



Walk on, walk on!

Stamina and a deep bond of friendship are the key to succeeding on this trans-Sierra trek

By Lynn Lively

My car was 22 miles away, so I started walking.

My buddy, Blanch Kosche, joined me. We hoisted our backpacks onto our osteoporotic hips (I'm 68 and Blanch is 72) and walked three days, from the east (near Independence) to the west (in Kings Canyon National Park) across the rugged spine of California. The Trans Sierra Traverse, as I named it, was like passing through a display rack of picture postcards of stunning rocks, trees, lakes and mountains. A walk across our beautiful state is a real-life geology illustration.

The major challenge of a one-way trip is, how do you get home? The answer is to arrange two teams, TST East and TST West, hiking the same trails in opposite directions. We would meet at a pre-determined creek crossing in the middle and with great ceremony do a car key exchange, a version of the Transcontinental Railroad's Golden Spike.

A car key exchange is a sacred commitment upon the part of a hiking pal, in this case Hugh Warren, that he will drive my car to the trailhead parking lot where our trip ends and leave it there, full of gas. I would do the same for him. Hugh and I had shared a sacred handshake / pinky finger salute that no matter what the circumstances, including rain (more on that later), nausea, or a whining party member who "wanted to go out," the car would stay put. To emerge from a major trip with food eaten, water drunk, and no transportation out of the wilderness would be serious business.

Hugh and I bear-proofed both cars by thorough interior vacuuming, and we promised that we would not eat in each other's cars on the long drive from our Ventura county homes to the trailheads. By the way, you can also reverse your route by public transportation, if you have another two or three days to spare. My buddy, Jacquie Kaner, who couldn't do the hike at the last minute because her back went out, rode six buses, walked and hitch-hiked with some "very interesting people" to meet us.



Pretty brave for a 68 year old woman with only a Swiss Army knife for protection.

Each day's scenery was completely different. Day 1 was Dry Rock Day. We left Onion Valley trailhead at 9,185 feet and climbed 2,400 feet into those stunning rocks you see from Highway 395. The terrain was steep, dry and breathtaking. Even though the area was desolate with little green, there were a few small lakes. How does the water get there? Snow melt? Note to self: must ask geologist.

Access to fresh water was a worry on this trip, and the lakes were a comfort. One slight problem: although the lake was only one contour line away on a map, it was a 100 foot drop through rugged scree to get to the water. We simply could not run out of water in hot, dry country, because that means muscle cramps and possible heat exhaustion. So we ended up carrying far more

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Top, heading down the trail after cresting 11,760-foot Kearsarge Pass. Lynn Lively, left, and Blanch Kosche set off on a 22-mile adventure to cross the Sierra from east to west, from a trailhead near Independence to Kings Canyon National Park.

PHOTOS BY BLANCH KOSCHE

12 reasons to shut down San Onofre nuclear plant

From Sierra Club reports

The San Onofre Task Force of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter calls for permanent shutdown of the San Onofre nuclear power plant due to the growing list of design issues, safety risks and costs standing in the way of a restart.

The plant's reactors were closed down last January after a design flaw in tubes at one of its units had leaked radioactive steam. The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are currently wrestling with the future of the plant.

As Southern California Edison and others press to restart the plant, the PUC has the lead role on economic and financial issues and the NRC has the lead role on safety and design issues.

While this division of responsibility is clear and logical, it leads to a disjointed decision-making process that does not reflect the multi-layered problems, difficulties and hurdles facing San Onofre. In combination these issues create a challenge of immense complexity and raise fundamental concerns about efforts to resuscitate this aging and deeply troubled power plant. The issues include:

1. Computer modeling did not predict serious defects with its steam generator design. Faulty computer modeling by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries failed to predict the behavior of

new steam generators. Mitsubishi had no representative present at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission technical hearing on Nov. 30, raising concerns about the degree to which the company will assist in design changes or cover the cost despite \$175 million in its liability exposure.

2. The steam generators system failure is unprecedented and still unexplained. Decades of nuclear power plant development and operation provided no guarantee against the breakdown of steam generator hardware at San Onofre. This lack of reliable, mature technology caused NRC special project team manager Art Howell to state at the November 30 hearing that the entities involved must "take a sober and introspective look at why that is."

3. Operating a restarted Unit 2 under partial power may be impacted negatively by failures and shutdowns in the facility housing it. Unit 1 is permanently decommissioned. Unit 3 is shut down and cannot operate without extensive repairs. The utility considers only Unit 2 a candidate for restart. The operating environment would be in a partly disabled, partly shut down plant that is only one-third active at partial power.

4. The costs per kilowatt and in total for partial operation may exceed those for full operation. At least one expert analysis concluded that partial operation – in this case, Unit 2 only

SAN ONOFRE/PAGE 5

What really happens to green bin waste? Chapter activists find out

By Jeremy Drake and Marjorie Phan

Sierra Club staff members and activists recently surveyed 23 cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties to better understand what the region is doing with discarded food scraps and yard trimmings. Does it go into methane-belching landfills or are cities finding a way to compost? The data gathered will help the Club push for more sustainable management of these materials, known in waste parlance as "organics."

The Club formed an Organics Project team to lead the effort that comes at a critical time. In the wake of deadly Superstorm Sandy that battered much of the East Coast, climate change has once again captured the nation's attention. As a result of decomposing organic matter, landfills are the third largest man-made source of methane, a climate-polluting gas with up to 105 times the potency of CO₂.

Redirecting organics away from landfills is a key strategy in the battle to save our climate. Meanwhile, California's new 75% statewide recycling goal may limit disposal options for organics to composting and other environmentally preferable management methods. And right here in Angeles Chapter territory, the Puente Hills Landfill, one of the largest sinks for the region's organics, is scheduled to close next October. This closure will send millions of tons of organics to other regional landfills every year unless municipalities change how that



HILLARY GORDON

Composting at Ocean View Farms community garden in West Los Angeles.

material is managed. The sooner the region adapts organics management practices to these challenges the better for our environment and for our future.

Last summer, the team introduced an online survey to cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties in an attempt to collect information about current organics management practices, knowledge of existing organics flows within and across city limits, and future plans for organics management. The

GREEN WASTE/PAGE 5



Fixing fire-ravaged trails in the Angeles Forest. Page 4



Explore the red-rock glory of Utah at two national parks. Page 6



It's time to reserve your seat at the Chapter Awards Banquet! Page 8

Activists keep up pressure to close coal plants



COLLEEN M. BROWN

Grass-roots efforts like this 2009 rally have pressured the coal industry and helped shut down plants.

One coal plant was retired each week in the past year

From Sierra Club reports

Over the past 12 months, the nationwide campaign to phase out coal burning in the United States continued to win victories from coast to coast, including securing dozens of coal plant retirements and record investments in wind and solar. Facing unprecedented public opposition, the coal industry experienced numerous setbacks in 2012 as its market share fell and stock prices tanked.

With an overarching goal to move America off coal and slash carbon pollution, an unprecedented coalition including Sierra Club and more than a hundred local, regional and national organizations has helped to secure the largest drop in U.S. coal burning ever. The campaign now includes legal and grassroots fights targeting every stage of the coal life-cycle in more than 40 states and has grown to become one of the largest and broadest grassroots environmental campaigns in the nation's history.

"The health of our families and our children are the big winners in 2012," said Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Sierra Club's Beyond

Coal campaign. "Through landmark pollution standards and a decline in coal power, millions of Americans have cleaner air and water, our children are safer from toxic chemicals, and we've laid the building blocks for averting future climate disasters."

The year saw 54 existing coal plants retired or announced to retire, an average of one plant per week. Meanwhile, no new coal plants broke ground this year, marking the end of the coal industry's decade-long "coal rush," a highly controversial Bush-era plan to build more than 200 new coal plants and lock the nation into a dirty, coal-fueled future. Opposition from community members nationwide prevented the construction of 174 proposed coal plants, including 13 in 2012 alone.

"This grassroots campaign is doing something no one thought was possible," said Bruce Nilles, Senior Director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign. "At this pace, we are on track to end the scourge of coal burning in the United States within the next two decades. Every coal plant retired means less mining destruction, less air and water pollution, and a better chance to prevent runaway climate disruption."

The decline of the coal industry's fortunes was evident in the marketplace as well. In

Beyond Coal 2012 - By The Numbers

- No new coal plants broke ground – the third year in a row that the campaign prevented any new coal plants from starting construction.
- No new coal export facilities broke ground in the Pacific Northwest.
- 13 proposed coal plants abandoned or defeated.
- 54 coal plants retired or announced to retire, with a grand total of 126 coal plants announced for retirement since January 2010.
- 18,789 megawatts of coal retired or announced to retire, with a grand total of 46,904 megawatts retired or announced to retire since January 2010.
- 90 percent of mercury pollution from existing coal plants – our nation's biggest source of mercury pollution – will be eliminated, thanks to national mercury protections finalized by Environmental Protection Agency this year.
- 1,992 megawatts of solar power installed as of September 2012 – bringing the total amount of solar operating in the U.S. to 5,900 megawatts.
- 4,728 megawatts of wind power installed through Sept 2012 – an increase of 40 percent from Sept 2011. In total there is now 51,630 megawatts of wind power operating in the US.
- 12 million homes – about 10 percent of the country – could be powered by the amount of solar and wind generated in the first nine months of 2012 alone.
- 13,872 workers added to the solar industry in 2012 – a growth of 13.2 percent over 2011
- 8 percent decrease in overall electric sector carbon dioxide emissions – a twenty year low in U.S. carbon emissions – mainly due to a decline in coal-fired generation.
- 38 percent of overall electricity generation provided by coal through September 2012, a historic decline from 50 percent less than five years ago.
- 10,000+ citizens turned out to oppose new coal export facilities in the Northwest.
- 1,773,027 emails and comments sent calling on EPA and national leaders to curb coal plant pollution and invest in clean energy.

Learn more about the Club's Beyond Coal campaign at <http://content.sierraclub.org/coal/>

2012, many investors lost big on coal, with numerous bankruptcies of coal mining companies and coal-burning utilities including Midwest Generation in Illinois, Patriot in West Virginia, and Dynegy in Texas.

After declaring bankruptcy, Patriot, Appalachia's third largest coal company, reached an agreement with the Sierra Club and its allies to end the practice of mountaintop removal coal mining and retire much of its large scale surface mining equipment. The poor economics of coal were epitomized by the news that the Great River Energy Spiritwood coal plant in North Dakota has sat idle since it was completed at a cost of \$440 million earlier this year.

But coal's downward spiral in 2012 is only half the story. With help from the Beyond Coal campaign and its allies, the wind industry hit 50,000 megawatts of installed capacity nationwide, and today more than 10 states get at least ten percent of their electricity from clean, renewable wind power.

Similarly, solar made significant headway, and in the first nine months of 2012 solar power increased 80 percent over the same period in 2011. By year's end the solar industry is projected to install 3,200 megawatts. Through September 2012, the U.S. now has enough solar and wind installed to power more than 12 million homes.

"The Beyond Coal campaign succeeded in 2012 by moving our nation toward a cleaner energy future, benefiting both the public health and the public good," said philanthropist and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, whose Bloomberg Philanthropies has committed \$50 million to the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign.

Launched in 2002, the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign is working to 1) stop the construction of new coal-fired power plants, 2) retire the country's existing coal plants and replace them with clean energy no later than 2030, and 3) keep U.S. coal reserves underground and out of world markets.

The un-conservation Congress (it wasn't always this way)

By Michael Brune
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SIERRA CLUB

If you've seen the movie "Lincoln," then you know that a) Daniel Day-Lewis is an Oscar frontrunner and b) Republicans are capable of doing great things. In the film, of course (spoiler alert), they pass the 13th Amendment and end slavery. And just a few years later, the character played by David Strathairn (Secretary of State William Seward), saved the entire state of Alaska (from Russia) by picking it up for 2 cents an acre. Another famous Republican in the film, Ulysses S. Grant, later signed the act that created our first U.S. national park (Yellowstone).

In the 20th century, of course, Republican overachiever Theodore Roosevelt designated 5 national parks, 8 national monuments, and 150 national forests (when he wasn't camping-

out with the founder of the Sierra Club). Even just 48 years ago, enough conservation-minded Republicans were left in the House to pass the Wilderness Act almost unanimously (in the Senate, it squeaked by 73-12).

How times have changed. The current Congress has demonstrated unrivaled proficiency at accomplishing nothing -- and it has "un-succeeded" most spectacularly when it comes to protecting public lands. If things don't change, this could be the first time since 1966 that Congress has adjourned without protecting a single acre of wilderness.

The problem isn't that none of today's Republicans care about wilderness. Many do. Unfortunately, the radical fringe leadership of their party flat-out refuses to support wilderness legislation -- even bills sponsored by fellow Republicans -- unless their purpose is to open up wilderness to mining and drilling.

Here are five examples of Republican-

sponsored wilderness bills that are getting more love from the Sierra Club than from fellow congressional Republicans:

HR 608 Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act. With its proximity to the Seattle metropolitan region, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area is one of the most popular wilderness areas in the country. This legislation would add over 22,000 acres to the existing area and protect areas beloved by many and vital habitat for trout.

HR 977 Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act. Nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan, this is a popular spot for hunters, anglers, and boaters. This legislation would protect over 32,000 acres, or nearly half of the entire unit.

HR 41 Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act. Would protect over 21,000 acres as wilderness north of San Diego County. The area is full of deep canyons, rugged rock formations and popular with hunters, hikers, and backpackers.

HR 163 Central Idaho Economic

Development and Recreation Act. Would protect as wilderness part of the largest unprotected roadless areas in the lower 48 -- 330,000 acres.

S 1090 Tennessee Wilderness Act. Would protect nearly 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee and would be the first wilderness designated in the state in 25 years.

That's just a sampling of the dozens of bipartisan wilderness bills authored by both Republicans and Democrats that are pending before this Congress. Most of them have strong local support because people know that protecting these lands will help build local economies, protect valuable open space, and preserve wonderful recreation opportunities for future generations.

Republican obstructionism isn't good for the planet and, after the last election, it's clear it isn't even good for the Republican party. Here's a chance to reclaim what once was a popular core value of the Republican Party (conservation) and, at the same time, actually accomplish something



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Fracking plans dealt a setback in Bakersfield

California rethinks the exceptions to CEQA after Club sues over potential fracking at oil wells.

From Sierra Club reports

Oil companies that want to extract oil using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, techniques in California may now find the controversial process a tough sell.

Responding to pressure from the environmental community, the California agency responsible for regulating the oil and gas industry delivered a major setback to fracking in a decision likely to reverberate throughout the state. In a nutshell, the state's Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) reversed its decision to exempt an oil company from environmental

review as required in the California Environmental Quality Act – an action that may set a precedent for future permit-seekers too.

The agency's decision came after Sierra Club filed a lawsuit to force the agency to compile the environmental review that was totally lacking for this project and, by implication, for thousands of other such projects that have gone completely without public disclosure for many years. In a Nov. 27 letter to the oil company, Century Exploration Resources of Bakersfield, the agency wrote: "Following review and analysis of the legal challenge, [the agency] has determined that the proposed well operations will result in more than a minor alteration in the condition of the affected land, and therefore are not exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304."

"This is clearly a result of the Sierra Club lawsuit and is a first step towards public disclosure of the potentially massive environmental impacts, including possible fracking, of the thousands of new oil/gas wells that DOGGR has permitted this year alone," said Gordon Nipp of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter.

No rules for fracking

In a separate lawsuit filed in October, the Sierra Club, Earthjustice, the Center for Biological Diversity, Earthworks and other environmental advocates went to court to with a larger-scale pattern and practice lawsuit to force the agency to abide by the state's foremost law that requires public disclosure and protects public health and the environment. "By turning a blind eye to fracking, California officials are letting oil companies

endanger our air, our water and our climate," Kassie Siegel, director of the Center for Biological Diversity's Climate Law Institute said.

California wells have been pumping oil for more than a hundred years. As more easily exploited petroleum deposits have been used up and prices have climbed, oil companies have turned to fracking to increase production. Enticed by claims that more than 14 billion barrels of oil are trapped in the state's Monterey and Santos shale formations, oil and gas companies have commenced an exploratory drilling and fracking campaign beneath central and southern California. These shale formations span 1,700 square miles across the San Joaquin Valley to the Pacific Ocean, including the Los Angeles basin, a region crisscrossed with active earthquake faults.

Prior to the decision, the agency has been rubberstamping oil and gas drilling activity, declaring it exempt from environmental review or issuing "negative declarations" that such activity will have "no significant effect" on the environment, without any study or mention of the potential impacts from fracking or other drilling techniques.

The agency's new decision moves in the right direction.

"Burning fossil fuels has taken its toll on our planet for far too long. Now the desperate search for the last remaining drops of oil has reached a scale that threatens to add even more burden. All the while, the state regulators responsible for oversight have been too slow to respond," said Jim Metropulos, former Senior Advocate at Sierra Club.

23rd Camera Committee Photo Auction raises more than \$5,000



From Chapter reports

More than 70 members of the Angeles Chapter's Camera Committee and their guests attended the 23rd Photo Auction Party at the G2 Gallery in Venice on Nov 10. This Camera Committee fund raiser is held every four to five years.

In this event, committee members created a pop-up art show that included 61 mounted photographs donated by 38 photographers. After an elegant evening of viewing and noshing on goodies, the bidding began!

Camera Committee members and notable photographers such as Don Kirby, Joan Gentry, Camile Seaman, and Mark Citret donated images for the auction. Eleven silent auction items included works by Robert Glen Ketchem, John Swope, and Ian Schive. The event raised \$5,400, part of which will be used to support the Camera Committee's ongoing programs and part will be donated to the Angeles Chapter.



PHOTOS BY ALLAN DER

Top, Camera Committee leader Joan Schipper checks out the photographs assembled for the 2012 Photo Auction at G2 Gallery in Venice. Auctioneer John Boyle calls out items displayed on a slideshow to eager bidders.

Thanks to all Auction Committee volunteers including Chair Peter Mason, Joan Schipper, Alison Boyle, John Boyle, Steve Anderson, Bill Betts, Grant Rigby, Jasmine Swope,

Alan Der, Stephen Beck, Audrey Pignetti, Vaughn Hart, Neil Davidson, Beverly Houwing, Randy Knox, Carole Scurlock, Judy Molle, Chuck Behrman, John Davis, Janet Schipper.

Howard Strauss wins statewide Sierra Club award

By Carole Mintzer

Sierra Club California recognized Angeles Chapter member Howard Strauss for his long years of service to the Club at a statewide level.

In December, Strauss received the 2012 Bob Hattoy Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to Sierra Club political activities in California.

Strauss served as chair of the Sierra Club California Political Committee from 2003 to 2012 and continues to chair the Southern California Endorsement Review Committee.

By identifying and endorsing pro-environment candidates, the Sierra Club California Political Committee has contributed to making the California Legislature a national leader on environmental protection. (Check out our victories in the most recent election online at <http://tinyurl.com/c6fusau>.)

Strauss continues his work to elect environmental candidates as chair of the Los Angeles County Political Committee of the Angeles Chapter.

The Bob Hattoy award was established in 2011 and is named for



the former activist and California regional director of the Sierra Club who died in 2007.

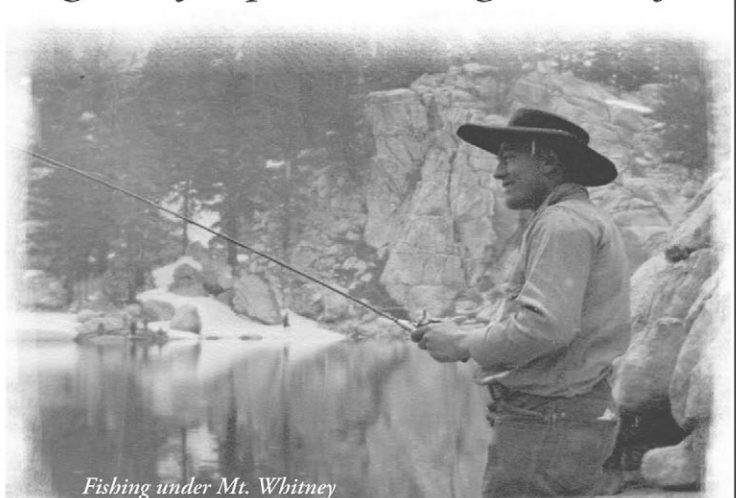
Hattoy made history in 1992 at the Democratic Convention in New York City as the first person with AIDS to address a national political convention. He went on to work in the Clinton Administration and other areas of government before his death in 2007 at age 56.

The first awardee was Susana Reyes, also a member of the Angeles Chapter who currently serves on the Club's national Board of Directors.

The Chapter congratulates Howard Strauss on receiving the award that honors his hard work and activism.

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Trail crew works to reopen fire-ravaged Strawberry Peak Trail



BOB CATES



DON BREMNER



DON BREMNER

By Don Bremner

Named in the 1880s for its resemblance to a berry with its tip pointing up, Strawberry Peak has remained a popular climb ever since.

At 6,164 feet, it's the highest summit in the front range of the San Gabriel Mountains, edging out nearby San Gabriel Peak by 3 feet if erosion and tectonic shifts haven't changed things too much recently.

The peak offers hikers panoramic views of the front range and backcountry, with climbing routes of varying difficulty for both newcomers and experienced climbers. Or there's the hike around the peak to Strawberry Meadow shadowed by the peak's sheer north cliffs, a delightful patch of wilderness just an hour or two away from busy Angeles Crest Highway.

All of this has been officially off-limits to the public for three years since the 2009 Station Fire burned through. The U.S. Forest Service has gradually reopened most of the 160,000 acres in Angeles National Forest scorched in the fire, but a large area north of Mt. Wilson around Strawberry remains closed to recreation.

Damaged trails are one reason for the continued closure. Dirt and rock slides across the

Participate in the next Trail Crew event on Feb. 9, see listing on Page 7.

trail, washouts and downed trees make the trails difficult in some places or even risky. Not to mention the thick stands of poodle-dog bush that tempt the unwary with purple blossoms, but can leave a stinging rash if touched. Poodle-dog, thriving in areas denuded by the Station Fire, often grows taller than a man's head and can lean menacingly across the trail as hikers and bicyclists try to squeeze by.

With the Forest Service short of funds for trail maintenance and repair, volunteers have turned out to help restore the Strawberry Peak Trail and the adjoining Colby Canyon Trail. The two trails make an arc of several miles from Red Box Junction to the Colby Canyon trailhead about four miles west along Angeles Crest Highway.

The Sierra Club's Trail Crew has joined in the trail restoration, along with volunteers from JPL and the Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA).

A contractor specializing in trail work did an assessment of the Colby/Strawberry trails in the fall of 2011, listing every point needing work and its GPS coordinates. The needed repairs

ranged from small slides and dead trees across the trail to big rock and dirt slides, washouts, Sutter retaining walls damaged by fire, drains and spillways to be restored to handle flow from heavy storms, and rerouting sections of trail.

Many of the jobs can be done by volunteers who have had training and considerable experience during years of trail work. Others may be more difficult, requiring machines to move debris or haul in heavy materials. Those will await the contractor's crews, and that will take money. Grants may help get started.

The Sierra Club Trail Crew, organized by the Angeles Chapter Forest Committee, has worked on a variety of trails since the summer of 2010.

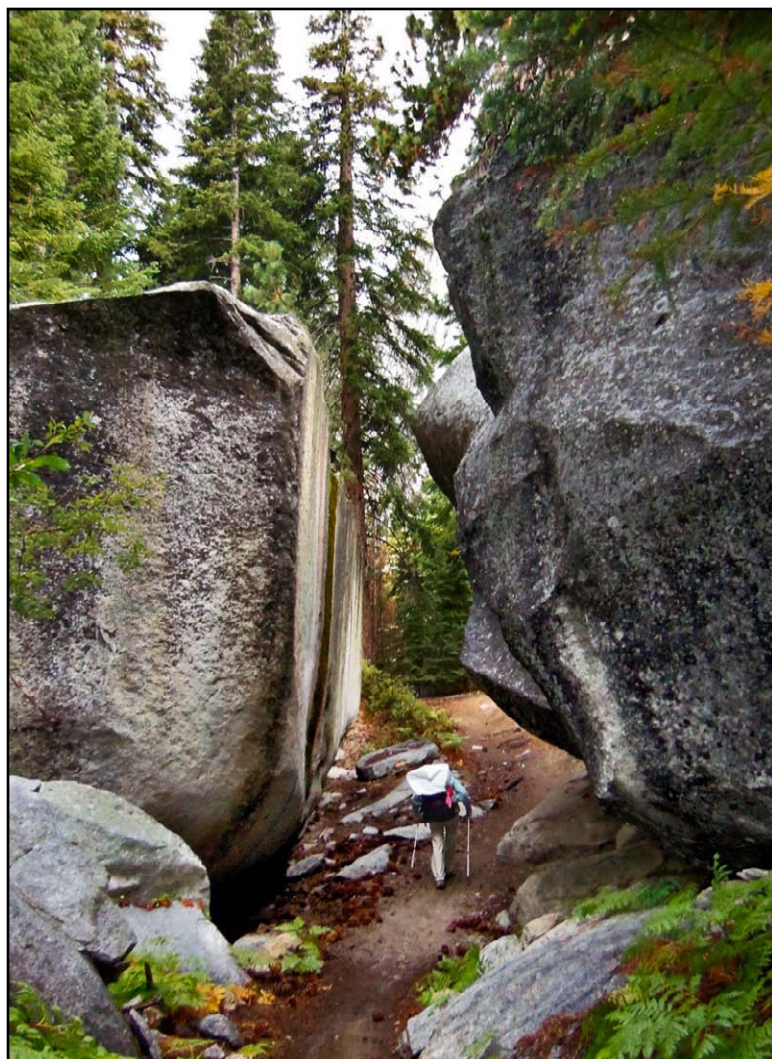
But leaders decided to concentrate now on the Strawberry Peak Trail. With grant funds, the Forest Committee bought a small tool shed and enough trail work tools for 15 or 20 Sierra Club volunteers and placed them at Red Box at one end of the trail.

The hope is that with volunteer groups sharing the work, and the contractor doing the more difficult tasks, the Strawberry/Colby Canyon loop can be improved and reopened to the public before long.



BOB CATES

Top left: Members of the Sierra Club's San Gabriels Trail Crew scouted an extension of the Strawberry Peak Trail in December to check on its condition and found some obstacles, above, along with a layer of snow. Top right, members of a Korean-American hiking club pitch in to work on repairing the trail severely damaged by the 2009 Service Fire. Middle, volunteers pull rocks off the trail to level it and build up the outer edge.



BLANCH KOSCHE

Boulders and ferns frame the trail down to Charlotte Creek.

TRANS SIERRA/PAGE 1

water than we needed simply to be cautious.

Day 2 was Alpine Lakes Day. I have hiked all over the world, and what we saw near the John Muir Trail and in Kearsarge meadows was as spectacular as anything I've ever seen. A series of lakes just sparkled in the sun. The meadows were open, with lots of evergreens and inviting nooks and crannies. The ground was a series of flat tables that nature offered at different elevations, so we could pitch a tent just out of sight of the group below us. The high mountains ringed the area like sentinels. I didn't take pictures; just looked and looked and looked, burning the beauty into my brain. This area was what made the trip so special. A typical hiker can walk in 5 miles, look around, and return the same route in a day. But to pierce 10 or 15 miles into the deeper wilderness is too much for most people. This is one reason people love to backpack; it is the only way many remote areas are accessible.

Day 3 was the Green Zone. Now we were dropping into the west side towards King Canyon and Sequoia national parks, which get more rain. Everything was green from the trees to the brushy ground cover. Many creeks and rivers. Lots of ferns. It was Blanch who pointed out that ferns come with rain, and just then, rain it did.

The rain was not forecast. It was simply the result of the hundred-



BLANCH KOSCHE

Hugh Warren and Lynn Lively make the critical car key exchange during the trans-Sierra trek.

degree heat of eastern California colliding with the cooler air of the higher elevations. We thought the first drops signaled just a sprinkle. The sprinkle continued. We decided to tuck our packs under over-hanging rocks for a half hour or so. The big focus in a rainstorm is to Keep the Sleeping Bags Dry. Down sleeping bags are by far the lightest weight to carry and the warmest, but when wet they are useless.

The rain let up and we kept on hustling to our planned camp. Just as we walked in, the torrents began. We set up our tent in record time and dived in. Then we spent the next three hours marveling at the sheets of water coming down, mopping puddles, and counting the time

between lightning flashes and thunder crashes. Mother Nature at work. Wow. After the rain we went to get drinking water and discovered the creek was full of sediment and a foot higher than when we set up camp. Nothing to do but put the water in bottles and let the debris settle to the bottom. Then, much like fine wine, decant.

Finally we hiked out in long johns, our only dry clothes, and arrived at our waiting car that was parked at Roads End where Hugh had promised. We drove steadily back into the mundane, leaving the secrets of the Sierra behind.

Lynn Lively is a Sierra Club leader and free-lance travel writer.

SAN ONOFRE/PAGE 1

– would be more expensive than full operation, on a per kilowatt hour basis and possibly in total cost. Even Unit 2 is not proposed by the utility to be restarted at full power but at 70%. This raises issues of per kilowatt-hour cost as well as the possibility of unique operational risks that full-power operation has not revealed.

5. Workforce instability may impact plant safety and reliability. The utility is in a dispute with its largest union over its announced intention to lay off 700 workers. Why have rate-payers been covering the cost of a large workforce for 10 months in an idle plant? That said, why is the utility proposing to terminate experienced employees prior to a restart that may require them for safety as well as operations? Would it expect to quickly rehire them if the NRC approves a restart several months in the future?

6. Sabotage exposure may increase costs for enhanced security. If confirmed by the FBI, recent evidence of damage to equipment would suggest attempted sabotage. This possibility is to be deplored and is a reminder that nuclear plants require enhanced security which adds to operating costs.

7. The plant's tidewater location exposes it to earthquake and tsunami risks. The Fukushima disaster in Japan in March 2011 is a reminder of the hazard created by San Onofre's tidewater location in a zone of multiple earthquake fault-lines – a combination of conditions that would almost certainly be avoided in locating any power plant today.

8. Attempting to evacuate more than 8 million people from the local area would create unmanageable gridlock if a crisis occurred. More than 8 million people live within 50 miles of San Onofre – nine times the population density of Fukushima. Realistically, any attempt to rap-

Get involved

Contact Angeles Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator George Watland at george.watland@sierraclub.org or call (213) 387-4287, ext. 210.

idly evacuate the area would involve unmanageable gridlock, creating a severe operational challenge for area agencies. San Onofre's highly urbanized location would almost surely not be selected for a nuclear plant today.

9. Personal injury liability exposure would increase in a restart due to the level of known risks and concerns. Public expressions of opposition to renewed operations at San Onofre have been widespread and intense since the radiation leak in January 2012 and the subsequent discovery of unprecedented wear in the metal tubes for both generators. Even if the restart led initially to no emergency, it would cause an immediate and continuing heightened stress level for area residents. If a perceived or actual catastrophic event subsequently occurred, the utility's exposure to personal injury suits based on both physical and psychological factors could be vastly greater than before this problem became known.

10. Rear-guard action to keep the plant going neglects development of forward-looking alternatives to meet regional energy demands. Insistence by the utility on continued operation of San Onofre comes despite its level of operating disability and its disturbing vulnerability to technology problems. It also runs counter to worldwide trends regarding the future of nuclear power and serves as a negative statement on encouraging development of alternative renewable energy capacity. Opponents of restart fear "opportunity-cost" – the



CREDIT: JELSON25 / WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

An aerial view of the San Onofre nuclear power plant that was shut down in 2012.

neglect of potentially better ways to strengthen the regional power grid. They believe "It's time to move on."

11. Regulators have put retroactive rate-payer rebates on the table that would offset utility revenue from a recently approved rate structure. On Nov. 29, the California PUC approved a new rate structure for the utility that is lead operator at San Onofre. This follows the PUC's Oct. 25 action initiating an investigation into the San Onofre shutdown. Retroactive rate-payer rebates could be required if the utility is found to have wrongly charged the public for costs since the plant ceased producing power. The new rate structure is likely to be a baseline against which any rebates would be applied, creat-

ing a risk for the utility of a revenue offset against these new rates.

12. Costs of operation could easily outweigh investor return expected from keeping part of the plant open, preventing cost recovery. Given the weight of evidence cited above, why would the utility seek to restart rather than retire San Onofre? The answer may be found in the notion that the existing investment must be recovered through revenues generated by future operations. But given the multiple sources of risk, any of which would generate further costs, the attempt to keep San Onofre going could easily prove a classic case of throwing good money after bad. If the rate-payer subsidy ends, the utility will be forced to face this fact.

The hurdles cited above are likely to make the attempt to restart the San Onofre nuclear generators not worth the effort. It is time to move on to more promising alternatives to assure the region's energy capacity and environmental safety.

The San Onofre Task Force of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter was launched in 2012 to monitor the shutdown of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station due to radiation leaks reported in January.

Since then members of the task force have participated in related hearings by PUC and the NRC. Go to http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/san_onofre_task_force for more about the task force and its important mission.

GREEN WASTE/PAGE 1

team contacted 49 cities; 23 cities completed the survey. After evaluating the responses, the team awarded points for responses that suggest an environmentally sound approach to organics management. Points went to cities that have environmental policies such as zero waste plans, education and incentive programs such as composting workshops and compost bin sales or giveaways, and collection programs such as residential or commercial food scraps collection, to name a few examples.

What the numbers mean

The resulting tally compares the 23 cities and identifies the leaders and the laggards in organics management. So what do the results reveal and what does it mean for Club members and activists?

Only 57% of surveyed cities have environmental policies on the books. Some of those policies are explicit about the role of organics management in achieving policy goals while others are not. A grassroots push is needed in the surveyed cities that have not adopted any environmental policies or have policies that do not explicitly link organics management to achieving policy goals.

It comes as no surprise that yard trimmings from nearly 90% of surveyed cities go to landfills for use as landfill cover (a practice described in "Why are we tossing organic waste into landfills?" in the Southern Sierran's May 2012 issue). However, there is surprisingly good news. In two of the surveyed cities, yard trimmings are not sent to landfills, instead they are used as feedstock for composting and mulch. This is a trend that needs to be supported and encouraged in cities across the region.

Knowledge of organics flows within and across city lines is limited. Only half of the surveyed cities claimed to know how organics generated in the commercial sector are managed. Seventy-five percent did not identify large generators of yard trimmings while 60% did not identify large generators of food scraps. Increasing cities' awareness of the waste they produce and discard may have a positive influence on the development of environmentally sound organics management policies.

Get involved

In the coming months, the Angeles Chapter's Zero Waste Committee team will invite more cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties to participate in this survey and will begin sharing findings with city officials and residents alike. And your help is needed. Individuals or organizations interested in getting involved with this project, contact the committee at <http://tinyurl.com/brptkzy>.

A variety of organics management programs are scattered across the region. The inconsistency in source reduction, diversion, education, and incentive program implementation from city to city can be seen as an opportunity. Cities need to understand that they can easily enhance their organics management portfolios by adopting tried and tested programs already in place in neighboring communities.

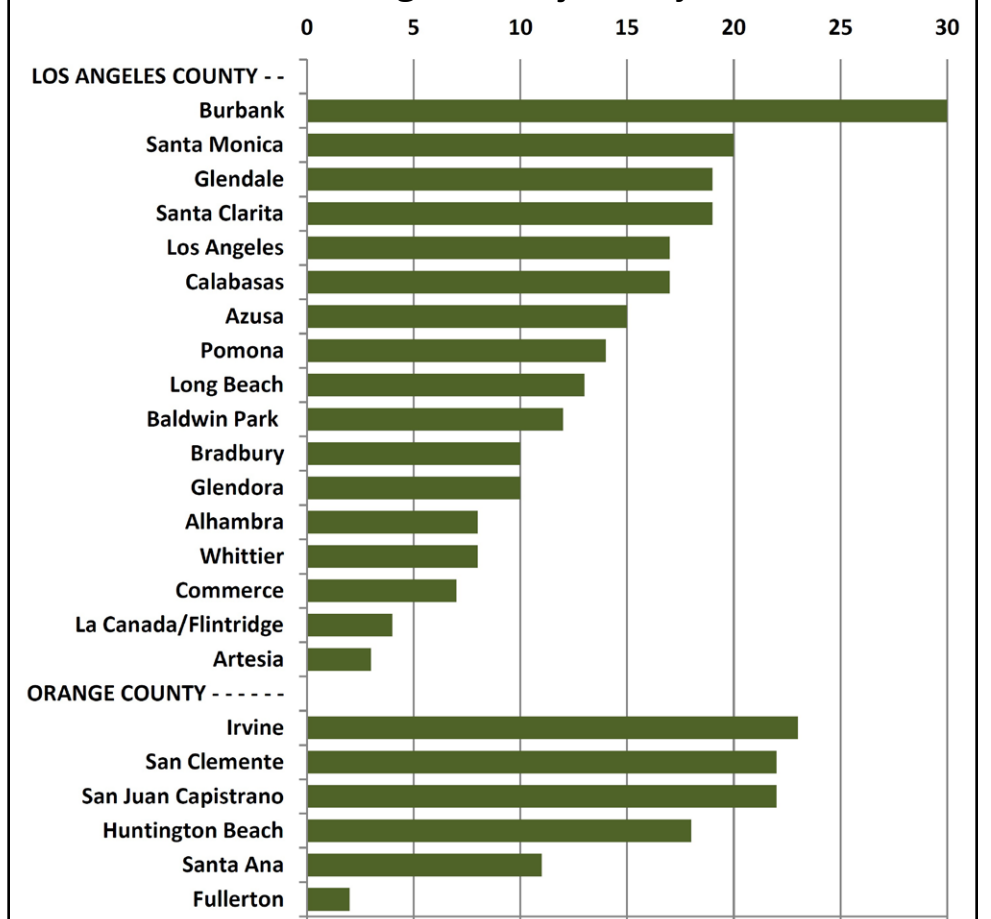
Cities seek to adopt green practices

Three out of four surveyed cities expressed a desire to adopt environmentally sound organics management practices. Although many cities currently rely on landfills as the first option for organics disposal, they are not necessarily satisfied with the status quo. Cities need to know they have grassroots support in the adoption of composting and anaerobic digestion as preferred organics management practices.

Some cities have outsourced the waste collection and disposal responsibilities to private waste-hauling companies. A number of cities we contacted could not participate in our survey because they simply did not know enough about their city's waste to answer our questions. City leaders must understand that waste management decisions determined by policy are preferable to those determined by the whims of the marketplace.

The results from this survey provide only a glimpse into current organics management practices in the region. Through this project, activists hope to first develop a more accurate understanding of the region's existing practices and trends, and then take action to ensure the most environmentally sound organics management choices are made across the region.

The Organics Project Tally



The Organics Project Phase One Tally shows how the 23 cities participating in the initial survey compare to one another on policies and programs to reduce landfill disposal of food scraps and yard trimmings.



1000 for \$100

Your one time or monthly donation to the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club helps us green the environment.

To donate on line please visit: angeles.sierraclub.org/join_donate/

Angeles Chapter Adventure Travel Calendar

These fund-raising trips are open to Sierra Club members and non-members alike. Each one presents a value for participants and raises funds for the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. For more details and how to sign up, go online to angeles2.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/travel_adventure.

Thailand Cultural & Wildlife Tour March 14-April 2

O-rated: See the cultural gems and wildlife of Thailand on sightseeing and easy hiking adventures. Itinerary includes three days in Bangkok visiting the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew, reclining Buddha in Wat Pho temple, boat trip in Bangkok canals, Thai theater performance, National Museum, Royal Barge Museum and more. Other highlights include stops at Sukhothai; the historic capital at Ayutthaya; Khao Yai National Park for wildlife viewing; temple complex of Si Satchanalai; birding at Doi Inthanon; Chiang Mai; Chiang Rai and more. Optional add-on tour to Phuket. Price includes hotel, bus transportation, most meals, airport transfers, most hikes or walks, and more. Domestic and international airfare is extra (group airfare available for additional price). Sierra Club members \$1,995; non-members add \$100. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact leaders Fred Dong [(818) 545-3878; madelinesdad@earthlink.net], Stephanie Gross, Maew Suchin

China Highlights & Yangtze River April 20-May 4

O-rated: Explore Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City where the Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties lived. Walk the Great Wall, take a boat cruise on the Grand Canal of Hangzhou and visit Suzhou's silk factory. Set sail on the Yangtze River where wonderful scenes of deep and quiet gorges and magnificent peaks await. Take a shore excursion to the Shennong Stream to see ancient roads and artifacts, and even rare animals such as golden-haired monkeys. Visit also includes Xi'an's most important archeological site where thousands of life-size terra-cotta warriors have been guarding the Emperor's burial site for over 2,000 years. Price \$1,495 land package. Includes private motor-coach transportation, Yangtze River cruise, stays in seven deluxe hotels (double occupancy) and 37 meals, admission fees, guides, \$140 for gratuities and \$70 credit towards trip insurance. Leaders, Andrea Lim and Salud Salinda. For more information and itinerary, send email to andrealim94@yahoo.com, or leave a message at (818) 249-8584. Please insert subject line of "China 2013".

Ecuador- The Magic Hiking Circuit May 23-31

C/O rated. Nine day trip based at three eco-lodge reserves. The first lodge is 20 miles from Quito at an 18th century Spanish hacienda at an elevation of 10,000 feet. Then a few nights will be spent at a Hummingbird Sanctuary high in the cloud forest and another eco lodge is in the tropical rainforest. Days are spent trekking to sacred waterfalls on pre Incan trails, learning about local culture, volcanology and anthropology, and seeing incredible birds, wildlife, plants and flowers. Tour Quito's Indian Market and Cotopaxi Volcano National Park. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter and Orange County Sierra Singles. Cost for Sierra Club members is \$1,895; non-members, \$1,995 includes lodges (double occupancy, some triples), ground transport, all meals except day of arrival, guides. Group international airfare extra. For itinerary, application, cancellation policy contact Leader: Donna Specht (714-963-6345, donnaspecht@juno.com), Co-leader: Ana Cadez (ana.cadez@bt-store.com)

Ecuador, from the Andes to the Amazon May 23-June 4s

C/O rated: Come explore on a 13-day trip based at three eco-lodge reserves and one lodge in the Amazon jungle. The first lodge is just 20 miles from the Ecuadorian capital of Quito, staying in an 18th-century Spanish Hacienda at 10,000 feet in elevation. Then spend a few nights at a lodge in the Hummingbird Sanctuary high in the cloud forest and another in the tropical rainforest. Days will be spent trekking to sacred waterfalls. Learn about local culture, volcanology, anthropology, see incredible wildlife, exotic birds, tropical plants and flowers. Tours will also include the Quito Indian Market and Cotopaxi Volcano National

Park. Then it's on to the Amazon River and four days at a rainforest. Canoe the Rio Napo, take guided hikes, view wildlife, go piranha fishing and more. The price is \$2,985 for Sierra Club members, \$3,085 for non-members. It includes in-country flight to the Amazon, canoe transport, lodges (double occupancy; some triples), ground transport, all meals, guides. International airfare is extra; group rates available. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles. Contact leader Donna Specht [(714) 963-6345, donnaspecht@juno.com] and co-leader Ana Cadez (ana.cadez@bt-store.com)

Seattle Getaway July 18-20

O-rated: Join us for a 3-day, 2-night exploration of the wonders of the city of Seattle, Mt. Rainer and Mt. St. Helens. This can be taken in conjunction with the July 20-27 Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion or as a separate trip. Special offer: Sierra Club members who enroll in both the Seattle Getaway and the Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion will qualify for a \$50 discount for the Seattle Getaway (i.e., trip cost will be \$345). Cost is \$395 for Sierra Club members, \$425 for non-members. Lodging for 2 nights, transportation while on the getaway, admissions and breakfasts are included. Airfare to and from Seattle and most meals are not included. Contact Mike Sappingfield by phone (949) 768-3610 or e-mail mikesapp@cox.net. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles Chapter. Leaders: Mary Morales, Mike & Patty Sappingfield

Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion July 20-27

O-rated: Join us for an 8-day, 7-night excursion to explore the wonders of the Pacific Northwest's fabulous Olympic National Park and a ferry ride to Victoria, Canada. Sample the delights of the city and explore Burchart Gardens before returning to Seattle via a ferry winding through the San Juan Islands. Lodging, admissions, and transportation while on the trip included. Airfare to and from Seattle and most meals not included. Cost for the trip is \$1,195 for Sierra Club members; \$1,250 for non-members. Contact Mike Sappingfield at (949) 768-3610 or e-mail mikesapp@cox.net. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles Chapter. Leaders: Mary Morales, Mike & Patty Sappingfield

Canadian Rockies National Parks July 29-Aug. 4

O-rated: Join us for a grand tour of three national parks in the Canadian Rockies: Banff, Jasper, and Yoho. Jasper and Banff national parks are the largest of Canada's Rocky Mountain parks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This trip has great opportunities for wildlife viewing with spectacular mountains, glacial lakes, and glaciers. Participants will sightsee and take easy hikes from the bus. Highlights include the Columbia Icefield with a hike to the Athabasca Glacier, visits to Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, Medicine Lake, Emerald Lake, and many more. Also visit Johnston Canyon Falls, Sunwapta Falls, Athabasca Falls, Takakkaw Falls, and more, and take a tramway ride for dinner atop Whistlers mountain overlooking Jasper. Optional pre-trip excursions: Ride Amtrak from the Bay Area to Vancouver with possible Vancouver Island excursion and Canada Rail trip through the Rockies from Vancouver to Jasper. Cost includes six nights accommodations (two per room, individual beds), bus, bus refreshments, excursion fees, most lunches and two dinners. Sponsored by Angeles and Loma Prieta chapters. Price for Sierra Club members is \$1,900; non-members pay \$100 extra. Airfare to and from Canada and pre-trip excursion are extra. Contact: Leader Fred Dong (madelinesdad@earthlink.net); co-leader: Stephanie Gross

Iceland, Hiking and Exploring an Extraordinary Island August 17-28

C/O rated: This 11-day tour explores the land of Vikings, fire and ice, which is surprisingly green for much of the year. Visit the capital Reykjavik in southwest, Akureyri in far north, travel south through the remote, barren interior to the brilliant-blue hot spring Hveravellir,



Silk Road and Gobi Desert October 5-19,



FRED DONG

O-rated: See seldom visited sights on the China Silk Road and the Gobi Desert. Visit mountains, deserts, living historic sites, rare wildlife and abandoned cities on this adventure where few Western tourists travel. Highlights include historic Urumqi's Great Bazaar, historic buildings, Tian Shan Mountains and lakes. In Turpan, see ruins of ancient Jiaohe city, ancient aqueduct system, beautiful Imin Minaret, old city, Tuyu Valley, and more. In Liuyuan, visit Bizaklik Thousand Buddha Grottoes, Flaming Mountains, Gaochang ancient city ruins, and Astana Tombs. In historic Dunhuang, visit old city, Mogao Thousand Buddha Caves, White Horse Pagoda, Crescent Moon Springs, and see the Gobi Desert. In Jiayuan, visit western end of Great Wall, and nearby mountains. The trip will go to the end of the Silk Road, Xian, to see famous Terra Cotta Warriors. Optional Beijing tour available. Cost: \$3,095 until Feb. 28, (March 1 and later, \$3,195) includes round-trip airfare from LAX to Beijing, all transportation, four-star hotels, nearly all meals, admissions, guides. Taxes and visa fees are extra. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact Leader Bruce Hale at (818) 957-1936. Co-Leader: Fred Dong



Arches and Canyonlands April 28-May 5



MIKE SAPPINGFIELD

O-rated: Come with us on an 8-day, 7-night fly-and-drive excursion to eastern Utah to explore and enjoy two national parks: Arches, with more than 2,000 arches ranging in size from a few feet to several hundred feet, and Canyonlands National Park, with deep canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers. Fly to Grand Junction, Colo., then drive in vans to Moab, Utah. Trip cost is \$1,250 for Sierra Club members; \$1,350 for non-members. It includes lodging (double occupancy) and land transportation to and from Grand Junction and around Moab. All park admissions are also included. Breakfasts and three lunches will be provided. All other meals and airfare to and from Grand Junction are not included. For copies of the itinerary and application forms, contact Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net). \$500 deposit will hold a reservation with the remainder due by March 1, 2013. Sponsored by the Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles Chapter. Leaders: Mike Sappingfield and Sylvia Stevenson.

drive along the roots of volcano Eyafjallajokull and wander further southeast to view majestic glaciers from the Vatnajokull icecap. Among floating icebergs, participants will board a boat in the glacier lagoon Jokulsarion and also take a relaxing swim in the cobalt colored water of the Blue Lagoon south of Reykjavik. Hike and explore towering cliffs, remote fjords, majestic waterfalls, volcanic craters, geysers, boiling mud pits and more. Optional extension to Greenland is also offered. The price is \$3,190 for Sierra Club members (\$3,290 for non-members) and includes hotel accommodations (double occupancy), private charter transport, 24 meals, guides, glacier lagoon boat ride. International airfare is extra; group rates available. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles and the Angeles Chapter. Contact leader Donna Specht [(714) 963-6345, donnaspecht@juno.com] and co-leader Ana Cadez (ana.cadez@bt-store.com)

Bali Island and Komodo Dragons Sept. 9-24

O rated: Join Angeles Chapter on a brand new adventure to peaceful Hindu Bali and Flores Island, home to the famous Komodo Dragons. Experience this fast growing travelers paradise with its unique culture, history and traditions. This land package takes us around the famous island of Bali and to the island of Flores, spending varying number of days in each location. Travel by planes, boats, and air-conditioned passenger coaches, stay in deluxe

accommodations (double occupancy) and enjoy some meals/happy hours, and all park/museum entrance fees, guides, tours, misc. included in this trip. The cost is \$1695 plus discounted group international and domestic airfares. For itinerary and application, send email to lajeunes@pacbell.net. Insert subject line "Bali.". Applications accepted on first-come first-served basis, as previous trips have all sold out. Leaders: John Lajeunesse and Andrea Lim

New Mexico Adventure Oct. 12-19

O-rated: Join us for an extraordinary tour of the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Santa Fe, Taos and Taos Pueblo, Acoma Sky Pueblo, Chaco Canyon, Los Alamos, and Bandelier National Monument and more attractions on this fun-filled exploration of the Land of Enchantment. Trip costs \$1,195 for Sierra Club members (\$1,250 for non-members) and includes lodging (double occupancy) for seven nights; admission costs for the Balloon Fiesta, national park and monuments visits, Taos and Acoma Pueblo visits, and museum admissions for scheduled visits; all breakfasts, two lunches and several happy hours; and all transportation while in New Mexico. Most other meals, and transportation to and from New Mexico not included. Contact: Mike Sappingfield at mikesapp@cox.net, or (949) 768-3610. Leaders: Mary Morales, Mike and Patty Sappingfield

Calendar

Get outdoors! The online Schedule of Activities (OARS) at the Angeles Chapter website (angeles.sierraclub.org) lists hundreds of hikes, backpacks, tours, bicycle rides, ski and snowshoe trips and more. Enter a date range online to find outings in your area and beyond. Here's a sampling of upcoming events. Details can be found online.

6:30 p.m. Jan. 15

Program on Madagascar

Sierra Club leader Joe Young presents a program about his recent trip to Madagascar to the East San Gabriel Valley Group. Arrive at 6 p.m. for conversation and refreshments; program starts at 6:30 p.m. Covina Public Library, 234 N. Second Avenue, Covina). Contact: Joan Holtz at (626) 443-0706.

9 a.m. Jan. 26

Mt. Fuji in the Angeles National Forest

O: You won't need your passport for this 10-mile ramble with 2,500 feet of gain that offers great views of the L.A. Basin. Mt. Fuji is an unofficial name for a ridge above the Henniger Flats/Mt. Wilson Toll Road. Meet 9 a.m. at the gate at Pinecrest Ave. with an Asian-inspired food item to share. Organized by the Pasadena Group. Contact Leaders: Pam Allen, (626) 296-6911, ezadorah@hotmail.com; Maureen Conn, (616) 798-1016, mauconn@aol.com.

9 a.m. Feb. 2

La Vita Trail

O: The Orange County Group/Puente Chino Hills Task Force leads this hike to a remove look through the back hills of Brea in Chino Hills State Park. It's a four-mile loop with 1,100 feet of gain along a trail that crosses Sonome Creek. Meet 9 a.m. at Olinda Village, 200 Verbena Lane. Contact Leaders Eric Johnson, (714) 524-7763, ericsj@mindpring.com; Fred Reed, (714) 528-4841, fkreed@msn.com

8 a.m. Feb. 9

Strawberry Peak Trail Restoration

O: Join the Angeles Chapter Forest Committee in helping restore the historic Strawberry Peak Trail that was damaged and remains closed by the 2009 Station Fire. Tools and instructions provided. Hiking is less than 4 miles round-trip. Reservations required; exact location and meeting details will be given to those who RSVP. Contact Leaders: Misha Askren, (323) 935-1492, misha.askren@gmail.com; Donald Bremner, (626) 794-2603, donbremner@earthlink.net.

9 a.m. Feb. 16

La Jolla Valley Loop

Join us for this moderately paced 8-mile hike with 1,200 feet of gain in Pt. Mugu State Park via the La Jolla Canyon Trail. The giant coreopsis should be in bloom this time of year! Summit Mugu Peak for fabulous views of the ocean. Meet 9 a.m. at the

Malibu ride-share point. Organized by the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force. Leaders: Robert Baldwin, (818) 510-1274, rbaldwin@uclaextension.edu; Ron Rosien, (310) 474-0349, glendon3@aol.com.

9 a.m. Feb. 23

Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski Trip to Chilao Campground

Join the Natural Science Section for this easy-paced walk and ski along the roads to Chilao Campground. Look for animal tracks and other signs of winter life. Forest Service pass and tire chains required for this trip. Contact: Leaders: Ginny Heringer, (626) 793-4727, ginnyh@ix.netcom.com; Jim Heringer.

9 a.m. Feb. 24

O: Mushroom Walk

What's the difference between mushrooms, fungus and toadstools? Are they related and are they edible? Join the Natural Science Section for a Santa Monica Mountains hike featuring mycologist Florence Nishida who will hunt down mushrooms and explain their significance. Group size limited; e-mail leader for location, time and availability. Leader: Mei Kwan, (626) 355-1708, mkwan@dslextreme.com; Laura Franciosi, (714) 879-1760, lauraf999@hotmail.com

March 2-3

O: Joshua Tree Bicycle Tour

Start at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree National Park with optional hiking and camping on Friday. Ride highlights include the town of Joshua Tree and looping back through Twenty Nine Palms for a scenic desert mountains spin. Ride about 56 miles with 3,700 feet of gain on this trip sponsored by the Bicycle Touring Committee. Contact Leader: Jerry Tate, (626) 287-8426; j_dt@sbcglobal.net.

9 a.m. March 9

San Clemente to Oceanside Bicycle Ride

Ride 46 miles mostly on bike paths through San Onofre State Beach and Camp Pendleton. Lunch at Oceanside Harbor; photo ID required for entrance to the military camp. Meet 9 a.m. at San Luis Rey Park, 109 Ave. San Luis Rey, San Clemente. Organized by the Bicycle Touring Section. Contact Leaders: Sylvia Stevenson, (949) 487-2660, Sylvia_stevenson@yahoo.com; Margot Lowe, (760) 842-7252, margotlowe1@gmail.com

Featured outings

April 14

O: Annual Starr Ranch BBQ

All Sierra Club members and friends are invited to the annual Sierra Sage Starr Ranch Barbecue from 1 to 5 p.m. to enjoy this authentic bit of Old California ranch life. Grilled hamburgers and veggie burgers will be served with all the trimmings and accompanied by live music from our country band. Prior to the barbecue, go on birding walks and hikes within this beautiful rustic 4,000-acre Audubon Sanctuary. A portion of the proceeds will go to the sanctuary and the remainder to other Sierra Club conservation projects. Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12 with their parents. Sponsored by Sierra Sage Group. Order tickets (check made out to Sierra Sage Group) from Mike & Patty Sappingfield at "Starr Ranch BBQ", 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691; (949) 768-3610; mikesapp@cox.net and solanese@cox.net

May 14-20

Hawaiian Adventure

O: This popular Hawaiian hiking trip takes you to parts of O'ahu that few tourists ever see. Four beautiful hikes of varying difficulty into the tropi-

It's snow time!



DONNA SPECHT

January 25-27

Winter Sports Bus Trip to Mammoth Lakes

O/I: This trip has it all! Learn to cross-country ski in the backcountry with experienced ski leaders; enjoy backcountry ski touring and snowshoe touring with leaders. Or you may cross-country ski on your own at Tamarack Nordic Ski Center or go downhill skiing ski or snowboarding on Mammoth Mountain. Stay at Quality Inn close to shopping, nightlife, free shuttles. Leave Orange County at 2 p.m. with pickup in San Fernando Valley. Price includes bus, lodging, hearty breakfasts, happy hour, Sunday dinner and bus refreshments. Price is \$295 for Sierra Club members, \$315 for non-members. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles, Wilderness Adventures. Send email address (or self-addressed stamped envelope with phone number to: Reservationist: Donna Specht, 2221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646; 714-963-6345; donnaspecht@juno.com. Leader: Mark Fleming, 626-359-4157 mflemi@earthlink.net

February 15-18

Yosemite National Park Winter Bus Trip

O: Join us for the West L.A. Group's 34th annual winter bus trip for a three-night stay in Yosemite's winter wonderland. Skiers and non-skiers welcome with plenty of time to ski, snowshoe, hike, ice skate, photograph the scenery or just loaf. Contact Leader: Paul Cutter 310-837-5269 3042 Earlmart Dr., Los Angeles CA 90064 patecu@sbcglobal.net, Ilona Kupecz 909-599-7115 startrekgl48@gmail.com

March 1-3

Winter Combo Bus Trip to Mammoth Lakes

I: Ski downhill or snowboard on Mammoth Mountain, daily guided backcountry ski tours and snowshoe tours, to geological formations and spectacular scenery. Newcomers, non-skiers and cross-country lesson grads welcome. Stay at the Quality Inn (double occupancy) Leave Orange County at 2 pm. South Bay and Sylmar pick-ups are later. Price includes bus, lodging, hearty breakfast, happy hour, bus refreshments, Sunday dinner. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles, Wilderness Adventures and the Palos Verdes South Bay Group. Cost is \$295 per person. Contact Reservationist: Dick Clement. 714-538-8580 richsea@sbcglobal.net Leaders: Keith Martin 626-396-9701 keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net; Donna Specht 714-963-6345 donnaspecht@juno.com

March 29-31

Ski Backcountry, Snowshoe, Downhill Carpool to Mammoth Lakes

I: Backcountry oriented fun-filled weekend. Ski downhill on Mammoth Mountain, daily guided backcountry tours for skiers with at least low to intermediate skills, and daily guided snowshoe tours. Price includes lodgings, continental breakfast, happy hour. Cost is \$195 for Sierra Club members, \$205 for non-members. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles, Wilderness Adventures. Contact: Reservationist Carol Tucker. 310-837-4262 hikergirl50@yahoo.com. Leaders: Mark Mitchell 818-753-9328 markamitchell@att.net; Mark Fleming 626-359-4157 mflemi@earthlink.net



RICHARD GLICK

rmglick@cox.net or Christine Dickey, (949) 651-9642 or dickeychris@earthlink.net.

May 25-28

Zion National Park & Bryce Canyon Bus Trip

O: Tour beautiful Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks on this bus trip. Pickups at two points: Redondo Beach and Orange County. Choice of hikes available each day. Leave Saturday morning, return Tuesday evening in this trip sponsored by Palos Verdes South Bay Group. Stay three nights in Springdale next to Zion. Trip cost includes bus, driver gratuity, motel, three happy hours, snacks and admission costs. \$40 cancellation penalty, balance refundable until April 15 only if trip is full. Contact Leaders Sandy Graham, sandy2scott@sbcglobal.net, Alix Benson, Dave Hixson, and Jerry Trager.

June 28-July 21

O: Hike Along an Ancient Pilgrimage Route in France

Join us and walk 200 miles on the 1,000-year-old Via Podiensis where architectural, historical and culinary treasures abound. Hikes average of 12 miles a day from Moissac near the confluence of the Tarn and Garonne rivers to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the foothills of the Pyrenees, staying at small hotels, inns, bed & breakfasts, and even a former convent, and eating fine local fare. Visit

medieval sites, admire pretty villages and meet other long distance hikers from around the world. Sponsored by the Orange County Group. \$3,158 for Sierra Club members including accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily, transportation beginning and ending in Toulouse, France. Contact leaders: Ed Maurer 949-768-0417 balois@cox.net, Helen Maurer 949-768-0417 7gables@cox.net

October 18-27

O: Hiking the Japan Alps and Kii Mountains

Join your leader, who has led six previous Mt. Fuji climbs, on a non-altitude hike along the historic Nakasendo. This ancient route was used during the Samurai era to link Edo, current day Tokyo with the former capital, Kyoto. The group will stay in Minshuku at simple Japanese style family inns. After a brief stay in Kyoto, participants continue to the Kii Mountains to day hike to a Zen Monastery. Daily hikes involve little gain and are no longer than 8 miles. Sponsored by Verdugo Hills Group. \$2973 for Sierra Club members/\$3073 non-members. The price includes all accommodations based on two sharing, daily breakfasts, 4 to 5 dinners, 2 lunches. Airfare additional. For details, contact Leader Roxana Lewis 310-532-2933 roxlewis@aol.com. Co-leader: Robert J Baldwin 818-510-1274 rbaldwin@uclaextension.edu

OUTINGS legend

- O** Uncomplicated hikes on trail
- I** involves off-trail travel
- C** Concessionaire-controlled event (non-Sierra Club)
- T** Technical skills
- Changes:** Trips subject to cancellation without notice.

Outings info: For more hike listings, please see the Schedule of Activities or visit: www.angeles.sierraclub.org, click Outings

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 participate on an outing, please go to: www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Seller of Travel identification number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the state of California.

Chapter news and events



Seeds of Jeffrey Pine and Big-Coned Spruce have chosen the same spot to germinate.

Let the forest heal naturally

In August, 2009, the Station Fire burned almost a quarter of the Angeles National Forest, about 250 square miles from Big Tujunga to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Many favorite hiking trails were closed for a couple of years, so now hikers are anxious to see how the fire has affected the forest.

On a December hike on the Devil's Canyon Trail, we were happy to see signs of natural recovery in the form of many seedlings of Jeffrey Pine and Big-Coned Spruce (aka Big-Coned Douglas Fir).

The seedlings are 1 to 2 feet tall and located in spots that once were shaded by large trees but are now exposed to sunlight. It will be years before these trees reach maturity, not within our lifetimes, but the trees will be back for the next generation of hikers to enjoy.

—Ginny Heringer,
Natural Science Section

Come meet members at Mission Viejo open house

Join us for a Sierra Club open house for new members, old members, prospective members and curious non-members who want to find out what the Club is all about. Learn how and where to go for hikes and walks, how to save the environment and protect wild places too. Come and get all your questions answered. Different presenters will discuss hiking, getting started in the Club, trail maintenance, how to get involved in protecting the earth and much more. Refreshments will be provided as well as a chili cookoff. The meeting takes place the Sycamore B room at the Norman Murray Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo. Sponsored by the Sierra Sage of South Orange County. Contact: Patty Sappingfield, (949) 768-3610, solanese@cox.net

Four win seats on Chapter's Executive Board

Top vote-getters in the fall Angeles Chapter Election were Jerard Wright, Susan Heitman, Joe Phillips, and Tom Politeo. These four will join the 2013-14 Executive Committee as at-large members and will serve two-year terms.

Opt in once only for Southern Sierran, Schedule

The Southern Sierran and the Schedule of Activities will be available this year in print to those who request it and online to all. The cost-saving measure took effect last year and continues as we move forward with the publications that are key to communicating with members.

The Southern Sierran will pub-

Reserve your spot at the Annual Banquet by April 20

Have you made a reservation for the Awards Banquet? Join the Angeles Chapter in honoring volunteers who have shown extraordinary commitment to the Sierra Club. The 2013 Awards Banquet will be held May 5 at the Brookside Country Club in Pasadena. Patio reception and silent auction begins at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and comments and awards start at 7 p.m.

Do you have an item to donate to the silent auction? Contact Mary Ann Webster at (310) 559-3126 or e-mail mawebster1984@sbcglobal.net.

Banquet tickets cost \$40 each or \$400 for a table of 10. Deadline for ticket purchases is April 20. Send a check (payable to Sierra Club Angeles Chapter) to Donna Specht, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646; donnaspecht@juno.com; (714) 963-6345.

State Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, will be the keynote speaker. Pavley, a world leader in energy conservation, has earned international acclaim as the author of AB 1493, the landmark California emissions reduction law, which forms the basis for increased fuel efficiency standards in the U.S. and Canada.

For more information about the banquet, go online to http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/about_us/awards_banquet.

Attendees at last year's Awards Banquet, top. The Chapter's Senior Director Ron Silverman, right, presents an award to leader Mars Bonfire.



PHOTOS: GEORGE WATLAND

lish six times in 2013: this issue, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October and November/December. The Schedule of Activities will appear quarterly.

Angeles Chapter members may request printed copies of these pub-

lications by joining an opt-in list. But if you have already opted in, don't do so again; it creates duplicate addresses in the mailing database and extra work for staff.

Thanks to all who receive the online e-edition of the Southern Sierran and

like the full-color pages and links embedded in key stories. By reading us online, you save the Chapter money, and the planet from drowning in more paper.

—Mary Forgiore
Southern Sierran editor



LARRY ALLAN

Wolves should be protected, not hunted down

From Sierra Club reports

Yellowstone National Park in December lost an iconic wolf, the beloved female alpha wolf of the Lamar Canyon pack. She was shot and killed by a hunter during a brief excursion out of the park.

The shooting was especially heartbreaking because this wolf, whose partner was killed last month, was special. Her pack, which is part of a wolf research project, can often be observed by tourists and researchers as the wolves roam Lamar Valley at dusk.

Known for her superior size and strength, this alpha wolf was a fierce defender of her pups. Researchers and hikers often saw her bringing them food and snarling ferociously at any animals that posed a threat. The loss of a wolf that was both an alpha and a mother puts her

pack at great risk.

How did this happen? Earlier this year, Wyoming's wolves lost their Endangered Species Act protection, and Wyoming announced that it would allow wolf hunting near Yellowstone for the first time.

Together the Sierra Club fought this new rule. The Club worried that it would mean an "open season" on the wolves of Wyoming. Unfortunately, the Club was right.

Since these new rules were instituted (along with similar rules in Montana and Idaho), 265 wolves have been shot or trapped. Fifty-eight wolves in Wyoming alone have been killed, eight near Yellowstone.

The Club will continue the fight to protect wolves. Right now, the Sierra Club is fighting in court to overturn Wyoming's brutal wolf hunting rules.

Not so big and bad

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed wolves in Wyoming from the endangered species list last August, the state promptly put them on the hunting list. In Idaho, hunters have the option to kill wolves year-round. And when hunters in Montana failed to kill enough wolves in 2011, state wildlife commissioners allowed wolf trapping as well.

These efforts are motivated, in large part, by the belief among ranchers that wild wolves are a major threat to livestock. But looking at 2010 data, the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that wolves accounted for just 0.2 percent of "unintended [i.e., pre-slaughterhouse] cattle losses"—fewer than are lost to theft, domestic dogs, or vultures.

—Paul Rauber is a senior editor at Sierra magazine.

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Pictured, bald eagle Cache la Poudre River, from desk calendar page. Photo by Vic Schendel.