

# The Baldy Eagle

January//February 2004

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

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

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***Mt Baldy Group recycles aluminum cans. Bring them to the meeting. Support our Group!***

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## TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

7:30 pm, Harvey Mudd College  
Fourth Tuesday  
Jacobs Classroom B-134

### Local Herd of Bighorn Sheep Endangered

A few years ago the Mt Baldy herd of bighorn sheep was doing so well that California's Department of Fish and Game was trapping sheep from that herd in order to build up other herds. Now the Baldy herd is so reduced that it is in danger of extinction.

**STEVE SEGRETO** of the Angeles National Forest will describe the theories of why this has happened and what will be done to revive the herd..



Drawing thanks to Dee Trent

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:30 pm, Harvey Mudd College 4th Tuesday  
Jacobs Classroom B-134

### Think Locally — Act Globally

American policy for free trade is driven by the goals of the multi-national corporations, which are often in conflict with local laws designed to protect the environment. **JESSE COLORADO SWANHUYSER**, an organizer who has worked on environmental, political, and social justice campaigns in north and central America, will review the history of Free Trade, and help to make sense of globalization jargon and myth. He will tell us about the impact of new trade rules on labor/workers, environmental, women's and social justice concerns.

Mr Swanhuysen has received tremendous response. He believes that discussions following each presentation help clarify the scope of this threat to everything we have worked to achieve in the 20<sup>th</sup> century for workers, women, the environment, and true civil society participation in government and decision making.

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*Come meet with old and new friends. Free refreshments.* Use the parking lot entered from Foothill Blvd, east of the traffic signal at Dartmouth Avenue. Jacobs B-134 is in the basement of the catacombs below the HMC Science Buildings which are located at the northwest corner of the Harvey Mudd campus. Enter on the west side of the patio through the center door on the campus side of the Olin Building. Go downstairs, turn right at the bottom of the stairs, go to end of corridor and turn left. B-134 is a long way down the corridor on the right.

For people with disabilities, an elevator is available on the first floor of the Olin Building. Turn left away from the stairs. Go down to the basement in the elevator, turn left, and left again, and right, then left again at the end of the corridor. Again, B-134 is located a long way down this corridor on the right.

The recent election of Arnold Schwarzenegger as Governor creates both opportunities and challenges for those of us who care about protecting public health and preserving California's environment. As a matter of record, the Governor's campaign platform contained many positive and forward-looking positions on environmental issues. As the new administration takes office, it is important that environmental advocates urge him, in a constructive way, to stick with the pro-environment positions he took during the campaign. Please take a moment now to send the letter below to Governor Schwarzenegger, expressing your support for several pro environmental positions he took during the campaign.

## **TAKE ACTION AND SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER OR ONE SIMILAR**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I've read your platform on environmental and energy issues and want to compliment you on developing such a strong agenda on key environmental issues. I agree with you that protecting the environment is essential to growth in California's economy, and that providing jobs and protecting the environment are not contradictory goals.

I applaud your forward-looking environmental goals, and urge you to appoint talented and committed individuals to key positions in your administration charged with overseeing environmental agencies and programs.

In addition, I want to underline my agreement with several specific goals that your Action Plan articulated and urge you to move forward on them as quickly as possible. I strongly support your goals on:

**Air Pollution:** I support your goal of cutting air pollution by 50% and hope you will focus strongly on the need to reduce toxic emissions from heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses. We need to find dedicated funding for the Carl Moyer Program and the Low-Emission School Bus program, both of which enable us to reduce soot and smog from diesel engines. These programs are particularly important to protecting the health of young children.

**Hydrogen Fuel Cell and other Clean Vehicles:** Please move forward with your visionary goal of creating infrastructure for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and promoting alternative fuel vehicles. As we create a foundation for hydrogen vehicles, let's also be sure that the hydrogen is created using renewable energy and clean sources.

**Renewable Energy:** I support rapid implementation of the state's renewable portfolio standard, and increasing the goal to 33% by 2020. I hope you will also include municipal utilities in these goals. If the private sector can increase its reliance on renewable energy, surely the public sector can do the same.

**Global Warming:** I am thrilled to hear that you support our landmark Greenhouse Gas emission reductions law. California needs to be a leader in reducing global warming emissions. I hope you will make sure the Air Resources Board enacts a strong and effective regulation to implement this law.

I look forward to hearing about your environmental successes.

Sincerely,

[your name and address]

# Species in a Bucket

By Edwin Philip Pister

[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)*

When I retired in 1990, I built a small office in my backyard, equipped it with a phone and word processor, and began to reflect seriously upon a career that began in 1951 and continues even in retirement. I remain keenly aware of the legendary biologist Aldo Leopold's admonition that one of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.

Virtually my entire career was spent as a district fishery biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game in the state's vast eastern sierra and desert regions. I worked on a great variety of management and research programs — from trying to keep millions of sports fishermen supplied with trout to preserving the biological integrity of desert springs that support life forms totally unknown to most Americans and even to most scientists.

Having studied wildlife conservation at Berkeley in 1948 under the tutelage of Aldo Leopold's son, A. Starker Leopold, I was exposed to the Leopolds' passionately held values regarding the natural world. Impressed by their view that nonconformity is the highest evolutionary attainment of social animals, I carefully avoided the usual career track that would have landed me in one of my department's major offices in a big city. As a graduate student, I had specialized in limnology, the study of freshwater lakes, and was given the responsibility for nearly a thousand bodies of water extending from the crest of the Sierra Nevada eastward to the Nevada state line. I was especially intrigued by the diversity of the landscape in my charge; if I left the roadhead near the base of 14,494-foot Mount Whitney at 9:00 A.M., I could make a leisurely drive to the east and have my lunch 282 feet below sea level on the floor of Death Valley. This area's life forms are commensurately diverse.

Today I sit at my desk surrounded by forty little pocket diaries, each one summarizing a year of my career. So many memories and experiences are packed into these 2.5- by 4-inch volumes, which, together, fill less than a shoe box. Daily entries recall a multitude of experiences: scaling through the usual routine meetings, conducting a twenty-seven-year project to restore the California golden trout within the Golden Trout Wilderness (still in progress), fighting scores of ill-considered and highly destructive entrepreneurial invasions of valuable habitats and recreation areas, managing a legendary reservoir fishery where success is measured by tons of trout harvested, then moving 180

degrees from consumption to conservation by helping to save the Devil's Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*), a battle carried successfully to the US Supreme Court.

In 1976, the Court's landmark decision protected Devil's Hole — a swimming-pool-sized window into the underground aquifer and a disjunct portion of Death Valley National Monument — and its dependent life forms from the impact of a nearby ranching operation. (The ranchers were consuming vast quantities of unreplenishable groundwater from an aquifer that had been undisturbed since the Pleistocene.) The smallest and most highly evolved of the Death Valley system pupfishes, the Devil's Hole pupfish has been isolated from nearby pupfish populations for approximately 44,000 years. It exists in probably the most confined habitat of any vertebrate animal in the world: the ten- by fifty-foot pool in which it has evolved since its isolation.

Of more than ten thousand entries contained in my diaries, the date August 18, 1969, stands alone as the most dramatic and meaningful. Written with naive understatement: "Transplanted *Cyprinodon* at Fish Slough; purchased alkaline D-cells, \$2.00," this cryptic entry summarized a series of events that, had they not gone right, would have accompanied the greatest tragedy of my career. As it turned out, what happened that day simply underscored the lessons I had learned earlier from the Leopolds and other ecological mentors. Perhaps such an experience was necessary for me to fully comprehend that a person's values, which serve as a compass in uncertain times, are in the long run vastly more important than the sport-fishing technologies that have often created more problems than they have solved.

During the several pluvial periods of the Pleistocene epoch, much of the Great Basin of the American West was covered by large, freshwater lakes. With the approach of the Holocene, these waters shrank and largely disappeared, and fishes were isolated within the few remaining permanent aquatic habitats. In North America, only the Cuatro Ciénegas of Coahuila, Mexico, have as many well-defined local populations (species confined to the very small, isolated habitats in which they evolved). The Death Valley drainage area of eastern California and western Nevada is comparable to Charles Darwin's Galapagos Islands and their finch populations. They constitute, in effect, islands of water in a sea of sand.

*Continued on page 4...*

*Species in a Bucket Continued...*

One such habitat exists in eastern California's Owens Valley, where the Owens pupfish (*C. Radiusus*) has been evolving since the Pleistocene. Because of major habitat changes and the introduction of predacious game fishes (a deadly combination) during the early part of the twentieth century, the Owens pupfish was gradually eliminated from a range that once covered vast marshlands. By the time it was scientifically described in 1948, the species was believed to be extinct. One of the Death Valley area pupfishes, all of which evolved in the absence of predatory fishes, the Owens is almost totally defenseless against such introduced predators as largemouth bass, which I call "chainsaws with fins." The Owens pupfish was among the first fishes to be designated an endangered species, a status that it unfortunately still retains.

Pupfishes (named for their frolicsome, playful behavior) are members of the killifish family, a group of fishes very popular among aquarium enthusiasts. The Owens pupfish is the largest of the nine Death Valley pupfishes, occasionally reaching two inches in length; the Devil's Hole pupfish rarely exceeds one inch. Habitats are varied. The Owens pupfish thrives in the shallow, warm water that hot summer days bring to desert marshes; this same habitat may be covered with an inch or two of ice during wintertime, when air temperatures drop below zero. Conversely, the Devil's Hole pupfish lives in the upper reaches of a cavern so vast that its depth has never been determined, and in water at a constant 92°F. All pupfishes are feeding opportunists, consuming immature insects and algae. They are also highly territorial.

To survive in these rigorous habitats, pupfishes have evolved specialized adaptations. Some live in water that exceeds 100°F, and can tolerate up to 113° degrees for short periods; daily fluctuations may be as much as 36°. Others live in pools with several times the salinity of seawater. The potential for research on the pupfishes is

exciting. What they could tell us about kidney function, temperature tolerance and adaptation, and other areas of vertebrate physiology alone would justify our concern for preserving them. In recent years, however, it has been heartening to note a shift in emphasis from what they can do for us to what we can do for them, regardless of their potential value.

In 1964 researchers located a remnant population of Owens pupfish in a desert marshland called Fish Slough, a few miles from my home in Bishop, California. A recovery effort was started by gradually reintroducing them into a few apparently suitable habitats, thereby getting a jump on the more sophisticated recovery programs made possible later under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. These early preservation efforts for fishes preceded the relatively recent, and highly commendable, formalization of the science of conservation biology.

However, an unusual set of circumstances that began to coalesce in the late 1960s brought the Owens pupfish to the brink of extinction. Without constant surveillance, which even now is very difficult for harried state biologists to maintain, the pupfish gradually disappeared from their new homes and finally were confined to a room-sized pond a short distance below Fish Slough's northwest headwater springs. The winter of 1968-69 had brought heavy rains to the Owens Valley, but by August the unusually thick vegetation was throwing off a great deal of moisture, and an unexplained reduction in spring flow contributed to the rapid depletion of the pond. It was almost completely dried up when an alert assistant came into my office and announced: "Phil, if we don't get out to Fish Slough immediately, we are going to lose the species." His pronouncement was no exaggeration. It was the hard truth!

I stopped work on a trout management program for a major reservoir (the relative importance of the two projects has long since served as a source of humor for me), shouted a few words of

explanation to our receptionist, and bolted for the door. Grabbing buckets, dip nets, and aerators, we were joined by another colleague and immediately headed for Fish Slough, normally a fifteen-minute drive north of our office in Bishop (we shaved at least five minutes off the usual driving time). We hastened to the drying pond and carefully removed 800 remaining individuals, placing them in three wire mesh cages within the main northwest channel of the slough, in a diminishing flow already less than two cubic feet per second. We planned to move them later to safer locations within the same general area.

Having done all we could for the moment, we decided to take a quick dinner break before returning to move half of the fish (about 400) across the slough to a location supplied by another spring source. In endangered species preservation work, a cardinal rule is always to place your eggs in more than one basket. We had come very close to witnessing a species extinction or, nearly as bad, a population so reduced in numbers as to eventually effect the same tragic consequence.

Temporarily alone in the marsh, I decided to make one final check (sometimes it pays to be a worrier). A glance into the nearest mesh cage showed that we were not yet out of the woods. In our haste to rescue the fish, we had unwisely placed the cages in eddies away from the influence of the main current. Reduced water velocity and accompanying low dissolved oxygen were rapidly taking their toll. When taken from their natural habitat, pupfish are fragile creatures. They were overcrowded in their cages and had been stressed by unavoidably rough treatment on a hot summer afternoon.

A number of dead and dying fish were already floating belly up or swimming irregularly, and it was clear that both mesh cages and fish would have to be moved immediately upstream to more favorable conditions nearer the springheads. I ran to my pickup truck and found only two

*Species in a Bucket Continued from page 4* buckets (the other two were on their way back to town). However, there were two aerators available in addition to the all-important dip net.

I netted the surviving fish into the buckets, wincing as each dead one forcefully demonstrated the fragility of life. I then relocated the cages and returned to the buckets, trusting that the battery-powered aerators had not failed during my brief absence. Although the passage of time has obscured my exact words and thoughts as I lugged two heavy buckets and their precious cargo (each weighing more than thirty pounds) over the treacherous marsh terrain, I remember mumbling something like: "Please don't let me stumble. If I drop these buckets we won't have another chance!" I distinctly remember being scared to death. I had walked perhaps fifty yards when I realized that I literally held within my hands the existence of an entire vertebrate species. If I had tripped over a piece of barbed wire or stepped into a rodent burrow, the Owens pupfish would now be extinct! But good fortune smiled upon us, and the recovery continues today.

Efforts to preserve endangered desert life forms never end, but essentially constitute only a temporary reprieve as aquatic habitats gradually decline throughout North America. Indiana University's Lynton Caldwell, speaking of our environmental crisis, observed that while endangered species are part of this lamentable phenomenon, "more importantly, the crisis is concerned with the kind of creatures we are and what we must become in order to survive."

We have received adequate warning from our prophets. Aldo Leopold's "Land Ethic," published more than forty years ago in *A Sand County Almanac*, redefined Gifford Pinchot's "resource conservation ethic" (the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run) and placed humans as simply another species within the global ecosystem. This concept has since become painfully obvious as we

learn more about ourselves in relation to our environment.

Having spent much of the past two decades responding to the cynical question: "What good are they?" (in reference to my efforts on behalf of the pupfish and similar "insignificant" organisms), I have made use of an effective counterquery: "What good are you?" (a very thoughtful question). I then add a Leopold corollary: "To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

Rank-and-file American citizens have been generally apathetic about the conservation of biological diversity, but one would hope not to find similar unconcern within the scientific community. Yet there is much complacency among professionals, particularly among those biologists trapped within a tenure track and faculty advancement syndrome that often ranks quantity over quality in the research endeavor. If such scientists express an interest in conservation, they usually are of the opinion (naively and incorrectly) that someone else will attend to saving species. At the 1992 annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, for instance, only a small percentage of the 385 research papers related to the specific area of conservation.

Workers in the pragmatic field of conservation biology, frustrated by a critical need for answers to questions posed by species recovery programs, draw analogies of mowing the lawn while the house burns down. The possibility always exists, of course, that any research, no matter how seemingly esoteric, may someday be of value in saving a species. Albert Einstein put it this way: "I have little patience with scientists who take a board of wood, look for its thinnest part, and drill a great number of holes where the drilling is easy." Unfortunately, the deadly serious matter of preserving biodiversity generally places one in the position of facing unpredictably thick boards, full of knots, and then being forced to drill holes with a bit

significantly dulled by the bureaucratic process.

As I walked back to my truck following the final transplant within Fish Slough, the sun had long ago set. In my dip net remained a few dead pupfish. I glanced up at the darkening desert sky and thought of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's concept of the infinitely large, the infinitely small, and the infinitely complex, represented here (in order) by the Milky Way, the pupfish, and the difficulty in pointing out the paramount value of such things to an increasingly materialistic society.

The day had been long. We had won an early round in a fight that will inevitably continue as long as we have a habitable planet. As a realist, I could not help but ponder the ultimate fate not only of the Owens pupfish but of all southwestern fishes and species in general. I wondered about our future. Can the values driving the industrialized nations be modified sufficiently to allow for the perpetuation of all species, including humans? Will we ever realize the potential implicit in our specific designation as *Homo sapiens*, the wise species? I hope the day will come when public policy will be guided by the wisdom of Aldo Leopold: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Such recognition could constitute perhaps the first major step toward creating the sustainable society upon which our long-term survival obviously depends.

That August day twenty-three years ago had been a very humbling experience for me. The principles of biogeography and evolution I had learned many years before at Berkeley had taught me why the pupfish was here; it took the events of those few hours in the desert to teach me why I was. Such are the reflections of a biologist who, for a few frightening moments long ago, held an entire species in two buckets, one in either hand, with only himself standing between life and extinction.

# Sheep's Clothing

by Bill Berkowitz

This new group may sound green, but don't be fooled by their "sensible" anti-environmentalism. Bill Berkowitz is a long time political observer and columnist.

For folks who think that groups like the Sierra Club have too much influence over environmental policy and that President George W. Bush is getting a bad rap on his environmental record, a new organization has emerged to set the record straight.

Partnership for the West (PFTW) was formally unveiled on the Capitol steps in late October, and aims to exercise growing influence over green legislation in Washington. The group plans to work on "restoring a common sense balance to economic growth and conservation in the West"—sounds nice, until you see who's behind it. Claiming to be a grassroots lobby group, PFTW actually represents a kinder, gentler and more politically savvy brand of anti-environmentalism. And as such, we can look forward to PFTW and its corporate backers to be pushing for a "balance" that may weight short-term bank accounts more heavily than long-term environmental impacts.

The new organization wants to provide "a counterbalance to what it views as a disproportionate influence of environmental groups like the Sierra Club," according to Donna Kemp Spangler of the Utah-based *Deseret Morning News*. They'll do this by lobbying in Congress and "pushing an agenda of increased access to public lands for recreation and oil and gas development." The group's members number over a hundred, and include large interests in fossil fuel, logging and mining industries. PFTW eventually hopes to attract 100,000 members and raise \$5 million for lobbying Congress.

Partnership for the West grew out of summit in Denver, Colorado, attended by elected officials, corporate representatives and long-standing anti-environmental organizations like the American Land Rights Association, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, the Mountain States Legal Foundation, and People for the USA. Its president, Jim Sims, is the former communications director for the National Energy Policy Task Force — also known as Cheney's secret panel — and helped craft the administration's energy policy. Sims wears other hats, too: he heads the Western Business Roundtable, a trade association comprising western CEOs and business executives, and sits on the board for the Center for the New American Century, a Denver think tank supporting various right-wing causes including reforming the endangered species act.

Sims doesn't try to hide his scorn for green activists. "While they are small in number, these [radical environmentalist] fringe groups are well-funded, operate in sophisticated networks, and are solely dedicated to producing conflict and delay," he told *Heartland Institute's Environment & Climate News* recently. And speaking for the WBR, he commented to *The Denver Post*, that "environmental extremists" are dead set against commonsense efforts at better

government and accused "the radical enviro crowd" of trying to "gum up the works as much as possible."

PFTW may tout itself as a new group, but the same four people — Sims and three colleagues — also run WBR as well as Policy Communications, a well-established and well-connected public relations firm with offices in Colorado and Washington, DC. Policy Communications boasts a strong history of developing regulatory policies and lobbying aggressively for their clients. And that client list reads like a who's who of the extraction industry including corporations like Western Gas Resources, Forest Oil, Prima Energy, Xcel Energy Inc, Pfizer Inc., The Dow Chemical Company and Unocal.

For a quick look at what may be in store from PFTW, we can turn to Policy Communications' recent PR campaign, called *Take Pride in America*. A loose affiliation of groups representing the interests of motorized recreation lobbied to replace paid employees with 'volunteers' who could construct projects on public lands. Scott Silver, who heads the environmental group *Wild Wilderness*, called it "a classic example of a 'privatization through volunteerism' campaign" pushed hard by Interior Secretary Gale Norton and President Bush. It represents a win-win-win situation for the administration, he said: Federal employees are eliminated; control of public lands is shifted to special interests; and third, wild lands will be so heavily impacted that protection will seem pointless and they can become a source of revenue for logging, mining, grazing and energy extraction.

Although PFTW itself hasn't announced the specifics of its agenda, Sims says the group has already set public policy goals. Not surprisingly, these outline the same basic approach as its sister organizations, such as the continuation of the multiple-use of public lands, continued energy development in the West and regulatory reform, specifically focusing on the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

When asked what differentiated Partnership for the West from anti-environmental so-called *Wise Use* groups that have gone before it, Sims told *TomPaine.com* his group was focused on building grassroots support. "We will determine specific issues and targets of opportunity," and then "rally our grassroots members to contact their congressional representatives" who serve on various committees "to rally behind a specific bill." This full-court press will employ phone calls, email, personal visits, press conferences and letters to the editor. Sims claims PFTW is "not interested in a whatever-the-hell-makes-a-dollar approach," and says the organization's approach will lead to more jobs and greater prosperity.

*Continued on Page 7...*

*Sheep's Clothing Continued from Page 6...*

Silver thinks this "grassroots" effort smells a lot more like well-groomed astroturf. "These people are paid lobbyists and public relations consultants serving the needs of every imaginable sort of polluter, developer, resource extractor or despoiler of the environment," he says. Silver and other environmentalists say wealthy industry-sponsored groups like PFTW are co-opting buzzwords like "collaborative partnerships" and "sensible growth" to counter green voices and promote destructive? but lucrative? practices.

Certainly economic growth is important, and everyone would like to see growth managed in an environmentally responsible way. But Partnership for the West, whose message reads more like the decades-old playbooks of right-wing think tanks like the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute, is hardly as environmentally dedicated as it claims. But that doesn't mean it can't sell its product: its agenda is already being repackaged by the professional spinmeisters (like PFTW staff itself) at Policy Communications. We can only hope the spin and the money won't create a winning formula for the twenty-first century anti-environmental movement.

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## Pine Tree Tops

in the blue night  
frost haze, the sky glows  
with the moon  
pine tree tops  
bend snow-blue, fade  
into sky, frost, starlight.  
the creak of boots.  
rabbit tracks, deer tracks  
what do we know

*Gary Snyder*

## Mt Baldy Group Conservation Committee

The Mt Baldy Group Conservation Committee will meet Thursday evening, February 5 to reorganize itself. Anyone who wants to work on environmental issues is welcome. Please call Robin Ives (909-624-5522) if you plan to attend. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm at the Ives, 264 East Green Street, Claremont.

### Nature Nibble

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

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution  
of intelligent tinkering. A Ido Leopold

## Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet Sunday March 28, 2004

No host reception: 5:00pm

Dinner: 6:00pm

Brookside Country Club, Pasadena

Once again Angeles Chapter members will gather for a festive evening as we honor and thank our dedicated volunteers, socialize, and celebrate the many accomplishments of our Chapter this past year.

A joy to many of the members is viewing and bidding for the artistic or useful items that have been donated for our Silent Auction..

With the administration in Washington being so eager to dismantle many of the environmental programs we support, our contact with others who love the outdoors is especially important.

Individual tickets are \$30 each. Mt Baldy usually has a table — when you send your check (payable Angeles Chapter) and a self-addressed stamped envelope, to reservationist Cathy Kissinger, 10541 Oro Vista Ave, Sunland CA 91040, please say you would like to join your friends at the Mt Baldy table. Call 909-621-7148 to carpool.

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## What Can I Do?

- Show your commitment to conserving our plant's resources by recycling glass, paper, and plastic. Whenever possible, buy products made from recycled materials.
- Replace standard light bulbs with energy-efficient fluorescents, which keep half a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere.
- Buy wood products with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) label that marks wood products from well-managed, independently certified forests.
- Green up your yard using natural products instead of pesticides. Use traps, parasites, and natural predators such as ladybugs.
- When you purchase salmon, look for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) label, ensuring fish products are from well-managed fisheries that preserve surrounding ecosystems.

# Coffeeberry

by Mark Acuña [mark@multivox.org]

Hunarkwahah  
“Bear, he eats this.”

## From simple flavoring to powerful medicinal

In spring, Hunar the bear feasts on “Redberry” blossoms or “Buckthorn” as it is also called; in the fall the berries ripened and Hunar the bear returned for a second feast, this time the berries. Thus the Gabrieleno-Tongva know this shrub as Hunarkwahah or “Bear, he eats this”; botanists know it as *Rhamnus crocea*. This spreading gray-green shrub with its bright red berries can be found along dry washes and canyons, in Coastal Sage Scrub, the Chaparral, and in Oak Woodlands. Its close cousin, *Rhamnus californica*, or “Coffeeberry”, is also a Tongva favorite. Redberry produces bright red fruits which were pounded into venison, fish, and fowl. Junipero Serra named the shrub that the bear eats “the Sacred Bark” *Cascara Sagrada* because of its medicinal uses especially as a cathartic.

It is this sacredness, this medicinal quality that marks this plant for the Tongva. *Rhamnus crocea*, “Redberry” was boiled into a decoction of roots and bark for internal soreness. The decoction was also used for colds and coughs and to help increase urination. The leaves were burned and the fumes inhaled for headaches and for rheumatic pain. Ripe berries were often pounded into a poultice and applied to sores. The sap was used to cure warts and ringworm.

The ripe berries of “Coffeeberry” were pounded and applied to infections, pimples, and wounds.

The bark extract from another relative, *Rhamnus purshiana* was applied to wounds and infections and also used as a laxative.

Both bear and human recognized that not only did this simple shrub provide a berry for food, and for the Tongva a flavoring for meat, fish, and quail, but also was a powerful medicinal that Father Serra rightly called “the Sacred Bark.”



# Growing our Own: Plambeck for Supervisor!

We're always talking about “growing our own” i.e., electing environmentalists to be the decision makers we so often target in our campaigns. Well, you have a chance now to support Lynne Plambeck for LA County Supervisor.

Plambeck chairs the Santa Clara River Greenway Campaign, a priority campaign of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter which seeks to protect the flood plain of the Santa Clara River. She is running against incumbent Michael Antonovich for the 5th District seat. Antonovich made the motion to approve the Environmental Impact Report for Newhall Ranch, the development threatening the Santa Clara River. Plambeck's election to the Board of Supervisors would mean a different approach to regional growth planning.

Lynne Plambeck as LA County Supervisor, District 5, would represent all of north Los Angeles County, including Santa Clarita, Antelope Valley, Chatsworth, Northridge, Granada Hills, **Claremont**, Pasadena, Glendale, Burbank, Sierra Madre, La Verne, West Covina, Covina, South Pasadena, Glendora, San Dimas, Monrovia, Arcadia, Duarte, Altadena, La Canada Flintridge, and northern San Fernando Valley

Lynne Plambeck will protect the quality of life of ALL residents, from Claremont to Santa Clarita, Lancaster, and everywhere in between. Lynne Plambeck will come to YOUR community, rather than making residents drive 20, 50, even 100 miles just to meet their supervisor.

Lynne Plambeck is committed to

- Listening to residents' needs and concerns
- Protecting county health care services
- Supporting fire fighters and public safety services
- Protecting the environment
- Opposing new landfills, gravel pits and mines near homes
- Preventing sprawl and overdevelopment
- Stopping Newhall Ranch!
- Providing better public transit

The incumbent, Supervisor Mike Antonovich, has promoted developers' interests time and time again, while ignoring and even attacking residents' opposition to projects that harm their quality of life. The devastating impact of the recent wildfires shows what happens when planning takes a back seat to patronage. He has also taken a leading role in pushing through drastic cutbacks to county health care services and increasing the cost of passes for transit users by nearly 25% this year!

## **WE DESERVE BETTER LEADERSHIP!!!**

Send donations to  
Committee To Elect Lynne Plambeck  
PO Box 110  
Burbank CA. 91503

## SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

Mt Baldy Group, PO Box 906, Claremont 91711 — 909-621-7148; fax 909-624-7983

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/mtbaldy/> — [mb@angeles.sierraclub.org](mailto:mb@angeles.sierraclub.org)

Email *Eagle* articles to <[avtrix@earthlink.net](mailto: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  
Programs \*Ellen Elliot . . . . . 625-4630  
Publisher/Circulation Lori Ives . . 621-7148  
Publicity \*Sylvia Goldstein . . . . 624-6010  
Outreach \*Jan Overton . . . . . 599-9915  
Hospitality Connie Layne . . . . . 624-6115  
Audio/Visual Ken Horner . . . . . 626-0336

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7:30 pm, 264 E Green St, Claremont

2ND TUE: EAGLE MAILING

7:30 pm, 264 E Green St, Claremont

odd months: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov.

4TH TUE: MONTHLY PROGRAM:

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

**Sat, Jan 17 Puddingstone Hills.** Morning conditioning hike, 4-6 mi rt, 300-600' gain, easy pace. Meet 9 am, Brackett Field Airport Admin Bldg Pkng lot, La Verne (from I-10 drive N 1 mi on Fairplex Dr, W on McKinley, 3/4 mi to parking lot). Bring water, snack, boots or study shoes. Ldrs: Marian Nichols (909-981-7619), Flora Johnson.

**Sat, Jan 31 Henninger Flats.** Easy to moderate pace, 6 mi rt, 1400' gain. Visit site of an experimental forest where trees are raised for reforestation. Hike the old Mt Wilson Toll Rd to picnic site and small museum. Beginners welcome. Meet 8:30 am Azusa Rideshare Pt (on street next to market, 9<sup>th</sup> St and Azusa Ave, N or Foothill Blvd). Bring lugsoles, water, lunch. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Gabriele Rau (949-559-9212), Heidi Udink.

**Sun, Feb 1 Chino Hills State Park.** Now is the time of year to visit this local park on an 8 mi, 1000' gain hike. We will be hiking from the Park headquarters through the hills to see the flora and fauna. Meet 8 am, North Orange County Rideshare Pt (park-n-ride, E side Tustin Ave, just S of Lincoln Ave, Orange). Bring 2 qts water, lugsoles, lunch. Rain cancels. Leader: Ron Schrantz (714-995-8240). Asst: Bruce Hemphill.

**Sun, Feb 8 Devils Punchbowl to South Fork Campground.** Moderate 8 mi, 1400' gain hike from Devils Punchbowl County Park on desert side of San Gabriels, through unusual rock formations to south fork campground. Car shuttle. Meet 8 am, La Canada Rideshare Point (Angeles Crest Hwy [Hwy 2] just N of Foothill Fwy [I-210]. Park on Angeles Crest Hwy only). Bring lunch, water, lugsoles. Ldrs: Don Bremner (626-794-2603), Phil Laing.

**Sat, Feb 14 Sierra Madre to Orchard Camp.** 8 mi rt, 2000' gain. A slow paced hike to Orchard Camp, a sylvan sanctuary. Meet 9 am Mt Wilson Trail (from 210 Fwy, take Baldwin Ave North to Mira Monte Ave, then east to Mt Wilson trailhead in Sierra Madre.) Bring water, boots, plate, cup, utensils, potluck serving for 8. Keep perishable food ice cold. Ldrs: John DePoy (714-826-4007), Bruce Hauswirth.

**Sat-Mon Feb 14-16 Camera Comm East Mojave Carcamp.** Staying at scenic Mid Hills Campground, we will visit and photograph Hole-in-the-Wall, Kelso Dunes, volcanic cinder cones, Cima Dome, Joshua Tree forests, desert vistas, historic buildings. Send 2 SASE, home/work phones with \$10 payable Camera Comm to Leader: Wesley Peck, 3615 Gondar Ave, Long Beach CA 90808. Asst: Neil Davidson.

**Sat, Feb 21 Echo Mtn.** Join us for moderately paced, 5 mi rt, 1400' gain hike, no tigers! Meet 8 am, north end of Lake Ave, Altadena. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sally Wagner (909-860-4396), Frank Long.

**Wed, Feb 25 Bonita Peak Via Heaton Flats.** 6 mi rt, 1900' gain. A little peak with big views. Meet 9 am, Azusa Rideshare Pt with water, lunch, good footwear. Ldrs: Doris Duval (323-221-6023), Gabriele Rau.

**Sat, Feb 28 Santa Rosa Plateau Preserve.** Join us for a 9 mi, 800' gain hike in the grasslands and oak lands, including 100 year old Englemann oaks. Meet 9 am, Santa Rosa Preserve Visitors Center (5 mi west of I-15 on Clinton Keith Rd, Riverside). Bring 2 qts water, lugsoles, lunch, \$3 fee for Conservancy. Rain cancels. Ldr: Julie Garner (714-335-1579). Asst: Bruce Hemphill.



MT BALDY GROUP  
ANGELES CHAPTER  
PO BOX 906  
CLAREMONT CA 91711

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BALDY EAGLE, VOL 34, No 1 — January/February 2004

January 27, 2004 — Local Herd of Bighorn Sheep Endangered, *Steve Segreto of the US Forest Service*

February 24, 2004 — Think Locally — Act Globally: Responsible Trade Policies. *Jesse Colorado Swanhuysen*

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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Donations above the base are very welcome!

MAIL TO: SIERRA CLUB, MT BALDY GROUP  
PO BOX 906  
CLAREMONT CA 91711

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.