



# VALLEY SIERRAN

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## April 2018 Newsletter

Share your Adventures

Scrabble Group

Weekend Hikes

### NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

**Tuesday**

**May 15, 2018**

**7:00PM**

**"Acorns, Oaks,  
and the Future of  
the Simi Hills"**



with

**John Luker and  
Wendi Gladstone**

There is a slo-motion trainwreck happening in the local mountains. Climate change, drought, and invasive pests are creating a landscape level change to the mountains in Southern California.

"The Sky Valley Volunteers" is a new group being formed to perform habitat restoration in the local Simi Hills. The presentation tonight is a documentation of the Volunteers' efforts thus far, and their assessment of where environmental policy



Hello Sierra Clubbers!

April is in full swing. Hooray! Temperatures are warming up, there has been lots of rain, and spring flowers are in bloom. Life is good. We are celebrating this lovely month by bringing you a program you'll thoroughly enjoy.

**On Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 7PM David Eisenberg, an old friend of the SFVSC Group, will be with us once again, giving us one of his always-fascinating and timely travelogs. He will speak on the topic:**

**"A Six-Week Trip through Australia."**

David is a Life Member of the Sierra Club. He is a Member of the 100 Peaks Section, and has completed the list several times. He is also a Member of the Verdugo Hills Group. Presently he is editor of *Verdugo Views*, the Group's newsletter. A former math teacher, David has travelled to many parts of the globe.

In addition to his busy traveling and editing schedule, David continues to lead outings for the Verdugo Hills Group. These outings include carcamps, city walks, and garden tours.

In May, 2017, David received the Angeles Chapter's Lori and Robin Ives Media Award for his work on the memorable publication *Schedule of Activities*, which he edited for 15 years.

This fine publication was published three times yearly. Each issue included such vital features as a complete listing of Angeles Chapter organizations, regional groups, and activities sections; a meticulously detailed four-month schedule of all Chapter trips, meetings, events, activities and hikes (complete with difficulty ratings); a roster of meeting places and ride-share points; articles on such varied topics as "How to Get Started with the Sierra Club"; and instructions on obtaining Sierra Club membership (application form attached), as well as

should go in the near future.

John Luker has been involved in environmental activism and habitat restoration since 2005. Until 2009, he was a director of photography, shooting independent features and reality TV.

In 2009 John took a job with the Supervising Environmental Scientist for State Parks in the Santa Monica Mountains. Working on her crew for 8 years taught him how habitat restoration should be done.

John is the past Vice President of the Santa Susana Mountains Preservation Association, and past President of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains.

Wendi Gladstone is a member of the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association. She is working with John Luker on a five-year oak forest restoration project.

**Don't Miss This Exciting Presentation!!**

**There will be socializing and refreshments.**

**7:00PM**

**Reseda Neighborhood**

countless other helpful, almanac-like features. All this valuable information was squeezed into a slender 8.5" x 11" 75-page publication which was mailed to Angeles Chapter members three times yearly.

The *Schedule of Activities* ceased publication in 2011.

Some of us were lucky enough to have saved issues of the *Schedule*. We treasure them and use them for reference constantly.

**Don't miss this important program!!**

*There will be socializing and refreshments (desserts, soft drinks, & of course pizza) before the presentation begins.*

*Remember we are now meeting at our new location in the Bank of America Building near the corner of Lindley Avenue and Sherman Way in Reseda. The address is: 18118 Sherman Way Reseda, CA 91335!!*

See you on Tuesday, April 17th!

Julie Szende  
Editor, *Valley Sierran*  
Membership Chair/Wildlife Protection

## WHY WE RECOIL FROM SPIDERS AND SNAKES: IT'S AN ANCESTRAL THING

by Julie Szende



What is it about spiders with their eight legs--sometimes covered with fur--crawling towards us, even getting onto our actual skin, that gives us such horror and fear?

Scientists have debated for sometime about whether this disgust for spiders (technically known as "arachnophobia")

**Council Community Room  
18118 Sherman Way,  
Reseda 91335 (in the Bank  
of America building, near  
Lindley Avenue).**

**Parking is available in the  
Bank of America parking  
lot.**

**THIS MONTH'S  
MEETING**

**Tuesday  
April 17, 2018  
7:00PM**



**"A Six-Week Trip  
through Australia"**

with David Eisenberg

David Eisenberg, well-known to our Group as a guest speaker and as an important figure in the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club, will speak to us about his recent trip through "The Land Down Under." David visited Darwin, Alice Springs, Uhuru, Sydney, Perth, and Kangaroo Island.

David has been active in the Sierra Club for many years. He is a Life Member in the Sierra Club, a member of the Verdugo Hills Group and the Hundred Peaks Section. In addition, he is former Editor, Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities, and present editor of Verdugo Views.

David has won numerous awards during his years of service with the Sierra Club. A few of these include Chapter Outing Service Award, (1991), HPS John Backus Leadership Award (1992), the Angeles Chapter Special Service Award (1999), and the Chapter's Lori and Robin Ives Media Award (2017).

is actually part of our DNA as a species, or whether we have learned it culturally. To try and come up with answers, scientists turned to innocent study participants: human babies.

In 2017, researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Germany exposed 48 six-month-old infants to images of spiders in order to measure their response.

The infants were also shown pictures of flowers, as well as photos of snakes and fish. During the experiment, the babies had their pupil dilation measured by an infrared eye tracker, which indicated levels of the fight-or-flight chemical *noradrenaline*.

In this way scientists hoped to gauge a stress response.

"When the infants were shown pictures of snakes or spiders instead of flowers or fish, they reacted with significantly bigger pupils," said Stefanie Hoehl, neuroscientist from the Planck Institute and the University of Vienna in Austria. ". . .this change in pupil size is an important signal for the activation of the noradrenergic system in the brain, which is responsible for stress reactions. Even the youngest babies seemed stressed by these animals."

When the babies saw images of spiders, the average dilations of their pupils was 0.14mm. When they saw images of flowers, their pupil dilations were only 0.03 mm. Spiders (and to a lesser extent snakes), caused the most pupil dilation, even in children so young they could not possibly have known that spiders are often dangerous creatures that many adults fear. Why was this?

"We conclude that fear of snakes and spiders is evolutionary," Hoehl explained. "Similar to primates, mechanisms in our brains enable us to identify objects as 'spider' or 'snake' and to react to them swiftly."

Though we live pampered, thoroughly modern lives today, and rarely come into contact with poisonous spiders or snakes, it's a safe guess our ancestors weren't so lucky. The horror and disgust many of us feel today when we see these creatures might be a hangover from a survival instinct from ancient times.

References

Hoehl, S., Hellner, K., Johannsson, M., and Gustaf Gredeback. "Itsy Bitsy Spider. . .: Infants React with Increased Arousal to Spiders and Snakes." Frontiers in Psychology. 18 October 2017.

**The fun and socializing**

**start at 7:00PM.  
There will be  
refreshments!!  
Don't miss it!**



Quick Links  
Register Now  
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**SFV SIERRA CLUB  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**  
**January 2018**

**Chair**

Barry Katzen  
(818) 341-8304  
[barkat@rocketmail.com](mailto:barkat@rocketmail.com)

**Vice Chair:** Open

**Treasurer**

Gabe Sende  
(818) 999-1257  
[gabesende@yahoo.com](mailto:gabesende@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**

Belen Katzen  
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Michael Stevenson  
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**Membership Chair**

Julie Szende  
(818) 999-5384  
[julieszende@gmail.com](mailto:julieszende@gmail.com)

**Political Chair**

Jan Kidwell

**JIM HINES TO BE  
HONORED  
AT NATIONAL  
PARK SERVICE  
CELEBRATION**



**by Jim Hines**

Greetings Friends--

I am so proud to be honored by the Santa Monica Mtns Fund and National Park Service (NPS) at their Spring 2018 Celebration.

I will be honored on June 3rd, 2018, for my work as the founding President of the NPS partner, the Santa Monica Mtns Fund, as well as my work in protecting America's national parks and other national public lands.

Hope to see you on June 3rd at the NPS Santa Monica Mtns Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch in the beautiful Santa Monica Mountains.

For the wild,

Jim Hines  
Sierra Club Santa Monica Mountains  
Task Force

*NOTE: If you are interested in attending this event, you can access the website by clicking <http://www.samofund.org/2018/02/22/> or simply googling Santa Monica Mountains Fund Spring Celebration June 3, 2018*  
--Editor

**WILDLIFE AND LAND  
CONSERVATION UPDATES**



**Wolf Pack in Lassen County**

The CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed the presence of a wolf pack in Lassen County. For more information, [click here](#).

(818) 850-9676  
[jankidwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jankidwell@sbcglobal.net)

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**Outreach Chair:** Open

—

**Conservation Chair**

Terrie Brady

(818) 264-6731

[terriebrady@gmail.com](mailto:terriebrady@gmail.com)

-

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## WHO IS CASEY SCHREINER?

**Casey Schreiner is the speaker for the SFVSC June 2018 Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser.**

He is the author of **[Day Hiking in Los Angeles](#)**, which is considered an in-depth source of information on

## **Wolves Threatened with Protection Removal**

Newly-arrived wolves in California are now threatened with removal from endangered species and protection lists. We will not let this happen! See email address below for more information:

[Click Here](#)

## **Burrowing Owls Face Eviction from Their Homes**

California burrowing owls live in underground burrows. Recent regulations set by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife allow land developers to set up so-called "doors" in the entrances to these underground homes which allow the mammals to leave their burrows but prevent them from re-entering. The true culprits here are of course the developers, who want to build homes on land where burrowing owls dwell.

Help these owls stay safe in their burrows by emailing the director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Charlton Bonham, at [director@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:director@wildlife.ca.gov). Please ask him to suspend the "passive relocation" of burrowing owls in California.

## **Bears Ears National Monument Area Slashed**

Bears Ears National Monument is a landscape of red rock canyons, flowing rivers, and a wildlife habitat for endangered species in the state of Utah. President Obama set this land aside in 2016 as a haven for all Americans (as well as wildlife) to enjoy. On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed two proclamations slashing protections for two Utah monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase. This represents a triumph for Utah fossil fuel industries and ranchers, who have been pushing the President to undo protections put in place by previous administrations that curb activities such as oil drilling and cattle grazing.

Bears Ears will be slashed from nearly 1.5 million acres to 228,784 acres. Ryan Zinke, U.S. Interior Secretary, has been a vocal proponent of allowing greater development (including mining) on public lands. Zinke told reporters that "No one loves public land more than I do," but added: "When a monument is used to prevent rather than protect, the President is right to take action."

In Utah, the President's decision prompted protests before his arrival to announce it. Thousands of demonstrators converged on the steps of the Utah state capitol

Bears Ears, named after two towering buttes in the heart of the protected area, has around 100,000 archaeological sites, including native American ceremonial grounds, graves, and rock art. The five Native American tribes that form the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition say legal action is likely against Trump's decisions on monuments in Utah.

The Trump Administration's attempt to scale back the Bears Ears legacy from President Obama will almost certainly encounter a thicket of legal action from enraged environmental groups.

***Information about wolf packs in Lassen County, the wolf protection removal, and the burrowing owl situation was provided by James Hines, Chair, Sierra Club***



125 trails in and around Los Angeles. **Day Hiking** is the most up-to-date hiking guidebook for the region. The book just entered its second printed in early 2018.

Casey Schreiner is also the founder and editor-in-chief of [modernhiker.com](http://modernhiker.com), one of the oldest and most-read hiking sites in the West. Since 2006, he and a team of writers have brought hiking trails to new audiences and shined spotlights on stories for those who love the outdoors--and for those who are just learning to love the outdoors

[modernhiker.com](http://modernhiker.com) broke two national stories about national park vandals and has lately become a go-to source for plain-English explanations of complicated policy documents and pieces highlighting the younger, diverse people stepping onto the trails for the first time.

In addition to writing about the outdoors, Schreiner is also an award-winning television writer and producer. He is currently Head Writer and an on-camera personality for TruTV's "Talk Show the Game Show" which has absolutely nothing to do with the outdoors!

***See the article below for more information on Casey Schreiner and the SFVSC June Dinner and Fundraiser!***

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TUESDAY

**California/Nevada Wildlife Team. The information re the latest changes to the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah was taken from David Smith's and Oliver Milman's article in The Guardian entitled "Trump Slashes Site of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase national monuments in Utah." December 4, 2017**



**CALLING ALL HIKERS !!**

(A) Every Tuesday & Thursday morning, the Sierra Club Wilderness Adventures Section offers outings with two experienced leaders. These hikes vary in location as the leaders move in & around the SF Valley. More information on these outings can be found in the Angeles Chapter's Schedule of Activities under the "Get Outdoors" drop-down.

[angeles.sierraclub.org](http://angeles.sierraclub.org)

(B) Every Tuesday evening there are outings in the West San Fernando Valley. Meet in the mid-block of Marylee St. between Topanga Cyn Blvd & Owensmouth inside Warner Park (where the summer concerts take place). These 4-7 mile hikes vary in degree & terrain, sometimes being out & backs or loop adventures. As always, sturdy shoes & water are must-haves. NOTE: All Sierra Club outings have two leaders, one in front, one sweeping.

(C) Every Friday evening hike to Parker Mesa Overlook in Pacific Palisades. This 5-mile out & back adventure on a fire road trail will provide a breathtaking view of the ocean & the environment at night. Flashlights not needed.

(D) This adventure starts at the corner of Los Leones & Sunset across Los Leones from the fire station, meeting at 6:30PM to arrange carpools to the trailhead. Sturdy shoes, water & stamina needed for this moderate hike with some strenuous spots.

***For more information on hiking and other activities, please refer to the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Website:***

[angeles.sierraclub.org](http://angeles.sierraclub.org)

June 17, 2018!!!



shutterstock

**ITALIAN  
FUNDRAISING  
DINNER &  
PROGRAM**

**6:00PM**

at

**Prince of Peace Church  
5700 Rudnick Avenue  
Woodland Hills, CA  
91367**

**"THE BEST HIKES OF  
LOS ANGELES"  
with  
with Casey Schreiner**

Come to the dinner, enjoy  
delicious homemade  
Italian food, see old friends  
and make new ones, and  
hear Mr. Schreiner's  
fascinating presentation.

MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATIONS NOW BY  
SENDING \$25.00 Payable  
to:

**San Fernando Valley  
Sierra Club**

**MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:  
Belen Katzen,  
Reservationist  
9543 Rudnick Avenue  
Chatworth, CA 91311  
(818) 341-8304 or  
[barkat@rocketmail.com](mailto:barkat@rocketmail.com)**

**Include a phone number  
and mailing  
address/email address  
with your check. Upon  
receipt of your payment,  
a confirmation notice will  
be mailed/emailed to  
you.**

**WE ARE HAVING A  
RAFFLE WITH  
FABULOUS PRIZES!! TO**

## Scrabble Group

The SFVSC Scrabble Group is now an established body. We have over 35 active members, with new people coming in all the time.

The Scrabble Group meets one Sunday night a month. The games are scheduled towards the end of the month.

***Please join us for the April 2018 meeting, which will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at 5:30PM at a member's home in Tarzana.***

If you would like to attend the April 2018 meeting, contact me at the number below. You can also email me at [julieszende@gmail.com](mailto:julieszende@gmail.com)

Julie Szende  
Membership Chair  
Coordinator, SFVSC Scrabble Group  
(818) 999-5384



Our Group is looking for alternative places to hold our meetings. If anyone in our Group would be interested in hosting a Sunday night meeting, please contact me at the address and/or phone number above.

Julie Sz.

### Confidentiality:

Your e-mail will never be given to anyone. The only persons who have access to your e-mail are Julie Szende, Newsletter Editor. On the header, addressees will only see their own e-mail and no one else's. Please be assured of complete privacy of your e-mail. The Valley Sierran is an E-newsletter for members of the

**BE ELIGIBLE, BRING  
YOUR OWN REUSABLE  
PLATES \* SILVERWARE  
& GLASSES/CUPS TO  
THE DINNER!!**

\*Please, no paper or plastic

Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group. We hope you will pass this along to your friends and family.

Sincerely,



Julie R. Szende  
Valley Sierran Editor

## SHARE YOUR ADVENTURES



The *Valley Sierran* would love to see your pictures, read your poetry, or hear your tales of adventure. Submit your photos, poetry, essays or short stories to be featured in future newsletters. Please make sure all submissions are about nature and/or conservation. If you would like more information, or if you want to submit your work, please contact us at: [julieszende@gmail.com](mailto:julieszende@gmail.com).



## PHOTOS FROM BIRDFEST AT GILLETTE RANCH NOVEMBER 2017

Some of you may remember the wonderful BirdFest event at King Gillette Ranch on November 4, 2017. It was held at the Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center and sponsored by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society, the National Park Service, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, the MRCA, and the Western National Parks Service.



Our own San Fernando Valley Sierra Club Group had a table at the event (see above). If you look closely, you'll spot our Outings Chair, Joe Phillips, interacting with the public.

*These photos are Courtesy National Park Service by Kerry Perkins.*

