

# Crescenta Valley View

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

VOLUME II, ISSUE X

Crescenta Valley Sierra Club Monthly Newsletter

November 2015



**Komodo Dragon** (Photo by Jeremy Burnham)

## The Beauty of Bali

By Jeremy Burnham

The Crescenta Valley Group sponsored and organized a trip to Bali Island. The trip was an Angeles Chapter fundraiser. Twenty-four people participated in the trip and most had a really good time.

The flight to Indonesia is long, seventeen hours plus the connection. Because it crosses the International Date Line and eight time zones, we left LAX Thursday morning just after midnight and arrived in Bali, via a connection in Taipei, Friday afternoon. Upon arrival we took a charter bus to the Lovina Beach area on the North side and checked into the Sunari Villas Resort.

During our four night stay at Sunari, we hiked along the coast, took a bus/boat combo ride to West Bali National Park to snorkel at Pulau Menjangan Island, got our bus trapped in a town's bi-annual

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## Bruce Hale Presents China

Bruce Hale's China is set for Tuesday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the La Crescenta Los Angeles County Public Library, located at 2809 Foothill Boulevard, La Crescenta, California 91214.

Hale is a Sierra Club member and world traveler. He returns to present his latest Sierra Club experience: "Yunnan – A Special Travel Experience." He draws from his recent trip to this region of Southern China and also from his trip last year. To be covered, the terraced rice fields along the

Red River and the Spring City of Kunming, and on to the colorful cities of Dali and Lijiang with their unique ethnic populations. Then upon the Tibetan Plateau, travel to the city of Shangri-La, made famous in 1933 by James Hilton's novel, *Lost Horizon*. Though Bruce has given programs about previous China adventures, this evening promises a view of different towns  
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**John Muir**

**B: 4/21/1838**

**D: 12/24/1914**

### Management Committee

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<i>Events and Outings</i>	<i>Date and Time</i>
<i>Hike - cemetery on the grounds of LA Pierce College in Woodland Hills (Ldrs: Silvia Darie &amp; Joe Phillips)</i>	<i>4:00 p.m., Saturday, October 31, 2015, (presented by the Crescenta Valley Group and Junior Explorers)</i>
<i>Hike - Deukmejian Wilderness Park to Rim of the Valley Trail (Ldrs: Bonnie Strand &amp; Karen Buehler)</i>	<i>8:00 a.m., Saturday, November 7, 2015, 8:00 a.m. Le Mesnager Barn, Deukmejian Wilderness Park 3429 Markridge Rd, La Crescenta</i>
<i>Bruce Hale's China, Los Angeles County Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA</i>	<i>Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Chapter Elections</i>	<i>November 1 – December 1, 2015</i>
<i>Earl Canyon moonlight hike</i>	<i>November 22, 2015, 6:30 p.m.</i>

***Bali, from page 1***

cremation parade, and visited a hot-spring bathing area.

Our final evening there featured a Happy Hour get together to chat with the group, eat local chips and sample arak, the local booze made from fermenting a variety of palm seeds.

Another bus trip including a stop at a farmers market took us to the artist haven of Ubud for a two-night stay. Soon after checking in to the Pertiwi Resort Hotel, we hiked to the nearby Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary to see the Balinese long-tailed macaques. The next day our bus took us to Temple Tirta Empul where Holy Water rises from a large enclosed spring. Lunch consisted of “Crispy Duck” a local specialty. A short drive from there was the Goa Gajah elephant cave where hundreds of years ago Hindus from India made carvings of Ganesha, the elephant-headed god. Seemingly countless stairs went around the grounds leading over a small river and finally to another temple. In the evening, we went to Ubud Palace Theater to see a Balinese Dance show.

After a free day to explore Ubud on our own, we went to the airport and took a flight to the town of Labuan Bajo on Flores Island.

Upon arrival, we checked in to the Bintang Flores Hotel for a two-night stay. The first day there we checked out the two boats we would be staying on for the overnight trip to Komodo National Park, then explored some nearby caves to see fossils and learn about the Early Man found in caves elsewhere on the island.

The Sierra Club made donations to both the local Imam and the Priest. Those two, representing the two primary religions on Flores Island are in



**Boat to Komodo National Park** (Photo by Jeremy Burnham)

the best position to use the funds to help the poorest of the poor people in the area.

The next morning we left most of our luggage at the hotel and took just a daypack on the boats. The first stop was Rinca Island, part of Komodo National Park to hike and see some Komodo

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***China, from page 1***

and customs and new exciting views of that vast country.

Our program begins 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.

**Political outposts:**  
**Sen. Diane Feinstein**  
 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
 Washington, D.C. 20410  
 202-224-3841  
[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

**Sen. Barbara Boxer**  
 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
 Washington, D.C. 20410  
 202-224-3553  
[www.boxer.senate.gov](http://www.boxer.senate.gov)

*Bali, from page 2*

Dragons. We returned to the boat and stopped in a channel at dusk to see thousands of Flying Foxes, 30-inch wing span bats that leave their mangrove tree forest every night to go to another island to eat mangos.

The night on the boat was fun and the food served for two lunches, a dinner and breakfast was excellent. The typical Balinese food included plain or fried rice, noodles with vegetables and either fish or chicken. The coffee in Bali is made from beans ground to a powder. It tastes good but leaves a lot of fine grounds in the cup. There were also plenty of large bottles of Bintang beer to consume during and between meals. In the morning, we went to Komodo Island for another hike and to see many more Komodo Dragons. Our ranger guide carried a forked stick to presumably stop one of these "land crocodiles" should it decide it wanted to bite someone. The dragons are not poisonous but their mouths are filled with deadly bacteria. When bitten, any person or animal will die of blood poisoning unless treated. On the way back to Labuan Bajo, the boats stopped for more snorkeling. In the evening at the Bintang Flores Hotel, we had another Happy Hour with larger portions of arak than before.

The final three days and two nights were spent at the five-star Maliã Bali Resort at Nusa Dua, southeast of the main city of Denpasar. This was a gated touristy area with more up-scale shops and restaurants than the rest of the island. The hotel had a breakfast buffet that just went on and on through three rooms and had virtually everything. It was really good.

The flight home changing planes again in Taipei was long but we got our day back. We left Bali around 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Taipei at 11:30 p.m. and got back to Los Angeles at 9:00 p.m. Thursday evening.



*(Photos by Jeremy Burnham)*

**Mom & Baby Balinese Long-Tailed Macaques**



**Balinese Dancers**



**"Crispy Duck" Lunch**



**Left – Dolphin monument at Lovina Beach**



**Right – A Hindu God**

### Artist Eubank's Mission: Painting Major Oceans

Danielle Eubank plans to paint all of the planet's major oceans. At the October 6<sup>th</sup> program, she presented slides and described the work she has been doing toward accomplishing her goal.

She was painting water when a collector from London invited her to be an expedition painter aboard the *Phoenicia*, a replica of a 600 B.C. vessel. The expedition was to prove that a long ocean trip could be made in such a vessel.

As the Expedition Artist, she sailed with the crew from Syria in the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal, around Africa and back into the Mediterranean, completing the circumnavigation of Africa in November 2010.

A regular crew member with regular duties, Eubank did laundry, prepared meals, and helped to keep the vessel clean. She also assisted the expedition leader in official events in Syria, Mozambique, South Africa, Gibraltar, and Tunisia.

More recently, she ventured to the Arctic, sailing nearly 80 degrees north to Svalbard Archipelago, a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.

The voyage took place in October of 2015, when there is less permanent ice making sailing easier.

Eubank was able to capture on film and on canvas some of her Arctic experiences. She said that in the Arctic: "The scenes of ice and snow seemed to change every couple of hours."



**Impressionist artist Danielle Eubank shared her expedition experiences with the Crescenta Valley group. Eubank has studios in Los Angeles and London, and teaches art at McGroarty Arts Center.**



**High school students fill water bottles from "Bob" (also known as "The Bladder"), a 150-gallon thick, canvas-type bag. The Crescenta Valley group contributed money toward its purchase. Bob was used for harvesting rainwater in Botswana.**