

The Baldy Eagle



The Newsletter of the Mt Baldy Group, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

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

September-October 2008

Volume 38, Number 5

6 issues for \$10

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

7:30 pm, Harvey Mudd College (See below)

Cranes and Conflicts **Melinda Herrold-Menzies** **Pitzer College**

In Muraviovka Park in the Russian Far East and Caohai Nature Reserve in southwestern China, these two protected wetlands have been sites of intense conflicts over natural resources. On one side there are natural resource managers who are dedicated to protecting endangered species of cranes, other rare birds, and biodiversity, in general. On the other side you have local farmers who have lost access to valuable fishing, hunting and land resources when the protected areas were created. These subsistence resources made these poor farmers' lives livable. Not surprisingly, local people reacted angrily, often violently, to their loss of critical natural resources. What I have been studying for over 11 years in these two sites is the development of these conflicts and the community outreach and economic development programs that have been created to reduce these conflicts. This talk will discuss the history of these conflicts and the programs that have tried to mitigate them.



MELINDA HERROLD-MENZIES, a Pitzer College Assistant Professor is most known for her research in conflicts over natural resources, gender and the environment, nature reserves in China and Russia, natural history and California cultures and ecosystems. She received her BA from Webster College, MA from Yale University and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

7:30 pm, Harvey Mudd College (See below)

A Green Remodel **After Fire Destroyed Their Home**

Five years ago the Claremont home of **VERN and DEBBIE JAHNKE** was gutted in the Grand Prix Fire. The question then was, do we move one, or rebuild? But a fortuitous meeting with architect Mark von Wodtke of Environmental Design Group, Claremont, decided them. A "green" design process began in March, 2004. Vern, a social director for more than 10 years, and Deb, a speech therapist, researched the building materials. They included solar panels, and counters of Richlite, a hard solid surface produce made of recycled newsprint and resin. Vern will tell us of their experiences in the design and rebuilding of their home.

Everyone is welcome at the Sierra Club, Mt Baldy Group meetings—7:30 pm, on the **FOURTH Tuesday**, (not necessarily the last), monthly (except August and December) on the Harvey Mudd College campus between 12th Street and Foothill Blvd. Enter the parking lot from Foothill Blvd, heading east, just east of Dartmouth. Park in the right hand lot. Enter adjacent patio, enter the Olin building at the center door on the west side of the patio. Follow signs to meeting room. People with disabilities should call (909) 624-5522 in advance to arrange for elevator access.

Join us to enjoy good food - good friends - good program

TAKAPE AHOOTS

“Isomeris arborea” and year round blossoms

by Mark Frank Acuña

So now begins that rush toward the end of summer. It is “Lalavaaich” or “Grey Goose” month when the geese come flying through on their yearly migration. It is a good time for hunting and trapping the fine birds for late summer meals. The Tongva, the indigenous people of the Los Angeles Basin, are gathering the last of the wild berries and currants for use in cooking the grey geese, known as “Tose.éh,ha,saht”. September brings not only the grey geese but also the turning point in the year, the autumnal equinox, the awesome night when the equinox song of autumn “Hayahmoh Pahkoh Ohchocheveh Yowkeh Mahreh Horoorah Tahrahmeh Cheayeesh” would be chanted by the shamans. Summer would turn to autumn, “Awroreve” would become “Hayahmoh Pahkoh Ohchocheveh” It is a magical moment of balance; night and day equal each other. And soon the nights lengthen toward winter.



And the women fan out along the coastal sage scrub and the dry washes looking for a burst of “Takape Ahots” The plant we call Bladder Pod and the botanist calls *Isomeris arborea* blossoms year round, but now it is particularly sought. The pods will be a tasty addition to the goose stew. Wild onions and dried mushrooms, “Tepish” and “Sesomaka” would also be added, but the marvelous dark flavor of Isomeri leaves and pods would be that extra bite of late summer The medicine people also gather “Takape Ahots”. To clear the throat of dryness, a decoction would be made from the crushed pod seeds. For fevers and stomach disorders, an infusion was made from the leaves, and the pods were brewed into a tea for sore throats and stomach troubles.

The basket weavers would carefully gather and store the roots, for they could be made into a greenish dye, much prized in good basket work.

So while the last days of summer slowly lead to autumn, the Tongva would be busy gathering the leaves, pods, and seeds of this aromatic herbal plant. Little children might turn up their noses at the scent. Some find it difficult; others love the smell. In our contemporary gardens it is loved by bees and hummingbirds who don’t seem to mind the odd smell at all.

Help Needed in Nevada

Nevada is a swing state in the coming election.

The Sierra Club, which has endorsed the Obama-Biden candidacy, is sending volunteers to Nevada to work for its endorsed ticket. If you are able and willing to travel to Nevada to work for Obama and Biden, please contact Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706, jholtzhln@aol.com.

HELP SAVE THE MT BALDY GROUP !!

Management Committee

Newsletter

Membership

Recruiting

Conservation

Outings

Review your talents and see how you can help keep the Mount Baldy Group alive.

We are sorely in need of fresh ideas, new blood.

Please step forward! And soon!!

Without new candidates to take part in the November
Group election we won't have a quorum
and have to fold at the end of the year.

Are the Sierra Club's goals
"To Explore, Enjoy, Protect The Wild Places of the Earth"
important to you, too?

Then see what YOU can do.

Though you might not have a specific task in mind, speak up.

Let's get together and see how YOU can contribute.

Call (909) 621-7148 (ives@ivesico.net) to volunteer.

Steelhead Could Return to Local River

by Ron Bottorff

Chairman of Friends of the Santa Clara River

On July 25, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a document that could eventually return steelhead salmon to the Santa Clara River. In a document that will have major effects on future operations at the Vern Freeman Diversion facility near Santa Paula by the United Water Conservation District, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a final biological opinion concluding that future operation of the facility in the proposed manner could jeopardize the existence of the Southern California steelhead.

A biological opinion is a technical document written after in-depth study by wildlife agency scientists that reviews the proposed human impacts to an endangered species. The agency then determines whether that species can continue to survive. This biological opinion also laid out a set of actions, termed a "reasonable and prudent alternative," that United could take to avoid the likelihood of steelhead extinction. This fish was once plentiful in local rivers but is now listed as endangered.

The Freeman Diversion is owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation and operated by United Water. Starting in May 2005, the National Marine Fisheries Service has been in formal consultation with the bureau under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on how diversion operations (including the existing fish ladder) affect the steelhead and its critical habitat.

The service document was issued as a result of the need for new operational procedures at the diversion. Under the Endangered Species Act, the bureau must consult with the service if facility operation involves impacts to an endangered species that is within the service's jurisdiction, as is the case for anadromous species that spend portions of their life cycles in the ocean.

A fish ladder does currently exist at the facility. But it has not allowed successful passage over the past decades of steelhead migrating upstream from the ocean. The Santa Clara is deemed one of the most important rivers in Southern California for steelhead recovery. The 122-page biological opinion does not specifically define what changes are needed at the facility, but instead calls for convening of a panel of experts to establish interim physical modifications to the facility (to be operational by Dec 21) as well as long-term modifications to be complete by Dec 31, 2011, when the bureau's discretion over operation of the diversion lapses.

Recovery of steelhead runs in the Santa Clara River has long been a top priority for the Friends of the Santa Clara River. The southern steelhead was listed as endangered about 10 years ago. Since then, there has been a plethora of meetings, discussions, issuance of formal and informal documents and studies. But effective action has not ensued, as evidenced by the fact that only a handful of adult steelhead have been observed in the Santa Clara River in recent years.

Friends of the River believes it is time — in fact, way past time — to take the appropriate action.

Potential return of the steelhead to their ancient spawning grounds in the Santa Clara River watershed is exciting news that would not have occurred without the Endangered Species Act. Now proposed rule changes could eliminate such progress toward species protection.

Under the current regulations, federal agencies must consult with scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service to determine whether a project is likely to harm endangered species or habitat.

The new regulations would

- Exempt thousands of federal activities from review under the Endangered Species Act
- Eliminate checks and balances of independent oversight
- Limit which effects can be considered harmful
- Prevent consideration of a project's contribution to global warming
- Set an inadequate 60-day deadline for wildlife experts to evaluate a project in the instances when they are invited to participate—or else the project gets an automatic green light
- Enable large-scale projects to go without review by dividing them into hundreds of small projects

Because these regulations are administrative and not legislative, they won't need the approval of Congress.

Friends of the Santa Clara River joins with thousands of other local conservation groups and individuals across the nation in asking President Bush to rescind such inappropriate rule-making and let our independent wildlife scientists do their jobs.

Without proper checks and balances, these new rules may simply mean extinction for many of our beautiful and rare plants and animals throughout the United States.

Join Us Park[ing] Day LA 2008

Park[ing] Day 2008 hits the streets of Los Angeles on Friday, September 19, 2008 as artists, designers and activists throughout the city step up to the curb, put a quarter in the meter, and transform curbside metered parkings spots into temporary public parks

Join us in engaging our community in a dialogue about public parks and open space, how it is allocated, how much urban open space we need and how our streets are currently being used.

Join us in creating community by taking to the streets and partnering with your neighbors in developing innovative uses of our public space.

Join us in revitalizing our community by putting the public back into public space.

Join us on Friday, September 19, 2008, create your own park in a parking space near you.

New Federal Government Hearing Set for September 22

by Robin Everett

August 30, 2008: The moment we all have been waiting for is finally here! The Federal Government hearing has been rescheduled for Monday, September 22 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

The hearing will be held from 10:30 am — 8:30 pm at O'Brien Hall, located at 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd in Del Mar. Please note that in order to speak you must send in your request to speak by September 12!

Mark your calendar for Monday, September 22 to attend the most important hearing the toll road fight has faced yet!! Friends of the Foothills and the Save San Onofre Coalition need your help to make our voices heard at the Commerce Department hearing. Use one of your vacation days this summer to help save one of California's most popular vacation spots!

The Coastal Commission made history when it denied the Foothill-South Toll Road through San Onofre State Beach. We cannot allow the Bush administration to overturn that very important decision. Without your help we could lose one of the most important environmental victories made in California.

Forest Death at Low Elevations

Warmer temperatures and longer dry spells have killed thousands of trees and shrubs in a Southern California mountain range, pushing the plants' habitat an average of 213 feet up the mountain over the past 30 years, a UC Irvine study has determined.

White fir and Jeffrey pine trees died at the lower altitudes of their growth range in the Santa Rosa Mountains, from 6,400 feet to as high as 7,200 feet in elevation, while California lilacs died between 4,000-4,800 feet. Almost all of the studied plants crept up the mountain a similar distance, countering the belief that slower-growing trees would move slower than faster-growing grasses and wildflowers.

This study is the first to show directly the impact of climate change on a mountainous ecosystem by physically studying the location of plants, and it shows what could occur globally if the Earth's temperature continues to rise. The finding also has implications for forest management, as it rules out air pollution and fire suppression as main causes of plant death.

"Plants are dying out at the bottom of their ranges, and at the tops of their ranges they seem to be growing in and doing much better," said Anne Kelly, lead author of the study and a graduate student in the Department of Earth System Science at UCI. "The only thing that could explain this happening across the entire face of the mountain would be a change in the local climate."

The Thirty Percent Solution

Homes and other buildings are America's largest consumers of energy and a major contributor to global warming. That's why the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign is joining with local governments, businesses, and energy-efficiency advocates to support a bold new proposal to adopt "green" building codes for new homes: the Thirty Percent Solution.

Next month, building-code officials from around the country will meet in Minneapolis to vote on whether to strengthen building-code energy-efficiency standards in new homes by 30 percent. By 2030, that would save an estimated 8 quadrillion BTUs of energy and \$88 billion in energy costs; reduce CO2 by 464 million metric tons; and create new clean-energy construction and service jobs in the building trades and energy-efficiency product industries.

Outings

The general public is welcome on most outings. Sierra Club membership is not required but certainly is encouraged! Consult the Angeles Chapter website (<http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/outingsDB/index.aspx>) or the Angeles Chapter *Schedule of Activities* for more activities in LA or Orange Counties. The Sierra Club encourages ridesharing. Participants make their own arrangements and should reimburse the driver. Call leader for information. *All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California*

Mt Baldy RP (Rideshare Point): PFF Bank's rear parking lot at NE corner, Indian Hill and Foothill Blvd, Claremont

Azusa RP (Rideshare Point): On street next to market, 9th St and Azusa Ave north of Foothill Blvd.

La Canada RP (Rideshare Point): Angeles Crest Hwy (Hwy 2), just north of Foothill Fwy (I-210). Park on Hwy 2 only.

Sat Sep 20 Hastings Peak (4000') from Valley Cyn:

Moderate pace, 8 mi rt, 3000' gain hike. Meet 8 am at Valley Cyn Park in Sierra Madre (from 210 Fwy exit Baldwin north to Carter, west to end of road.) Bring water, lunch, hiking boots. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mei Kwan (626) 355-1708, Norm Stabeck (818) 249-3807

Sun Sep 21 Bear Creek Ramble:

Moderate 9 mi, 900' gain hike, along seldom visited tributary of West Fork of San Gabriel River. We will learn about riparian habitat as we walk first through mature forest and then across alluvial floodplains to the Canyon's narrows. Many stream crossings. Meet 8:30 am Azusa RS. Bring water, lunch, hiking boots. Leaders: David Czamanske (626) 458-8646, Pedro Melo-Perez (323) 333-7153, Denise Sims

Wed Oct 1 Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve:

5 mi, no gain. Ramble around the slough to view the varied marsh birds and typical salt water plants in this remnant of wetlands, which used to be a broad, shallow bay 200 years ago in the time of Gabrielino Indians. Meet 9 am at the Bolsa Chica Interpretative Center, Warner and PCH, Costa Mesa. Bring water, lunch, shoes for possible mud, binoculars. Leader: Keats Hayden (949) 760-9399. Asst: Denny Bean (714) 525-3214

Sat Oct 4 Upper Newport Back Bay Ecological Reserve

Hike: Easy paced, 6 mi rt to enjoy nature, bird watch, learn about a variety of habitats, review some local history, enjoy some good food at the Back Bay Café, and have a good time. Reasonably flat terrain with stops for photo shoots. We will walk to Back Bay Drive, tour Big Canyon, stop at the Back Bay Café for lunch, and return by mid-afternoon. Meet 8:45 am at East Bluff Dr and the top of Back Bay Dr off Jamboree. Bring binoculars, camera, money for lunch, water, sun protection, lugsoles. Rain cancels. Leaders: Joe Maynard (562) 981-9111, Fran Penn (714) 747-1019

Los Seranos Group Sponsored

Sun Oct 8 Hike to Cucamonga Peak via Ice House

Canyon. Strenuous hike with 3939' elevation gain. 11.8 mi rt. Bring lunch, snacks, water (about 4 liters), sturdy hiking boots. An extra layer of clothing recommended. Meet 8 am at the Mt Baldy Visitor Center to carpool to Ice House Cyn Trailhead. Leader: Dean Shimek (909) 899-2795, dtsierra@msn.com

Sat Oct 11 Inspiration Point (4510') from Lake Ave:

Moderately paced 11 mi, 2400' gain hike. Meet 8 am north end Lake Ave in Altadena. Arrive early — parking is limited and you might have to walk a distance from your car. Bring lunch, 2 qts water, appropriate clothing layers, hiking boots. Rain cancels. Leaders: Marsha Reitmeyer (626) 799-9315, Norm Stabeck (818) 249-3807

Sun Oct 19 Hike to First Water on Mt Wilson:

Join us for a hike to First Water. We will start in Sierra Madre and hike 3 mi rt, with 1000' elevation gain. Enjoy stream in wooded canyon and views of San Gabriel Valley. Possible stream crossings. Join us for an optional lunch afterward at The Only Place in Town. Meet 10 am at the end of Mt Wilson Trail drive (300 yards east of the intersection of Baldwin Ave and Miramonte Ave in Sierra Madre.) Bring water, lugsoles, snack to share. Rain cancels. Leader: Heidi Sato (818) 857-5319. Asst: Gary Vidor (818) 790-0110

Sat Oct 25, Frankish Peak (4198'):

10 mi rt, 2600' gain to front range peak. Last years fire prevented us from savoring early treats on our Halloween Hike to Frankensteinish Peak on the eastern end of the San Gabriels. We will be hiking from Skyline Drive above Rancho Cucamonga. Meet 7:30 am Mt Baldy RP. Bring festive treats, water, lugsoles. Rain/fire cancels. Leaders: John and Dana Hunter (714) 462-4119

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I want to help safeguard our nation's precious heritage. My check is enclosed.

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LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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W0406 -1 Entity

Chapter newsletter *Southern Sierran*. Dues are not tax-deductible.

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The *BALDY EAGLE*, newsletter of the Mt Baldy Group, is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions (\$10.00, 6 issues) start with the month of your initial subscription. Mail the coupon today! The line above your name on your label is the month in which your subscription expires. MT BALDY GROUP RECEIVES NO FINANCIAL HELP from either the Angeles Chapter or the national Sierra Club. 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 always gratefully received to further our activities, but are not tax deductible. Call (213) 387-4289 for information about how to donate (with tax deductible benefits) through the Angeles Chapter Foundation.

- 1ST WED: MGMT COMMITTEE: 7:30 pm, (909) 621-7148
 2ND TUE: EAGLE MAILING, 7:30 pm, odd months:
 Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
 4TH TUE: MONTHLY PROGRAM: pg 1, (dark Aug, Dec)

Please sign me up to receive the Baldy Eagle!

SC Member Number is helpful but not necessary _____

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BALDY EAGLE, VOL 38, No 5

September 23 — Melinda Herrold-Menzies — *Cranes and Conflicts*

October 28 — Vern and Debbie Jahnke — *A Green Remodel After Fire Destroyed Their Home*

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

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