

AUGUST, 2007 - FEBRUARY, 2008



The Crescenta Valley *TRAIL*

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



La Crescenta Valley Group newsletter supplements the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Southern Sierran and serves the Tujunga * Sunland * Montrose * La Crescenta * Verdugo Woodlands * La Canada-Flintridge area.

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Angeles Chapter Political Action Committee (PAC) will host its first fundraiser entitled “**May We Have A Moment**”, on **Saturday, September 29, at the Audubon Center at Debs Park**, 4700 No. Griffin Avenue, L.A., CA 90031, from 1:00 p.m. through 4:30 p.m. A Political Leadership Award will be given to each of the following:

FRAN PAVLEY, former CA Assemblymember, 41st District

JOE DUNN, former CA State Senator, District 34

CINDY MONTANEZ, former CA Assemblymember, District 39

JUDY CHU, current Board of Equalization and former Assemblymember, District 49

PAUL KORETZ, former CA Assemblymember, District 42.

These leaders have worked hard for the environment and are strong Sierra Club supporters. They will be the first five to be inducted into our Political Leadership Council. Meet, Greet, and feast with our honorees and Sierra Club activists and leaders in a one-of-a-kind environmental setting. The Audubon Center is a LEED-certified building and is an architectural icon. **A 30-minute trail walk will be conducted at exactly 1:00 p.m.** See California native plants, birds, and wildlife in an ecosystem that speaks of the earth's biological diversity.

Bid on collectible political memorabilia items at great prices while helping a worthwhile cause. Though some memorabilia items may just be on exhibit and not for auction, you will still make a trip down memory lane with age-old political events. Auction items include campaign stickers, buttons, books, posters, even lawn signs! Get out your checkbook for a rare JFK campaign license plate, a JFK '80 button, and a 'Washington taking the oath' rare postcard.

**SAVE THE DATE! SEE YOU ON SATURDAY,
SEPT. 29TH, 1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

CRESCENTA VALLEY GROUP
MONTHLY PROGRAMS BY WAYNE FISHER
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH - 10 TIMES A YEAR.
7:30 P.M. CITIBANK MEETING ROOM
HONOLULU AVENUE, MONTROSE

September 11, Tuesday

Monthly meeting: JASON KANDEL of the Valley News, will show his slides and speak about his trip to Albania. Outings, conservation, refreshments. 7:30 p.m. Citibank meeting room, Honolulu Avenue, Montrose.

October 9, Tuesday

Monthly meeting: BRUCE LAMARCH, Chair of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Group - Community Relations. Bruce will show slides and speak on "Winter Survival Skills". Outings, conservation, refreshments. 7:30 p.m. Citibank meeting room, Honolulu Avenue, Montrose.

November 13, Tuesday

Monthly Meeting: JIM LANCASTER will give a slide presentation on "Greece and the Greek Islands". Outings, conservation, refreshments. 7:30 p.m. Citibank meeting room, Honolulu Avenue, Montrose.

December 9, Sunday

CHAMPAGNE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills, 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join us for the brunch festivity at \$21.00 per person, please RSVP Olivia at 818/890-9175 by no later than November 23.

January 8, 2008, Tuesday

Monthly Meeting: DR. JIM ADAMS will give a slide presentation about "Chumash Indian Medicine." He brings with him a Chumash Indian Medicine woman complete with an assortment of Chumash wardrobe. Outings, conservation, refreshments. 7:30 p.m. Citibank meeting room, Honolulu Avenue, Montrose.

February 8, Tuesday

Monthly Meeting: BRUCE HALE will give a slide presentation about "Exploring Ancient Sites in Guatemala." This current Outings Chair for the Verdugo Hills Sierra Club group and avid traveler will share an assortment of photos including his own that he has collected throughout his travels in Central America. Outings, conservation, refreshments. 7:30 p.m. Citibank meeting room, Honolulu Avenue, Montrose.



CRESCENTA VALLEY GROUP (CVG) OUTINGS COMMITTEE -
Leaders may submit outings to Outings Chair Olivia Hernandez
for format into the main schedule 2 weeks before deadline established
by Dave Eisenberg. For CVG "The *Trail*" newsletter,
all outings must be published **by 2 weeks prior to outing**
as established within Angeles Chapter publication outings guidelines.

OUTINGS



Dec 29 - Jan 1 Sat-Tues Backpacking, Crescenta Valley

O: 16th Annual Yosemite New Year's Eve Celebration. Encore of our previous New Year's Eve bus trips to Yosemite. Enjoy the beauty of Yosemite Valley from our lodge rooms and cabins for 4 days and 3 nights at Yosemite Lodge. 3 of the last 5 years we have xc-skied in the valley. Free beginner xc ski lessons. Downhill ski at Badger Pass. Hike in Yosemite Valley. Brunch with us at the Ahwahnee. Join us for actor Lee Stetson's award-winning shows personifying John Muir. Enjoy our fantastic New Year's Celebration at Yosemite. Bus leaves noon on Friday. Includes bus (unless ride share), New Year's and hospitality parties, Yosemite Lodge lodging, brunch at Ahwahnee Hotel, admission to show, gratuities. \$390-\$570 per person with SC#. Nonmember \$425-\$595 depending upon rooms and use of bus or ride share. \$15 early sign-up discount if received before Sept. 20. Send 2 SASE, phones, \$150 deposit (Sierra Club) to LDR: Fred Dong, ASSTS: Stephanie Gross, Kathy Scott, Susan McDonough.

Aug 27 Mon Crescenta Valley, Verdugo Hills

O: Full Moon Hike - Verdugo Hills. 2 hour conditioning hike in the Verdugo Mountains. Start 7 p.m. Meet at East Walnut Avenue and North De Bell Drive next to De Bell Golf Course Club House. Exit Burbank off-ramp on I-5 and travel north. Take left on 3rd Street, right on Delaware, right on Glenoaks, left on Walnut and continue 1 mile. Bring water, boots/running shoes. Kids OK. Bring old cell phones, ink jet cartridges, laser jet cartridges to the hike for RECYCLE. Rain cancels. LDRS: Silvia Darie, ([HYPERLINK "mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net"](mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net) outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net), Denise Sims, Jeff Wilson and Annette Tamraz.

Sep 16 Sun Crescenta Valley, Little Hikers, K9

O: Mt. Williamson (8214') 1600' gain, 5 miles, 3 hrs rt. Yes, Again. Follow this trail as it switch backs up the southwest ridge of Mt. Williamson, through groves of Jeffrey and ponderosa pines. From the summit one can look out across the southern Mojave Desert. Outcroppings of the San Andreas Fault Zone can be seen running parallel along the base of the San Gabriel

Mountains. Bring goody to share, lugs, 2 qts water, dogs on leash during snack time. Meet 9:00 a.m. La Canada Rideshare. Ldrs Cathy Kissinger, John Yard, Olivia Hernandez.

Sep 26 Wed Crescenta Valley, San Fernando Valley

O: Full Moon Hike - Verdugo Hills. 4 miles, 1000' gain, 2 hour conditioning hike in the Verdugo Mountains starting from La Tuna Canyon. Meet 7:00 p.m. Exit La Tuna Canyon on 210 fwy. Trailhead immediately south of the freeway. Bring lugs, water, snack to share. Bring old cell phones, ink jet cartridges, laser jet cartridges to the hike for RECYCLE. Rain cancels. LDRS: Silvia Darie, ([HYPERLINK "mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net"](mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net) outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net), Denise Sims, Jeff Wilson and Annette Tamraz.

Oct 14 Sun Crescenta Valley, Little Hikers, K9

O: Gould Mesa to Arroyo Seco. 700' gain, 4.5 miles, 2 hrs. rt on dirt road. Shady and green, a fairly flat hike with possible numerous stream crossings which can be fairly deep but not likely in the dry season. Bring mosquito spray, goody to share, water to drink, lugs, dogs on leash during snack time. Meet 9:00 a.m. La Canada Rideshare. Ldrs Cathy Kissinger, John Yard, Olivia Hernandez

Oct 17 Wed Crescenta Valley, San Fernando Valley, Little Hikers

O: Evening hike to Cherry Canyon. Easy 4 mi, 400' gain. Enjoy spectacular views of Glendale and Pasadena from this recently acquired park above Descanso Gardens. Meet at trailhead at 4157 Hampstead Rd., La Canada. Rain cancels. Bring lugs, water, hat, snack to share. Bring old cell phones, inkjet cartridges, laserjet cartridges to the hike for RECYCLE. Rain cancels. LDRS: Silvia Darie, ([HYPERLINK "mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net"](mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net) outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net), Denise Sims, Jeff Wilson and Annette Tamraz.

Nov 4 Sun Crescenta Valley, San Fernando Valley, Wildernes Adventures

O: Whiting Woods to Verdugo Peak. Enjoy spectacular views of the valley from this relaxing 5 mi rt, 1500' gain hike in the Verdugo Mountains. Learn about fire ecology 2 years after the Verdugo fires. Meet 2 p.m. at end of Whiting Woods Rd., Montrose. Exit Pennsylvania Ave. 210 fwy and travel south 5 mi. Whiting Woods is on the right after the bend in the road. Bring lugs, water, hat, snack to share. Bring old cell phones, inkjet cartridges, laserjet cartridges to the hike for RECYCLE. Rain cancels. LDRS: Silvia Darie, ([HYPERLINK "mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net"](mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net) outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net), Denise Sims, Jeff Wilson and Annette Tamraz.

Nov 28 Wed Crescenta Valley, Pasadena

O: Deukmejian Wilderness Park - Wednesday Night 2 Hrs Conditioning Hike: Meet 7 pm at parking lot entrance. Exit Lowell Ave 210 Fwy and travel north on Lowell 1 mi, right on Markridge, left on Dunsmore. 5142 Dunsmore Avenue, Glendale. Rain cancels. Bring lugs, water, snack to share. Bring old cell phones, old inkjet cartridges and old laserjet cartridges to the hike for recycling. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Silvia Darie, ([HYPERLINK "mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net"](mailto:outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net) outdoorsygal@sbcglobal.net), Denise Sims, Jeff Wilson and Annette Tamraz.

Dec 9 Sun Crescenta Valley K-9, Wilderness Adventures

O: Stone Canyon to Mt. Lukens . 8 mi rt, 3200' gain/loss. Hike from Wildwood Campground to the top of Mt. Lukens, the highest point in L.A. city limits. Hike from Big Tujunga road to top, enjoying beautiful views of the front range as we go up. At the top, enjoy views of downtown L.A., and possibly the ocean! No tigers or beginners. Meet at 8AM at Wildwood Campground. Exit 210 fwy at Sunland Blvd. Go east, turn left at Oro Vista Ave (about .8 mile from freeway). Oro Vista becomes Big Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Take this about 5 miles to Doske Rd, which is the entrance to the Wildwood campground. Park at end of park. Wear lugsole boots, bring lunch and enough water for you and your dog (at least 2 quarts for each person/dog). There is a stream crossing at the beginning and end that may require you to remove your boots and wade in water. There is no other water source on the trail. Dogs are welcome but must be under owners control at all times. Rain cancels. LDR: Cathy Kissinger. Asst. Garen Yegparian.

Jan 6 Sun Crescenta Valley, K-9, Wilderness Adventures

O: Dukemejian Park to top of Mt. Lukens. Approximately 8 mile rt, 2000' gain/loss. Loop trail begins at Deukemejian Wilderness area in La Crescenta. We will hike up the eastern side of Mt. Lukens lunching at the top and coming down on the fire road and western side of Mt. Lukens. Meet at 8AM at Deukemejian Wilderness Park. (Call leader for directions). Wear lugs, bring lunch and enough water for you and your dog (minimum 2 quarts for person and dog). There is water at the beginning and end of this hike only. Rain cancels. LDR: Cathy Kissinger. Asst. Joel Goldberg.

Feb 17 Sun Crescenta Valley, K9

O: Josephine Peak (5558'). 8 mi rt, 1900' gain. Weather permitting, this is a great little winter hike especially if the sun happens to be shining, the soft crunch of snow under my lugs, fresh clean air - a real favorite. Meet 9 a.m. La Canada rideshare. We'll cross the hwy to a dirt road on the west side of Angeles Forest Hwy - follow the dirt road as it meanders up some

switch backs, 2 mi to a junction. From the junction you have a beautiful view to the east of Strawberry Peak across Josephine Saddle. To the west is the route to Josephine Peak. Continue to the left (west) up the fire road, to the summit of Josephine Peak. The ruins of the old fire lookout in the form of a concrete foundation mark the summit. Well mannered dogs welcome. LDRS: Olivia Hernandez, Bobcat Thompson.

CVG FRONTLINE NEWS:
LOCAL CONSERVATION

Our own Conservation-Person, Jennifer Meyers, has been closely monitoring the Sunland-Tujunga council meetings June and July , where Michael Antonovich was speaking. Antonovich said he is ready to commit to purchase of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course if the city comes up with the money. Evidently, the developers are open to selling. However, the convalescent home across the street from the golf course has been sold to the developers. Wendy Gruel was also in attendance at these council meetings. She is looking for funds for this property as well as the golf course. The Glendale City Council is also trying to find funds for the purchase of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course and, the Mountain Oaks area. Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy is also involved in trying to preserve the Mountain Oaks area. There is a trail map that has been put together that links all the Verdugo Mountain trails of which Mountain Oaks would be a trail head for some of the hikes.

The money is out there. This last May, the Board of Supervisors Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky announced approval of a \$2.32 million in grant funding to help purchase 6 parcels of prime open space in the Santa Monica Mountains to expand the County's hiking and equestrian trail system. The money comes from competitive grant awards under the Natural Land for Trails program funded through Proposition A, a park and open-space measure championed by Yaroslavsky and approved by County voters in 1996. The project was actually funded by a combination of sources. Now all we need over this side of the mountain is a good grant writer. Anybody out there?



LIFE IN THE CANYON

by Olivia Hernandez

A couple of mornings ago, not far from our house, I was starting out on a walk with my three dogs when suddenly a very large Mule Deer, antlers and all, leaped out of the bushes in front of me on to the road and ran off. Luckily, the dogs were always behind me and didn't notice this amazing sight. I quickly turned on my heels and headed back down the road and herded the dogs home. I've seen the Mule Deer often enough around the canyon, but one never so close to home nor so big. He was a beautiful tan, full grown buck. He had both forks with a number of branches. I've never seen one so close to the houses however. He most likely was looking for food even at the cost of human encounter. This last winter '07 most fruit/flower bearing plants froze. I was surprised this big guy didn't hear me coming sooner. Mule Deer have large ears that move constantly and independently, from whence they get their name, "Mule" or "Burro Deer." They do not run as other deer, but have a peculiar and distinctive bounding leap (stotting) over distances up to 8 yards, with all 4 feet coming down together. In this fashion, they can reach a speed of 45 m.p.h. for short periods. When startled, a Mule Deer will move in a series of stiff-legged jumps with all four feet hitting the ground together. This gait offers two advantages: it allows the deer to outdistance predators in rough terrain, and to see above the thick brush. If necessary, they can turn or completely reverse direction in the course of a single bound.

Mule Deer: *Odocoileus hemionus*. They can weigh as much as 330 lb., be as tall as 85". They reach sexual maturity at 2 years. Their mating season is October through November. Gestation period is 195 to 212 days. Their life span is about 10 years in the wild but have been known to live as long as 25 years in captivity. Their typical diet is various vegetation. In Spring and Summer it feeds on green leaves, herbs, weeds and grasses. The reverse is true in Fall and Winter. Mule Deer are browsers and eat a great variety of vegetable matter, including fresh green leaves, twigs, lower branches of trees, and various grasses. They are particularly fond of blackberry and raspberry vines, grapes, mistletoe, mushrooms and ferns. They eat so carefully they can even consume the fruit of cactus for which there is plenty in the Canyon. Mule Deer have no canine teeth and, like the cow, have a multipart stomach, the first two chambers of which act as temporary storage bins. Food stored here can be digested later when the deer chews its cud. Another physical adaptation, its larger feet, allows the Mule Deer to claw out water as much as two feet deep, which it detects with its keen sense of smell.

Mule Deer are active primarily in mornings, evenings and moonlit nights. This inactivity during the heat of the day is a behavioral adaptation to the desert environment that conserves

water and keeps the body temperature within livable limits. Sweat glands and panting also provide evaporative cooling during hot periods. During the middle of the day, the Mule Deer beds down in a cool, secluded place. The mature buck seems to prefer rocky ridges for bedding grounds, while the doe and fawn is more likely to bed down in the open. Mule Deer moves between various zones from the forest edges at higher elevations to the desert floor, depending on the season. While the Mule Deer occupies almost all types of habitat within its range, it seems to prefer arid, open areas and rocky hillsides. That pretty much describes our habitat here in Kagel Canyon.

All federal, state, and provincial land and wildlife management agencies recognize the fundamental need to maintain Mule Deer ranges and keep them habitable. To counter the trend of agricultural development, gangland conversion, mining, road and highway construction, and the development of housing tracts, many states and provinces have purchased critical areas, especially winter ranges, to maintain the various habitats of Mule Deer. But, due to political opposition to government acquisition of privately owned lands, plus a scarcity of funds for this purpose, only a small fraction of Mule Deer ranges has been acquired by the government.

Other interesting facts: The Mule Deer is a target for various viral, bacterial, and parasitic diseases. For example, heavy amounts of gastrointestinal nematodes may cause death in Mule Deer. This parasitic disease is usually indicative of such predisposing factors as high Mule Deer density and malnutrition.

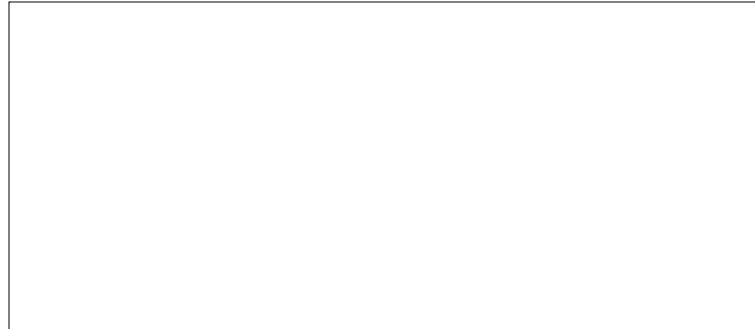
- * Mule Deer is an excellent swimmer, but water is rarely used as a means of escaping predators.
- * The annual cycle of antler growth in Mule Deer is initiated and controlled by changes in day length acting on several cell types of the anterior pituitary.
- * While unable to detect motionless objects, Mule Deer is extraordinarily sensitive to moving objects. Maybe that's why the Mule Deer didn't hear me, because I was walking to darn slow.
- * For Native Americans and early European settlers, deer meat (venison) provided one of the most important sources of protein.
- * Sport hunters kill about 1 million Mule Deer and 2 million White-tailed Deer annually.
- * Deer hides were used to make buckskin jackets, moccasins and other leather articles.





The *TRAIL*

Crescenta Valley Newsletter
Sierra Club Crescenta Valley Group
10541 Oro Vista Avenue
Sunland, CA 91040



The *Trail* August 2007 - February 2008

Crescenta Valley Group Outings Leaders & Management Committee

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| * Fred Dong, Chair | (818) 545-3878 |
| * Cathy Kissinger,
Secretary/Membership | (818) 352-3361 |
| Jerry Burnham, Treasurer | (818) 248-2756 |
| * John Lajeunesse, Council/4-Star | (818) 248-5763 |
| * Olivia Hernandez,
Outings/Newsletter | (818) 890-9175 |
| Wayne Fisher, Programs/Political | (818) 353-4181 |
| * Jennifer Meyers, Conservation | (818) 571-9516 |
| Marlene Plummer, Publicity | (818) 248-1975 |
| * Andrea Lim, At-Large | |
| * Bob Thompson, Leader | (818) 249-1237 |
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| * Denise Sims, Leader | (818) 421-2644 |
| * Jeffrey T. Wilson, Leader | (818) 622-3212 |

* LEADERS

Visit our website

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

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

We need your stories, pics, photos, images of wildlife-nature related ideas to help make our newsletter more enjoyable and interesting. Get your digital cameras out for action & email me pics PDF in JPEG format to: oliviadesigns@ca.rr.com Or, snail-mail to please:
Olivia Hernandez
12536 Blue Sage Drive
Sylmar, CA 91342



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2006, over half of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequently, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% more mercury pollution by the year 2010, not to mention the plan delays the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the end of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
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