

# Crescenta Valley View

*"The mountains are calling and I must go.." \_ John Muir*

VOLUME III, ISSUE V

Crescenta Valley Sierra Club Monthly Newsletter

June 2016



Amy Hale

## Dr. Amy Hale to Speak About Mars Project

The Crescenta Valley Sierra Club Group will present **Amy Hale's program, *The Mars Project***, on Tuesday evening, June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Boulevard, La Crescenta, CA.

Amy Hale, an employee of JPL, will talk about Mars exploration. She works on the Mars Missions and she has spoken about this project and other projects numerous times. She is currently working on the Juno Mission, which entails getting to Jupiter on July 4th. Amy's presentation will include both the Mars and Juno Missions.

Our program starts following news of Conservation and Outings. This is a free event and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Wayne Fisher, Program Chair at 818 353 4181, for further information.

## Readying Trails and Whacking Pesky Weeds

It was time, time that is morning, the industrious for trail maintenance on the crew spent three hours Brand Lateral in Glendale. working up a sweat pulling The maintenance usually and whacking weeds, lasts about five years. The trimming trees and break- ing branches that were hin- dering smooth passage. The last time a crew took shov- els, McClouds, loppers, hand Hikers passed and thanked saws, pick mattocks, and Pu- laskis up the trail was five years.

*(See Readying, page 3)*

On this cool and damp



**Ka wham!! And another weed bites the dust**

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### 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



Events and Outings	Date and Time
<i>14-day non-traditional adventure to see the wildlife of Mongolia</i>	<i>Friday, June 10, 2016 to Thursday, June 23, 2016</i>
<i>Amy Hale, The Mars Project, Los Angeles County Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA</i>	<i>Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>4th of July Hike &amp; Picnic, Deukmejian Wilderness Park</i>	<i>Saturday, July 9, 2016, 8:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Easy backpacking trip to Islip Saddle via Pacific Crest Trail Leaders: Karen Buehler (<a href="mailto:karen.buehler2@gmail.com">karen.buehler2@gmail.com</a>) 818-363-6216), Co-leader: Cathy Kissinger</i>	<i>Saturday, July 23, 2016 to Sunday, July 24, 2016</i>
<i>Tour of 3 National Parks in the Canadian Rockies: Banff, Jasper, and Yoho on a trip sponsored jointly by the CV, Loma Prieta &amp; Angeles Chapter. Fred Dong, 818-545-3878 (<a href="mailto:madelinesdad@earthlink.net">madelinesdad@earthlink.net</a>) Clifford Caplan, 310-376-9105 (<a href="mailto:caplan04@yahoo.com">caplan04@yahoo.com</a>) Stephanie Gross, 818-545-3878 (<a href="mailto:madelinesmother@gmail.com">madelinesmother@gmail.com</a>)</i>	<i>Monday, July 25, 2016 to Sunday, July 31, 2016</i>



Above, left: Standing next to her tree, the “Nadia tree,” is Nadia during watering day, May 21st, at Deukmejian Park.  
 Above, right: Enjoying the cool morning – hiking the rim of the Valley Trail with Karen Beuhler, May 14th.



**CV Hikes – By the Light of the Silvery Moon**  
 Above – at the Cerro Negro Lookout and Ultimate Destination (May 19th)  
 Right –headed to the top of Earl Canyon Motorway (May 21nd)





**Jerry Burnham sets up CV table at Rosemont Preserve, where he and Bettie Pearson passed out membership forms and newsletters as part of the Saturday event.**

**CV Group Tables at Rosemont Preserve Event**

The CV group was invited to participate in the *Take It Outside California!* Event, Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Rosemont Preserve. Tim Martinez, who is the Program Administrator of the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, invited the CV group to table at the event.

The three-hour outing included an “outdoor classroom” and talk by Paul Rabinov of Friends of Rosemont Preserve. He shared the history of the Preserve.

The overcast afternoon was perfect weather for taking the 1/3 mile loop through the Preserve and listening to Tim Martinez point out and discuss the various native plants that thrive in the canyon-like area, plants such as black sage, white sage, California walnut, laurel sumac, California sage brush, yucca.

Working with the Crescenta

Valley community, the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy preserved 7.75 acres of wilderness land at the top of Rosemont Avenue in La Crescenta, in June of 2012, saving the land from development and turning it into a permanent sanctuary for wildlife.

An advisory committee has been created to steward the land and to conduct programs for the local community. To get involved with the Preserve, email the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve at: [rosemontfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rosemontfriends@gmail.com).

The Preserve is located at northern end of Rosemont Avenue, in the mouth of Goss Canyon. It is backed by about 300 acres that have been maintained as mostly wilderness over the years by private landowners.

The land provides habitat for a number of wildlife species, including mule deer, bobcats, mountain lions, bears, coyotes and endangered Arroyo toads.



**Tim Martinez, Program Administrator of the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, makes twine from yucca leaves.**

*Readying, cont'd from page 1*

us for our contribution to making their hike easier.

The tenacious and tough team of ten cleared deer weed, laurel sumac, wild mustard, sage brush, and other native and non-native plants that had transited the trail. The Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, clearing project was entitled: “Lend a Hand at Brand.” It was sponsored by the City of Glendale’s Parks and Open Spaces Foundation. No experience was required but participants had to sign waivers and be at least 16 years old.

The next trail maintenance is set for Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. through Trails and Open Spaces.

Preserving this land effectively doubles the amount of available green space in La Crescenta.

A volunteer community advisory group, the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve, has been formed to help steward the land and develop educational programs for the community.



### Fred Dong shared facts and photos of recent Sierra Club trip to Panama

They made the trip to Panama last July 2015. Led by CV Chair Fred Dong, this Sierra Club outing gave travelers a taste of Panama – its jungles, Colonial ruins, and villages, and, of course, food like fried plantains, which members of the group helped to prepare, and tasteless rice steamed in banana leaves. “Panama varies,” he said.

There is the ultramodern Panama City with its high rise skyline. But then there are the bucolic villages where people get on with life using few modern apparatuses, such as electricity.

Panama’s problems are near Colombia (where there are drug traffickers and guerillas). After Noriega was deposed, Panama abolished its military. Its border patrol operates along the border area near Colombia.

They spent some nights in Embera Indian villages, where their sleeping quarters were a floor above ground, in huts with thatched roofs. As the weather was hot and muggy, the travelers slept on *top* of their sleeping bags.

The typical Embera house has living quarters raised several feet above ground, in case of flooding. The ground floor contains the food-preparation area which largely consists of logs laid crisscrossed supporting a clay type platform on top of which a fire is made.

With his high-powered Canon, he was able to capture life in the Panamanian jungle and oth-



**Above, Fred gives a solar lamp to a Panamanian villager.**

er areas of the country. The audience saw several distinct butterflies (one with a fake head that deceives predators), Howler, Spider and Capuchin monkeys, leaf cutter ants, different types of fungi, iguana, gecko, humpback whales, three-toed sloth, broad billed toucan, parrots, heron, frigate bird, a huge termite mound, and the Harpy eagle, which is the national bird of Panama. They had to hike to see the bird but Fred said that the hike was worth it.

The audience saw beautiful churches in the colonial part of Panama City, which looks a lot like the French Quarter in New Orleans (as they are of the same era). Spaniards founded Panama and kept it up until 1600s until Blackbeard destroyed it in the 1600s. There are stone ruins remaining. The Spaniards rebuilt part of Panama, where colonial ruins remains until today.

**Below, Panama’s national bird, the Harpy Eagle.** According to Wiki, its typical size is 2 ft 10 in–3 ft 6 in long with an average wingspan of 5 ft 9 in to 7 ft 4 in.



**Harpy Eagle**