

Sierra Sage

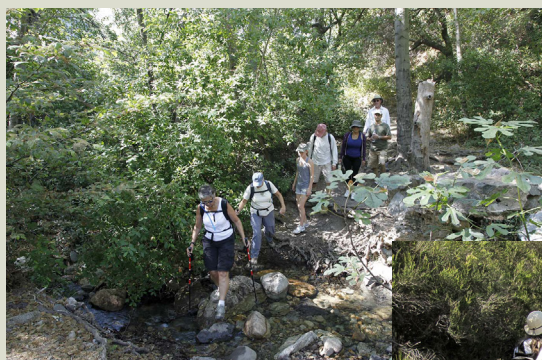
Sierra Sage of South Orange County, a Group of the Sierra Club ■ Bimonthly Events & Outings

Sierra Sage Group Meeting

SINCE WE HAD NOT SCHEDULED ANY IN-PERSON MEETINGS during the entire Covid period, the **Sierra Sage Management Committee** had been working to have a face-to-face meeting at the end of January. However, as Covid has heated up again over the Christmas and January periods, we decided *not* to have a face-to-face meeting this month, rather there will be a Zoom meeting that you can attend online. We will confirm the date, time, and agenda next week. If you wish to join us at the upcoming Zoom meeting, contact **Mike Sappingfield** at mikesapp@cox.net for the Zoom information and agenda.

We have resumed weekly hikes and the January/February hikes are in this newsletter. Most are scheduled on Saturdays or Wednesdays. If you want to join any hike, most are open without approval. There are new rules from the National Sierra Club. One new rule concerns hikes that are further than one hour travel-time in case we need to get to medical help. Most of these distance-hikes are up in the Cleveland National Forest area. Be sure to check those out if you want to join one.

With gratitude, we welcome three new members to the Management Committee of the Sierra Sage Group. They are introduced in this Newsletter. **Welcome to Alex Berk, Tod Fitch, and Leslie Fitch!**



The Trail to Holy Jim Falls



The Morgan Trail in the Cleveland National Forest



O'Neill Park Hike

Photos courtesy of Mike Sappingfield

Sierra Sage Elections



The Sierra Sage Group of the Sierra Club extends a hearty Welcome & Congratulations to the Newly-Elected Members of the 2022 Management Committee.

■ ALEX BERK

I graduated from college this past May into a world recovering from COVID-19 but accelerating towards irreversible climate crisis. My degree is in civil engineering, and I've done all I can to put that technical knowledge to use. I minored in a sustainable design program and participated in various sustainability-focused extracurriculars in design, strategy, and education. My senior capstone project designed a natural method for treating a lake in LA county.



I recently started my first full-time job as a sustainability consultant. In my free time,

I'm working with Sierra Sage to advocate for Community Choice Energy (CCE) in Mission Viejo.

I am eager for the opportunity to do more for the group and make a bigger impact. Thank you for electing me for a seat on the Sierra Sage management committee.

■ LESLIE FITCH

After joining the Sierra Club in Los Angeles in 1986 I began to enjoy the relatively easy access to nature in an urban environment through group hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains. Now, as a volunteer for the Forest Service at Mt. Pinos in Frazier Park I have taken the required First Aid courses to qualify as a hill host for the National Ski Patrol. I help families find the trails most suited to their abilities and have administered first aid for hypothermia. I have also had winter survival training that included an overnight in a snow cave on Mt. Pinos.



I look forward to furthering my membership and participation in Sierra Sage as a member of the management committee.



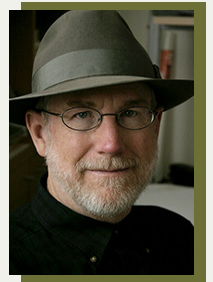
IN MEMORIAM | DUANA MILLER

WE ARE VERY SAD TO REPORT that long time active member of the Sierra Sage Group of the Sierra Club, Duana Miller, has died. She passed in her sleep on October 8, 2021. She will be missed by her family and many friends. Duana had been an active member in the Sierra Club for 20+ years and served several terms as Group Chair and Vice Chair. She was also a member of the Orange County Conservation Committee, and for many years, Duana helped to put on many Starr Ranch Barbeque Fundraising Events. We will miss sorely Duana's brightness and enthusiasm.



■ TOD FITCH

I have been a Sierra Club member since the early 1980s, and my wife and I have been life members since 2015 when we moved into the area served by the Sierra Sage group. I've been in leadership positions with the Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and in the National Ski Patrol. Currently, I am the candidate trainer and assistant patrol representative for Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and a Nordic/Backcountry qualified Instructor.



My interest in the outdoors, especially hiking and camping, has been life long starting with family hiking and camping in the 1960s. Over that time I have seen great changes, usually for the worse, in the health of our natural environment.

I have enjoyed many local hikes sponsored by the Sierra Sage and look forward to contributing to the continued success of the group.

■ VICKI HAZLEY*

I am a current member of the Sage Management Committee and running for re-election as I wish to continue serving the organization in a leadership role. Also, I am the current treasurer for Sierra Sage. I have enjoyed participating in many day hikes and Sierra Club Outings Trips so much that I'm now a hike leader. I'll have the opportunity to provide input on Sierra Sage matters regarding preserving nature areas. I will continue to participate in activities that showcase and promote the Sierra Sage Chapter in O.C. Also, to support Sierra Club's mission of keeping outdoor spaces protected and accessible for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for, once again, supporting my desire to continue as a committee member.



Sierra Sage of

Outings

South Orange County

■ **Saturday, January 08, 2022 8:00 am**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Trail Maintenance on the Bear Canyon Trail

The Sierra Sage and Orange County Groups maintain trails in the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness on a monthly basis. In January we will work on the Bear Canyon Trail. Up to four miles round trip, 750 ft elevation gain but there is ample work needed in the first mile of the trail. During the long shutdown of maintenance activities, the plants continued to grow and the water drains continued to silt up. Tools are provided but you can bring your favorite ones. Bring work gloves, sturdy boots, water, and lunch. We will meet at 8 am at the South OC rideshare to carpool to the trailhead. If you prefer to drive separately, meet at the San Juan Loop parking area at 8:35 am (contact the leader if doing so).

NOTE: This is a backcountry event and the Sierra Club requires everyone to fill out and bring a Medical Form: <https://community.sierraclub.org/file/11079/download/Local%20Outings%20Medical%20Form.pdf>

LEADERS:

John Kaiser | (714) 968-4677 | jkai39@gmail.com
Daniel Donovan | (562) 221-9242 | daniel.paul.donovan@gmail.com
Linda Ledger | (949) 496-8029 | linda.ledger@me.com

■ **Saturday, January 15, 2022 8:30 am**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Holy Jim Falls

4 Mile round trip hike, with 500 ft gain, to Holy Jim Falls and back to cars. Each person will have to fill out a Sierra Club Medical form and bring it with you to the hike. Directions to meeting area is from I-5, go east on El Toro approximately 5 miles to Cooks Corner. Turn right onto Live Oak Canyon Road down past O'Niell Park entrance another mile to Trabuco Creek Bridge. Cross bridge and turn right on the dirt road and park. We will sign-in everyone there and carpool down a rough dirt road up Trabuco Canyon to the Holy Jim Parking Lot. We will walk in from there.

NOTE: Call the leaders to get the Medical Form to complete before the day of the hike.

LEADERS:

Michael Sappingfield | (949) 768-3610 | mikesapp@cox.net
John Kaiser | (714) 968-4677 | jkai39@gmail.com

■ **Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:00 am**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Lion Canyon Falls

O: Sierra Sage. Lion Canyon Falls (aka Chiquito Falls) from Bluejay Campground. 8 miles round trip, 1000' loss/gain. Join us on mostly forested trails to the falls and return. The falls are often dry but the hike is still worthwhile.

Note: The return to the trailhead is uphill. Bring water, lunch, and good hiking boots. Meet at the South OC rideshare at 8:00 am or meet at the west end of Bluejay Campground at 8:45 am (advise leader if meeting at the trailhead).

NOTE: All hikers must fill out and bring a Medical Form: <https://community.sierraclub.org/file/11079/download/Local%20Outings%20Medical%20Form.pdf>

LEADERS:

John Kaiser | (714) 968-4677 | jkai39@gmail.com
Daniel Donovan | (562) 221-9242 | daniel.paul.donovan@gmail.com

■ **Saturday, January 29, 2022 8:30 am (Time Tentative)**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Riley Park Hike

Sierra Sage Group Hike in Riley Park. We are planning 5 mi with some up and down trails covering most of the trails in Riley Park. Directions: Exit I-5 at Oso Parkway east. Follow Oso Parkway approximately 5 or so miles almost all the way to Cota Del Caza. The Park is on the righthand side just before you get to Cota Del Caza where the road ends. Bring munches, water and hats and if you want, poles can be helpful on the up parts and the down parts.

LEADERS:

Michael Sappingfield | (949) 768-3610 | mikesapp@cox.net
Victoria Hazley | (949) 459-8824 | vhaz994@gmail.com

Contact hike leaders for more information about all hikes & outings.

("Outings" continues on the next page...)



Chocolate Lily,
 Santa Rosa Plateau
 by Mike Sappingfield

Sierra Sage of

Outings

South Orange County

(..."Outings" continued from the previous page)

■ **Saturday, February 05, 2022 7:30 am** *(Time Tentative)*
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Trail Maintenance
in San Mateo Canyon Wilderness

The Sierra Sage and Orange County Groups maintain trails in the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness on a monthly basis. Volunteers, male & female, keep trails open and safe. The specific location will be designated a week or two before the event, depending on the most pressing needs; contact leader to be added to email announcements. Typical work is brushing to improve narrow corridors and tread repairs to correct erosion problems.

Tools are provided. Bring work gloves, sturdy boots, water, and lunch. We typically meet at the South OC rideshare to carpool to the trailhead.

NOTE: This is a backcountry event and the Sierra Club requires everyone to fill out and bring a Medical Form: <https://community.sierraclub.org/file/11079/download/Local%20Outings%20Medical%20Form.pdf>

LEADERS:

John Kaiser | (714) 968-4677 | jkai39@gmail.com
Daniel Donovan | (562) 221-9242 | daniel.paul.donovan@gmail.com
Linda Ledger | (949) 496-8029 | linda.ledger@me.com

■ **Saturday, February 12, 2022 8:30 AM**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: BuckGully Hike

5 mi hike on Buck Gully, then up to San Joaquin Hills Rd to Canyon Watch Park for snack break, then back down Buck Gully to the starting point. Meet at Poppy Ave and Fifth Ave in Corona Del Mar. From Macarthur Blvd, go south to San Joaquin Hills Rd, then turn right onto Marguerita Ave. Turn left on Fifth Ave about 5 blocks to Poppy Ave and park on the street where permitted. You can also park at the free north Parking Lot at the Corner of Marguerita and Fifth then walk about 5 blocks to Poppy.

LEADERS:

Michael Sappingfield | (949) 768-3610 | mikesapp@cox.net
Sylvia Stevenson | (949) 616-2765 | sjstevenson2828@yahoo.com

■ **Saturday, February 19, 2022 8:00 am**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Tenaja Trail to Fisherman Camp

O: Sierra Sage. Tenaja Trail. 7.2 miles round trip, 900' loss/gain. Join us on the most scenic trail of the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. We will have lunch at Fisherman Camp before returning uphill to the trailhead. There are several crossings of Tenaja Creek which could be a factor if the winter is rainy—hiking poles could be useful. Bring water, lunch, and good hiking boots. Meet at South OC rideshare at 8:00 am for the lengthy carpool to the trailhead. If you prefer you can meet us at the Tenaja trail head at 9:20 am. If meeting at trailhead advise the leader. Driving directions to trailhead are available on request.

NOTE: This is a backcountry event and the Sierra Club requires everyone to fill out and bring a Medical Form: <https://community.sierraclub.org/file/11079/download/Local%20Outings%20Medical%20Form.pdf>

LEADERS:

John Kaiser | (714) 968-4677 | jkai39@gmail.com
Daniel Donovan | (562) 221-9242 | daniel.paul.donovan@gmail.com
Kim Crane | (949) 831-1058 | cranesnest@me.com

■ **Saturday, February 26, 2022 8:30 AM**
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Whiting Ranch Hike

6 mi hike from Glenn Ranch Parking lot. We will hike to Sleepy Hollow, then Cactus Hill Trail up to Ridge and Tank for a break. Back down Whiting Ranch to Serrano Trail and back to cars. Directions: From I-5 to drive east on El Toro Rd about 3 miles to Portola Parkway, turn left onto Portola Pky past Toll Road to Glenn Ranch Road. Drive up Glenn Ranch Road approx. 1 mile and look for gate on the right-hand side into Glenn Ranch Road Parking Lot. \$3 fee for parking at the lot. Can use OC Park Passes or credit cards or cash.

RECOMMENDATION: Bring lunch or munchies, plenty of water, and hats. Hiking poles are optional.

LEADERS:

Michael Sappingfield | (949) 768-3610 | mikesapp@cox.net
Victoria Hazley | (949) 459-8824 | vhaz994@gmail.com

■ **Saturday, March 5, 2022**
Trail Maintenance

LEADER: John Kaiser | (714) 968-4677 | jkai39@gmail.com

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Note: * Denotes voting member of the Executive Committee

**Announcing...
Sierra Sage Group's New Website**

We are delighted to announce that we have created a new website for the Sierra Sage Group. Over the past months, **Ed Maurer** has created and led a committee to review and improve our communications with our members. A new and revamped website is now ready to be enjoyed. You can visit our new website at www.sierrasage.org. It has numerous new pages, interesting items, and many features, to keep you busy and learning about everything that the Sierra Sage group has to offer.

After you explore the new web site, feel free to send an email to **Ed** at balois@cox.net and let him know what you like and what changes you'd like to see.

Sierra Sage | **Subscription Information
Sierra Sage Newsletter**

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- 1 year \$9.00
- 2 years \$15.00

Note: Please mail your check to:
**Sierra Sage | P. O. Box 524
Lake Forest, CA 92609**

PUBLICATION NOTES

- Sierra Sage is scheduled for delivery on Jan 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept 1, & November 1 of each year.
- Please note that submission deadline is *one month prior to publication*.
- Electronic copies are sent via email and are free. Just send an email to mikesapp@cox.net and tell us you want the emailed Newsletter
- Newsletter Design & Layout: Risa Koppel | Graphic Design risa.koppel@me.com



Sierra Sage
of South Orange County
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<https://www.sierrasage.org>

Sierra Sage Meetings

- Executive Committee meetings are open to all members of Sierra Club who reside in South OC. Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month. **Contact Mike Sappingfield at mikesapp@cox.net** for date, time and directions.
- Preserve the Coastal areas of Orange County? **Contact Penny Elia at greenp1@cox.net**
- Interested in electing environmentally-supportive politicians into local offices? **Contact Mike Sappingfield, mikesapp@cox.net**
- Want to keep the Santa Ana Mountains wild? Want to help maintain trails in the San Mateo Wilderness Area? **Contact John Kaiser at jkai39@gmail.com**

ANGELES CHAPTER WEBSITE:

<https://angeles.sierraclub.org>

SIERRA SAGE WEBSITE: www.sierrasage.org