



VALLEY SIERRAN

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Newsletter

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THIS 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.



Hello Sierra Clubbers!

Our program for the month of May is particularly relevant. It concerns the environmental "trainwreck" which is taking place in our local mountains, and what we citizens can do about it.

On Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 7PM John Luker and Wendi Gladstone will discuss habitat restoration in the Simi Hills. Their presentation is titled: "Acorns, Oaks, and the Future of the Simi Hills."

John and Wendi are forming a new group to do habitat restoration in areas of our local mountains which have been impacted by climate change, drought, and invasive pests. The group, called the "Sky Valley Volunteers," is presently working to restore the local Simi Hills habitat to its former health.

John, an environmental activist and former Vice President of the SSMPA, and Wendi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains, will give us a report on their activities, and an assessment of where local environmental policy

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 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

should go in the near future.

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, May 15th!

Julie Szende
Editor, Valley Sierran
Membership Chair/Wildlife Protection

EDGAR "Eddie" EDINGER



Late 1970s

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
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.**

Sept. 8, 1919-April 13, 2018

It is with deep sadness we announce that the SFVSC Group has lost one of its most devoted and long-lived members. Eddie Edinger passed away on April 13, 2018, at the age of 99.

Eddie was born in Budapest, Hungary, but grew up in Vienna. He spent time in Switzerland with his mother, finally emigrating to the U.S. just before the start of WWII. He settled in Ohio. Eddie joined the U.S. Army in 1941 and was sent to India. He spent the war years there. After the war he moved to LA. He worked in the clothing and luggage-making industries, helping to organize unions in some of the shops where he worked. He was later employed by the LA Dept. of Water and Power, retiring from the LADWP in 1980.

Eddie was a member of Veterans for Peace, and of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 18. He was active in many groups working for peace, social justice, and the environment, including the Unitarian Church, the ACLU, and the Sierra Club.

A passionate lover of folk music, Eddie played the guitar and sang. He was a member of the performing group Songmakers and the Swiss singing society Harmonie. Eddie could hold an audience spellbound with his music. Two of his songs that audiences particularly loved were the traditional Neapolitan "Santa Lucia," and the World War II soldiers' song, "D-Day Dodgers."

Having grown up in Austria, Eddie loved the mountains and downhill skiing. He continued skiing into his 80s.

Eddie is survived by Iris, his wife of 60 years, his daughter and two sons, and six grandsons ranging

**NEXT MONTH'S
MEETING**

Tuesday

June 19, 2018

6:00PM



**ITALIAN
FUNDRAISING
DINNER AND
PROGRAM**

at

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

*featuring a presentation
on*
**"THE BEST HIKES OF
LOS ANGELES"**

with Casey Schreiner

in age from 10 to 23. He passed away peacefully with his wife and son by his side. Everyone remembers Eddie for his friendliness, cheerfulness, and deep love of life.

Donations in his memory can be made to Veterans for Peace, or to an organization of the donor's choosing.

Eddie, we will miss you so much! You were a force for good and for peace in this contentious world.

**THANK CA SENATORS
FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT
SUPPORT**



by Jim Hines

Greetings Activists--

In 1996 and 2016 respectively, Presidents Clinton and Obama, after careful study, followed the will of millions of Americans and moved to protect two of America's most magnificent natural landscapes. They designated two areas in southern Utah as national monuments: Grand Staircase-Escalante NM and Bears Ears NM.

In December 2017, President Trump, without doing any

Come to the dinner, enjoy delicious home-cooked Italian food, see old friends and make new ones, and listen to Casey Schreiner's fascinating presentation.

TICKET PRICES:

\$25 for members

\$15 for students (with IDs)

Make your reservations now by sending \$25 or \$15 payable to: San Fernando Valley Sierra Club.

Mail your check to:

Belen Katzen, Reservationist
9543 Rudnick Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 341-8304 or
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 sent to you.

We are having a raffle with fabulous prizes. To be eligible, bring your own renewable plates,* silverware, and glasses/cups to the dinner.

***Please, no paper or plastic.**

study and not following the will of millions of Americans, but only the will of the oil and mineral extraction industry, signed documents removing vast portions of the protected landscapes of these two national monuments. In this way he opened up millions of acres to destructive oil drilling, coal mining, and uranium mining.

The Sierra Club and our partners immediately filed suit over President Trump's actions. While we await a court decision on this issue, the Trump Administration is not waiting. The Secretary of the Interior has directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM, which manages these beautiful and sacred lands for the American people) to move forward with a monument management plan which would allow for the use of these landscapes for mineral extraction purposes.

We have officially requested that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior stop the monument planning process until the federal courts have made a decision on the legality of the President's actions.

Not only is this planning process a waste of taxpayer dollars--since the court has not made a decision--it also disregards the wishes of millions of Americans who called, tweeted, and wrote to Presidents Clinton and Obama, leading to the designation of the two national monuments.

We have been joined in our request by 15 U.S. senators who have written a letter to the Secretary of the Interior. Here in California our two U.S. Senators, Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, signed the letter. Please join with us and thank the two U.S. senators. Their email addresses are below:
<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me>

<https://www.harris.senate.gov/contact/email>

For wild Utah,

Jim Hines, Team Member
Sierra Club Protect Wild Utah Campaign



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January 2018

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Belen Katzen

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Program Chair

**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](#).

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. 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

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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 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 !!

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(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

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(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

**WHO IS
CASEY
SCHREINER?**

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

He is the author of **Day Hiking in Los Angeles**, which is considered an in-depth source of information on 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 printing in early 2018.

Scrabble Group

Casey Schreiner is also the founder and editor-in-chief of 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 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,

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 May 2018 meeting, which will be held on Sunday, May 27, 2018, at 5:30PM at a member's home in Chatsworth.

If you would like to attend the May 2018 meeting, contact me at the number below. You can also email me at 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.

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 above for more information on Casey Schreiner and the SFVSC June Dinner and Fundraiser!

58TH ANNUAL TOPANGA BANJO- FIDDLE CONTEST & FOLK FESTIVAL!!!

**Sunday, May 20th,
2018**

**9am - 6pm
Paramount Ranch,
Agoura Hills, CA**

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 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



**Pre-Sale Tickets
ON SALE NOW!**

**Tickets Available at the
Gate**

Adults: \$23

Seniors/Teens: \$18

Enjoy musical contests such as the Celtic Fiddle and Harp Contest and the High Energy Bluegrass Contest; attend performance and workshops in Clogging, Flatfoot Dancing, Contra and Square Dancing. There will be music for the whole family at the Kids Jam, where all ages and instruments are welcome.

Young people will also enjoy bluegrass workshops and jams. And don't forget to check out the new feature of the Festival, the Instrument Petting Zoo!

Volunteers are needed at the Festival. You can choose from a number of options: selling tickets, stage work, prize distribution, craft services. If you would like to volunteer, fill out the form found on the Festival Website or call (818) 382-4819. Someone from the volunteer staff will get in touch with you.

Maybe you'd like to help during the months of preparation before the Festival officially opens. If so, contact Kayli Blundell at volunteer@topangabanjofiddle.org

Buy your tickets in advance for savings and convenience. Get a cheaper ticket, and you can walk right up to the entrance without waiting in line for tickets! You can charge your tickets to a credit card or to a PayPal account.

SEE YOU AT THE

CONTEST!!!

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.



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.*



