATIC SIERRA CLUB needs grassroots participation. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive ballots in early March by mail (or digitally if you chose the electronic delivery option). This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on Sierra Club’s election website. Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels.

Please see CLUB ELECTIONS, page 3.
Great Basin Group

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** Seven members make up the current GBG ExCom. The ExCom meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The ExCom met for a full morning in January for review/discussion on topics related to long-range GBG planning, Sierra Club Standards of Conduct, GBG officer/committee chair responsibilities, and other issues. A recruitment plan is in the process of being developed as well. The ExCom is committed to holding a long-range planning meeting each year.

**Great Basin Group Monthly Programs.** The GBG continues to host well-attended monthly programs at the Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month — except June, July and August.

**Upcoming Thursday Programs**
- **April 9, 2020:** *History of Camping*, Kimberly Roberts
- **May 14, 2020:** *American Discovery Trail*, Ted Oxburst and Samantha Szesciorka, Nevada ADT Coordinator
- **August 22, 2020:** *GBG Annual Members Picnic*, Bear Mat picnic site in Galena Creek Regional Park

**Earth Day, 2020, Sunday, April 26**
Climb with us in Reno, at Mayberry Park. The event is aiming at zero waste. Great Basin Group, 5R team, and Toiyabe Chapter will host tables at the event. Come by and check us out! May: *Truckee River Month*. The One Truckee River Organization is planning a full lineup of events! Celebrate the river by participating in a Sierra Club hike and check out all the events at http://onetruckeeriver.org/one-truckee-river-month.

**Outings.** In 2019, the Great Basin Group hosted 263 outings, with 37 (22 active) outings leaders. The annual total of RSVPs to the Meetup site is 2905. The GBG motto is “We Get YOU Outdoors!” GBG adventures meet all abilities and interests. Join us by checking these websites: meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno and www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin.

Get Kids Outdoors (GKO) Programs. The GBG grant program supports outdoor science-based exploration field trips primarily for low-income elementary school students. The underlying purpose behind the GKO programs is to raise youth awareness of the outdoors and preservation of nature.

The GBG ExCom has already approved four grant requests for 2020 supporting field trips for 243 students. A total of 26 grants were approved from 2014–2019, with about $10,000 spent supporting field trips for about 1600 students.

You win, Earth wins, kids win! By Sue Jacox, suejacox@nvbell.net

WIN, WIN, WIN! Gear Hut has the fun and easy new way to divert items from the landfill, give outdoor gear new life, and help get kids outdoors all at once. A family-owned Reno shop, they are dedicated to finding new homes for your outdoor gear and clothing and let you designate one of their selected nonprofits such as Great Basin Outdoor School to benefit from the sale of gear you bring in.

Many local teachers whose class outings are supported by our Sierra Club Great Basin Group Get Kids Outdoors grants choose Great Basin Outdoor School to provide outdoor learning adventures for their students. Proceeds from gear designated for Great Basin Outdoor School at Gear Hut further reduce program expenses for disadvantaged children who need multiple sources of community support to get off the pavement and into the forest.

What’s not to love? Shopping, outdoor stuff, bags, quality, recycling, and supporting a good cause all at once! April is spring cleaning month, so give yourself more space in your closet or garage by selling at Gear Hut and selecting Great Basin Outdoor School to benefit. Buy yourself a treat, too, as new items arrive all the time and cost a fraction of their original price.

Skis, poles, boots, fleece, jackets, gloves, etc., are on their way out and clothing and gear for hiking, camping, climbing, kayaking, biking, and other warm weather activities are on their way in. Take in seasonal items to sell now, and save out-of-season items for later, as Gear Hut does not have a lot of storage space.

Gear Hut is at 1245 South Wells, across from US Bank, just north of Vassar in Reno. They are open from noon until 7 pm Wednesday through Sunday. They’re set back from the street, so look hard so you don’t miss it! Say “Hi!” to owner Rusty and thank him for providing such a valuable service.

--- contributed by David von Seggern

Thanks for supporting Great Basin Outdoor School and helping get kids outdoors with your donated gear! And have fun shopping! See more at www.gearhutreno.com, 775-219-4612, or gearhutreno@gmail.com.

Bookshelf

**AMERICAN SERENGETI: THE LAST BIG ANIMALS OF THE GREAT PLAINS**
By Dan Flores

Dan Flores has published 10 informative books on the history and prehistory of the American West, with an environmental perspective. His writing credentials are solid, most recently (2014) having retired as A.B. Hammond Chair in Western History at the University of Montana.

American Serengeti probes the role of humans and in the collapse of megafaunal populations across North America following the end of the Wisconsin Ice Age, roughly 12,000 years ago. The author then goes on to relate the more recent, and more complete, destruction of wildlife and humans across the high plains and into the West, starting about 1800, as trappers, explorers, and military personnel entered on the scene.

Enormous herds of bison, elk, horses, antelope, and deer, along with their main predators, the cougars, wolves, and grizzlies, were wantonly eliminated in the West over the course of a century and a half. The destruction, as we know, was nearly complete.

The author clearly lays out this fact and its interested in large-scale restoration efforts. Meanwhile, he describes how the lowly coyote has filled much of the vacuum, extending an initial limited range in the West to the entire U.S., adapting to any and all circumstances.

The author has little appreciation for the standard narrative of westward expansion, wherein farmers, ranchers, and others have cleared that space of.com. meanwhile, he describes how the programs of state and federal government to poison wildlife on a massive scale.

Dan Flores paints a broad, colorful canvas of the former ecosystem on the Great Plains, backed by solid research and an obvious personal passion for the subject. I recommend this book to all who are interested in wildlife.

--- contributed by David von Seggern

Great Basin Group

**Group News**

By Katy Christenson, Great Basin Group Chair

Great Basin Group

**GROUP NEWS**

**BOOKSHELF**

**AMERICAN SERENGETI: THE LAST BIG ANIMALS OF THE GREAT PLAINS**
By Dan Flores


Dan Flores has published 10 informative books on the history and prehistory of the American West, with an environmental perspective. His writing credentials are solid, most recently (2014) having retired as A.B. Hammond Chair in Western History at the University of Montana.

American Serengeti probes the role of humans and in the collapse of megafaunal populations across North America following the end of the Wisconsin Ice Age, roughly 12,000 years ago. The author then goes on to relate the more recent, and more complete, destruction of wildlife and humans across the high plains and into the West, starting about 1800, as trappers, explorers, and military personnel entered on the scene.

Enormous herds of bison, elk, horses, antelope, and deer, along with their main predators, the cougars, wolves, and grizzlies, were wantonly eliminated in the West over the course of a century and a half. The destruction, as we know, was nearly complete.

The author clearly lays out this fact and its interested in large-scale restoration efforts. Meanwhile, he describes how the lowly coyote has filled much of the vacuum, extending an initial limited range in the West to the entire U.S., adapting to any and all circumstances.

The author has little appreciation for the standard narrative of westward expansion, wherein farmers, ranchers, and others have cleared that space of.com. meanwhile, he describes how the programs of state and federal government to poison wildlife on a massive scale.

Dan Flores paints a broad, colorful canvas of the former ecosystem on the Great Plains, backed by solid research and an obvious personal passion for the subject. I recommend this book to all who are interested in wildlife.

--- contributed by David von Seggern

Great Basin Group

**GROUP NEWS**

**BOOKSHELF**

**AMERICAN SERENGETI: THE LAST BIG ANIMALS OF THE GREAT PLAINS**
By Dan Flores


Dan Flores has published 10 informative books on the history and prehistory of the American West, with an environmental perspective. His writing credentials are solid, most recently (2014) having retired as A.B. Hammond Chair in Western History at the University of Montana.

American Serengeti probes the role of humans and in the collapse of megafaunal populations across North America following the end of the Wisconsin Ice Age, roughly 12,000 years ago. The author then goes on to relate the more recent, and more complete, destruction of wildlife and humans across the high plains and into the West, starting about 1800, as trappers, explorers, and military personnel entered on the scene.

Enormous herds of bison, elk, horses, antelope, and deer, along with their main predators, the cougars, wolves, and grizzlies, were wantonly eliminated in the West over the course of a century and a half. The destruction, as we know, was nearly complete.

The author clearly lays out this fact and its interested in large-scale restoration efforts. Meanwhile, he describes how the lowly coyote has filled much of the vacuum, extending an initial limited range in the West to the entire U.S., adapting to any and all circumstances.

The author has little appreciation for the standard narrative of westward expansion, wherein farmers, ranchers, and others have cleared that space of.com. meanwhile, he describes how the programs of state and federal government to poison wildlife on a massive scale.

Dan Flores paints a broad, colorful canvas of the former ecosystem on the Great Plains, backed by solid research and an obvious personal passion for the subject. I recommend this book to all who are interested in wildlife.

--- contributed by David von Seggern

Great Basin Group

**GROUP NEWS**

**BOOKSHELF**

**AMERICAN SERENGETI: THE LAST BIG ANIMALS OF THE GREAT PLAINS**
By Dan Flores


Dan Flores has published 10 informative books on the history and prehistory of the American West, with an environmental perspective. His writing credentials are solid, most recently (2014) having retired as A.B. Hammond Chair in Western History at the University of Montana.

American Serengeti probes the role of humans and in the collapse of megafaunal populations across North America following the end of the Wisconsin Ice Age, roughly 12,000 years ago. The author then goes on to relate the more recent, and more complete, destruction of wildlife and humans across the high plains and into the West, starting about 1800, as trappers, explorers, and military personnel entered on the scene.

Enormous herds of bison, elk, horses, antelope, and deer, along with their main predators, the cougars, wolves, and grizzlies, were wantonly eliminated in the West over the course of a century and a half. The destruction, as we know, was nearly complete.

The author clearly lays out this fact and its interested in large-scale restoration efforts. Meanwhile, he describes how the lowly coyote has filled much of the vacuum, extending an initial limited range in the West to the entire U.S., adapting to any and all circumstances.

The author has little appreciation for the standard narrative of westward expansion, wherein farmers, ranchers, and others have cleared that space of.com. meanwhile, he describes how the programs of state and federal government to poison wildlife on a massive scale.

Dan Flores paints a broad, colorful canvas of the former ecosystem on the Great Plains, backed by solid research and an obvious personal passion for the subject. I recommend this book to all who are interested in wildlife.

--- contributed by David von Seggern
We traveled to southern Arizona’s Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR) in early February to participate in a Sierra Club service trip on the refuge. The national wildlife refuge system comprises 568 units across almost all states. Having done several years of weekend service trips in Nevada’s Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR), some comparisons and contrasts are possible from our experience. Nevada has 11 refuges while Arizona has 8. While Buenos Aires has 128,000 acres, the Sheldon has 578,000 acres and so is nearly five times larger.

We learned that BANWR has eight full-time employees, with a couple of those being retired. SNWR has three full-time employees. Given the acreage size comparison, the staffing seems like quite a mismatch. While BANWR has a number of active wildlife and habitat restoration projects, these projects do not seem to justify the disparity in staffing.

Enormously helpful to BANWR is Friends of the BANWR; and they are well placed to coordinate for the Sierra Club work efforts and warm hosts at the lodge where we all stayed. Their knowledge of the refuge, with their dedication to it, is an element of the extraordinary value that offsets the turn-over of staff at BANWR.

Nevada’s SNWR needs a similar committed group of Friends!

In Arizona, ranching activity in the late 1880s to the late 1900s severely impacted the original BANWR open grassland. Thus the habitat is now still degraded, with natural conditions having given way largely to non-native grasses such as Lehmann’s lemongrass (deliberately planted to benefit cattle) and mesquite trees, which also overtook the land to further deplete the scanty water supply. In contrast, in Nevada, cheatgrass is the invasive plant that has taken over large parts of SNWR, while its long vistas still remain mostly free of tree cover. For native plants, a mixture of many cacti species, including saguaros, and arid-tolerant shrubs is found throughout BANWR; and they are well placed to puncture the careless traveler.

BANWR has almost no surface water and thus is limited in the amount of wildlife it can support, as is most of the surrounding Sonoran desert of southwest Arizona. However, our lodging at the Environmental Education Center was in a beautiful canyon on the western side of the refuge, with a running stream of water. Foxes, coyotes, bobcats, deer, pronghorn, and many bird species can be found on the refuge.

What’s Up in 2020... continued from page 1

And what about preparing for the 2021 session of the Nevada state Legislature? We need to build on our clean energy successes of the 2019 session and move our state further towards a 100% clean energy economy. Many of our members are passionate about waste reduction and recycling. How can we work with legislators to draft and pass a bill to reduce waste?

There is much to do, and I am grateful that the Sierra Club and our fellow grassroots environmental organizations are working together to provide us with a structure within which we can be effective — much more effective than if we each were working alone — in working towards maintaining a healthy planet.

Thanks, everyone, for all you do.

A REMINDER: We need leaders
The Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter is a “small-d” democratic grassroots organization. Part of what that means is that members elect our leadership. What disparity in staffing.

NATIONAL CLUB ELECTIONS UNDERWAY... continued from page 1

Sierra Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Sierra Club levels is a major membership obligation.

Our grassroots structure is strengthened when participation is high and provides opportunity for members from all walks of life to have a say in what the future of the Sierra Club looks like — How can you learn about the candidates? Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Each candidate has provided a written statement about themselves and their views on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Sierra Club’s election website for additional information, including campaign videos from each candidate: www.sierraclub.org/board/elections.

Voting online is quick & easy! Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, your ballots must be received no later than April 22, 2020 (Sierra Club Election Day).
Why air quality is an environmental justice issue

BY JASMINE VAZIN

Nevada suffers from some of the worst air quality in the country, with Las Vegas being ranked as 13th in the nation for air pollution. The public health effects of this pollution were estimated to cost Nevadans $898 million in medical costs in 2012 alone. But are some in our cities carrying more of the burden from dirty air than others?

Environmental injustice occurs when marginalized groups face disproportionate impacts from a range of environmental threats. Poor air quality is just one way this happens. This is not to say that our poor air is the practice of cities blocking off entire communities of color for loans, investment, and development, made it easier for these communities to become hotspots for polluting industries, roadways, and crippling infrastructure. This is true throughout the U.S.

In Las Vegas, much of the west side and North Las Vegas suffered from a history of redlining that kept businesses and loans out of these areas for decades while making these communities targets for highway corridor construction. This type of systematic oppression is still taking a toll today; with air pollution risks that are unequally impacting minority groups in these areas, and in others like them throughout Nevada.

Most of Nevada’s air quality issues are due to automobile exhaust, with ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and other poisons spewing from millions of cars every single day in our cities. High traffic corridors cut right through communities of color in Las Vegas and Reno, meaning these neighborhoods are on the frontlines of emissions exhaust (see maps below).

This is not to say that our poor air quality is not impacting all Nevadans, but it is harming communities of color (particularly children) to a higher degree. Air pollution is known to impact the growth of developing lungs.

Numerous studies show children are more susceptible to health impacts when exposed to pollution and other toxicants. Data from the Clark County school district 2006-2007 academic year shows that African American students had the highest rates of asthma by race (13.4%) followed by Hispanic/Latino students (6.6%).

Furthermore, asthma is the single leading cause of missed school days in the nation, and has been shown to be a significant factor in absenteeism leading to being held back a grade in Clark County Schools.

Putting this information together, this infers that black and hispanic students are suffering from higher rates of asthma, higher risk of missing school, and greater risk of being held back from academic advancement due to a disease that is likely caused by their polluted environment.

Air pollution has been found to have a huge impact on intelligence and life expectancy as well; and all of these factors can create barriers to personal success and long-term community growth for areas that are impacted by severe levels of air pollution.

This is why air quality in our state is a clear environment justice issue, and it is our moral imperative to mitigate these disparities and provide clean, healthy air to all those who live in Nevada.

Clean Transportation for All campaign

This campaign is working to do just that by working towards clean transportation solutions that will provide cleaner air, healthier lungs, and more sustainable cities for all.

To clean our air, we are advocating for these solutions:

• Beginning the transition to electric transportation. Starting with government fleets like school buses, public transit, and public service vehicles. Every single diesel burning vehicle contributes to further air pollution, and the positive impacts of transitioning state fleets are a great first step in bringing down pollution levels.

• Passing stricter emissions standards in Nevada, by joining the 14 other states that have adopted California’s Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) rules, so that all cars sold in the state are transitioned to more sustainable, cleaner models.

• Seriously pursuing statewide public transit reform by focusing on multi-modal options such as light rail and EV buses, as well as city planning that encourages carbon-neutral transit such as walking, bikes, scooters.

Maps of Traffic Corridors & Minority Neighborhoods In Reno & Las Vegas

Maps were created via the EPA’s EJSCREEN tool, and show heat maps with darker areas indicating higher concentration of the following variables:

- Percent minority: Percent minority as a fraction of population, where minority is defined as all but Non-Hispanic White Alone. Calculated from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 5-year summary estimates. (2018)

- Traffic Proximity and Volume: Count of vehicles per day (average annual daily traffic) at major roads within 500 meters (or nearest one beyond 500 m), divided by distance in meters. Calculated from U.S. Department of Transportation National Transportation Atlas Database, Highway Performance Monitoring System. (2017)

Legislative action season has begun in Sacramento

BY KATHRYN PHILLIPS, SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

The heart of the second year of this two-year legislative session has arrived in California. On February 21, the deadline for legislators to submit new bills came and went. Our staffer Daniel Barad sifted through all the introduced bills and determined that about 650 of them had some environmental issue content.

Fortunately, a huge number of those bills are so-called “spot” bills. Those are bills that haven’t yet been developed and may very well not become full-fledged environmental issue bills. They are often placeholders for other issues and don’t require a lot of attention now.

During the next week, we’ll compile and post a list of priority bills on our website (sierrachcalifornia.org).

Because this is the second year of a two-year session, there are still some bills left from last year that are awaiting action on the floor of the second house. That includes the very important plastic waste reduction bills, AB 1800 and SB 54.

If this year is like the average year, between 100 and 125 bills that we’ve taken positions on will land on the governor’s desk by September 1. About 90% of those usually are signed into law.

Throughout this process, Sierra Club California staff identifies times when a push from legislators’ constituents can make a difference. At those critical moments, Sierra Club California representatives in your chapter will receive emails, texts, or calls asking them to contact their assembly member or senator about a bill.

If public transit can meet the needs of everyone to get around our cities, personal vehicles will become obsolete for many, which will drastically reduce the daily pollution into the air, as well as the congestion on our roadways.

If these recommendations can be implemented, Nevada will benefit from cleaner air throughout our entire state, improving everyone’s lives. Not only that, but the cars on our roads are the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Reforming our transportation sector will not only benefit our people, but also the planet.

How you can help

Join the Tiyabe Transportation Team. We’ll be laying out our view of what options lay ahead to change policy and improve our communities. Join the conversation to help us establish our priorities. Help bring about our campaign initiatives and organize within our community!

If you’re interested, contact the Clean Transportation For All Organizer Jasmine Vazin at Jasmine.Vazin@Sierraclub.org.
Smart growth can save people & the planet

BY JASMINE VAZIN

The American dream has been portrayed since the postwar period to include a large house with a sizable yard and white picket fence, located in a perfectly manufactured suburban neighborhood. The American morning consisted of homeowners rushing out the door to speed away on their commute to work in the city, on repeat twice a day, every day, until they retired.

Many U.S. families now have two parents working and children in school, and these giant houses in the suburbs sit empty for a majority of the lives we lead, and there are often at least two cars per family to be able to keep up with our ever-busier schedules.

Ripple effects of urban structure

Since the flight of the upper and middle class to the suburbs, the American urban landscape has completely changed, with crumbling urban centers surrounded by sprawling neighborhoods being the new norm. This history of sprawl not only created vast economic and racial inequalities, it has decimated our environment. Ecosystems have been completely wiped out, city water is polluted or is dwindling, and urban air is harming the health of millions nationwide. Our roads are congested and the number of commuters at is a critical mass in all major cities. Green spaces and wilderness are in short supply in many major urban centers, contributing to the extinction of American wildlife and the biodiversity that supports us.

But this shift hasn’t just changed our cities and our environment, it’s changed us. We spend our lives in our homes, in our cars, at our jobs, and back again, with little exposure to outside air and nature unless we make a concerted effort. Anxiety and depression are on the rise [nationwide, but both have been shown to be mitigated by exposure to green spaces and nature. We are more disconnected from each other than ever before, with 35% of Americans over 45 reporting being physically isolated and chronically lonely.

The current status quo of urban design forgets that humans are by nature nomadic and social animals, that we have evolved to interact with one another and travel about (but not in cars) to meet our basic needs. Even the seemingly mundane interactions with our world and each other can ground us and make us happier.

“Talking to his wife about going to buy an envelope, ‘Oh,’ she says, ‘well, you’re not a poor man. You know, don’t you go online and buy a hundred envelopes and put them in the closet?’ And so I pretend not to hear her. And go out to get an envelope because I’m going to have a hell of a good time in the process of buying one envelope. I meet a lot of people. And, see some great looking babies. And a fire engine goes by. And I give them the thumbs up. And ask a woman what kind of dog that is, ‘I don’t know . . . ’ And, of course, the computers will do us out of that. What the computer people don’t realize, or they don’t care, is we’re dancing animals. You know, we love to move around. And, we’re not supposed to dance at all anymore.”

— Kurt Vonnegut, in Slaughterhouse-Five

As we love to move around. And, we’re not supposed to dance at all anymore. “You know, we love to move around. And, we’re not supposed to dance at all anymore.”

We can do better by mandating sustainable planning regimes in all new developments in Nevada. Smart growth principles offer the solutions we need to ensure a better future, but this planning needs to be done in a thoughtful, responsible manner and not be overshadowed by bill timelines or developer interests. We don’t have time to wait. Both Washoe and Clark legislative processes are opportunities to begin implementing these changes now.

The Clean Transportation For All Campaign is working to revise these bills and advocate for a healthier, more sustainable future. Our cities need your input in developing a new vision for what Nevada could be.

• Our state suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation, but ozone and carbon monoxide pollution would begin disappearing almost immediately if we make public transit a central mode of movement through our lives.
• If we build denser, more efficient housing options in our cities, electricity and water use will decrease while creating community spaces for us to congregate and more easily socialize.
• Using mass transit can turn our commutes into time for us to catch up on reading, planning our days, or relaxing before our daily work begins, instead of the mad dash to make it to work in the drudgery of rush hour traffic.
• We can change how the planet impacts us through advocating for a holistic change to our current urban planning paradigms. Smart growth has been applied in communities around the country. Nevada can follow suit if we create a grassroots movement advocating for a sustainable and equitable future. You can help design a healthier, more liveable future for our communities.

How you can help

Sign up to volunteer. We will inform you of opportunities to engage around these issues as they come up in the future.

• Our state suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation, but ozone and carbon monoxide pollution would begin disappearing almost immediately if we make public transit a central mode of movement through our lives.

We will be planning events to engage our communities in shaping these trends. Join the conversation and help us prioritize our priorities. Help form our campaign initiatives and organize within our community.

If you’re interested, contact the Clean Transportation for All Organizer Jasmine Vazin at Jasmine.Vazin@sierraclub.org.

CLIMATE ACTION... continued from page 3

can move more people more efficiently along major transportation corridors. We’re advocating for mass transit solutions with the Regional Transportation Munity Organizations).

Buildings. To address the GHG emissions that come from residential and commercial buildings, there are two main strategies:

• Energy efficiency. Because the cleanest, most affordable energy is what we do not use. Sierra Club is working with partners to encourage stronger building codes that increase insulation and other energy-efficiency measures, with the goal standard being net-zero energy — buildings that produce at least as much energy as they consume.

• Building electrification. Sierra Club is also working to electrify all buildings, replacing all gas heat and appliances with electric ones — powered by renewable energy. Here’s a blog post about building electrification with the details.

Industry. Reducing GHG emissions from industry requires a case-by-case, life-cycle analysis of each industry. You can support progress on this front by contacting the companies you do business with and urging them to eliminate GHG-emitting and other toxic chemicals from their processes. Are you a shareholder in any company? Join a shareholder-led motion to encourage more sustainable practices. And please stop using toxic products with a short life span and no option for recycling.

Waste. The Toiyabe Chapter’s Northern Nevada 5 R Revolution is building a team of volunteer activists, who are tackling a number of significant issues on this front: diverting organic matter from landfill, pursuing legislation to ban (or apply fees to) plastic containers, encouraging people to carry reusable bags, cups, utensils, etc. Join us to make a difference in the plastics you use.

Decarbonizing Nevada. The Nevada Legislature last year passed SB254, requiring Nevada to inventory greenhouse gas emissions across every sector (giving us the pie chart above) and reco
Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Upcoming meetings
Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are now held on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 5:30pm to 8pm at the Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas 89107. Please join us on April 2, May 7, or June 4.

Among other events scheduled at the office, there’s a Members Orientation & Open House coming up on Thursday, May 21, from 6pm. It’s an opportunity for members new and old, as well as prospective members, to learn all about our organization and activities in Southern Nevada. Light refreshments will be served, and family members are welcome.

Also, look for notices of activities via email, on the chapter website, and on our Facebook Page (Sierra Club - Southern Nevada Group). And to mark the historic occasion, we are holding a gala Awards Presentation at the Clark County Library Theater, where the Clark County Commission will be presenting us a special Proclamation, commemorating the 50th anniversary and commending the Sierra Club and others for bringing environmental awareness to the local community.

Volunteers welcome! If you have an interest in helping out as a volunteer at the gallery or the Presentation, we would love to have you. It will be fun, productive work with like-minded environmentalists...

What can you do? Join us by contacting SING Chair Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com) today — and Happy Earth Day 50!

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted. All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

(AVAILABLE AT WWW.SIERRA-CLUB.ORG/TOYIBBE-TRAILS.SNG. Please see this page for other activities scheduled at the Sierra Club Office in Southern Nevada.)

APRIL 4 (SATURDAY)
Geology Hike in Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park has magnificent scenery and best exposures of Triassic Chine Formation in greater Red Rock Canyon. Moderate hike, less than 4 mi up Shinarump Conglomerate Ledge and into Sandstone Canyon. Less than 300 ft gain. Discuss geology, including mystery of reported volcanic deposits. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com), 702-936-4049.

APRIL 11 (SATURDAY)
Lovell Canyon, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. Lovell Canyon is a scenic and lightly visited canyon W of great Red Rock Canyon exposed in the Easygoing dog-friendly hike, 6 mi, gradual 700 ft gain. Well-groomed trail; a pleasant walk through the woods. What wildlife lives here? Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743, wmrwarrison@aol.com).

APRIL 17 (FRIDAY)
Flower & Photography Hike with David Morrow. Flower hike in Red Rock Canyon leads to trailhead, low-paced hike to find, identify, and photograph wildflowers. Less than 3-4 mi and 300 ft gain. Leader: David Morrow (david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

APRIL 18 (SATURDAY)
Red Rock Escarpment from Mountain Springs (Rainbow Mountain Wilderness). Park at Mountain Springs trailhead off route 169, hike up to top of Red Rock escarpment on S end of National Conservation Area. Dog-friendly hike, steep in places, but mostly on good trail. Any rock scrambling will be easy. About 5-6 mi, gain 1000 ft. Breath-taking views. Explore an area of Red Rock Canyon that few hikers go to. See Key-Stone Thrust Fault. Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743, or wmrwarrison@alice.net).

APRIL 18-26 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)
Earth Day 50 Art Exhibit. Come see the artwork entered in the Earth Day 50 Art & Essay Contest, as the Sierra Club Office becomes a “Grassroots Gallery” displaying the best of the competition and a continuous slide show of art on the theme, “What Earth Day Means to Me.” Free admission; open 1-7pm daily, Saturday, April 22. Earth Day). For details, visit tinyurl.com/earthday50gallery.

APRIL 22 (WEDNESDAY)
Earth Day 50 Awards Presentation. Join us for our gala Earth Day celebration from 6pm-9pm at the Clark County Library Theater, where we will be awarding $2000 in prizes to the winners of the Earth Day 50 Art & Essay Contest. Admission is free, but only ticketed guests will be seated. For details, visit tinyurl.com/earthdaytickets.

APRIL 23 (THURSDAY)
Desert Hills Mountain Bike Trails. About 5 mi loop, 500 feet gain. Great views from this ridge hike on SW side of Las Vegas Wash. This hike is like walking on top of world! May have beautiful spring flower bloom. Guided/silent meditation before lunch. Leader: Vern Quever (715-587-4343, vern.quever@gmail.com).

APRIL 25 (SATURDAY)
“Dinosaur Dreaming: Our Climate Moment”. Please join award-winning author Gail Collins-Ranadive at the Sierra Club office for the launch of her new book, in which she shares her own private reactions to the Climate Crisis and invites you to participate in solutions already embedded within the problems. For details, visit tinyurl.com/uaigssk.

MAY 2 (SATURDAY)
Flower & Photography Hike with David Morrow. Flower hike in Red Rock Canyon leads to trailhead, low-paced hike to find, identify, and photograph wildflowers. May also see birds. Less than 3-4 mi, 300 ft gain. Leader: David Morrow (david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

MAY 9 (SATURDAY)
Bird Watching & Photography Hike with David Morrow. Join Sierra Club hike leader and photographer David Morrow on a visit to Henderson Bird Preserve, Floyd Lamb Park, or another location, to observe local and migratory birds. Less than 3-4 mi, 300 ft gain. Bring binoculars and a bird identification guide, if you have one. Leader: David Morrow (david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

MAY 14 (THURSDAY)
Red Rock Escarpment from Mountain Springs (Rainbow Mountain Wilderness). From Mountain Springs trailhead, 5 mi, 1200 ft gain. Out and back hike, steady uphill. View Las Vegas from 4000 ft above Strip. Gorgous views of Red Rock Canyon. Hike as similar to hiking Mary Jane Falls, only a little longer. Short guided/silent meditation on top of mountain before lunch. Leader: Vern Quever (715-587-4343, vern.quever@gmail.com).

MAY 15-17 (FRIDAY – SUNDAY)
Hackberry Canyon Backpack. Three-day moderate backpacking trip into fabulous sandstone country of brilliant reds, yellows, and more. About 40 mi east of Kanab, UT; requires driving on over 10 mi of dirt road, so a high clearance vehicle is needed. About 5-6 mi in with packs. Most of terrain is easy walking. Hike begins in a narrows with a creek so plan on wet feet. Canyon opens up but closes in again. Middle day we will dayhike further up canyon and explore Stone Donkey Canyon, a narrows leading to “Stone Donkey.” Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com).

MAY 21 (THURSDAY)
New Member Orientation. Our first orientation of the year is open only to new and prospective members but also to current members with an interest in learning more about the Sierra Club, the Toiyabe Chapter, and the Southern Nevada Group. We will be meeting from 6pm for about 90 minutes.
at the Sierra Club Office on Meadows Lane. Light refreshments will be served. Info: justin.mcafee@gmail.com.

**MAY 25-23 (SATURDAY-MONDAY)**

Telescope Peak, Panamint Range, Death Valley National Park. Three-day, 2-night car camping heritage park. Once a 100-ft-high waterfall. Examine a feature interpreted as a glacial moraine on way up. Permitted species of camp, which sits at 2800 feet. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com; 702-499-9218).

**MAY 25 MEMORIAL DAY (MONDAY)**

Big Falls, Kyle Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA. Hike to Big Falls – one of treasures of Spring Mountains – a 100-ft-high waterfall. Examine a feature interpreted as a glacial moraine on way up. Permitted species of camp, which sits at 2800 feet. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com; 702-499-9218).

---

**JUNE 6 (SATURDAY)**

North Loop Trail, Kyle Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA (Mt. Charleston). Hike on North Loop Trail up to crest, before Rain Tree, if snow conditions allow. If not, alternate trail will be taken: about 4 mi, up to 1600 ft gain. Leader: David Morrow (david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com; 702-703-9486).

**JUNE 9 - 13 (THURSDAY – MONDAY)**

Mt. Jefferson, Toquima Range, Central Nevada Backpack. Begin from a campground on Pine Creek in scenic and remote Toquima Range of Central Nevada, about 5-hr drive N of Las Vegas. Hiking up Pine Creek, expect to have wet feet. Widespread aspen forests cover much of area we’ll explore. On first day, hike in about 3 mi. There’ll be more hiking with day packs as we cover three peaks of Mt. Jefferson. Return same way. Up to 2500 ft gain. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; 702-896-4049).

---

**S. NEVADA EARTH WEEK . . .**

continued from page 6

As a special highlight of the evening, the Clark County Commission will issue a Proclamation commemorating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, while commemorating the Sierra Club and others for organizing Earth Day 50 activities. Saturday, April 25. Closing out the eventful week at the Sierra Club office is the launch of a new book, “Dinosaur Drinks & candies.” Our Current event organizer, award-winning author Gail Collins-Ranadive. From 2-4pm, we will share insights on the Climate Crisis and actions individuals can take to avert the mass extinction of species.

---

**Las Vegas ICO : Inspiring Connections Outdoors**

**BY BETTY GALLIFENT & SHARON BRASHEAR**

**ICO visits Clark County Museum**

**Why did indigenous people choose to settle in the Southern Nevada area thousands of years ago? Why did people come here in the 1850s, in the early 1900s? What brought them here in the 1930s and during the Second World War?**

By the end of the tour of the Clark County Museum on Saturday, January 25, 2020, eight youngsters, ages 8-11, from Pearson Center, were able to answer all those questions. This was the first Las Vegas ICO tour of the museum and it was not a typical outdoor ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors) outing, but one worth repeating.

Our tour guide, Paul, made the day with his wit, humor, and techniques for getting the kids to stay attentive and remember what they learned. He started at the indoor museum explaining the geographic and historical timeline of the Las Vegas area covering early signs of life from trilobites to dinosaur footprints, then early Paiute inhabitants, mining ventures, early European settlers, the railroad, gambling, and World War II industries. He used pictures, trinkets, artifacts, and museum exhibits to tell the stories along this timeline. He engaged the youngsters in the mining exhibit, for example, by asking, “What is the nickname of our state? Is it the artichoke state?” Then he pulled out a silver nugget from his shirt pocket to give them a clue.

Students toured the outdoor exhibits including the jail, a general store, and a 20-mule-team wagon which Paul referred to as their U-Haul. He challenged students to try to push the wagon with everyone getting behind it, then showed them a picture of the 20-mule team required to move the wagon. Students got to go inside a Paiute wickipup and pose for pictures. His timeline of Las Vegas history and what brought people here continued with the visit to the railroad station and caboose.

Students were also given the task of finding particular artifacts as they toured early and mid 20th century homes which were moved to the museum grounds and restored in the style of the period. In addition, they explored an old-time print shop and a wedding chapel that once graced the Las Vegas Strip.

The tour ended with a walk along the nature trail where the guide pointed out a variety of native plants and told how Native Americans were able to use resources the desert provided to survive our harsh climate. For example, agave leaves and strands of fiber were used as needle and thread to mend torn clothing. Tuberous roots of cattails were nourishing food (they taste like potatoes), creosote leaves were crushed, dried, and mixed with water to produce an antibacterial salve, and ground seeds from mesquite beans pods became flour for bread.

At Closing Circle, the young visitors shared favorite parts of the museum exhibits that they liked. “Everything . . . how it was when Native Americans were here . . . learning about the dire wolf and how people came to Nevada . . . seeing the trains and little houses . . . seeing how you play that ancient game” (Paiute stick game). A memorable quote: When the guide passed around a replica of a Wooly Mammoth tooth, the size of a basketball, one student said, “That would take a long time to brush.”

For more information. To find out more about Las Vegas ICO visit us on our Facebook page at: Las Vegas ICO, or at our website: www.lasvegasinspiringconnectionsoutdoors.org, or email us at: lasvegasico702@gmail.com.
People tell me all the time that they are worried about the impacts of climate change. People care. People are paying attention. But, “What can I do?” Answer: A lot! We each have to up our game. We have to dedicate time to working on the solutions and that might require dropping an activity to make the time. We might want to consider spending our money now when it would have more of an impact than bequeathing it later or waiting for the government to fund something.

On February 9, 2019, Sierra Club California passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency. At the current rate of warming, the IPCC has calculated that Earth’s average global temperature will be 1.5 degrees C hotter by 2030 than pre-industrial levels. Fighting climate change has to be the focus of our lives in these next 10 years. In 10 years, when we look back on our lives, will we wish we had done more?

What can each of us do? Lots. Here’s a list:

• Vote for candidates who will address climate change.
• Support a type of tax on carbon.
• Make sure your home and rental properties are energy efficient. Get an energy audit and find out what more can be done.
• Convert your home to all electric appliances.
• Replace your refrigerator and A/C refrigerant. Refrigerators that use HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) are greener than HFCs and CHFCS.
• Add solar panels to your home. If you have little sun, put solar panels on a public facility instead.
• Divest from fossil fuels. Are your mutual funds green? If not, change them or firms.
• Buy a hybrid or all electric vehicle and use it for backup power in the event of a power outage. Don’t wait 10 years for your gas car to die. It will be too late.
• Change your diet to a more plant based diet -- less meat, less dairy.
• Work with your local 350.org or Ready for 100 group to plan projects to shift your community to renewable energy and a reduced carbon footprint. Through them, work with your town/county and local businesses to:
  - Phase out HFC refrigerants and dispose of them properly.
  - Work with counties to capture methane from landfills.
  - Have all emergency services, hospitals and schools on microgrids that can island off the grid as needed.
  - Have ordinances that will incentivize rooftop solar and energy efficiency.
  - Create a Community Choice Aggregation to increase renewable energy sources for your community’s electricity.
  - Improve public transportation and facilitate non-motorized travel.
  - Have public, universal electric vehicle charging stations in your community.

What you can do. We need more voices. When only a handful of us go to the town council or county board and ask for change, it isn’t enough to sway them from the status quo. If the community shows up, change can happen. We only have 10 more years. Together, we can save the Earth. Adjust your life so you are ready to work and then contact us:

Ready for 100:
Mammoth/Mono County
Lynn Boulton, amazinglynn@yahoo.com
Don Condon, doncondon.don@gmail.com
350/Mono
Janet Carle jcarle@qnet.com
Inyo350.org
Harold McDonald, hmcdonald19@icloud.com

CLIMATE ACTION . . . continued from page 5
The state plans to release a Climate Action Plan by the end of the year. Much of this work will require new legislation — and your support — in 2021. Regional Efforts. In 2019, Reno unanimously adopted a Sustainability & Climate Action Plan, which identifies short- and long-term goals in nine different action areas: from renewable energy acquisition, green buildings, climate-reliability, increasing the urban tree canopy, reducing waste, developing better sources of local food, and safeguarding our water sources. Reno is leading implementation teams to make progress on each of these fronts. Join us to be successful.

The towns of Mammoth Lakes, Truckee, and South Lake Tahoe are also moving forward pursuing climate, renewable energy, and sustainability solutions. Contact us to get involved.

What you can do. If you are waiting for others to put climate solutions into place — our federal government, your state, county, or the Sierra Club locally or nationally — then you will be disappointed with the results. Our climate crisis is an all-hands-on-deck situation. Contact me at the email below to get involved.

While you’re at your keyboard, sign up for Toiyabe Chapter’s e-newsletter, which delivers monthly updates on events and opportunities for action around Nevada and the Eastern Sierra. Send an email to brian.befort@sierraclub.org with your zip code, and I will add you to our outreach list.

Note. A digital version of this story, with links to the studies and articles mentioned, is available at https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/blog/2020/03/what-climate-action

ROL Conservation News
Here is a list of environmental issues that ROLG has been active in since the beginning of the year. ROLG is looking for members to become involved in one or more of these issues to help those currently addressing these issues. For more information contact Malcolm wmacalmon.clark@gmail.com, or Lynn chairrolg@gmail.com.

• Keep Long Valley Green
• Radius Gold exploration activity in the Bodie Hills
• Gold mining on Conglomerate Mesa
• Exploratory wells in the Panamint Valley (Inyo County)
• Tangle Free Waters project
• Pumped Storage projects
• USFS cattle grazing leases in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest near Bridgeport
• Renewable energy and fighting climate change in Mono County
• Campaign to protect the Bodie Hills from mining

Make a tree happy! Get your Trails online
Opt out of the paper Toiyabe Trails and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at “optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org” (put that address in the “To” line). Then put “optout” in the “Subject” line — that’s all you have to do.

Get a free Sierra Club membership for the entire family at www.sierracooperators.org