

# The Baldy Eagle

July/August 2003

The Newsletter of the Mt Baldy Group, Angeles Chapter  
Sierra Club, PO Box 906, Claremont CA 91711

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Visit our webpage: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/mtbaldy/>



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

**TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2003**

**Fourth Tuesday! 7:30 pm**

Beckman Auditorium in Olin Hall  
Harvey Mudd College

August is vacation — Gone Travelling!!!

See you September 23 (again 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)  
at Beckman Auditorium. Meanwhile.....

## Sequoia National Park High Country and Big Trees.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**

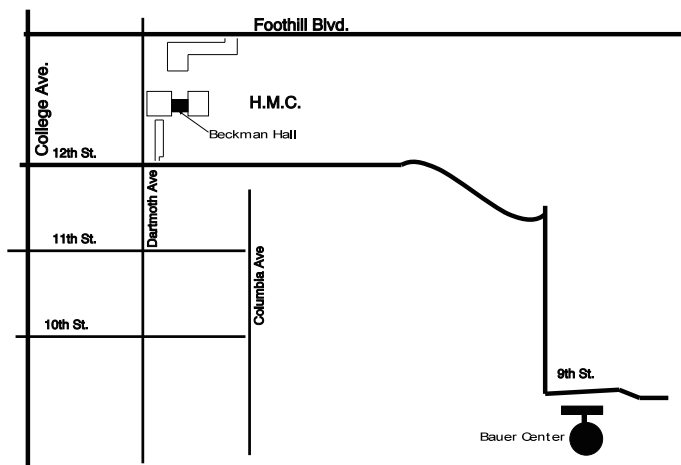
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/mtbaldy>

The giant sequoias, some of the oldest living things on earth, were located in some seventy groves on the west slopes of the Sierra Nevada Range. Scattered through the groves and in the High Sierra were many verdant meadows. In the late 1800's John Muir and other early conservationists saw that lumbermen and shepherders were despoiling these wonders of nature for personal profit. They convinced Congress, in 1890, to create the second national park — Sequoia National Park. This preserved a bit of nature in its nearly pristine beauty.

Yellowstone National Park was the first park, set aside in 1876. Yosemite NP was the third, established three months after Sequoia NP. All the Parks were administered and patrolled by units of the US Army Cavalry until 1916 when Congress established the US National Park Service.

At the July meeting of the Mt Baldy Group, Ken Horner, a former Park Ranger Naturalist, will use a slide presentation to take the group on a vicarious visit to some of the more exciting areas of the Park. Via horse and mule, the high country of the Great Western Divide will be traversed, and the Giant Forest of Big Trees will be explored in several seasons. History, both natural and human, back country travel, and Park conservation issues will be discussed.

Come, enjoy, and learn about one of our oldest and most varied National Parks.



Use the parking lot entered from Foothill Blvd, east of the traffic signal at Dartmouth Ave. Beckman Hall is in the basement of the Olin Building, which is located at the northwest corner of the Harvey Mudd campus. Enter from the patio on the campus side of the building, using a center door. Go downstairs to the Beckman Auditorium, in front of the stairs.

***Mt Baldy Group will recycle aluminum cans again.  
Bring them to the meeting  
Help support our Group!***

## Save Electricity

The burning of coal generates over half of our electricity, and is the single biggest air polluter in the US. There are over 600 dirty coal plants in the country. In a typical year, just one average-sized coal plant emits:

- a. 3,700,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the primary human cause of global warming: as much carbon dioxide as cutting down 161 million trees.
- b. 10,000 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), which causes acid rain that damages forests, lakes, and buildings, and forms small airborne particles that can penetrate deep into lungs.
- c. 500 tons of small airborne particles, which can cause chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma, and premature death, as well as haze that obstructs visibility.
- d. 10,200 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), as much as would be emitted by half a million late-model cars. NO<sub>x</sub> leads to formation of ozone (smog) which inflames the lungs, burning through lung tissue making people more susceptible to respiratory illness.

Air pollution from dirty power plants cause nearly 30,000 early deaths in the United States each year.

Just 2% of our nation's electricity comes from clean, sustainable sources like wind, solar and other renewable technologies. Yet, our nation is blessed with enough renewable resources to meet more than 4.5 times our current electricity needs.

If our nation increased its use of renewable energy to 20 percent of our electricity generation by 2020, it would be the same as taking 77 million cars off the road, or planting nearly 130 million acres of trees, an area the size of the Colorado and Wyoming.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

Traditional incandescent bulbs waste 90% of the energy they use. Replace your ordinary light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. This will lower your energy use and save you money.

When it comes time to replace a large appliance like a refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner, washer/dryer, or water heater, look for Energy Star label products. They may cost a bit more initially, but the energy savings will pay back the extra investment in just a couple of years.

Replace your old dial thermostat with a programmable clock one. Check to see if your water heater has an insulating blanket. Installing one will pay for itself in one year.

Schedule a home energy audit. Many utilities offer them for free and the expert advice can result in big energy savings.

Choose renewable energy like wind and solar for your home or business.

If every family in the US replaced one regular lightbulb with an energy saving model, we'd reduce global warming pollution by more than 90 billion pounds, the same as taking 7.5 million cars off the road.

The average driver releases 25 pounds of global warming pollution for every gallon of gas used—if you drive a car that gets 35 mpg, you'll create 40% less global warming pollution than the average driver.

## What Do You Drive?

Well, I bought a new car, but I have to admit that it's not a hybrid. I seriously considered a Toyota Prius, but, because of price and some other considerations, I went with a conventional car. I am proud to say that my car gets over 30mpg, usually close to 35. And I'm planning on my next car being a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle!

- Keep your car tuned and tires fully inflated.
- Do not let your car idle for more than a minute.
- If you own two cars, only take the gas guzzler when you can fill it up with people.

When you buy your next car—buy the one that gets the best mileage in its class. Even better, buy one of the cool new HYBRIDS—they cost the same as regular cars, have the same power and safety, save you money at the gas pump and cut global warming pollution by one third to one half.

Looking for something fun to do on a week-end afternoon? Visit a car dealership and ask to drive a hybrid or other car that gets 35 mpg or more. You'll get to test drive the latest technology and get the message across that drivers do want green cars!

Spread the word! Tell your friends and family about how they can help protect the environment and reduce our dependence on oil by choosing to buy cleaner, fuel efficient vehicles.

*Julie Garner*

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## San Gabriel River Gateway Project Receives MWD Grant

The MWD website, [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com), contains a paragraph about each of the eleven “City Makeover Program Winners” being funded by MWD as demonstration projects of native vegetation plantings which are designed to help conserve water.

One of programs being partially funded with a \$75,000 grant is the “San Gabriel River and Angeles National Forest Gateway Interpretative Center,” which has an estimated total cost of \$1,399,500.

For a brief summary of the project, click on “City Makeover Program Winners” on MWD's home page (look halfway down the page just under the heading “Water in the News”).

MWD kicked off this concept of promoting native plants as a means of saving water with a media splash featuring actress Rene Russo last summer; two “Natural Heritage Seminars” have been conducted since then, and MWD is supporting the program with publicity and funding.

## Claremont Receives Grant to Enlarge Wilderness Park

by Robin Ives

Hikers entering Claremont's Wilderness Park from the parking lot at the top of Mills Avenue have had to find a way around a locked gate at the head of Cobal Canyon. Cobal Canyon was not then a part of the Wilderness Park, but it soon will be and the gate will then be opened!

Claremont has received a grant of \$1,073,000 from The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to buy a 240 acre parcel located adjacent to the southwest corner of the Wilderness Park—a parcel that includes Cobal Canyon. The sale is expected to be completed by the end of 2003, and then the 240 acres will be added to the Wilderness Park and the trail along Cobal Canyon will be added to existing trails to create a 5.5 mile loop trail within the Wilderness Park. The 240 acres will remain undeveloped in a natural state of rolling hills and an alder shaded stream.

The money for the grant came from bonds authorized for parks and wildlands in Proposition 40 that was approved by California's voters in 2002.

The new addition to the Wilderness Park will provide a connection westward to Marshall Canyon County Park. None of it lies in Johnson's Pasture. Claremont and the Claremont Wilderness Conservancy are still looking for money to buy Johnson's Pasture, which has been appraised at \$4.5 million. If Johnson's Pasture is not acquired for preservation, there is a real possibility that developers may build more than 150 homes there.

### *Nature Nibble*

*Look here for a quote you can chew on!*

[The naturalist] looks upon every species of animal and plant now living as the individual letters which go to make up one of the volumes of our earth's history; and, as a few lost letters may make a sentence unintelligible, so the extinction of the numerous forms of life which the progress of cultivation invariably entails will necessarily render obscure this invaluable record of the past. It is, therefore, an important object [to preserve them]. . . . If this is not done, future ages will certainly look back upon us as a people so immersed in the pursuit of wealth as to be blind to higher considerations.

Alfred Russel Wallace  
Journal of the Royal Geographical Society(1863)

## Mt Baldy Group Opposes RV Park in Mt Baldy Village

by Robin Ives

On July 1, the Mt Baldy Group's Management Committee voted to oppose a proposed 250 vehicle RV park at Cow Canyon Saddle, adjacent to Mt Baldy Village. One of the reasons for this action was the probable impact this development would have on a herd of big horn sheep in the area, a herd that has already declined in numbers significantly in recent years. Another reason was the fact that such a development would greatly change for the worse the nature of Mt Baldy Village.

## Natural Science Workshop

by Sophie Radowick

If you have been to this annual workshop, you know what it's like. If not, you've seen the writeups urging you to attend and you'll learn more from those than from anything I might say. I was motivated to attend by two people: our own Julie Garner, who waxed enthusiastic when speaking about participating last year, and meeting this wonderful man and his wife at the Awards Banquet, Oscar Clarke. Also I was looking forward to a weekend in the mountains. Was I in for a shock!

Driving past Angeles Oaks toward Barton Flats, I saw more and more brown trees dead, some ridges were fifty percent covered with dead trees, some hillsides suffered even a great percentage. What was going on here.

The answers started at the registration table. One of the lecturers, Ray Williams, had put together a display of tiny beetles on pins, pine bark showing runs where the beetles had chewed through, and the common and scientific name "Yellow pine beetle" and " ". On our forest walk the next morning, Ray showed us how the beetles eat just the layer between the bark and the trunk. What caused the disaster? Where did these pests come from? This Yellow pine beetle, a black insect the size of a fruit fly, is always there. In good years when it tries to chew a hole to get to its preferred meal, the tree's sap will plug the hole and bar entry. These past several years, and especially 2002, were so dry that the Yellow pines had no defense—no sap to send to the barricades! Ray observed that when lower branches start to look droopy, it takes no longer than a week for the entire tree to turn brown.

Now, of course, there is fire danger with those brittle needles providing tinder. This is an immediate concern in mountain communities, so people had to cut down dead trees and haul them off to protect their own and their neighbors' houses at great expense. The larger your lot and the number of dead trees on it, the harder your pocketbook will get hit.

I was more interested in the open forest. What would happen? This is a mixed forest, pines and oaks. The pines will burn quickly and the oaks will take over. It will be half a century before we can count on a new generation of pines.

# You Can Help Save Owens Lake

by Julie Garner

In May, those of us who attended the Baldy Group meeting were lucky enough to hear Mike Prather speak about Owens Lake and see his slide show of the wildlife, particularly birds, which the lake supports. Los Angeles DWP's practices are endangering Owens Lake and its resident and migratory wildlife. There's too much truth in the bumpersticker "LA SUCKS....the Owens Valley dry"

## *The Owens Lake*

Owens Lake is a Nationally Significant Important Bird Area (IBA) as designated by the National Audubon Society. The lake was so designated due to the thousands of shorebirds that migrate through each fall and spring between the Arctic and Central and South America and also because of the large numbers of snowy plovers that nest there. In addition several thousand snow geese and ducks winter at the lake.

Owens Lake may appear dry, but it is still alive. A chain of wetlands lines its shores with water from springs and artesian wells.

Historically Owens Lake was one of the most important stopover sites for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in the western United States. Joseph Grinnell from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley when visiting in 1917 reported, "Great numbers of water birds are in sight along the lake shore—avocets, phalaropes, ducks. Large flocks of shorebirds in flight over the water in the distance, wheeling about show in mass, now silvery now dark, against the gray-blue of the water. There must be literally thousands of birds within sight of this one spot."

Currently Los Angeles is shallow flooding 10 square miles of the lake's surface for dust control. This effort holds great promise for the restoration of wildlife habitat that was lost in the past at Owens Lake, but Los Angeles' purpose is primarily dust control. Perhaps pressure can be brought to bear on Los Angeles to use as much shallow flooding as possible in perpetuity for wildlife habitat. The alternative method of dust control is growing native salt grass that provides far less value for wildlife. Shallow flooding provides both dust control and wildlife habitat restoration.

Look for Eastern Sierra Audubon Society field trips to Owens Lake or contact Mike Prather at 760-876-5807 or at prather@qnet.com

## *The Owens Valley*

The Owens Valley can be defined, dryly, as a 100-mile long by 6-to-20-mile wide drop in the earth's crust between two large faults at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada and at the western base of the Inyo mountains.

The valley reaches north to the Volcanic Tablelands and south past the Haiwee Reservoir. Before 1900, the Owens River ran through it, starting at the southern tip of the Long Valley Caldera, gathering water from multiple streams that drained the eastern Sierra, and flowing into the Owens Lake, once a navigable body of water (15 miles long, 10 miles wide, and about 30 feet deep) that offered a stopover for millions of migratory waterfowl. The valley region hosts more than 2,000

plant species and more than 320 bird species, including many species that depend on the valley for essential food and rest stops during long migrations.

## *Take action*

Why take action? Any action, no matter how small, can have broad and lasting effects. Small, dedicated groups have won a number of battles with LADWP to stop environmentally destructive practices in the valley. Even the smallest acts—from the turning of a faucet in Los Angeles to the turn of a fish in the Owens River Gorge—affect the Owens Valley and the decisions people make about it.

The Agreement provides a legal framework for environmentally sound management of Owens Valley water resources. Only strong citizen interest will remind Agreement parties to abide by that framework.

Join an organization, call someone and express your opinion, write a letter, or share information with your friends. Make it clear that you care how land and water are managed in the Owens Valley, and that you vote. Your actions have a strong consequence downstream.

## *Make contact*

Silence is a form of agreement. If your elected officials don't hear from you, they'll assume that you like everything they're doing. Write or call elected officers or representatives and tell them what you think and why. Write letters to the editor when you want to share an opinion with your community and when you'd like others to take action, too. Expect much faster results than you'd get waiting for the next election.

### *1. Write local and state government officials*

\*Board of Water and Power Commissioners

Los Angeles Dept of Water and Power, Room 1555H  
15th floor, 111 N Hope St, Los Angeles CA 90012

\*Representative Jerry Lewis, 40th District Representative  
1150 Brookside Ave, Ste J-5, Redlands CA 92373

\*Senator Barbara Boxer  
1130 'O' Street Ste 2450, Fresno CA 93721

\*Senator Dianne Feinstein  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd Ste 915  
Los Angeles CA 90025

### *2. Write letters to the editor*

\*The Los Angeles Times <letters@latimes.com>

Letters to the Times, Los Angeles Times  
202 W First Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

## SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

Mt Baldy Group, PO Box 906, Claremont 91711 — 909-621-7148; fax 909-624-7983, email: ivesico@earthlink.net

Email *Eagle* news to <avtrix@earthlink.net>

The general public is welcome on almost all outings, Sierra Club membership not required, but is certainly encouraged. See Angeles Chapter *Schedule of Activities* for more activities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Call leader for info

**mi rt** = miles round trip, **SASE** = self-addressed, stamped (37¢) envelope

Sierra Club encourages **ridesharing**. Participants make their own arrangements and should reimburse driver.

### '03 MT BALDY MGMT COMM \*voting

(All 909 unless otherwise indicated)

Ch/Cons/Prog/XRep\*Robin Ives . . 624-5522

VC/Sec/XAlt\*Sophie Radowick . . 626-5658

Treasurer \*Peggy Zappen . . . 626-335-3528

Membership \*Lori Ives . . . . . 621-7148

Outings \*Haven Fearn . . . . . 946-5705

Eagle Editor \*Julie Garner . . . 714-335-1579

Publisher/Circulation Lori Ives . . . 621-7148

Publicity \*Sylvia Goldstein . . . . 624-6010

Greeter \*Jan Overton . . . . . 599-9915

Hospitality Connie Layne . . . . . 624-6115

Audio/Visual Ken Horner . . . . . 626-0336

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

meets 1st Tues 7:30 pm: at the Ives.

Call 621-7148 for info.

### 2ND TUE: EAGLE MAILING

7:30 pm, 264 E Green St, Claremont. odd months: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. Come and help!

### 4TH TUE: MONTHLY PROGRAM:

See pg 1, 7:30 pm (dark Aug, Dec).

**Harvey Mudd College, Beckman Hall**

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**July 12 (Sat) Cedar Flats (6162')** Moderate, 6 mi round trip. 1500' gain in beautiful Icehouse Cyn. Beginners welcome. Meet 8:30 am north parking lot PFF Bank, Claremont, NE corner Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. Bring water, lunch, lug soles. Leaders: Sally Wagner, Sophie Radowick (909-626-5658)

**Jul 13 (Sun) Cooper Cyn Lily Hike.** Join lily enthusiast Jeff Johnson to look for Lemon lilies in shady cyn below Mt Waterman. 6 mi route takes us 1300' down from Cloudburst Summit into Cooper Cyn, then 800' up to Buckhorn Cmpgrd. Swim at waterfall. Meet 8 am La Canada rideshare point or 9 am Cloudburst Summit. Bring water, lunch, hat, sun screen, lug soles, opt swim suit. Leaders: Ginny Herringer (626-793-4727), Jeff Johnson.

**Jul 13 (Sun) Moonlight Hike** with Los Serranos Group in foothills for several hours by light of full moon. Hikes conversationally paced. 4-5 miles round trip, 800' gain. Meet 6:00 pm north parking lot PFF Bank, Claremont, NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. Bring jacket, flashlight, water, snack to share mid-hike (optional). Wear sturdy shoes/boots. **Rain cancels.** Leaders Patty and David Thorne (909-981-5813)

**Jul 19 (Sat) Vincent Gap to Big Horn Mine.** Leisurely walk (4 mi round trip, 500' gain) with views into upper east fork of San Gabriel River. Some still pan for gold in the East Folk, deep in the canyon below. The Big Horn Mine has been abandoned since the 1930s. The mine itself is closed, but ruins of the old stamp mill are visible from the end of the wagon road. Much of route is shaded by Jeffery Pine and White Fir. Meet 10:30 am Vincent Gap Trailhead (53 mi from La Canada on the Angeles Crest Hwy). Bring lunch, water. Leaders: John Matthews (714-870-4187), Jean Wheeler.

**Aug 3 (Sun) Eagle Roost to Buckhorn.** Moderate, 6 mi loop, 1100 loss. Hike down Little Rock Creek, San Gabriel Mtn north side to Cooper Cyn Falls., 900' gain up Buckhorn Creek. Newcomers welcome. Short car shuttle. Meet 8 am, La Canada rideshare point with water, lunch, lug soles, swim suit for dip in pool. Leaders: Elizabeth Pomeroy (626-791-7660), David Czamanske

**Aug 10 (SUN) Moonlight Hike:** Details same as Jul 13. Leaders: Patty and David Thorne (909-981-5813)

**Aug 20 (Wed) Hike Winter Creek Loop.** 6 mi rt, 500' gain. Visit Sturtevant Falls, follow stream through forest, lunch at historic Hoegee Camp. Meet 9 am Chantry Flat. Bring water, boots, day pack, lunch. Leaders: John DePoy (714-826-4007), Janet Bartel

**Aug 31 (Sun) Ice House Cyn Hike.** 4 mi rt, 500' gain. Slow-paced walk in woodsy canyon with creek and falls. Meet 10 am Ice House Cyn. Bring day pack, water, boots, lunch. Leaders: John DePoy (714-826-4007), Bruce Hauswirth.

**Sep 7 (Sun) Moonlight Hike:** See Jul 13. Leaders: Patty & David Thorne (909-981-5813 )

**Sep 20 (Sat) Puddingstone Hills Morning Walk.** Los Serranos/ Mt. Baldy joint hike. Easy-paced conditioning hike, 4-6 miles round trip, 300-600' gain. Meet 9 am Bracket Field Airport Admin bldg parking lot, La Verne. From 10 Fwy, drive north 1 mile on Fairplex, go west on McKinley 3/4 mile to parking lot. Bring: water, snack, wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. Co-leaders: Marian Nichols (909-981-7619), Flora Johnson



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BALDY EAGLE, VOL XXXIII, No 4 — July/August 2003

July 22, 2003 — *Ken Horner*, slide show presentation on Sequoia National Park, “High Country and Big Trees”

August, 2003 — *SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER , WE’RE ON VACATION!*

Check your expiration date below! Renew your Baldy Eagle—keep it flying to your mailbox!

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THE BALDY EAGLE, newsletter of the Mt Baldy Group, is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions are \$10.00 (6 issues) starting with the month of your initial subscription. The line (above your name on your label) is the month in which your subscription expires. Mail the coupon TODAY!!



SC Member Number is helpful but not necessary \_\_\_\_\_

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WRITE CHECK FOR \$10.00 TO *SIERRA CLUB, MT BALDY GROUP*  
 Donations above the base are very welcome!

MAIL TO: SIERRA CLUB, MT BALDY GROUP  
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BALDY GROUP RECEIVES LITTLE OR NO FINANCIAL HELP from either the Angeles Chapter or the national Sierra Club. Though we are fortunate in having excellent volunteer help, the printer’s press and the post office do not function without money!

Please renew promptly so you won’t lose a single issue. Additional donations are gratefully received to further our activities, but are not tax deductible. Call 909-621-7148 for more details.