

Crescenta Valley View

"The power of the universe makes us infinite." _ John Muir

VOLUME II, ISSUE VI

Crescenta Valley Sierra Club Monthly Newsletter

June 2015



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John Muir

B: 4/21/1838

D: 12/24/1914



John Lajeuness proudly displaces his plaque. With him are Carole Mintzer, ExCom Chair; Donna Specht, Event Coordinator, and George Waitland, Chapter Director

John Lajeuness Receives Fundraising Award

CV's John Lajeuness, the "father" of Angeles Chapter Fundraising Outings (part of Travel Adventures), was the recipient of the "Donna Specht Fundraising Award" This year premiered the award, which is given to a person or entity that has provided outstanding, sustained support of the fundraising efforts of the Angeles Chapter.

The "Extraordinary Achievement Award" went to CV group's Bob ("Bobcat") Thompson. He was feted along with Joe Young and Stag Brown for having lead hikes through downtown Los

Angeles' skid row. Started in 1981, the jaunt called "Annual Midnight Hike to Help the Homeless," the group has led these over-

(See Banquet, page 4)

Resolution of the Sierra Club against the Canyon Park Development

Prepared by Dean Wallraff, Attorney and Executive Director of Advocates for the Environment

This resolution was adopted by the Crescenta Valley Group at its ExCom meeting on April 29, 2015.

Resolution

The Sierra Club opposes the Canyon Park development and supports the acquisition of the Canyon Park project site by a public agency or land conservancy, so that it may be preserved as open space.

Background

Salisbury Development of Calabasas is proposing to build a project called "Canyon Park," between 100 and 242 five - bedroom, two - story houses, on a 110 - acre site along Big Tujunga Canyon road adjacent to the

(See Resolution, page 3)

Management Committee

Chair	Fred Dong
Vice Chair	Jeffrey Wilson
Secretary	Marlene Plummer
Treasurer	Jerry Burnham
ExCom Representative	John Lajeuness
Webmaster	Chuck Gooley
Programs	Wayne Fisher
Membership & Outings	Silvia Darie
Conservation & Newsletter	Bettie Pearson

Crescenta Valley Group Supports New San Gabriel Mountain Protection Efforts

By John Monsen

(Co-Chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's Forest Committee)

The public lands in the Angeles National Forest are an irreplaceable natural resource providing LA County with 70% of its public open space, one-third of its drinking water, numerous trails to hike and many peaks to bag. Momentum is building for many potentially positive changes to our local mountains that could bring in more resources to improve the visitor experience and better protect our last remaining wild places.

The first step came on October 10, 2014 when President Barack Obama took historic action to establish the 342,177 acre San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. This action came as the result of decade-long effort by the Sierra Club and other environmental and civic groups to secure more resources for the Angeles National Forest.

The national recognition of a major section of our backyard mountain range has already brought new staff positions to the Angeles National Forest and \$4,000,000 in grants. Trash is being picked up more often along the heavily used San Gabriel River corridor above Azusa, visitor's centers are to re-open, and visitor improvement projects including better signage are on the way.

One problem with the new National Monument is that it omitted the LA River watershed above La Canada, La Crescenta, Sunland and Tujunga. The Sierra Club supports expansion of the National Monument to the west, which will take an



Condor Peaks

Photo by John Monsen

act of Congress. The good news is that we have potentially supportive Congressional Representatives locally in Adam Schiff and Judy Chu.

We need your help in getting the message to them that we want the National Monument expanded and better protection for our last remaining National Forest wild places, such as the proposed Condor Peak Wilderness Area north of Tujunga.

At its May meeting, the Crescenta Valley Group's Executive Committee voted to support monument expansion and the establishment of the Condor Peak Wilderness Area in coordination with the Angeles Chapter's Forest Committee. The CV Group committed to help in four ways: 1) Lead hikes into the proposed Condor Peak Wilderness Area; 2) Support occasional letter writing to public officials at its monthly meeting; 3) Help find local businesses and community groups who would

write a letter of support; 4) Publicize the National Monument expansion and wilderness efforts.

Your support and the CV Group's support will make a difference.

No one can make new wilderness. We can only better protect what we have. The good news is that about 18% of the Angeles National Forest is currently designated officially as wilderness. A wilderness is a section of federal public land officially designated by Congress to be managed to maintain its natural character, wildlife habitat, and scenic vistas free of roads, buildings and infrastructure.

The recent controversy about routing the high speed rail under or through the Angeles National Forest reminds us that potential threats can arise in unprotected areas of the San Gabriel Mountains.

(See CV Supports, page 3)

<i>Events and Outings</i>	<i>Date and Time</i>
<i>Evening hike above La Canada. Meet at Palm Crest School parking lot, 5025 Palm Dr, La Cañada. Bring water, lug-soles, flashlight, and goodies to share. Dress to layer.</i>	<i>Sunday, May 31, 2015, 6:30 p.m.</i>
<i>John Monsen's Preserving the Condor Peak Wilderness in the Angeles National Forest, at the County Library, 2809 La Crescenta Avenue in La Crescenta; Speaker about the Big Tujunga Canyon Development</i>	<i>Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Santa Clarita Valley and Little Hikers Groups</i>	<i>Saturday, June 6, 2015 (see page 4 for more details)</i>
<i>4th of July Picnic</i>	<i>Saturday, July 11, 2015, 8:00 a.m. Deukmejian Park</i>
<i>Panama Exploration and Canal Cruise</i>	<i>Friday, July 31, 2015 to Tuesday, August 11, 2015</i>
<i>Bali and Flores Island Trip</i>	<i>Wednesday, September 9 to Thursday, September 24, 2015</i>
<i>China Panda Yunnan Shangri La Adventure</i>	<i>Thursday, October 8, 2015 to Wednesday, October 21, 2015</i>

CV Supports, from page 2

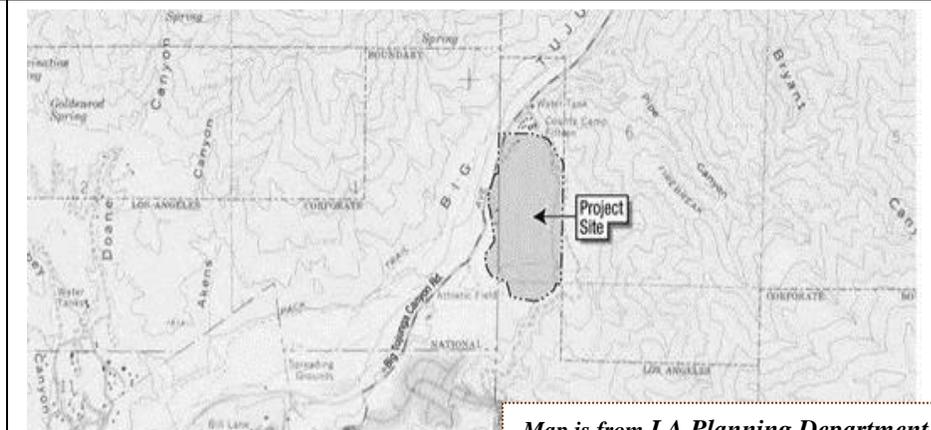
The 17,084 acre Condor Peak Proposed Wilderness Area (PWA) north of Sunland-Tujunga and Mt. Lukens is among the most spectacular landscapes in the western San Gabriel Mountains. Located in the Lower and Upper Big Tujunga watersheds, it rises dramatically from under 2000 feet to over 6000 feet near Mt. Gleason and the Pacific Crest Trail. Its high country is anchored by Fox and Condor Peaks and the Mendenhall Ridge. In addition to rugged peaks it features dramatic canyon country, lush streams, vernal pools and abundant waterfalls. The Great Falls of Fox Canyon is a series seven spectacular waterfalls, one of which is a hundred feet high. The Condor Peak proposed wilderness area helps clean our air and supply Los Angeles with drinking water as well. It provides critical habitat for many unique plants and animals. Those who frequent the area just might catch a glimpse of area's namesake bird, the California condor, as make its triumphant return.

The Condor Peak area's trails needs substantial work post Station Fire, and a wilderness designation could bring positive attention to improving the trail system. The two

major trails in the PWA are open and being used, but the upper sections of Condor Peak Trail has some fallen trees across it and eroded sections while the Trail Canyon Trail has a few navigational challenges in the sometimes thick brush above Trail Canyon Falls. Both hikes are detailed in Trails of the Angeles by John Robinson and Condor Peak, Fox Peak and Iron Mountain #2 appear in 100 Peaks Group write-ups.

It will take a great deal of work to expand the National Monument and the established Condor Peak Wilderness Area since bills will need to move through Congress. If you can help with the efforts – especially if you know a local business or community group who might write a letter of support -- please contact John Monsen.

John Munson can be reached at wildernessjfm@aol.com



Map is from LA Planning Department

Resolution, from page 1

entrance to the Angeles National Forest and within the boundaries of the ecologically sensitive Tujunga Wash. The project site includes part of the Rim of the Valley Trail, and is a vital component of the Tujunga Watershed This open space serves as an important wildlife corridor

and as habitat for several endangered species including the Santa Ana Sucker, the Least Bells Vireo, and the Arroyo Toad. The proposed project would also threaten native vegetation including the endangered Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Coastal Sage Scrub, and riparian ecosystems.

June 6th Hike to Whitney Canyon Sponsored by SCV and Little Hikers

The Santa Clarita Valley and Little Hikers Groups are sponsoring an easy, three-mile hike through Whitney Canyon on Saturday, June 6th. Great for beginners, the hike will wind through a shady park along the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains where hikers will experience grand oaks and small waterfalls. Hike leaders are Sandra Cattell, who can be reached at Sandra Cattell - 661-259-0433 sumcatt@yahoo.com, and Gaylon S. Rodin, 661-263-0568, grodin2@gmail.com.

Meet at 8:30 at south end of Newhall Ave. Take I-5 N to the 14 Freeway (Antelope Valley Freeway), exit Newhall Ave, R to carpool area, and bring water and snacks.



Bruce Hamilton talks of Muir's legacy



U.S. Rep. Judy Chu receives Public Policy Award

Banquet, from page 1

night hikes for 32 years.

Among the 48 awardees was Karen Buehler, who leads backpack trips and day hikes. She is a member of the CV Group and Backpacking Committee. She does trail work in the San Gabriels and recently taught a group some trail upkeep techniques.

This year's program was well attended with the 300-capacity banquet room at

Brookside Country Club. Attendees made the rounds on the patio and examined the auction items while enjoying music. Later, they dined on vegetarian wellington or for the meat eaters, grilled breast of chicken.

Speakers Bruce Hamilton spoke inspiringly of John Muir's love of the outdoors while Congresswoman Chu shared words in the value of protecting California's open spaces.



Banquet patio moments...

*Left (center):
CV Chair Fred
Dong and John
Lajeunesse share
a word with fel-
low attendee.*

*Right: Karen
Buehler, second
from left, gets
one of the "Spe-
cial Service"
Certificates*

