

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>

January-February 2009

Volume 39, Number 1

6 issues for \$10

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

7:30 pm, Harvey Mudd College

The Science of Global Warming: Convincing Your Skeptic Friends

Tom Bleakney graduated from Harvey Mudd with a degree in physics. He also holds MS degrees in physics and computer science from the University of Illinois and USC. Since his retirement from the aerospace industry several years ago, he has committed his technical energy to studying the physics of climate change.

In the last 20 years the scientific community's opinion on human-caused global warming has swung from overwhelmingly skeptic to overwhelmingly accepting, but, skepticism remains widespread among the public. People generally move through three phases in their denial:

1. Global warming is a hoax - it is not happening.
2. Current GW is real, but it is due to natural, not man-made causes.
3. GW is caused by human activity, but its consequences will be either negligible or beneficial.

With the recent publicity about how fast the Arctic summer ice is melting, many folks now accept that the planet may be warming, but they cling to the belief that this is due to natural causes. Some attribute it to natural variation, or an increase in the Sun's output. The scientific concern is not based upon ambiguous statistics of recent weather patterns, as many skeptics would have you believe. It is founded upon solid science that progressed first slowly then more rapidly over the last century. It is now understood that the "greenhouse effect" arising from the natural levels of both water vapor and CO₂ in the atmosphere are essential for life as we know it. Without this natural "greenhouse effect," the earth would be much too cold. We would have "snowball Earth."

We will discuss why we know the rise in atmospheric CO₂ is due to humans, how it is warming the planet, why it is different from natural warming in the geologic past, and why decades of future warming are "locked-in." We will also discuss dangerous "tipping points" that are worrisome precisely because their timing cannot be accurately predicted.

As conservationists we can all play our own part in helping shift public opinion. The necessary deep reduction in fossil fuel consumption will not be easy nor cheap, but the good news is that there is still time if we as a planet act soon.

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

7:30 pm, Harvey Mudd College

Alaska Highway and Points North

Mike and Patty Sappingfield invite you to join them in exploring Alaska and the Alcan Highway, a photographic journey of the Wild, Wild North. They visited Fairbanks, Anchorage, Seward, Valdez, as well as Denali, Kenai Fjords, and Elias-Wrangel National Parks. Wild animals encountered included both grizzly and black bears, bald eagles, moose, elk, deer, caribou, foxes, porcupines, mountain goats and sheep, orcas, humpback whales, stellar sea lions, and seals.



Eagle at Chilkat - photo by Mike Sappingfield

The Mt Baldy Group meets at 7:30 pm, the FOURTH Tuesday, (not necessarily the last) on the Harvey Mudd College campus, between 12th Street and Foothill Blvd, east of Dartmouth. Come, enjoy good fellowship, conservation updates, refreshments. Enter parking lot from Foothill Blvd, 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.

TOKORMAMAHAR

“Mule Fat”

by Mark F. Acuña

The winds of Aapcomil (December) have begun to blow across the great basin that we know as Los Angeles and Orange Counties and which the Tongva knew as Tovangar, (The World). All along the gullies and stream beds in the Coastal Sage Scrub and Chaparral below 3500 feet, the long branches of “Tokormamahar” have begun to fade in early winter. Soon the great Winter Solstice festival “Achichochevay Kah.hoh Yowke” will be celebrated. All days now slowly lead to that great and most sacred festival at Winter Solstice.

But now, the women gathered the leaves and stems of “Tokormamahar” to prepare seasonal decoctions used for feminine hygiene. This is a magical plant, much beloved by the women of the villages. With the arrival of the Spanish and the Church, the collecting of such medicine plants would be at first curtailed, then stopped and forbidden. With the building of the great “rancho” system and cattle fencing, it became increasingly difficult to reach many of the prime areas where “Women’s Plant” grew.

Known botanically as “Baccharis salisifolia”, this plant which is often confused with Willows, provided more than women’s medicine. The strong, pliable limbs and branches were used in the construction of the small family sweathouses and even for house construction when the stronger Willow could not be found. The men gathered the long straight branches, which they had carefully maintained to make arrows.

The leaves and stems were also used for an eyewash and brewed into a thick paste for toothaches. Both men and women washed their hair in “Tokormamahar” to prevent baldness and to restore thinning hair. Village doctors carefully made poultices to be applied to bruises, wounds, and insect bites.

Its fuzzy little blossoms which are present throughout the year are now turning that pale brown that lets us know that Aapcomil is here. New England turns golden red and thousands of tourists drive the wonderful roads of Vermont and New Hampshire while we notice the subtle changes in our Chaparral turning deeper gold, then rusty brown. The new year will soon begin as Tamit, the sun deity, returns from the longest night and shines on the morning of December 22. This is a peaceful time, the days of winter.

TARWEED COUSINS

Madia and Hemizonia

by Mark F. Acuña

The days of fall are shortening; the nights grow longer. The Tongva, the indigenous people of the Los Angeles Basin call November “Asguit” the month of “nuts and acorns”. The closing days of fall, “Ha-ah-moh Pah-ko O-cho-che-veh”, remind us to finish the gatherings for winter.

The women scour the hillsides and the grasslands, the Scrub Oak Woodland, and the Chaparral for the last of the Tarweeds. What the Tongva called these yellow flowers is presently lost. The names of Hemizonia and Madia, the curious Tarweeds, may some day be found written in some obscure diary, journal, or missionary’s prayer book. But for now we have no names.

The two Tarweed cousins have a long growing and blossoming season. Hemizonia blossoms from May to September (late spring to early autumn). Madia from May to November. So there is some form of Tarweed to



gather for most of the year. But now the season is ending. The little flowers will not return till late spring.

The women gather the remaining blossoms of Madia. Both Hemizonia and Madia seeds are used in what the Spaniards called “Pinole” but which the Tongva call “Tu-aht.” Mixed with other flower seeds, all are crushed and pounded into little cakes, the natural oils blending into sometimes sweet sometimes bitter delights. Stored in tight woven baskets the cakes will have much to offer on late winter nights. Wives and mothers, medicine people, will dry and store the leaves. The rains in winter may bring fevers and the leaves of both Tarweeds will make a dark infusion for fevered children. The Hemizonia leaves, roots, and stems, stored the longest, will be boiled and the steam inhaled for headaches.

These seemingly insignificant little yellow flowers once more remind us how the Tongva made wise use of all the plant world that was an integral part of their lives. We walk past the little blossoms and barely see them. The Tongva knew their world in a way we will probably never understand. And in the process of nonrecognizing, we scrape and bulldoze a world into oblivion.



Hikes ~ Picnics ~ Special Programs ~ Service Opportunities ~ Social Events

Join the San Gabriel Mountains Campaign East Group and Help Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests



Our local national forests offer something for all of us – scenery, recreation, land for plants and animals, clean water and air, and an opportunity to spend time outdoors with our family and friends. These forests also offer a tempting target for development.

The San Gabriel Mountains Campaign East Group recognizes the value of our local forests and the threats they face. Now you have the opportunity to be a part of our group and take easy actions to

protect these special places.

There are various ways to get involved; you can join on a hike, write a short letter to a key decision maker, or help us plan hikes, fun social events and informative programs for our members. Join us at one of our events or hikes below and learn more or contact Juana Torres at juana.torres@sierraclub.org

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Come hear Tongva Tribal Liaison, Mark Acuña give a special presentation "Native Americans in the San Gabriel Mountains" on Thursday, January 29th at 7:30 p.m. in Claremont. Acuña has spent his life raising awareness of the history of Native American in the San Gabriel Valley. At the program you will also learn about efforts to protect the San Gabriel Mountains and how you can take an easy action to help out. The program is free and everyone is welcome. The event will be held at the Claremont Hughes Community Center located at 1700 Danbury Rd, Claremont, CA 91711. To RSVP or for more information please contact Juana Torres at juana.torres@sierraclub.org.

Obama Picks Major Green Jobs Advocate for Labor Department

Sierra Club Congratulates Representative Hilda Solis

Washington DC — President-Elect Barack Obama has chosen Representative Hilda Solis of California to head the Department of Labor. Rep. Solis has been a preeminent advocate for green jobs and environmental justice during her career in the House. She has a lifetime League of Conservation Voters score of 97.

Representative Solis co-authored the Green Jobs Act, which later became part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which became law December 19, 2007. The Green Jobs Act authorized \$125 million for workforce training programs. The training will be targeted to veterans, displaced workers, at risk youth, and individuals in families under 200% of the federal poverty line. It could benefit programs such as the one at the East Los Angeles Skills Center where workers are trained to install solar panels. Upon the signing, Congresswoman Solis stated: "The bill is a message for all workers across our nation that there is a place for them in the clean energy future."

Statement of Carl Pope Sierra Club Executive Director

The Sierra Club is overjoyed at the news of Hilda Solis' selection as Secretary of Labor. She has been a tireless advocate for environmental issues, environmental justice, worker's rights, and green jobs. We send our deepest

congratulations to Representative Solis.

Representative Solis was one of the earliest and most vocal supporters of green jobs in the House of Representatives. We can think of no better person to help President-Elect Obama implement his plans for an economic recovery fueled by the creation of millions of new green jobs. Hilda Solis also understands that green jobs must also be good jobs and has worked to make sure that the clean energy economy is one that lifts up all workers.

This latest pick underscores the strong commitment of the administration to action on clean energy, global warming, and a green economic recovery. President-Elect Obama has assembled a team of unprecedented strength to advise him on energy, environmental, science, and climate issues. This extraordinary team is poised to help the President-Elect implement his ambitious agenda to put America back to work by tackling the significant climate and energy challenges facing our country.

One of our other top legislative priorities is passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. We are very pleased that a strong supporter of this essential legislation has been tapped to head up the Department of Labor, yet another agency that has been gravely damaged during the past eight years.

Hilda Solis has been a strong ally of the Sierra Club and we very much look forward to working with her in her new position.

Free One Day eWaste Collection Event

Drop off your unwanted electronics and help keep our landfills clean of toxic materials.

The date of the event will be Saturday, January 31, 2009—8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

All types of electronics will be accepted, including televisions, monitors, PC Systems, Server Systems, VCR/DVD Players, Copy Machines, Cell Phones, Printers, Scanners, PDAs, Auto Batteries, etc.

In order to ensure that everyone can be accommodated, please RSVP at info@regionalchambersgv.com if you plan to participate. Walk-ins are welcome.

The Event will be held at
South Coast Air Quality Management
District Government Center, West Parking Lot (*adjacent to the PreSchool Center*)
21845 E. Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

For more information, contact ERC at 909-620-8882 or the Regional Chamber of Commerce at 909-860-1904.

I want to join the Sierra Club!

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

New member name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (optional)

Email (optional)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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
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- Secy/XAlt/Publicity *Sophie Radowick (09) 398-1924
- Treasurer *Peggy Zappen (09) (626) 335-3528
- Newsletter/Website/Membership *Lori Ives (10) 621-7148
- Outings *Flora Johnson (10) 626-6980
- At Large *Dixon Davis (09) (626) 963-5363
- Hospitality Connie Layne 624-6115
- Master Ceremonies/Audio/Visual *Ken Horner (10) 392-4176

The *BALDY EAGLE*, newsletter of the Mt Baldy Group, started 1970, WAS published bi-monthly. Subscriptions (\$10.00, 6 issues) start with the month of your initial subscription. 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 Angeles Chapter or the national Sierra Club. 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.

Questions: phone 909-621-7148

!! HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

ORANGE COUNTY AND ORANGE COUNTY SIERRA SINGLES OUTINGS

Led by Julie Garner (714-335-1579). Many of you probably remember Julie Garner. She was our *Baldy Eagle* Editor for a number of years before she quit her job in Upland and started to work closer to home in Orange County. Their gain was our loss. She has sent us the following level O hikes which she will be leading She would love to see you on them. Enjoy.

Jan 31 Aliso/Woods Cyns: 7 mi hike, 800' gain jaunt to Dripping Springs Cave, hideout of stagecoach thieves, and on to Woods Cyn. Meet 8:45 am at trailhead (Aliso Water Management Rd near Aliso Woods Park entrance). Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, \$ for parking. Rain/rain 2 days prior cancels. Leader: Julie Garner. Asst: Sharon Kirk

Feb 21 Little Hikers, Icehouse Cyn: A wintertime 1-2 mi, 400' gain walk, optional stop at Harwood Lodge for Sierra Club members and guests (see Harwood info in *Schedule*) to relax and enjoy hot chocolate provided by the leader. Supervised children and adults welcome. We will make a stop near Baldy Village to see a reconstructed Tongva shelter. Meet 8:30 am North Orange County rideshare pt or 9:15 am Mt Baldy rideshare pt. Wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes; bring water, lunch. Heavy snow within 2 days or rain cancels. Leader Julie Garner. Asst: Dana Hunter

Feb 28 Santa Rose Plateau: Join us for a 10 mi, 800' gain hike in the grasslands and oaklands of this beautiful preserve, including vernal pools. Meet 8 am N Orange Cty rideshare pt or 9 am Santa Rosa Preserve visitor's center (5 mi W of 15 Fwy on Clinton Keith Rd, Riverside). Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles, \$ for Conservancy. Rain cancels. Leader Julie Garner. Asst: Frank Lai

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BALDY EAGLE, VOL 39, No 1

January 27, 2009 — Thomas Bleakney — *The Science of Global Warming: Convincing Your Skeptic Friends*

February 24, 2009 — Mike and Patty Sappingfield — *Images of Alaska*

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

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In the last couple of *Eagles*, we have written that in order to survive, we need volunteers for Management Committee, Newsletter, Membership Recruiting, Conservation, Outings

IF WE HAVE NO RESPONSE, THIS IS THE LAST *BALDY EAGLE* (AFTER 38 YEARS). THERE ARE NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED AFTER FEBRUARY, 2009. Sorry!

Your partial subscription will be refunded on request.

Robin and Lori Ives and friends founded the Mt Baldy Group of the Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club in 1970. For many years Robin has served as Group Chair. He resigned as Chair on January 1, 2009. Unless a new chair is found, the Group will go dormant.

Only you can revive the Mount Baldy Group. We need fresh ideas, new blood. Please step forward! And soon! Are the Sierra Club's goals *To Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Wild Places of the Earth* important to you, too?

If you care, you might not have a specific task in mind, but speak up.

We have had no response!
The old guard is tired. What is your verdict?
To volunteer, contact (909) 621-7148 or ives@ivesico.net