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Where Passion Meets Patience: The Lessons of Wildlife Photography

By Karen R. Schuenemann

Mr. President:

We've Seen This Act Before

By David Wiggins
Group Executive Board Member

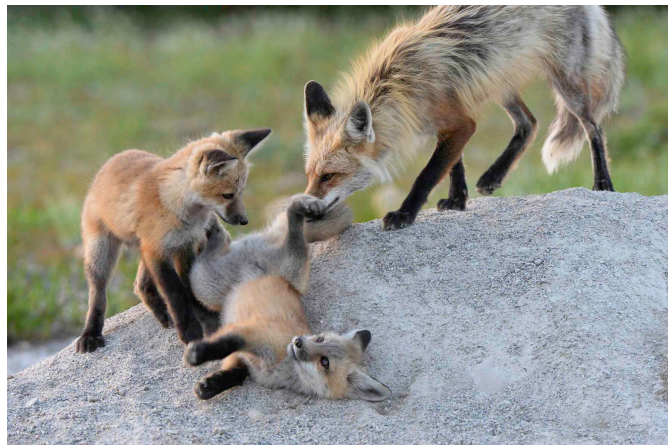
A new president, elected without a majority of the popular vote, takes office wrongly assuming that he has a popular mandate to slash the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency, and gut the country's environmental regulations in the name of economic growth. He promptly appoints an ideological lawyer to run the EPA, possibly to run it into the ground. Sound like what's happening right now?

Sadly it does, but it's also happened before, and we survived. Thirty-six years ago, the newly-elected Ronald Reagan appointed as his EPA Administrator a state legislator named Anne Gorsuch (coincidentally the mother of President Trump's current Supreme Court nominee). Gorsuch approached the job with the impassioned belief that the government was too big, taxes were too high, and regulations were too tight for American industry to grow.

Gorsuch slashed the EPA's budget for two years, cutting spending by 22% and forcing sharp reductions in the agency's enforcement actions against air and water polluters around the country.¹ For her senior staff, she hired people who had formerly worked in the very industries that they were charged with regulating. Morale among the agency's career staff nosedived.

(See *Mr. President*, p.2)

Once, if you'd told me that I would be driving hundreds of miles in HOPES of just seeing a bobcat, I would have thought that you were crazy. Then, nine years ago, my husband bought me my first digital camera. From the first day, the magical transformation began. Years before, I'd studied film photography. I photographed people and enjoyed street photography. But digital photography was a game changer: instant feedback without a darkroom.



Red Foxes in Grand Teton National Park (Karen Schuenemann)

Many terabytes later, the passion ignited from that very special gift has changed my life. I am now a wildlife and nature photographer, teaching classes and leading workshops from Bosque Del Apache, New Mexico, to the Tetons to Africa. This transformation happened at the intersection of passion and patience.

Wildlife photography has taught me many lessons. First, Nature doesn't always read my memos, but she ALWAYS delivers! I just returned from an amazing workshop to Bosque Del Apache. When we arrived, we learned that Bosque and Bernardo were closed due to mud and rain. I had promised to show the seven participants the beauty and the birds of these refuges. I needed to quickly re-imagine the plan, We drove to Albuquerque to visit an inspiring photographer, Tim Anderson, who produces the online

(See *Passion*, p.2)

Chapter Annual Awards Banquet Sunday, May 7th, 2017, 5 p.m.

Celebrate PV-SB's own as former Foggy View Editor and Conservation Chair, **Eva Cicoria**, is recognized with a Special Service Certificate, and both **Joyce White** and **Brooks Chadwick**, longtime leader for the PV-SB Group and O. C. Sierra Singles, are awarded Outings Service Certificates. **Rep. Ted Lieu**, whose district covers a large part of P. V. and the South Bay, will be honored with a Public Policy Plaque for continuing to bring attention to the dangers of global warming, and for promoting the extension of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area along the coast.

Reservations are \$40. All profits benefit the Angeles Chapter. Email reservations to donnaspecht@juno.com or [get the Reservation form at angsc.org/banquet](http://angsc.org/banquet)

Event Location: Brookside Country Club,
1133 N. Rosemont Avenue, Pasadena 91103.

Mr. President (from p. 1)

In 1982 Gorsuch privately promised an oil refinery that the EPA would not enforce its lead additive limits against it. She accelerated EPA approval of the use of dangerous pesticides, and relaxed enforcement of various provisions of the Clean Air Act.

This regulatory mayhem continued until 1983, when Congress cited Gorsuch for contempt, for her refusal to produce records of the EPA's use of toxic waste cleanup funds. Gorsuch soon resigned. After her departure, the EPA gradually reassumed its role as the nation's principal environmental watchdog, under Republican and Democratic administrations alike.

That was then. Now, amid rumors of budget cuts and regulatory rollbacks at the EPA, President Trump has appointed Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to head the agency. Pruitt's own website calls him "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda," and he has repeatedly filed lawsuits to invalidate EPA regulations limiting methane emissions by the oil and gas industry.

(See *Mr. President*, p. 3)

(*Passion*, from p.1)

magazine, "Shadow and Light." Heading back, we decided to stop at Bernardo and hike through the thick, heavy mud. I'd figured we'd get some fresh air, and MAYBE see some birds. Guess what? In eight years of visits to New Mexico, we saw more sandhill cranes that day than on any other trip! Mother Nature delivered the goods! Two days later, as we waited on a dirt road in Bernardo, bundled up in cold weather gear, the MAGIC happened again. The sun broke through the storm clouds and thousands of snow geese and sandhill cranes simultaneously lifted off. This was one of the most incredible moments that I've ever had photographing birds.

Gratitude is a daily experience when I photograph wildlife and nature. The past few months, in particular, have upped the ante on anxiety in the news and in our daily lives. I recommit my joy in this world each time that I go out to shoot.

Photography teaches me patience in all aspects of my life. I tend to be high energy and my mind often races. However when I am with my camera, the world slows and the intimate behaviors of animals come to the forefront. Their tenderness towards their young moves me. The disconnect in our urban world with the wild animals and birds disappears. I feel deeply connected with the animals and watch them as they teach their youngsters to survive and navigate in our urban world. I have watched red foxes for DAYS and WEEKS play with their young kits, gently clean their faces with a tenderness that we often don't see in humans! I store these experiences in my heart, and can readily bring them back when the news is suffocating and dismal.

With these sweet lessons, I traipse out to find the next wild animal in our wild spaces. This journey continues to teach me that beauty abounds, and that we just need to take the time to look.

Visit my website, WildernessAtHeart.com and join me on this journey!

(Mr. President, from p. 2)

Pruitt's hostility toward sensible environmental regulation appears to have spread into the Congress, and a bill has now been introduced to simply abolish the EPA. Unlike in 1981, the opposition party controls neither congressional chamber, and its ability to block the passage of destructive legislation currently hangs by the thread of a senatorial filibuster.

So what, then, shall we do? What we did 36 years ago: Keep our eyes open and focused on the actions of this administration and the president, whose shocking indifference to urgent environmental concerns is outweighed only by his seeming ignorance of the possible consequences.

We must shout when the administration violates existing environmental statutes and regulations, or proposes to repeal them. Shout to our representatives in Congress. Shout to state and local leaders and regulators. Shout to the newspapers and shout across the Internet.

And we must support conservation organizations like the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and others, in the court battles that will come. Some of their efforts will succeed, others will fail, but we must be ready to fight. Eventually, sanity will return. It did before, and it will again, perhaps faster than we might think.

Check Sierraclub.org regularly for action ideas. ❖ Join the People's Climate March in D.C. on April 29



A Call to Action

By Paul Rosenberger [A fettered EPA may speed global warming. Rosenberger, PV-SB Publicity Chair whose letters to the editor are often published (e.g. NY Times 2/26/17), offers tips on your first shout to a newspaper. – ed.]

Global warming is arguably the biggest challenge that mankind faces in the near term future and beyond. Last December 192 countries including the United States, China and the European Union signed an agreement in Paris to take coordinated action in fighting this problem. Unfortunately, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, President Trump dismisses global warming as a “hoax” and is inclined to pull the United States out of this agreement. Instead he wants to open up more wilderness areas for oil drilling and mining for coal instead of promoting solar and wind based energy. The new head of the Environmental Protection Agency is similarly inclined.

We Sierra Club members cannot let this happen unchallenged. We must raise public awareness. Much of the public is still unaware or confused about global warming and its consequences, but the subject is getting increasing attention by the press. We can reinforce this trend by writing letters to the editor. The Los Angeles Times receives upward of 500 letters a week on various topics. The number of letters received on a given topic is a measure of the interest the public takes in that issue. Writing a letter, whether it gets published or not, raises awareness of global warming with the editorial staff and improves the chance that there will be future articles on that subject. And if your letter does get published, you will impress thousands of readers with your point of view.

Because the Times publishes only those letters that refer to something that appeared in that paper, look for articles they have published related to global warming. If you are not a subscriber, go to your local library or to <http://www.latimes.com>. Think of a point you want to make related to that article and write a short letter (150 words or less). Use the submission form at <http://www.latimes.com/about/la-letter-to-the-editor-htmlstory.html>. You will receive an automatic acknowledgement email, thanking you for your submission and some other useful information.

Your first letter is not likely to get published, but this is a learning process and you should read the letters that did get published to get a feel for what makes the cut. Initially it is not so important what you write as long as it is reasonable and makes sense. NASA has some useful facts at <http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>. The mere fact that you wrote the letter is important because it reinforced the public interest in global warming. Good Luck!

Are You in the Risk Zone? Torrance Refinery Update

By Steve Dillow, Group Special Projects Chair

The explosion that rocked the Torrance refinery, spewing smoke and ash, in Feb. 2015 caused only minor injury to four people. But it could have killed 100,000.

The Torrance installation still uses the deadly chemical hydrofluoric acid (HF or MHF). According to an ABC news report (<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/hydrofluoric-acid-risk-oil-refineries/story?id=12985686>), the U.S. Chemical Safety Board documented an increasing number of fatal, or near-fatal, incidents in refineries using HF or MHF.

If a fire were to rupture an HF tank, disaster would ensue. According to the grassroots group [Torrance Refinery Action Alliance \(TRAA\)](#), "ExxonMobil's own research provided to the EPA, [shows that] a release of just 5,000 lb of modified hydrofluoric acid could be lethal to residents within a 2 mile radius, and cause serious, irreversible health damage to those in a 3.2-mile radius." TRAA research indicates that the Worst Case Risk Zone could be up to 15 miles away.

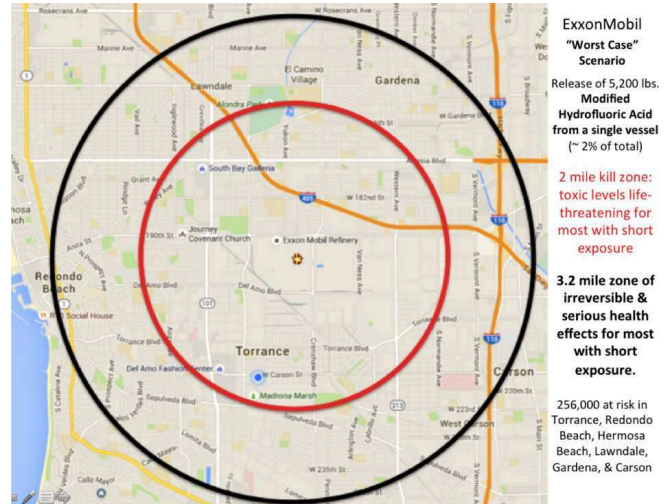
On Feb. 18, 2017 – two years to the day of the large explosion – another explosion and fire hit the refinery. TRAA, with support from the Sierra Club and other organizations, had organized a rally at Columbia Park in Torrance to commemorate the anniversary. More than 450 people braved the rain to march to the refinery and demand a ban on MHF.

In mid-January we heard that the South Coast AQMD plans to ban HF/MHF at refineries by the end of 2017. The proposed rule would eliminate MHF/HF at both Torrance and the Valero in Wilmington refineries. The SCAQMD credited the TRAA with providing hard evidence that MHF is no safer than HF, and must also be eliminated.

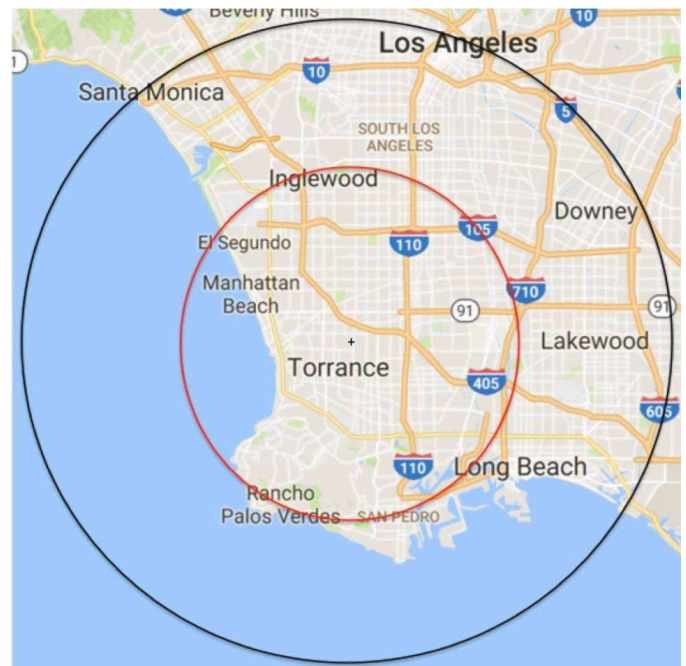
But the numerous flaring incidents, fires and shutdowns, especially under the new owners, indicate that the operators care more about cost

savings than safety. So now, all of us living or working in the South Bay must redouble efforts to make the HF/MHF ban happen.

Keep up with TRAA at <https://www.facebook.com/BanMHF/>.



Release of 5,000 lb. of MHF



Release of 50,000 lb. of MHF

Google maps.
Risk zones indicated by TRAA.

EPA hosts Community Open House about Local Superfund Sites*

***(Unless the Trump administration cancels the meeting. Or the Republican-dominated Congress cancels the Superfund program, or ends the EPA)**

By Al Sattler, Group Chair

The Environmental Protection Agency designates certain polluted locations as “Superfund sites,” meaning they require special funding for long-term cleanup. Learn about the cleanup progress of two Superfund sites in our area. EPA will host an open house about the local Del Amo and Montrose Superfund sites April 26 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Carson Public Library (151 East Carson Street in Carson). This event will be organized as multiple booths or poster sessions to allow people to learn about all aspects of the Superfund sites at their own pace. This structure also allows people to have one-on-one conversations with EPA Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) about the cleanup work.

The Montrose Superfund site is where the pesticide DDT was manufactured from 1947 until 1982 at a plant owned by Montrose Chemical at 20201 Normandie Ave., Los Angeles, near Torrance. The Del Amo Superfund site was used for manufacturing synthetic rubber from 1943 until 1972. For both sites, chemical waste was buried onsite, and some is now contaminating groundwater.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
*voting officer	
<u>Group Chair, Chapter ExCom & Conservation Rep</u> Al Sattler*	310-831-0032
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<u>Secretary, Alternate Chapter ExCom Rep</u> Marcia Cook*	310-324-9827
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<u>Special Projects</u> Steve Dillow*	310-316-0441
<u>Publicity & Website Coordinator</u> Paul Rosenberger	310-545-3531
<u>Webmaster</u> Michael Moore	310-398-8219

Information about the Del Amo site is at:

<https://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/BySite/Del%20Amo%20Facility?OpenDocument>

Information about the Montrose Chemical site is at:

<https://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/BySite/Montrose%20Chemical%20Corp?OpenDocument>

For more background, see the November 2014 Foggy View: Superfund Site Near Torrance: DDT Groundwater Cleanup. Archived issues of the Foggy View are available at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/palos_verdes_south_bay/foggy_view.

Weekly Activities

Conditioning Hikes: Wear lug sole boots. Arrive early. Rain cancels. Bring red lens flashlight.

Monday Nights O: Rancho Palos Verdes: Slow moderate 2 hr 4-6 mi hike. Not for beginners. Leave 6:30 PM from Rancho del Mar High School parking lot. Hike the trails of Portuguese Bend Reserve, Filiorum, and some streets. Some steep trails. Only one group. Wear sturdy shoes or lug sole boots and bring a red lens flashlight. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Bill Lavoie, Jacques Monier, Zoltan Stroll.

Tuesday Nights O: San Pedro/PV: 2 hr, 5-8 mi hike. Moderate (suitable for newcomers/beginners). Leave 6:30 PM from 8th and Averill. Ldrs: Brooks Chadwick, Joyce White, Dorie Chadwick.

Tuesday Nights O: Hermosa/Manhattan Beach: Moderate 1 1/2 hr, 4 mile hike on Greenbelt and hilly streets. Good for beginners. Leave 7PM from far end of parking lot of Hermosa Valley School (1645 Valley Dr.) Ldrs: Chris Albertson, Paul Rosenberger.

Thursday Nights O: Palos Verdes Peninsula: 2 hr, 5-8 mi hike, flat/hilly streets/trails. Up to 5

hiking groups: slow, slow mod, mod, fast mod, fast/strenuous. Leave 6:30 PM from parking lot near Rite Aid Drugs at Hawthorne & Silver Spur. Ldrs: Linda Werk, Brooks Chadwick, Joyce White, Jacques Monier, Bill Lavoie, Judy Shane, Dorie Chadwick, Zoltan Stroll.

Saturday Hikes: For all Sat hikes, wear lug sole boots, bring a snack & water. If you anticipate rain, wear rain gear.

Monthly Activities

Executive Committee Meeting. First Wednesday of every month at 7 PM the PVSB Group Executive Committee meets to discuss matters relevant to the Group. Meeting open to all Sierra Club members. Call secretary for meeting location.

Moonlit Hikes in Palos Verdes O. Friday before or on full moon. Meet 7:30 PM. Easy to moderate 1.5-2 hr hike in Palos Verdes hills. Go for pizza afterwards. Check website for details and exceptions.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources> or call 415-977-5528. In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. For bus trips, our seller of travel number is CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

NOTICE REGARDING MINORS

Each minor participant must have a Minor Waiver form, available at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sites/angeles.sierraclub.org/files/docs/get_outdoors/SierraClubMinor_Waiver.pdf . If the minor is not accompanied by a parent or guardian, they must also have a Medical Treatment Authorization & Consent Form (Minor Release) available at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sites/angeles.sierraclub.org/files/docs/get_outdoors/SierraClubMinorRelease.PDF signed by a parent or guardian. Minors not having these signed forms shall not go on the hike.

Subscribe to Listserv

The *Foggy View* is published bi-monthly on the PV-SB website:

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/palos_verdes_south_bay/foggy_view. To receive an email notice when the *Foggy View* is posted, fill out the form below and mail it to PV-SB Group Sierra Club, PO Box 2464, PVP, CA 90274, or send that information to pvsbfveditor@gmail.com. Contact the Membership Chair if you have any questions.

Name: _____ Sierra Club #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Thank you for your membership! Remember to renew!

Other PV-SB Group Activities

Mar 18 Sat O: Sea Cave Hike Moderate 6 mi, 1000' gain, 3 hours. Meet at 8:00 AM. Take Palos Verdes DR South to Forrestal DR, north to gate. Hike along Exultant, Red Tail, Canyon View, Dauntless, Conqueror and Smugglers Trails. LSW.* Rain plan¹. Minors policy². Ldrs: Steven Morris & Emile Fiesler.

Apr 1 Sat O: Ocean Trails hike Moderate 4 mi, 1000' gain. Meet at 8:00 AM. Take Palos Verdes Dr South to La Rotonda Dr to end, in the gate into the trail parking lot. We will take the Prickly Pear, Ocean Vista, East Portal, Gnatcatcher, Switchback, Dudleya & Lakeview Trails, and will walk beside the ocean and visit tidal pools. LSW.* Rain plan¹. Minors policy². Ldrs: Steven Morris & Emile Fiesler.

Apr 8 Sat O: Miraleste Trails hike. Moderate 6 mi, 1000' gain. Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot of Peck Park in San Pedro. The entrance is at SE corner of Western Av & W. Crestwood St. Meet about 100 yds into the first parking lot. We will take the Canada, Lorraine, Via La Paloma, Frasceti and Colinita Trails. LSW.* Rain plan¹. Minors policy². Ldrs: Stephen Bradford & Steven Morris.

Apr 15 Sat O: Three Sisters Area hike. Join us on a 6 mile, 1000' gain, 2.5 hr hike in the Three Sisters Area of Rancho Palos Verdes. Hike is moderate with one long, steep climb. Trails include McCarrell Canyon, Barkentine, and Three Sisters. Meet at Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall, 30940 Hawthorne Bl. LSW.* Rain cancels. Minors policy². Leaders: Terri Straub and Steven Morris.

* Wear lug sole boots; bring snack & water
¹If you anticipate rain, wear rain gear.
²Minors are permitted if accompanied on the hike by a parent.

May 26-29 Fri-Mon I: Memorial Day in Wawona Cabin Trip.

Rideshare Fri to cabin in the Wawona area near Yosemite's south entrance for moderately paced 8-12 mi, 1200'-3000' gain hikes each day. Highlights: cascading Chilnualna Falls, panoramic vistas of Yosemite Valley from Panorama Trail & Glacier Pt, possible alternative venues. Not for beginners or sightseers. Cost includes 3 nights lodging in modern cabin (2-3 per bedroom, shared bathrooms & kitchen), 3 continental breakfasts, Sat Happy Hour, Sun group dinner. Send \$275 (Wilderness Adventures - \$40 cancel penalty, no refund of balance after 4/24 unless trip is full & replacement found), 2 SASE (or 1 SASE & email), H&W phones, recent hiking experience to Ldr: Keith Martin, P.O. Box 336, Groveland CA 95321. Email: keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net. Asst: Beth Powis Martin. 2nd Cabin Ldrs: Sherry Ross & Kent Schwitkis. We have reserved 2 cabins w/ a few private rooms for couples. If the trip is not filling by 4/24, we will cancel a cabin. For a chance of a couple's room, have a check to the leader by 4/24. With the predicted snowpack this year the falls should be spectacular!

PV-SB GROUP LEADERS
Current leaders active in the PV-SB Group

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Chris Albertson	310-848-0731	O	Greg Hitchings	310-541-3902	O
Frank Atkin	310-378-5008	I	Dave Hixson	310-676-8848	O
Terry Bass	310-539-8227	O	Barry Holchin	310-378-3780	M
Bob Beach	310-375-0898	M	Donna Lauck	310-541-4416	O
Alix Benson	310-379-8066	O	Bill Lavoie	310-378-8723	O
Richard Boardman	310-374-4371	M	Keith Martin	626-396-9701	M
Barry Bonnickson	310-519-0778	O	Jacques Monier	310-320-1249	O
Dennis Bosch	310-328-3874	O	Steven Morris	310-530-8708	O
Stephen Bradford	310-993-5501	O	Mary Beth Oubre	310-640-8386	O
Sharon Brossier	310-376-1416	O	Paul Rosenberger	310-545-3531	O
Ursula Carmody	310-539-2259	O	Kent Schwitkis	310-540-5558	I
Brooks Chadwick	310-544-0600	O	Judy Shane	310-379-1111	O
Dorie Chadwick	310-544-0600	O	Terri Straub	310-544-5017	O
Arlene Chao	310-541-3902	O	Zoltan Stroll	310-378-8975	O
Mike Dillenback	310-378-7495	I	Linda Werk	310-676-6171	O
Emile Fiesler	720-834-2878	O	Phil Wheeler	310-346-2619	I
Sandy Graham	714-282-5661	O	Joyce White	310-383-5247	O
Minoo Hart	310-375-3340	O	Catherine Whittington	310-532-2380	O

Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun O: Mammoth-Yosemite-Bristlecone Pine Forest

Bus Trip: Hike through grassy meadows under towering pines, soak your feet in pristine alpine lakes, and feast your eyes on vistas of snow-capped granite peaks. Enjoy 4 days of glorious hiking on some of the most spectacular trails in the Sierras & the Hoover wilderness near Yosemite. Grand finale: hiking among the oldest living things on the planet in the ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Participants must be fit enough to hike 5-7 miles in hilly terrain at high altitudes. Stay all 3 nights in Mammoth Lakes' Sierra Nevada Inn. Price includes bus, shared motel room, driver's gratuity, & snacks. Depart early Thu. from Redondo Beach and return Sun. night. \$40 cancellation fee. If you cancel less than 30 days before departure, you will receive a refund only if the trip is full. Send 2 business-size SASEs, H&W photos, gender (M or F), email address, & check to PVSB Sierra Club for \$370 to Terri Straub, 28017 Indian Rock Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. 90275. Ldrs: Minoo Hart (minimars2000@hotmail.com), Terri Straub (terristraub@hotmail.com)

Co-leaders: Emile Fiesler and Tejinder Dhillon.



Bristlecone Pine Swirls (Emile Fiesler)

Deadline for next Foggy View is April 15.