The Greening of L.A. County?

New General Plan would quadruple the number of significant ecological areas.

By Dave Brown

L.A. County seeks to increase the number of significant ecological areas in unincorporated areas of the county to four times the current acreage. SEAs, as they are known, identify ecologically important land and water systems that support valuable habitat for plants and animals. They aren’t set aside as preserves or reserves, but they protect land by requiring special use permits and a special review of any proposed development.

The county’s current plan pinpoints 61 different SEAs that total 125,787 acres. But the newly proposed General Plan 2035 increases that number to 645,517 acres, which would include most of the privately owned, undeveloped land in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Sierra Club is forming a task force to evaluate the 2035 plan that includes designation of SEAs as well as the outlook for transportation, greenways and parks.

The new plan consists of two parts: the North Area Plan, which will govern land use and zoning north of the Coastal Zone boundary (generally north of Mulholland), and the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan will govern land use and zoning issues within five miles of the ocean (generally the area south of Mulholland)

The North Area Plan was originally approved by the Board of Supervisors 12 years ago, but the board has not yet enacted most of the ordinances and community standards that districts need to enforce it.

The Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan, based on the requirements of the Coastal Act, has been approved in concept by supervisors. But it still needs additional work and cannot take effect until it has been certified by the Coastal Commission.

Most of the Santa Monica Mountains are protected as state and federal parklands, but more unincorporated areas outside park protections might be labeled as SEAs under the General Plan 2035.

The history of SEAS

In 1976, the late Jill Swift, then chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club, received a form letter from the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning that said the county was compiling a database of “significant ecological areas” for use in a new “countywide general plan.” “However,” the letter went on, “in order to provide maximum professional input, and due to severe budgetary restrictions, we are asking for your help.”

We had no idea what all this meant, but Jill passed the letter on to me, and I decided we should grab it and run with it. It turned out the “help” the county was seeking would consist of identifying “selected groups and individuals that are recognized as experts” (including the Sierra Club) to nominate areas they thought were worthy

A new era for L.A.’s commercial waste?

A proposal to issue exclusive franchise agreements would help L.A. meet green goals and keep waste management costs down.

By George Watland

While the city currently picks up and sorts trash at residences and small apartment buildings, larger buildings contract with private trash haulers that fail to provide recycling and fail to keep rates down.

Enter a new plan set to come before the L.A. City Council this month in which the city would be divided into 11 zones — each with an exclusive hauling company — that will help meet the city’s environmental goals.

Critics say the plan would raise prices, but the Zero Waste Committee of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter joined the Don’t Waste LA (DWLA) coalition to announce a new report that shows exclusive franchise agreements systems in L.A. County cities have protected residential rate-payers and kept rates low, despite dramatic increases in industry costs.

Hillary Gordon, chair of the Zero Waste Committee, leads local Club activists collaborating with DWLA to call for the city of Los Angeles to implement exclusive franchise agreements for waste haulers operating in its commercial and multifamily waste and recycling sector. Over the past two years, activists have met with L.A. City Council members and Department of Sanitation officials and testified at City Hall hearings to advocate for franchise plans to help Los Angeles better meet its goals of waste diversion and recycling, clean air, job creation and fair rates for residents.

Opponents of the plan, including the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and other business lobbyists, have raised concerns about customer rate increases. But the report, “Stabilizing Customer Rates in Exclusive Franchise Waste and Recycling Systems. An Analysis of Commercial Rates & Cost Drivers in LA County,” counters the claim with data from other local cities already using exclusive franchise agreements.

“We analyzed all available rate data from 34 exclusive franchise cities in L.A. County from 2002 to 2010, and the numbers are clear: Exclusive franchise systems keep customer rates stable, despite rising industry costs. In fact, eight cities, including Beverly Hills, saw their rates actually decrease,” said Lauren Ahkiam, policy
Members, thanks for giving. It’s just what we need!

By Michael Brune
SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Did you notice recently that the largest onshore wind farm in America started operation in northern Oregon? The 845 MW Shepherds Flat facility will generate an estimated 2 billion kWh of energy each year -- enough to power 235,000 American homes. Shepherds Flat is the kind of project we should be celebrating, not the kind that so many Washington DC political wonks and bureaucrats hear about.

We know too you are giving because it makes a difference in the community and in the world. With the holidays in mind, here are some ideas on how to keep giving -- without consuming -- and making a difference.

• Give a Sierra Club gift membership for the holidays. Having a robust membership is what makes Sierra Club info like this possible! (Go to angl.es/2ierzclt and select “Gift Membership.”)

• Join the 100 at $100 campaign to help us reach our donor goal by giving a one-time or monthly gift of $100 or more. Go to tinyurl.com/100at100 to donate now. Also, check out our anniversary page for the names of those who have already contributed at angl.es/2ierzclt/10000donors.

• Donate a car or send a tribute card this holiday season. (See Page 4 for details).

• Volunteer to help this year. We have lots of places where you can help. (See Page 5 for details.)

• Do something! The Chapter leads an amazing all-night holiday hike in December to visit Slid Row and dis pense socks, clothing and blankets. (See Page 6 for details.)

• Do something social! Harwood Lodge at the foot of Mt. Baldy will be open for two weeks over the holi days. Please see Page 7 for details.

Come and join in the merriment and recruit others to join the Club. At $12 a night, it’s a bargain -- and a great way to help others. Of course, you can choose to give more.

Do something more! Make a planned or matching donation to the Chapter that matches the size of your commitment to the environment.

For more information on any of these gift ideas, call us at (213) 387-4287. With all of this, we’ll be off to a great start in 2013.

Volunteer opportunities

The Angeles Chapter relies on volunteers to carry out the mission and goals of the Club. Here’s how you can help.

If you are interested, contact Senior Chapter Director Ron Silverman at (213) 387-4289 or sign up online at our website, angels.sierrachub.org, and look for the “Take Action” tab.

In our current volunteer efforts we are seeking creative people who are web savvy, enjoy creating graphics and layouts and are good at editing copy, then we have an exciting new volunteer opportunity for you!

Put your graphic and editing abilities to good use and reformat our current on-line Schedule of Activities information into a printable version for mailing and tabling. Our new on-line capability allows us to list events, meetings and special events and listings from our new online Schedule of Activities in a simple format.

For more information on any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Ron Silverman by email at angl.es/2ierzclt or call him at (213) 387-4289.

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The Sierra Club is open to all people who believe in preserving the environment for future generations. Club policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or age. Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.
By Joe Young
CHAPTER ELECTIONS CHAIR

The election for seats on the Angeles Chapter’s Executive Committee will be held Nov. 15 and run until Dec. 14. There are six candidates for four open at-large ExComm positions. Top four vote getters will be elected to serve the 2013–14 term of office.

Elections are conducted via paper ballots upon request. Go to angelsi2.sierraclub.org/ChapterElections to read statements and see instructions on how to vote. E-mail: ron.silverman@sierraclub.org

Congratulations to all awardees for their hard work and dedication. Mary Morales and Awards Committee Chair Silvia Darie, Awards Banquet Chair. Also, a huge thank-you for all he has done in his position, including all his work to transition the Chapter to OARS out into the desert and the Angeles Chapter. He is a Sierra Club life member who has been an Angeles Chapter member for 15 years, and as chair for two of those years. He has also been the accident/incident investigator for 15 years.

Eco Mad Men wanted

If you think the presidential candidates should have been discussing climate change instead of Big Bird, here’s an idea: Create your own online ad and send it to your friends. The Sierra Club recently launched “Big Polluters, Bad Politics” (http://bigpolluters.sierraclub.org/), an interactive online platform that gives Americans the chance to fight back against the corrosive influence of the dirty energy industry this election cycle.

The website allows voters to easily create humongous political ads and share them with friends and social networks, giving them a voice despite the deluge of ads paid for by Big Oil and Big Coal companies.

“By spending hundreds of millions of dollars, big oil, gas, and coal companies are trying to drown out the voices of millions of Americans who support clean energy,” said Cathy Dullai, Sierra Club director of Public Advocacy and Partnerships. “This project will give Americans a chance to cut through the polluted airwaves and push back against big polluters and their dirty politics.”

A mid-September analysis by the New York Times showed the fossil fuel industry has already spent more than $150 million on this election cycle on television ads smearing clean energy, pushing dirty energy, and attacking President Obama.

From Sierra Club reports

Thursday plans a little thin? Come and spend an early holiday at a Newsmember-Member Event on Nov. 19 to learn about the Los Angeles Sierra Club and meet like-minded folks. Learn about events with Little Hikers and 20th/30th/40th entities as well as the Chapter’s award-winning weekly conditioning hikes, social activism and conservation outings, backpaks and adventures, and more.

Who’s being honored? Find out at the Angels Chapter Banquet. Mark your calendars for the Angeles Chapter Banquet on May 5 in Pasadena to celebrate Sierra Club heroes.

It was an electric night that started with a fabulous reception, sponsored by many Chapter entities and a primary sponsor, the Angeles Chapter. The event was held at the Brookside County Club at the Rose Bowl on May 6 to cheer on Chapter leaders and volunteers who received awards, to see old friends and to make new ones. Sierra Club President Robin Muir gave the keynote address, emphasizing the role the Angeles Chapter plays in the Club.

Thank you to Phil Bernays Award winner Donna Specht for coordinating the venue and reception; register Cathy Kissinger, Angeles Committee Chair Mary Morales and Awards Committee Clerk Lori Ives. And we hope to see you next year.

Sherry Perking, former Angeles Chapter safety chair, is stepping down from her position. The Chapter owes Phil a huge thank-you for all he has done in that position, including all his work to transition the Chapter to OARS outings and licensing the LEADERS database. The Chapter would not be where we are without Phil’s tireless efforts.


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Clean Water Act under attack by Congress

The Sierra Club marked the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act on Oct. 18 by releasing a Clean Water Voting Record for the U.S. House of Representatives. The online report card features an interactive map and issues letter grades for members of Congress, assigning scores on key clean water votes.

The House is voted to endanger the drinking water sources of 117 million Americans, allow toxic pesticides to flow into our waterways without oversight and halt strong protections for toxic coal ash and destructive mountain-top removal, just to name a few. “For 40 years, the Clean Water Act has helped protect our water,” said Michael Bruno, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. “But in the 112th Congress, we’ve seen an unprecedented attack from House Leadership on clean water policy.”

The Clean Water Report Card highlights which members of Congress side with Americans who care about clean water and those who side with big polluters. Check it out online or see a district-by-district accounting of voting on water issues at http://www.sierraclub.org/cwreportcard/.

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From Sierra Club reports
Walks on the wild side

October hiking in Southern California is a heady mix of less-crowded trails and subtle changes that signal fall – despite the recent triple-digit heat – has arrived. Chapter historian and Camera Committee leader Bob Cates spent the month on these trails that are all within an hour’s drive of Los Angeles. So get outside! Top left: Fall colors along the Chapman Trail Loop at Icethouse Canyon. Top right: Waterfall and poison oak on the gorge of the East Fork upstream from the Bridge to Nowhere.

PHOTOS BY BOB CATES/CAMERA COMMITTEE

WHITNEY/PAGE 1

Dale Benson, a cartographer at the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center in Denver who provided a wealth of information about the history of Mt. Whitney’s surveys and elevation.

The first recorded climb of Mt. Whitney occurred in 1873 when three fishermen — Charles Begole, Albert Johnson and John Lucas — reached the summit from the town of Lone Pine. Shortly thereafter, Whitney Survey party member Clarence King, who initially climbed nearby Mt. Langley thinking it was higher, also reached the top of Whitney. Over the years, various survey parties have gone to great lengths to measure the elevation of Mt. Whitney, each placing a marker not setting two additional marks on the top of the mountain — BM U43 1925 and BM K72 1928. The USGS Survey party to determine whether or not Mount Whitney was taller than Mount Whitney. Sellars concluded that the elevation for Mt. Whitney using the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) should be 14,500.24 feet based on using the NGS program VERTCON to convert the elevation of 14,494.12 feet (NGVD29) derived from the elevation differences of the “14502” and “Whitney 1950” marks as described in the 1950 and 1962 C&GS descriptions.

In 1996, as student at California Institute of Technology, best explains the findings that justify 14,500 ft. elevation in a very technical manner: “14505 is the published NAVD88 elevation for the National Geodetic Survey trig station at the top. That elevation is a VERTCON conversion of the 1950 marked elevation of the mountain top (14,498 feet) from the C&GS occupation in 1950 (PID GT1811). When USGS was up there in 1956, they transferred an elevation from the NGS BM U43. Also, the 1950 and 1962 C&GS descriptions of Whitney give differences of elevations to several other stations on the top that indicate they are higher than the National Geodetic Survey trig station. Translation? The 14,505 foot measurement relied on old data. “Using the transferred elevation to the National Geodetic Survey station Whitney, and applying the differences listed in the description would indicate the highest point is the USGS mark 14502 or the USGS ‘special table’ that appeared to have been set over it and later destroyed. In either case, the round NAVD88 elevation for the highest point would be 14,500.3 ft., or 14,505 ft. in ease of communication.” NOAA/NGS geodetic advisor William Stone agreed with Benson’s calculations. Based on the data available, Benson found that Mt. Whitney is actually 14,500 feet, not 14,505 feet.

What does this mean for Mt. Whitney? As technology improves, there may be additional elevation readings not only on Mt. Whitney but other mountains as well.

For most people, hiking to the summit of Mt. Whitney, approxi mately 6,000 feet of elevation gain and 22 miles by the easiest non-technical route, is a lifetime accomplishment.

As one Santa Monica hiker who summited Mt. Whitney a few years ago said when learning of the most recent elevation change, “I have a picture of (tiny letters) Mt. Whitney (big letters) out of my car to take a picture of (tiny letters) Mt. Whitney, CA (Big), plus 14,497’. I stand by my coffee mug that states 14,497’ and 14,500.3’ for ease of communica tion.”

Wynne Benti is coauthor of the book, Climbing Mt. Whitney and publishes at Spatial Dog Press in Bishop, California.
Sierra Club seeks rate reprieve from San Onofre nuclear station

From Angeles Chapter report

The San Onofre Task Force of the Sierra Club recommends the California Public Utilities Commission for its unanimous decision to release the plant into the rates, operations, practices, services and facilities of Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric, related to the San Onofre Power Generating Station Units 2 and 3.

The Commission met Oct. 25 to hear comments on the future of the San Onofre facility and to vote on the related Order Instituting Investigation regarding Southern California Edison’s proposal to shut down since January after extensive and unexpected wear on piping in the plant’s steam generator system caused a leak of radioactive steam.

In an opening statement, PUC Commissioner Michael Florio stated that within 45 days the utilities will testify on proposed rate adjustments and will be required to show in detail any long-range plans that will address permanent removal of San Onofre from the rate base.

He added that it may never be safe or economic to reopen the plant. "For that reason we are recommending that there be a reasonable amount of money available to utility ratepayers and system users," Florio concluded.

In its presentation, the commission noted that the San Onofre facility has been shutdown since January and ratepaying businesses have been paying $54 million a month in charges for the plant — an average $10 per household in its service area. The defective system that forced shutdown cost $771 million but only $137 million is recoverable through the manufacturer’s warranty.

Gina Palencar at LAANE contributed this article.

In such a case, shareholders are expected to shift the cost burden for repairs to the utility’s customers, the principle of risk and reward has been violated and ratepayers pay the consequences of management errors.

“The Sierra Club urges the ratepaying subsidy so the utility is no longer making decisions while it is artificially insulated from real-world economic conditions.”

On Oct. 9, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission held a three-hour public meeting Oct. 9 in Dana Point that drew 500 to 600 concerned citizens and activists. Environmentalists, nuclear energy industry representatives, union leaders and members of the public offered statements and responded to questions from the audience.

The meeting’s central focus was whether to attempt a restart of Unit 2 at the San Onofre nuclear power plant in North San Diego County. A few days earlier, Southern California Edison filed a 1,000-page report based on an eight-month analysis of the problem and wanted the regulatory body to agree to a restart of Unit 2 for a five-month test at 70% power.

Small business owner Rocío Ramírez speaks out in support of a fast and fair waste housing by earmarking on exclusive franchise agreements.

In over 1,800 native oaks to make room for 1,500 to 2,000 mansions and a four-lane boulevard, also entirely within the Palo Comado SEA.

One Planning Commissioner seriously proposed building a four-lane boulevard along the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains, which would intersect a second boulevard through the Malibu Canyon SEA.

While most SEAs are on private property zoned for some sort of development, the courts cannot constitutionally allow them to be treated as undeveloped wilderness preserves. Until park agencies are able to come up with enough money to buy the land — an increasingly difficult challenge today — the only hope of saving these special places may be to find a way to constitutionally regulate the development of the property that will ensure the survival of at least some of its unique natural resources.

This could mean trying to persuade the owner to sell or donate the most sensitive parts of the property or allowing him to develop part of the property and donate the rest to a park agency or to a non-profit.

A combination of purchase in fee, partial donation and dedication of the remainder, has been used to date to permanently preserve 2,000 acres — more than 60% of the Palo Comado SEA.

Volunteers Needed

Want to help assess the General Plan 2035? Contact Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson at jennifer.robinson@sierrclub.org.
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, please go online to angeles2.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/travel_adventure.

Explore Patagonia Region of Argentina and Chile
Feb. 2-15, 2013
O-rated: Still spaces available! Explore the wild Patagonian region of Chile and Argentina from March 14-April 2, 2013. Stays in the Amazon, canoe transport, lodges (double occupancy, some triples), ground transport, meals, guides. Group international airfare extra. For more information, contact: Donna Specht [714-963-6345, donnaspecht@juno.com] and co-leader Ana Cadez (ana.cadez@bt-store.com)

Ecuador, Andes to the Amazon
May 23-June 4, 2013
C/O rated. Come explore on a 13-day trip based at three eco-lodge reserves and one lodge in the Amazon jungle. Stay in 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. Trek to sacred waterfalls, follow in the footsteps of the pre-Columbian. Then include the Quito Indian Market and Cotopaxi Volcano National Park. Then off to the Amazon River, villages and more. Price includes hotel, bus transportation, most meals, airport transfers and more. Domestic and international airfare is extra. Trip cost per person for Sierra Club members is $1,895; non-members, $1,995. Includes lodge (double occupancy, some triples), ground transport, meals, guides. Group international airfare extra. For more information, contact: Leader Donna Specht [714-963-6345, donnaspecht@juno.com], Co-leader: Ana Cadez (ana.cadez@bt-store.com)

Canadian Rockies National Parks
July 29-Aug. 4, 2013
O-rated: Join us for a grand tour of three national parks in the Canadian Rockies: Banff, Jasper, and Yoho. Jasper and Yoho 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 mountain ranges, glaciers, lakes, and glaciers. Participants will sightsee and take easy hikes from the bus. Highlights include places such as the Columbia Icefield with a hike to the Athabasca Glacier, visit to lakes Louise, Moraine Lake, Medicine Lake, Emerald Lake, and many more. Optional pre-trip excursions: Ride Amtrak from the Bay Area to Vancouver with possible Vancouver island excursion and Canadian Rockies train trip for an extra $1,195. Includes six nights accommodations (two per room, individual beds), bus, boat refreshments, excursion fees, most lunches and two dinners. Sponsored by Angeles and Loma Prieta chapters. Price for Sierra Club members is $1,835 through 12/31/2012, after 12/31/2012, $1,900. Non-members pay $200 extra. Airfare to and from Canada trip and excursion are extra. Contact: Leader: Fred Dong [madelineisdaubert@bt-store.com]. Co-leader: Stephanie Gross.
Calendar

Outdoors

Crystal Cove Easy Backpack Trail

O-This easy paced 8 mile round trip hike will take us to the Lower Moon Camp. Bring a minimum of 6 quarts of water, sleeping bag, ground cover, etc. A $10 campground fee is to be paid via PayPal before 11/14. Contact leaders for payment instructions: James Huang (huangj@gmail.com). Charles G. Geller education@sierraclub.org

Santa Monica Architectural and Historical Walk

O- Easy 5-mile route along the Santa Monica Pier, Palisades Park and residential areas. View points of interest including the end of Route 66, the 1910 Leimert Park and the riding of the escalators. Meet at the pier near the Santa Monica Police tower. Wear comfortable walking shoes; bring money for optional lunch at Santa Monica Place. Leaders: Rodney Williams 310-839-2591 rosalyn.williams@gmail.com. Jeanne Karpenko 818-459-3752 chanukah@vernon.net

San Juan Hot Springs to Lucas Canyon

Sierra Sage, South Orange County Group

O- Join us for our annual Thanksgiving weekend hike of 9 miles, 1800 feet of gain. Climb steeply on the Sitton Trail from the Hot Springs parking area to the Sierra Sage Wilderness Park before descending into the canyon. Lunch at the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness for lunch among the oaks. Bring lunch, proper foot- wear, water, etc. Meet at 8 a.m. at South OC ride share. Leaders: John Kaiser 714-298-4677 bkk@sierraclub.org. Deedee Denton 949-851-8869 deedonaton@hotmail.com

15th Annual Backbone Trail Restoration

Bienvenideos-Leacock Trails to Will Rogers State Park 8 a.m. Dec. 1

Los Angeles Chapter, Santa Monica Mountains Task Force

O- Very strenuous 15 miles with 2,800 feet of gain. Round trip hike into Temescal Canyon, Will Rogers State Park, and back out to Mira Monte. Hike along the eastern end of the Backbone Trail. Meet 8:30 a.m. at end of Bienvenido Trail and Parking. Bring food for lunch. Leaders: Frank L. Morales 949-636-2981 10ter@cox.net and Anita Dent 805-585-4467 anita@paanet.net.

Crystal Cove From the Top

1:30 p.m. Dec. 2

Orange County Single Singers Group

O- Easy moderate paced, 6-8 mile r/t, 1000' feet of gain. Enjoy unique views of Catalina and the Pacific coast as we descend and ascend ridges. Meet in front of restrooms at Coastal Peak Park near corner of Coastal Peak Park and Ridge Park Road, Newport Coast. Leaders: Scott Cross dust1000@chapman.edu. Irene Prokopenko irene_prokop@yahoo.com

Historic Mt Wilson Trail via Little Santa Anita Canyon to Orchard Camp

11 a.m., Dec. 9

Pasadena Group Outing

O- Join us for our annual Thanksgiving weekend hike of 9 miles, 1800 feet of gain. Climb steeply on the Sitton Trail from the Hot Springs parking area to the Sierra Sage Wilderness Park before descending into the canyon. Lunch at the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness for lunch among the oaks. Bring lunch, proper foot- wear, water, etc. Meet at 8 a.m. at South OC ride share. Leaders: John Kaiser 714-298-4677 bkk@sierraclub.org. Deedee Denton 949-851-8869 deedonaton@hotmail.com

Annual Holiday Day in Glendale

4 p.m., Dec. 4

Servis Singles

Mix and mingle with other Sierra Singles to celebrate the season. Come solo or bring a friend to pool food, fix get-together, 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a sing-along, music and an optional gift exchange (under $10). Feel free to bring a Christmas or Hanukkah decoration for tree-trimming. Sierra Singles provides the main dish, desserts and beverages. members bring an appetizer or side salad. Non-members, $5 and appetizer or side salad. Leaders: Mary J. Moralis 949-630-2881, Mirella Serrano jeanne@karpenko.com 818-244-0735 karpenko@cox.net

Verdugo Hills Traverse

8 a.m., Dec. 5

Verge Hills Group

O- Moderate 12-mile hike with 2500 feet of gain. Cross Verdugos from Sun Valley to Monrovia. Views of the San Fernando Valley and the San Gabriels. Meet 8 a.m. bottom of beauty Head fire road at Monrovia. Leaders: Bruce Hale 626-799-2067, brucehale@sbcglobal.net. Thomas Colapietro 562-790-3309 brucehale@sbcglobal.net

Mount Baldy to Kureatown

10 a.m., Dec. 10

Vergle Hills Group

O- Easy, moderate 6-mile walk on Wildilde Blvd. starting at LACMA. Visit the Korean Cultural Center where leader (who lived in Korea for 4 years) will give a guided tour. Continue on Wildilde to Olympic for window shopping and lunch at the Kurotanana Gullia. Wind up the walk with a fire of the专题 WP Spa where participants can enjoy in a chilled salt water at the MLA Federal Building, Wildilde Ave. Bring bus fare, comfortable shoes, hat, rain. Rain Canceels. Leaders: Robert Baldwin 818-510-1274 bddaild@ucr.berkeley.edu. Romans Lewis 310-532-2953 mruden@sierraclub.org

Holidays at Harwood Lodge

3 p.m. Dec. 16 to noon Jan. 1

Make Harwood your home — for every day or just one day through the holiday season. The lodge’s open will be open from 3 p.m. Dec. 16 to noon on Jan. 1. Join family and friends in celebrating your holiday of choice: Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, New Year’s or any other holiday. Puttik dinners lunch (bring a “ crimson, beverage of choice and appetite to share at happy hour). Film Festival, Scramble tournament, puzzles to complete, books to read and stories to share around the fire. Open to all members ($12 per member and $7 for non-members, $5 for seniors) and guests (no reservations required, except for family rooms. Bring Sierra Club and white elephant gift for the post- holiday gifts once. Overseer: Monaisha Ward 562-833-8541 monalisha_ward@yahoo.com

Yosemite Winter Bus Trip

Feb. 15 to 18

West L.A. Group

O- Join us for the 34th annual winter trip that includes a three-night stay in Yosemite’s winter wonderland. Ski, showhike, ice-skate, take photos or just loaf on this trip that includes bus and lodgings. Cost is $600 for Sierra Club members, $625 for non-members. Contact leaders: Paul Carter 310-437-2629, patc@sierraclub.org. Ibona Kupez, 909-599-7115, statrek4d@gmail.com

Send a personalized Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Tribute or Memorial Card

It’s a perfect way to say you care and to help the Angeles Chapter. Within 24 hours, we’ll send a personalized card suitable for any happy or sad occasion. Contact: Ron Silverman 213-387-4289 Ron.Silverman@SierraClub.org

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Bald Eagle Cache la Poudre River, from desk calendar page. Photo by Vic Schendel.
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