Full moons, half moon, blue moons—all make for dreamy photographs that prompt you to catch the right moment. Camera Committee Leader Joan Schipper has been fascinated with the idea of capturing images of the moon ever since she saw member Neil Davidson's photos of the moonrise in Nepal (upper right).

To be able to get the shot are moonrise on the day before a full moon and moonset the day after the full moon, when it hovers over the horizon with the sun illuminating the foreground. And they are dreamy, like these Joshua trees framing the moon at Rainbow Basin Natural Area north of Barstow, Calif.

The Camera Committee organizes Shoot the Moon outings when one of the optimal days has set up or near a weekend. Schipper looks for locations convenient to Los Angeles, sometimes staying as close as home as Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook in Culver City (lower right), or farther afield. She’s been trying to catch a good moonrise over the White Mountains for years.

Schipper will take a small group of photographers to a local moonrise site on June 2. To go along, e-mail her at joan.schipper@ix.netcom.com or call (323) 939-1706. In the meantime, check out more moon shots at camco-moon.blogspot.com.

Time to retire San Onofre?

Nuclear power plant’s recent problems make the case to keep it closed.

By David Freeman and Shuan Burnie

Compromised safety closed two nuclear reactor units; the threat of losing “safety first”.

The nuclear reactors at San Onofre nuclear power plant south of San Clemente are nearly 30 years old. In January, one of the steel tubes in the steam generator of reactor Unit 2 burst and leaked radioactive steam into the environment. It was then revealed that hundreds of steel tubes inside steam generators in both reactors were severely degraded. Now both reactors remain shut down because operator Southern California Edison doesn’t yet know what caused the leakage to the reactors.

The plant is visible as you drive down Highway 1 and the 5 Freeway. It sits at the popular surfing spot San Onofre State Beach. It’s also located near an earthquake fault. The plant is designed to withstand a 7.0 quake; Japan’s deadly quake in March 2011 that rocked the Fukushima nuclear reactors was a magnitude 9.0, or 60 times more powerful. There also are decades of accumulated “radioactive trash” in the used spent fuel rods on the site, more than 1,400 tons, a large part of which is stored underwater in pools.

Fukushima was a wake up call, but Edison told the people it couldn’t happen here; that San Onofre was safe. Edison claims it practices “safety first”. And then this near-30 year old plant springs a leak. First they said it was just steam. Then they admitted it was radioactive. Then they said it was just a problem with reactor Unit 3.

Then the really bad news: The new steam generators supposed to last 20 years were wearing down at an alarming rate less than 2 years after being installed. Hundreds of steel tubes were affected, with some losing 30% of their thickness. Damaged tubes were taken out of service by plugging them; some of the tubes in reactor Unit 3 that were pressure-tested ruptured.

In Unit 2, Edison stopped pressure testing after one tube was tested and passed. However there are more than 19,000 tubes in this reactor unit. The operator has tried to create a distinction between the two reactor units with the aim of restarting Unit 2 before the summer peak loads. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC, tasked with ensuring the safety of nuclear power across the country, has followed Edison’s lead and tried to make the case that the problems in Unit 2 are not as serious as those at Unit 3.

But this game plan has collapsed when Edison finally admitted on April 10 that the same unusual problems found in reactor Unit 3 also have been found at reactor Unit 2.

Surfers use the popular San Onofre State Beach, which abuts the power plant that came on line in the 1980s. The radiation leaks have not happened here; that San Onofre is leaky, but Edison told the people it could not happen here; that San Onofre was safe. Edison claims it practices “safety first”.

And then this near-30 year old plant springs a leak. First they said it was just steam. Then they admitted it was radioactive. Then they said it was just a problem with reactor Unit 3.

Then the really bad news: The new steam generators supposed to last 20 years were wearing down at an alarming rate less than 2 years after being installed. Hundreds of steel tubes were affected, with some losing 30% of their thickness. Damaged tubes were taken out of service by plugging them; some of the tubes in reactor Unit 3 that were pressure-tested ruptured.

In Unit 2, Edison stopped pressure testing after one tube was tested and passed. However there are more than 19,000 tubes in this reactor unit. The operator has tried to create a distinction between the two reactor units with the aim of restarting Unit 2 before the summer peak loads. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC, tasked with ensuring the safety of nuclear power across the country, has followed Edison’s lead and tried to make the case that the problems in Unit 2 are not as serious as those at Unit 3.

But this game plan has collapsed when Edison finally admitted on April 10 that the same unusual problems found in reactor Unit 3 also have been found at reactor Unit 2.

Sierra Club joins suit over Newhall Ranch

From Sierra Club reports

The Sierra Club’s Angeles Chapter joined five public-interest groups in April that are suing Los Angeles County over its approval of permits for the first phase of the sprawling Newhall Ranch development. The proposed plan, one of the largest single residential development projects in California, would be sited on 32,000 acres of land along the Santa Clara River in northwest L.A. County.

Newhall Ranch would create a city of more than 60,000 on a six-mile stretch of the river that is currently rugged open space and farmland by channeling the county’s last mostly free-flowing river. Construction approved by the county on Feb. 23 would require filling the river’s floodplain on a large scale, channelizing more than three miles of river and converting many tributary streams to concrete-lined channels; unraveling and desecrate Native American burial sites, sacred places and cultural and natural resources of this precious landscape.

“The Sierra Club has fought throughout the nation and internationally for floodplain and river protection,” Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson said. “As part of this national focus, it is only fitting that the 40,000-member Angeles Chapter should continue its longstanding battle to protect the Santa Clara River, “This area has lost all but 9% of its historic river woodlands; the county’s approval would replace some of the finest riparian areas remaining anywhere in Southern California with ugly strip malls and housing we don’t need.”

The Santa Clara River is one of two major Southern California rivers remaining in a relatively natural state. It flows for about 116 miles from its headwaters on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains near Acton to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean between Oxnard and Ventura. Its watershed is home to a great diversity of very rare species, among them the unarmored three-spined stickleback fish, the California condor, Least Bell’s vireo, Western willow flycatcher, California red-legged frog, areoyos toad, Southern steelhead trout and San Fernandos Valley spinetailflower. Wildlands of the Santa Clara River provides a full accounting of rare environmental resources of this precious landscape.

“The Sierra Club has fought throughout the nation and internationally for floodplain and river protection,” Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson said. “As part of this national focus, it is only fitting that the 40,000-member Angeles Chapter should continue its longstanding battle to protect the Santa Clara River. “This area has lost all but 9% of its historic river woodlands; the county’s approval would replace some of the finest riparian areas remaining anywhere in Southern California with ugly strip malls and housing we don’t need.”

The Santa Clara River is one of two major Southern California rivers remaining in a relatively natural state. It flows for about 116 miles from its headwaters on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains near Acton to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean between Oxnard and Ventura. Its watershed is home to a great diversity of very rare species, among them the unarmored three-spined stickleback fish, the California condor, Least Bell’s vireo, Western willow flycatcher, California red-legged frog, areoyos toad, Southern steelhead trout and San Fernandos Valley spinetailflower. Wildlands of the Santa Clara River provides a full accounting of rare environmental resources of this precious landscape.

“The Sierra Club has fought throughout the nation and internationally for floodplain and river protection,” Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson said. “As part of this national focus, it is only fitting that the 40,000-member Angeles Chapter should continue its longstanding battle to protect the Santa Clara River. “This area has lost all but 9% of its historic river woodlands; the county’s approval would replace some of the finest riparian areas remaining anywhere in Southern California with ugly strip malls and housing we don’t need.”

The Santa Clara River is one of two major Southern California rivers remaining in a relatively natural state. It flows for about 116 miles from its headwaters on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains near Acton to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean between Oxnard and Ventura. Its watershed is home to a great diversity of very rare species, among them the unarmored three-spined stickleback fish, the California condor, Least Bell’s vireo, Western willow flycatcher, California red-legged frog, areoyos toad, Southern steelhead trout and San Fernandos Valley spinetailflower. Wildlands of the Santa Clara River provides a full accounting of rare environmental resources of this precious landscape.

“The Sierra Club has fought throughout the nation and internationally for floodplain and river protection,” Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson said. “As part of this national focus, it is only fitting that the 40,000-member Angeles Chapter should continue its longstanding battle to protect the Santa Clara River. “This area has lost all but 9% of its historic river woodlands; the county’s approval would replace some of the finest riparian areas remaining anywhere in Southern California with ugly strip malls and housing we don’t need.”

The Santa Clara River is one of two major Southern California rivers remaining in a relatively natural state. It flows for about 116 miles from its headwaters on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains near Acton to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean between Oxnard and Ventura. Its watershed is home to a great diversity of very rare species, among them the unarmored three-spined stickleback fish, the California condor, Least Bell’s vireo, Western willow flycatcher, California red-legged frog, areoyos toad, Southern steelhead trout and San Fernandos Valley spinetailflower. Wildlands of the Santa Clara River provides a full accounting of rare environmental resources of this precious landscape.

“The Sierra Club has fought throughout the nation and internationally for floodplain and river protection,” Angeles Chapter Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson said. “As part of this national focus, it is only fitting that the 40,000-member Angeles Chapter should continue its longstanding battle to protect the Santa Clara River. “This area has lost all but 9% of its historic river woodlands; the county’s approval would replace some of the finest riparian areas remaining anywhere in Southern California with ugly strip malls and housing we don’t need.”
Why are we wasting organic waste into landfills?

By Jeremy Drake

One-third of all the stuff we throw away in L.A. and Orange counties could help improve the health of our communities, prevent climate change, and create good green jobs.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. Methane’s flammability makes the practice of converting the gas to energy quite popular at California landfills.

The inclusion of landfill-gas-to-energy projects in the state’s Renewables Portfolio Standard has sparked some controversy. Proponents call landfill gas a renewable resource. Opponents call such projects inefficient and environmentally destructive at worst. Even though California is the state with the most stringent guidelines for managing landfill gas, we’re seeing outputs of landfill—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it.

We’re polluting our communities and the climate-polluting gas. Methane’s flammability makes the practice of converting the gas to energy quite popular at California landfills.

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of like valuable, soil-enriching resources? It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?

We’re depleting our soils. Disposing organic material in landfills and incinerators impacts our food system. Agricultural dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer systems stems from a need to fill the fertility void that is created when nutrients are pulled from the soil but not returned to the soil. Those nutrients come out in the form of plants, therefore they should go back to the soil in the form of compost instead of ending up in the landfill post. We have to do more for oil because we treat our organic discards like trash instead of like valuable, soil-enriching resources. It’s the responsibility of landfill gas, wouldn’t keeping organics out of landfills—thereby not creating the toxic gas in the first place—be the most responsible and effective way to manage it?
Baldwin hills area residents concerned about fracking

Southern California may be particularly vulnerable to the ill effects of methods used to expand oil and gas extraction in local wells. By Tom Williams

In a rush to develop more natural gas and oil, and gas companies are relying more heavily on a technique of stimulation and extraction known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking. Using this process, companies that develop gas and oil wells pump very high-pressure water, chemicals and solids into the ground to fracture rock and extract fuel that would otherwise be unavailable.

Though some form of fracturing has been used for more than 50 years, its recent rise has raised a number of environmental and safety concerns including the release of greenhouse gases, contamination of drinking water, air pollution and triggering earthquakes. These concerns are raised in light of weak international, federal and state oversight and regulation of the process—with federal standards even weaker than those of many states.

The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club is concerned about the introduction of large-scale fracking and similar processes to Southern California. About 9 million people call our area home. They live in a region that has a growing dependency on groundwater, has a robust seismic record with many earthquake faults believed to still be undetected, boasts some of the nation's worst air quality, and is100% dependent with gas and oil fields from the heyday of drilling, with many abandoned wells remaining uncapped.

Energy and petroleum interests say there's no evidence of any direct, negative environmental impact of fracking, and the practice has decades of use without problems, but without any documentation of underground environmental conditions before/after wells and fields developments.

But that's not what many communities say. Sierra Club chapters in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and other communities have raised concerns—and received few answers.

In Ohio, an area not known for earthquakes, state regulators say a dozen recent earthquakes were almost certainly caused by injection of gas-drilling wastewater into the ground near Youngstown. The largest caused cracks to appear in some streets and was felt as far away as Toronto.

Fracking is also blamed on another 50 earthquakes in Ohio and two in England, and others have been acknowledged by well service companies.

Locally, Baldwin hills and Culver City residents are up in arms about a process being used at the nearby Inglewood Oilfield, and the impact it could have on their communities. Plans Exploration and Petroleum (PXP) says in media stories that it uses high-rate gravel packing, not hydraulic fracturing, although reports to the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources indicate that they did fracking.

Residents want to know about any process that pumps at very high pressure liquid or slurries into the ground and what could happen as a result. Fracking uses its brew to fracture right rocks to promote gas, oil, and water to flow through new cracks to a well where they can be extracted. Current methods use large volumes of water, a wide range of hazardous chemicals, fine sand and very high pressure to break the rock array to reach down nearly a mile to get more oil and gas out of the ground.

Neither state nor federal regulations compel energy companies to inform the public, or the process they put into the ground to stimulate the extraction process. The Angeles chapter has responded by drafting various legislation in an effort to close these fracking loopholes, processes, and chemicals. California regulators are more concerned with the safety of the process, but they say nothing about the other processes. Some have referred to these, and other faults, fractures, and joints in the ground beneath us here the greater Los Angeles Metropolitan area.

Fracking is done on a variety of rocks, sediments, muds, and other materials. It is100% natural, and any fracking that occurs naturally is more likely to be caused by a natural stress event, like an earthquake. And anyone who has lived in Southern California for any length of time knows that there are plenty of those.

Angeles Chapter makes it easier to give!
The Angeles Chapter has launched an easy and safe way to make monthly and quarterly contributions online. Your donations support the Chapter’s important work on conservation and political issues as well as the thousands of outings sponsored each year.

Here’s how it works: Go online to tinyurl.com/moys10 and select a gift amount or enter your own. Then choose “monthly” or “quarterly” gift from the drop-down menu and you’re done. Please make a donation today.

—Angela Chapter

Volunteers needed to staff front desk at Chapter office

Not all Sierra Club volunteers lead hikes or rally for political candidates. Some dedicated volunteers take a seat at the Angeles Chapter's headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard to serve as greeter and help with office tasks. The Chapter needs office volunteers to help out for four-hour shifts on Mondays and Tuesdays. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact jane.mcfarlane@sierraclub.org.

—Angela Chapter

Get ready to go solar

The Sierra Club will launch a partnership with two of L.A. County’s leading rooftop solar companies to help homeowners cut carbon and electricity costs, and join the rooftop revolution.

Last summer more than 150 California homeowners took advantage of the Club’s program to help members and supporters go solar at little or no upfront cost. As a result of the program’s success in California, the Club plans to expand the partnership to 10 additional markets this year in Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington, D.C.

In California, Sierra Club will be partnering with SunPower to bring solar to even more houses, and holds in 2012. The program also raises money for the Club because it receives money very time a home goes solar.

If you’re a renter or not ready for a solar panel system, think about supporting local clean energy by contributing to a community solar project. The Club will work with Solar Mosaic to raise funds for solar installations at schools, places of worship and community centers across the country.

—National Sierra Club

Follow the trail … on your iPhone

Sierra Club Trail Expert free app brings 40,000 trails in North America to your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch (sorry, Android users). The app allows users to search trails by name, activity, length and location. And there’s a way to track routes and add trails too.

Here are some other cool apps:

• In the Forestry National Park features an app with multiple images of 58 national parks shot by photographer Q.T. Luong. You can shuffle photos or look at archives and read information about each of the parks profiled.
• National Parks by National Geographic focuses on 20 parks, including many in the West, and includes information on camping and lodging, directions, etc. It’s a mini-guide that’s easy to use.
• All apps are free and downloadable from iTunes.

—Mary Forgeron

Forest fees put on hold

Court decision may put an end to Adventure Pass

By Don Bremner

A federal appeals court decision in an Arizona case could mean that California may end the Adventure Pass program that imposes recreation fees for visitors to Angeles National Forest and other federal lands. The U.S. Forest Service, though, made no immediate move to change its fee system.

The Forest Service cannot change a fee, fee schedule or pass, like a parking pass, hike or picnic in a forest without using such amenities as toilets, picnic tables, trash containers and security services, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said in a unanimous opinion on Feb. 9. The Ninth Circuit panel includes California as well as Arizona and seven other western states, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Alaska.

In Arizona, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney’s office that represented the Forest Service in the case said that the appeals court’s mandate sending the case back to the federal district court in Arizona was not issued until April 3, and that as of mid-April, the lower court had not further hearing scheduled on the matter.

Tamara Wilton, Recreation Fee Program Manager for the Forest Service in California, said that her office is continuing the fee program and waiting for developments and legal guidance before making any changes. She called the situation “frustrating.”

Some forest users will have mixed feelings if the ruling of the Adventure Pass. They have long objected to the fees, typically $5 a day or $30 annually, arguing that national forests are public lands financed by taxes, and the public should not have to pay to enter and use those lands.

But the user groups pay the cost of maintaining recreational facilities in the national forest, and replacing work that should be paid for by the Forest Service.

Some forest users will have mixed feelings if the ruling of the Adventure Pass. They have long objected to the fees, typically $5 a day or $30 annually, arguing that national forests are public lands financed by taxes, and the public should not have to pay to enter and use those lands.

But the user groups pay the cost of maintaining recreational facilities in the national forest, and replacing work that should be paid for by the Forest Service.

Tamara Wilton, Recreation Fee Program Manager for the Forest Service in California, said that her office is continuing the fee program and waiting for developments and legal guidance before making any changes. She called the situation “frustrating.”

Some forest users will have mixed feelings if the ruling of the Adventure Pass. They have long objected to the fees, typically $5 a day or $30 annually, arguing that national forests are public lands financed by taxes, and the public should not have to pay to enter and use those lands.

But the user groups pay the cost of maintaining recreational facilities in the national forest, and replacing work that should be paid for by the Forest Service.

Tamara Wilton, Recreation Fee Program Manager for the Forest Service in California, said that her office is continuing the fee program and waiting for developments and legal guidance before making any changes. She called the situation “frustrating.”
Proposed ballfields run afoot of Griffith Park vision

By Carol Henning

Los Angeles has proposed constructing two new “youth” baseball fields at Crystal Springs, the area in Griffith Park just south of the Ranger Station and the Visitor Center. To this end, it has applied for a Proposition K competitive grant for a program called “L.A. for Kids.”

Pete Field is a full-size ball field already at Crystal Springs. It has a fence around it and is for use by adults only. The City Bureau of Engineering, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program has outlined three options. The first two options for the youth ball fields require destruction of mature trees, including native oak and sycamore, removal of picnic tables and picnic area, removal of some parking spaces, and changing the driveway, now a loop, into a short turnaround. There will be a ball field within 10 feet of an equestrian, walking and running trail. This same trail is also part of a national historic trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail, a 1,200 trail that houses Spanish settlers who journeyed from Arizona to San Francisco.

The National Park Service has awarded a grant of assistance to Friends of Griffith Park to restore the Griffith Park portion of the trail. In addition, Griffith Park in almost its entirety has been designated as a Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument. Thus, there will have to be historical as well as environmental review of this project.

To get this grant, the city must prove it the proposed project will increase recreation and will be generally compatible with all. Crystal Springs is heavily used by families, most of whom do not have yards or nearby green space. Kids visiting Crystal Springs rent bikes, play catch, have birthday parties and use the area for many other activities. It is unlikely that displacing these regular users will increase recreation. Instead, the project will involve organized baseball clubs at the expense of families and underserved communities who use the area for picnics and informal recreation. Some of the youth baseball clubs will come from affluent areas such as Toluca Lake and Hancock Park.

Option three is to explore other locations within or near Griffith Park. North Avera Park and a portion of the Central Service Yard are alternative locations that could accommodate kids. If kids need more baseball fields, why not put then nearby, rather than in the middle of Griffith Park? A goal of establishing a “sports complex” in the center of the park has been mentioned. Here are some of the problems with that plan:

It subverts Col. Griffith’s vision for the park as a place of rest for the “plain people.”

It results in the loss of space for family picnics and informal recreation.

It eliminates the loop for bicycle riders and other non-motorists.

It endangers horses and their riders with screaming kids and parents running about.

It probably increases vehicular traffic.

It results in destruction of mature trees, eliminating shade and habitat.

Proposing ball fields at Crystal Springs, the area in Griffith Park just south of the Ranger Station and the Visitor Center, would run afoul of Griffith Park vision.

Higher learning? Sierra Club takes Houston students on a hike

A group of 36 students from a Texas high school got a special treat on their college tour of Los Angeles: an evening hike of Griffith Park. Students from YesPrep, a charter school that places all its graduates in four-year colleges, were in L.A. for a few days to visit UCLA, USC, the Claremont Colleges and Woodbury University. As a break from the campus tours, YesPrep arranged for students to visit Griffith Park and go on a hike with the Sierra Club.

Students and their four chaperones looked to vantage points looking over Glendale, Burbank and the huge expanse of the Los Angeles Basin. They even caught a glimpse of the Hollywood Sign just as nighttime settled in on the hike that lasted about three hours.

Griffith Park Section leaders Stag Brown, Felix Martinez, Paul Carlos, Paul Carothers, Bari Carlos and Joe Young led the group.

—Joe Young

CLEAN TRUCKS/PAGE 2

As a break from the campus tours, YesPrep arranged for students to visit Griffith Park and go on a hike with the Sierra Club.

Get Involved

Tell L.A.’s parks leaders you want to keep the vision of Griffith Park alive and want them to keep ball fields in Griffith Park near but not inside the park

Carthie Santo Domingo, Project Manager Bureau of Engineering, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program, 200 N. Spring, Ste 23rd floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012, carthiesantodomingo@acity.org.

Jon Kirk Mulki, General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, 1200 West 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

Sierra Club Member Business Directory

Sierra Club Member Business Directory

YOUR BUSINESS LISTED HERE FOR THE LIFE OF THE MAGAZINE

IF YOU ARE ON AN OLDER MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLAN YOU ARE PROBABLY PAYING TOO MUCH

new medicare supplement plans are now available

We have already saved clients as much as $800/mo. with
IDENTICAL plan benefits
Call 800 487 0880 to see if a new plan is right for you
CA lic # 0669770. 0402235

Joshua Davidson, M.D., M.P.H.
Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
A Medical Corporation
3400 Lomita Blvd, Suite 301
Torrance, CA 90505
Phone: (310) 534-4494
Fax: (310) 334-6534
joshua.davidson@me.com
www.davidsonallergy.com

THE GREATEST HOME IS ONE THAT'S ALREADY BUILT.

EIRKLERKINERESTSTATEBROKER
310 729 4597
LEASING ECONOMIST: REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL, ADVISE ON LEASING GUIDANCE SERVICE ACQUISITION/SALES/LEASE PROPERTIES
DRE#112537, KELLER WILLIS REALTY EIRKLERKINERESTSTATEBROKER

Victor A. Herzfeld, CFP®
Herzfeld Investments
(626) 976-5236  vicwire@cox.net
113 W. Duarte Road, #3
Arcadia, CA 91007
www.herdfeildinvestmentmanagement.com

Oak Investment Group
Oak Investment Group
(626) 538-3000

Victor A. Herzfeld, CFP®
Herzfeld Investments
(626) 976-5236  vicwire@cox.net
113 W. Duarte Road, #3
Arcadia, CA 91007
www.herdfeildinvestmentmanagement.com

Jan G. Scow Consulting Arboretum, LLC
Oak preservation
Hazard assessment
Disease and pest diagnosis
Restorative pruning recommendations
Tree plantings, installation and care
Oak compatible landscaping
Tree value assessment
818.789.9127
By Carol Henning

“Shame on them!” cried labor, environmental and community activists assembled in front of American Reclamation’s waste sorting center in the Anawar area of Los Angeles. "Shame on them!” cried labor, environmental and community activists assembled in front of American Reclamation’s waste sorting center in the Anawar area of Los Angeles. The rally for zero waste and responsible recycling happened at lunchtime March 15, the day of the Good Jobs Green Jobs regional conference in L.A. sponsored by the Sierra Club.

"The shame chant was a response to the testimony of Karla Campos, a waste sorter at the company who lost her job after a work-related injury, and of Duan Draper, a waste hauler, who described the lack of safety equipment provided to workers and the disordered maintenance of the trucks.

What happens to the trash you sort carefully and deposit into the blue, green and black bins? If you live in a single-family house, the city empties each color bin into an appropriate truck. But what if you live in an apartment or condo, and what about offices and retail stores?

There is a completely different system of trash disposal for multi-family dwellings and businesses. These entities negotiate with independent haulers and usually don’t bother with the added expense of recycling collection. Yet regulations or standards at the city level governing waste hauling and sorting are commercial and multi-family sectors.

Hillary Gordon, Chair of the Angles Chapter’s Zero Waste Committee likens the waste disposal industry in Los Angeles to the Wild West. And LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Energy and Environment) points out that 30 percent of the 2.9 million tons of waste we send to landfills and incinerators is household waste, while 70 percent is from businesses and multi-family dwellings.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proudly claims that 71 percent of Los Angeles’s trash is recycled, well above the 33 percent U.S. average. But that diversion is happening primarily from single-family households and a portion of the multi-family sector serviced by the Bureau of Sanitation. Think of how much closer we could get to achieving true zero waste in Los Angeles if we increase recycling from apartments, condos and businesses.

Recycling brings twice the number of jobs as landfills and incinerators do. But recycling facilities are usually not located in areas with enough resources or clout to say “no.” These communities are the ones who must get the trash dumped and incinerators. We must insist that recycling facilities be clean, safe and fairly compensated.

But back to the rally. American Reclamation employs workers who are on the front lines in the effort to achieve L.A.’s goal of 95 percent diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators. These workers haul and sort commercial waste to salvage recyclable materials.

American Reclamation has public contracts with giants like GSI of El Monte. At its facility, workers say wages are low and working conditions are unsafe. Workers are filthy and have little ventilation. Campos described a lunchroom crawling with rats and restrooms crawling with other life forms. Neither the haulers nor the sorters are given any safety equipment such as gloves, gas masks, goggles, masks. They must provide their own at their own expense. Workers get no benefits either.

“Without safety, we get hurt,” says Campos. “I do it simply get mired in with all the other trash, or it is removed separately. Talk to the management at your apartment or condo complex.”

Green jobs should be good jobs. Allison Chin, Sierra Club Treasurer and past President says, “We choose good jobs and a clean environment.”

Teamsters General President, James Hoffa, agrees.

Carl Pope, left, former executive director of the Sierra Club, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Teamsters leader James Hoffa voiced their support of environmental jobs at the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference in Los Angeles in March.

It involves working 12 hour shifts seven days a week, six months on and six months off. But for those who enjoy the adrenaline rush that comes with climbing 300 feet several times a day, it pays of $40 to $70 an hour.

Other jobs were floated for those who enjoy working at ground level on projects such as home weatherization and using green technology in transportation.

An afternoon plenary session with Teamsters and Los Angeles by increasing diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators. The union would like all solid waste and recycling workers to be able to join them and stand together to negotiate fair wages, benefits and workplace safety. "With a worker of a union you can speak out against unsafe practices that endanger you or the public."

Green jobs should be good jobs. Allison Chin, Sierra Club Treasurer and past President says, “We choose good jobs and a clean environment.”

Teamsters General President, James Hoffa, agrees.

But back to the rally. American Reclamation employs workers who are on the front lines in the effort to achieve L.A.’s goal of 95 percent diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators. These workers haul and sort commercial waste to salvage recyclable materials.

American Reclamation has public contracts with giants like GSI of El Monte. At its facility, workers say wages are low and working conditions are unsafe. Workers are filthy and have little ventilation. Campos described a lunchroom crawling with rats and restrooms crawling with other life forms. Neither the haulers nor the sorters are given any safety equipment such as gloves, gas masks, goggles, masks. They must provide their own at their own expense. Workers get no benefits either.

“Without safety, we get hurt,” says Campos. “I do it simply get mired in with all the other trash, or it is removed separately. Talk to the management at your apartment or condo complex.”

Green jobs should be good jobs. Allison Chin, Sierra Club Treasurer and past President says, “We choose good jobs and a clean environment.”

Teamsters General President, James Hoffa, agrees.

But back to the rally. American Reclamation employs workers who are on the front lines in the effort to achieve L.A.’s goal of 95 percent diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators. These workers haul and sort commercial waste to salvage recyclable materials.

American Reclamation has public contracts with giants like GSI of El Monte. At its facility, workers say wages are low and working conditions are unsafe. Workers are filthy and have little ventilation. Campos described a lunchroom crawling with rats and restrooms crawling with other life forms. Neither the haulers nor the sorters are given any safety equipment such as gloves, gas masks, goggles, masks. They must provide their own at their own expense. Workers get no benefits either.

“Without safety, we get hurt,” says Campos. “I do it simply get mired in with all the other trash, or it is removed separatively. Talk to the management at your apartment or condo complex.”

Green jobs should be good jobs. Allison Chin, Sierra Club Treasurer and past President says, “We choose good jobs and a clean environment.”

Teamsters General President, James Hoffa, agrees.

But back to the rally. American Reclamation employs workers who are on the front lines in the effort to achieve L.A.’s goal of 95 percent diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators. These workers haul and sort commercial waste to salvage recyclable materials.

American Reclamation has public contracts with giants like GSI of El Monte. At its facility, workers say wages are low and working conditions are unsafe. Workers are filthy and have little ventilation. Campos described a lunchroom crawling with rats and restrooms crawling with other life forms. Neither the haulers nor the sorters are given any safety equipment such as gloves, gas masks, goggles, masks. They must provide their own at their own expense. Workers get no benefits either.

“Without safety, we get hurt,” says Campos. “I do it simply get mired in with all the other trash, or it is removed separatively. Talk to the management at your apartment or condo complex.”

Green jobs should be good jobs. Allison Chin, Sierra Club Treasurer and past President says, “We choose good jobs and a clean environment.”

Teamsters General President, James Hoffa, agrees.
College student Rebecca Niemiec, top and right, spent her summer designing curricula and taking students outdoors with the Chapter’s Inner-City Outings Committee.

In my work with ICD, I began to realize that this is the most dangerous thing that poverty does. It tells you that you are nothing. And this is exactly why Sierra Club’s Inner City Outings exists, to let students imagine life another way. It lets students know, by taking them on outdoor trips, that there is a group of people who think that they are indeed someone. By doing something outside their urban neighborhoods, they begin to realize, like my students during the solo reflections, that maybe their dreams and realities can co-exist. I was able to work with Los Angeles Inner City Outings on two different projects, both of which were designed to motivate and empower students as well as teach them about nature. This backpacking trip was the culmination of one project. I worked with high school students in a green club in an inner-city school to help them apply for volunteer opportunities and summer internships. I also provided general mentoring during after-school sessions once a week.

Dear Becky... you know everything about nature!

Tom Contreras, supervisor of Angeles National Forest, will present “Recovering From the Station Fire and Beyond: The Future of Angeles National Forest” at this Chapter Forest Committee Meeting. The presentation, over the course of 2000 miles burned, 160,000 acres of forest, the general condition of the area, and how volunteers can help and recreational opportunities. A social time at 7 p.m. preceded the 7:30 p.m. program at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena. For information, contact donbrenner@earthlink.net.

Chapter happenings: Our picks for May, June and beyond

May 12-13
Spring Work Party at Harwood Lodge

June 8-10
Nature Knowledge Workshop

July 14-20
Victoria, B.C. and Olympic National Park in Washington

‘Dear Becky... you know everything about nature!’

“Dear Becky, I don’t know all of the things about Griffith Park but I know you are the best teacher ever, because you know everything about nature. I love nature very very much. It is the best thing in the world. It is so peaceful when you are very quiet you can see animals.”

Leaving these students was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. But I left Los Angeles Inner City Outings with the important realization that helping others feel like they really are somebody is one of the things that makes me find my own light.

‘Find your light’ by contributing to ICD at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ and attend our fun fund-raiser at the Magic Castle on June 3 see details on page 10.

In my work with ICD, I began to realize that this is the most dangerous thing that poverty does. It tells you that you are nothing. And this is exactly why Sierra Club’s Inner City Outings exists, to let students imagine life another way. It lets students know, by taking them on outdoor trips, that there is a group of people who think that they are indeed someone. By doing something outside their urban neighborhoods, they begin to realize, like my students during the solo reflections, that maybe their dreams and realities can co-exist. I was able to work with Los Angeles Inner City Outings on two different projects, both of which were designed to motivate and empower students as well as teach them about nature. This backpacking trip was the culmination of one project. I worked with high school students in a green club in an inner-city school to help them apply for volunteer opportunities and summer internships. I also provided general mentoring during after-school sessions once a week.

Dear Becky, I don’t know all of the things about Griffith Park but I know you are the best teacher ever, because you know everything about nature. I love nature very very much. It is the best thing in the world. It is so peaceful when you are very quiet you can see animals.”

Leaving these students was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. But I left Los Angeles Inner City Outings with the important realization that helping others feel like they really are somebody is one of the things that makes me find my own light.

‘Find your light!’ by contributing to ICD at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ and attend our fun fund-raiser at the Magic Castle on June 3 see details on page 10.

In my work with ICD, I began to realize that this is the most dangerous thing that poverty does. It tells you that you are nothing. And this is exactly why Sierra Club’s Inner City Outings exists, to let students imagine life another way. It lets students know, by taking them on outdoor trips, that there is a group of people who think that they are indeed someone. By doing something outside their urban neighborhoods, they begin to realize, like my students during the solo reflections, that maybe their dreams and realities can co-exist. I was able to work with Los Angeles Inner City Outings on two different projects, both of which were designed to motivate and empower students as well as teach them about nature. This backpacking trip was the culmination of one project. I worked with high school students in a green club in an inner-city school to help them apply for volunteer opportunities and summer internships. I also provided general mentoring during after-school sessions once a week.

Dear Becky, I don’t know all of the things about Griffith Park but I know you are the best teacher ever, because you know everything about nature. I love nature very very much. It is the best thing in the world. It is so peaceful when you are very quiet you can see animals.”

Leaving these students was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. But I left Los Angeles Inner City Outings with the important realization that helping others feel like they really are somebody is one of the things that makes me find my own light.

‘Find your light!’ by contributing to ICD at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ and attend our fun fund-raiser at the Magic Castle on June 3 see details on page 10.
It’s time to create more national monuments

By Michael Bruin

Last November, President Barack Obama used the Antiquities Act to protect Virginia’s Fort Monroe, an important and symbolic Civil War site. In April, he designated the 7,200 acres of Fort Ord on the Monterey Peninsula his second national monument.

If I were president for a day, I’d take the opportunity to create more national monuments and protect America’s best wild places. I’d start with these three:

Greater Canyons

National Monument designation of this area would protect one of the most remote and undeveloped places in the continental United States. The 1.4 million-acre proposed monument, adjacent to Canyonlands National Park in Utah would include the entire basin surrounding the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers. The area is home to wildlife such as desert bighorn sheep and the Mexican grey wolf. A Canyonlands Monument would be the final piece in the puzzle of protected lands in this region, stretching from Wyoming to Arizona.

Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks

The Organ Mountains form the rugged backdrop to Las Cruces, New Mexico’s second-largest city. The range is the most botanically diverse in the state, home to a rich assortment of ferns, lichens, mosses, and several species that exist nowhere else in the world. If protected with National Monument status, it would provide outstanding recreational opportunities in some of the state’s most iconic landscapes.

Arctic Refuge

The 1.5 million acres of coastal plain in the Arctic Refuge are truly one of America’s last completely wild places. The vast grasslands support large populations of wildlife, including the Porcupine River caribou herd, three species of bears (the coastal plain is the largest polar bear denning area in the country), and millions of migratory birds. In addition, the area is sacred to Alaska’s Gwich’in people, who depend on the Porcupine River caribou herd much as Great Plains Native Americans depended on bison.

There are many other deserving candidates — the Sierra Club’s Presidential Lands Legacy project has a long list I could choose from.

Earlier this year the Obama administration announced a 20-year ban on new mining on a million acres of public land near the Grand Canyon. When that 20 years is up, this region will still be priceless. Why not go a step further and permanently protect areas around the North Kaibab Plateau as a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument? It would be a boon to local communities, because in addition to protecting vital natural systems, national monuments sustain property values, attract new investment, and provide jobs.

That’s what I’d do in my 24 hours as president. Not bad for one day’s work. Think how big a dent Obama could make in a year. Go wild, Mr. President, and show us what you can do.

One more thing: A little encouragement never hurts. Let the president know you support the designation of new national monuments.

Michael Brune is executive director of the Sierra Club.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND GETAWAYS

May 25-26, 2012

Memorial Day Weekend Bus Trip

Leave Friday afternoon for 3 days of sightseeing & moderately-paced 5-6 mile hikes —no beginners in the beautiful groves of Big Basin Redwoods & Henry Cowell Redwoods State Parks, etc. We will visit Año Nuevo State Reserve, home to elephant seals, and the redwoods. We will also visit Natural Bridges State Beach & many interesting coastal areas along the Central Coast. Our motel in Santa Cruz is a close walk to the Boardwalk & pier for added sightseeing, shopping, & dining at one of the many seaside restaurants. Cost includes bus, motel & continental breakfasts, Monday dinner, bus refreshments. Send $180 or 2 SASE, H&W phones, SCF, check made out to Sierra Club to Reservationist, Cliff Caplan, caplanH@msn.com, Leader: Bill Craze, Assistant: Joan Weaver.

Backpack:

O: Big Basin Redwoods State Park Backpack Bus Trip: Leave LA Friday for Santa Cruz Mtns. Fly camp at Henry Cowell Redwoods SP. 3 day Easy/moderate level hike. Hike to spring wildflowers, by waterfalls, and into a fern forest beneath majestic sequoias. 5.5 mi. Sat to Twin Redwoods camp from Park HQ. Layover at Twin Redwoods and do long day hike or chill at camp on Sun and 2.0 mi. to Walden Beach on Monday. Camp availability could impact route. Bring veggie to grill out our pith outfit, happy hour goodies to share. $120 w/SCE $140 nonmember includes bus, camp fee and entrance fees, Monday dinner and bus refreshments. Send $180 or 2 SASE, H&W phones, check (Sierra Club) to Leader: Tom Marsh sgtmeon@roadrunner.com, Asst: Pamela Rowe

Labor Day Weekend Bus Trip

Friday through Monday • August 31 through September 3

O: Mammoth Lakes Bus Lodge Hiking Trip: Leave Friday afternoon, return Monday evening. Join us as we hike & sightsee at spectacular Mammoth Lakes. No crowds! Moderate 5-6 mile day hikes. Beautiful view hikes include Horsehoe Lake to Red Meadow, Devil’s Postpile NM & Rainbow Falls. Relax at night with dining & self-guided evening walks. Spaces are very limited. Cost includes bus, 3 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 large SASE, H&W phones, SCIF, check (Sierra Club) $480 per person. Non-member check $530, made out to Sierra Club Backpacking Committee. Send Leader/Reservationist Bill Crane bhcguan@localzz.com, Co-Leader: Joan Weaver.

Backpack:

O: Thousand Island Lake-Lake Ediza Bus Backpack: Camp at stunning lakes under the peaks of the Minarets. Hike with expansive views on first day and many lakes on second day. Leave LA Fri for Mammoth. Sat hike from Agnew Mwbs via High Trail to Thousand Island Lake, 11.2 mi, 1800’ gain, Mwbs 9 mi to Lake Ediza on Sun and explore area. Monday hike out 6 mi. Moderately strenuous climb first day, smaller ups and downs 2nd day. Email leader with recent conditioning and experience and contact information or send 2 SASE with check and info. We book buses, campsites, permit, Mon dinner. Front of backpack: referral info and policies. Send check for $220 w/SCF, $240 w/paypal, payable to Sierra Club, to Ldr: Don Tidwell tddeli@destinexreme.com, Asst: Erik Sterin.
As an aside, evacuation plans mostly exist on paper because there’s no practical way to require such plans or to scrutinize the 8 million people who live within 50 miles of the San Onofre plant. In fact, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission advised U.S. citizens in the area to evacuate within 50 miles of the plant over a period of more than 7 months due to radiation risks in this danger zone. More than 200,000 people were evacuated and provided shelter — half of whom may never return to their homes due to radiation levels. That was in Fukushima, the nuclear meltdown of which has a population density nine times higher than in Fukushima.

As of April 12, the NRC is still insisting that there is a difference in the problem. In fact, the change in design was dramatic. Think of steam generators as a giant tent: old steam generators had a pole in the center that held the tubes steady. The new design used by Edison were built at Japan. They removed the pole to squeeze more tubes into the 65-foothigh stack. We save Edison the option to increase power at the plant and, of course, make more money.

Two recent technical reports suggest the design changes were substantively similar. The first, ‘An overview of why and what the effects of these changes have been to make a major accident less likely is very real. The impact on millions of people in Southern California would be devastating.

ORGANIC WASTE/ PAGE 2

What is this stuff with such high potential?

Half of the organic material we toss out comes from our kitchen as highly perishable salt waste that could be made into something useful by being decomposed by microorganisms, food scraps. An equal amount comes from our yards. While they are materially the same—green, the same thing they are handled very differently.

The food scraps go into the garbage can and are collected by a garbage truck as part of our municipal solid waste stream and hauled off to a landfill. They make garbage trucks smell, well, like garbage. In most cities in L.A. and Orange counties, the yard trimmings go into a can or bag that sits outside the house. They make a compost heap, or in some cases a clean “green waste” stream. That material must be somewhere sent to be composted, right? Wrong! While some of it may be mulched or composted, the dirty secret is that, despite the case that is made by residents and municipalities to keep our environment clean and our garbage, much of it ends up in landfills all across Southern California as shown in the map created by Daily Cover. At the end of each day, the dumpster garbage is covered with a thick layer of grass clippings and tree prunings to keep birds and other critters out. and to prevent the garbage from blowing in the wind. The next morning, more garbage is dumped on top.

We didn’t always do this. As an analogue, evacuation plans hardly exist on paper because there’s no practical way to require such plans or to scrutinize the 8 million people who live within 50 miles of the San Onofre plant. In fact, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission advised U.S. citizens in the area to evacuate within 50 miles of the plant over a period of more than 7 months due to radiation risks in this danger zone. More than 200,000 people were evacuated and provided shelter — half of whom may never return to their homes due to radiation levels. That was in Fukushima, the nuclear meltdown of which has a population density nine times higher than in Fukushima.

As of April 12, the NRC is still insisting that there is a difference in the problem. In fact, the change in design was dramatic. Think of steam generators as a giant tent: old steam generators had a pole in the center that held the tubes steady. The new design used by Edison were built at Japan. They removed the pole to squeeze more tubes into the 65-foothigh stack. We save Edison the option to increase power at the plant and, of course, make more money.

Two recent technical reports suggest the design changes were substantively similar. The first, ‘An overview of why and what the effects of these changes have been to make a major accident less likely is very real. The impact on millions of people in Southern California would be devastating.

ORGANIC WASTE/ PAGE 2

What is this stuff with such high potential?

Half of the organic material we toss out comes from our kitchen as highly perishable salt waste that could be made into something useful by being decomposed by microorganisms, food scraps. An equal amount comes from our yards. While they are materially the same—green, the same thing they are handled very differently.

The food scraps go into the garbage can and are collected by a garbage truck as part of our municipal solid waste stream and hauled off to a landfill. They make garbage trucks smell, well, like garbage. In most cities in L.A. and Orange counties, the yard trimmings go into a can or bag that sits outside the house. They make a compost heap, or in some cases a clean “green waste” stream. That material must be somewhere sent to be composted, right? Wrong! While some of it may be mulched or composted, the dirty secret is that, despite the case that is made by residents and municipalities to keep our environment clean and our garbage, much of it ends up in landfills all across Southern California as shown in the map created by Daily Cover. At the end of each day, the dumpster garbage is covered with a thick layer of grass clippings and tree prunings to keep birds and other critters out. and to prevent the garbage from blowing in the wind. The next morning, more garbage is dumped on top.

We didn’t always do this. From restaurants are collected separately from garbage and composted. At Puente Hills, tons of garbage and 1,000 tons of green waste are processed for composting every week. The same applies at any scale. What can we do to reduce our impact?

What is this stuff with such high potential?

Half of the organic material we toss out comes from our kitchen as highly perishable salt waste that could be made into something useful by being decomposed by microorganisms, food scraps. An equal amount comes from our yards. While they are materially the same—green, the same thing they are handled very differently.

The food scraps go into the garbage can and are collected by a garbage truck as part of our municipal solid waste stream and hauled off to a landfill. They make garbage trucks smell, well, like garbage. In most cities in L.A. and Orange counties, the yard trimmings go into a can or bag that sits outside the house. They make a compost heap, or in some cases a clean “green waste” stream. That material must be somewhere sent to be composted, right? Wrong! While some of it may be mulched or composted, the dirty secret is that, despite the case that is made by residents and municipalities to keep our environment clean and our garbage, much of it ends up in landfills all across Southern California as shown in the map created by Daily Cover. At the end of each day, the dumpster garbage is covered with a thick layer of grass clippings and tree prunings to keep birds and other critters out. and to prevent the garbage from blowing in the wind. The next morning, more garbage is dumped on top.

We didn’t always do this.
**Southern Sierras May-June 2012**

**Angelus Chapter Adventure Travel Calendar**

Get ready to make memories on these journeys!

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, go online to [southernsierramaps.com](http://southernsierramaps.com) or [southernsierramaps.com](http://southernsierramaps.com) and follow the chapter travel trip apps.

---

**South Dakota Black Hills Adventure**

June 23-30, O-rated: Explore Custer State Park, known for its buffalo herds, pronghorn antelope, prairie dogs, elk, deer, wild burros, badgers, and black bears. Highlights include a jeep safari to see buffalo followed by a chuck-wagon dinner. Stay in Crazy Horse Monument, Jewel Cave and Wind Cave National Parks, Rapid City, Harding Peak; and optional trip to the Badlands National Park. The trip includes 7 nights lodging; transportation from Rapid City to the Black Hills and return; transportation in the Black Hills; admission fees, happy hours. Cost is $1,250 per person for Sierra Club members, $1,350 for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and Sierra Sage Group. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) and Patty Sappingfield.

---

**Colorado, National Park and Monument Sampler**

July 21-29, O-rated: Spend nine days hiking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing at Rocky Mountain National Park; Colorado National Monument; Arches National Park; Mesa Verde National Park; Hovenweep National Monument; Yucca House National Monument; Great Sand Dunes National Park and a team ride to top of Pikes Peak. Spend three days in Estes Park, Colo., hiking, wildlife viewing and sightseeing. Rocky Mountain National Park and three days learning about early Native American civilizations. Trip begins and ends in Denver and costs $1,450 per adult and $900 for children staying in parents’ room. Price includes, lodging (double occupancy), bus, and park admission. Airfare is not included. Contact: Leaders Fred Dong (818) 545-3878, Stephanie Gross.

---

**Moderate Walks in the Swiss Alps**

July 28-Aug. 4, O-rated: Base camp is lively Interlaken, the center of the Swiss Alps. Stay mostly in traditional Mongolian “ger” camps, which are tents camp with hot cooked meals, hot showers and flush toilets. Explore national parks on easy hikes to see the rare Mongolian wild horse, gazelles, camels, ibex, deer, possibly wolves, lynx, and birds. Other trip highlights: Karakorum, the ancient Mongolian capital; many old Buddhist monasteries; and Neolithic ruins; the largest sand dunes in the Gobi; and the Flaming Red Cliffs. Option: Beijing extension after the trip. Cost is $2,800. Price includes transportation in Mongolia, 4-star hotels, per person, most meals, admissions, guides, international airfare is extra. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leader Bruce Hale, (818) 957-1096.

---

**Bali Island and Komodo Dragons**

Sept. 9-24, O-rated: The Chapter’s first trip to peaceful Hindu Bali and Flores Island, home to the famous Dinosaur exhibit, Museum of the Rockies, Estes Park, Montana. Trip includes travel by snow coach, hotel stays, guided tours, transportation, guide, two days of cross-country ski options, daily breakfast, most lunches and one dinner. Group size is limited to 10. Trip cost per person is $2,210 for Sierra Club members; $2,355 for non-members; $500 deposit holds a spot, with the balance due by Sept. 1. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Ardello Hills Group. For information on itinerary, cancellation policy, application, contact: Leader Judy Anderson (anderson-judi@att.net).

---

**Yellowstone National Park in Winter**

Jan. 13-20, 2015, O/R-rated: Watch for wolves, bison, elk, mountain goats, arctic birds, swans at its winter best. Super opportunities for wildlife viewing and photographing Icy air enhances geyser scenes and winter best. Super opportunities for wildlife viewing and photographing. Itinerary includes hotels and lodges, private transportation, most meals, airport transfers, catamaran tour, most activities. Domestic and international airfare is extra; group airfare rates available. Trip cost per person for Sierra Club members is $3,995 before Sept. 15, $4,095 after Sept. 15; non-members add $100. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Leader Fred Dong (madelinesnade@earthlink.net) and Kath Geil (bear980@gmail.com).

---

**Historical Virginia And Nearby Areas**

Sept. 23-30

O-rated: Your William and Mary, Jamestown, the first English settlement in America; Yorktown Battlefield where General Washington won the climactic battle of the Revolutionary War. Other highlights include the Court House where Lee surrendered; Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; the Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian Trail; and more. Trip includes lodging, airport transfers, admission fees, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, airfare to and from Washington, D.C., are not included. Trip cost per person is $1,250 for Sierra Club members/$1,250 for non-members. $500 deposit due to secure reservation; balance due July 1. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) and Mary Morales, Patty Sappingfield.

---

**Mongolia-Gobi Desert, Mountain and Steppe Adventure**

Aug. 17 – Sept. 1

O-rated: See seldom-visited sites and experience the culture of Mongolia’s capital Ulaanbaatar. Stay mostly in traditional Mongolian “ger” camps, which are tents camp with hot cooked meals, hot showers and flush toilets. Explore national parks on easy hikes to see the rare Mongolian wild horse, gazelles, camels, ibex, deer, possibly wolves, lynx, and birds. Other trip highlights: Karakorum, the ancient Mongolian capital; many old Buddhist monasteries; and Neolithic ruins; the largest sand dunes in the Gobi; and the Flaming Red Cliffs. Option: Beijing extension after the trip. Cost is $2,800. Price includes transportation in Mongolia, 4-star hotels, per person, most meals, admissions, guides, international airfare is extra. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leader Bruce Hale, (818) 957-1096.

---

**Hike the Jungfrau Trail in the Swiss Alps**

Aug. 4-16, O-rated: Experience the best the Alps have to offer by hiking to mountaintop views back to the 1800s, explore wild valleys in the Jungfrau UNESCO World Heritage area and enjoy Swiss hospitality, fabulous trails, incredible scenery and new friends. The hiking strenuous, take between 5 to 6 hours daily. The cost is $3,200 per person for Sierra Club members; $3,400 per person for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and the Orange County Group. Contact: Leader Ed Maurer (baloids@cox.net) or [go online to tinyurl.com/inter](http://tinyurl.com/inter).
O-rated. At Sierra Club members and friends are invited to enjoy this authentic bit of Old California ranch life with a "genuine country back porch" from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prior to the barbecue are birding walks and hikes within this rustic 4,000-acre Audubon sanctuary nestled in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. Proceeds go to the sanctuary and conservation projects supported by Sierra Sage. Tickets cost $30 each.

**Looking over Starr Ranch from one of the many hiking trials.**

**Fundraising events**

June 2

A Night at the Magic Castle Fundraiser for Inner City Outings: O-rated. Come to the Magic Castle, a world-famous club featuring internationally known magicians in an 1908 mansion. Enjoy buffets with Champagne and mimosas and amazing magic shows. $75 for adults, $60 for children 6 to 10 years old. The Magic Castle is at 7001 Franklin Ave. in Hollywood. Pay online at angeles.sierraclub.org; valet parking is $8 extra. Your participation will support day hikes, snow trips and tide pooling for underserved urban youngsters. Contact: Shirley Hickman at shillshiehckjebsoggl@ (323) 255-2290.

Sept. 8

Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary Fall Festival hosted by the Orange County Group and OC Sierra Singles. Join us from 1 to 4 p.m. for wine, cheese, hot-corn dogs, festive laugh and music in this sanctuary deep in Modjeska Canyon. Gate will lead a nature walk through the winding pathways and gardens to look for the rarest of flowers, butterfly, and many other birds and animals. Live music from vocalists/keyboards band Patti Barnes and others. Proceeds to support the sanctuary and conservation efforts by the Orange County entities. Space is limited; reservations are required by Sept. 1. Cost is $25 for Sierra Club members, $35 for non-members. For ticket purchase instructions, contact: Reservator: Gabriele Rau, volunteer coordinator, 920-4001 (gabrielerau@gmail.com). Leaders: Chuck Buck, Patti Barnes, Remi Lipman, Jay Machtcht, Bob Siebert, Donna Schecht.

**Events**

6:30 p.m. May 7

Newcomer/Member Information Night: Come discover the Sierra Club with different entities: the Orange County Group, Sierra Sage, OC and LA Sierra Singles. Hundred Peak Section, Wilderness Surfing, OC Sage Paddler Pals and other Club representatives. Learn about the Club and the many activities and adventures outings available. Table displays, exhibits, refreshments. Join the Sierra Club with special 15 member- ship and a free gift. Meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Community Center. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Chapter Membership Chair Donna Schecht. (donnaspecht@juno.com)

7:30 p.m. May 8

Ed and Helen Mauer’s Hiking the Alps presentation will feature photographs of long-distance hikes in the Swiss Alps and along an ancient pilgrimage route in France at the Crescenta Valley Group meeting. Meet at L.A. County Public Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Contact: Wayne Jukes, (818) 353-4181.

7:30 p.m. May 8

Dana Hunter on Patagonia features this Sierra Club leader’s experience in climbing the majestic Fitzroy and Rangira. The presentation takes place at the Crescenta Valley Group meeting. Meet at L.A. County Public Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta. Contact: Wayne Jukes. (818) 353-4181.

7:30 p.m. June 12

Spring Work Party at Harwood Market. Come have fun, meet new people, participate in a hands-on nature concept and get some exercise. Meet at 7 p.m. at 11260 El Camino Real, Los Angeles (sign up after May 11, add $30). For more information, go to http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange. Host: John Specht.

7:30 p.m. June 12

Carol Henning’s French Polynesia will feature a program about a trip to see a solar eclipse. While there Henning also visited some of the most scenic islands in the world, such as Bali Hai, Bora Bora and Rangira. The presentation takes place at the Costa Mesa Community Center. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Chair Donna Schecht. (donnaspecht@juno.com)

**May 2012**

**MAY-JUNE 2012 PAGE 10**

**Hikes & Trips**

May 5

Trip to Harwood Market. Meet at 7 p.m. at 11260 El Camino Real, Los Angeles (sign up after May 11, add $30). For more information, go to http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange. Host: John Specht.

7:30 p.m. June 12

Spring Work Party at Harwood Market. Come have fun, meet new people, participate in a hands-on nature concept and get some exercise. Meet at 7 p.m. at 11260 El Camino Real, Los Angeles (sign up after May 11, add $30). For more information, go to http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange. Host: John Specht.

7:30 p.m. June 12

Carol Henning’s French Polynesia will feature a program about a trip to see a solar eclipse. While there Henning also visited some of the most scenic islands in the world, such as Bali Hai, Bora Bora and Rangira. The presentation takes place at the Costa Mesa Community Center. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Chair Donna Schecht. (donnaspecht@juno.com)

7:30 p.m. June 12

Special Newcomer/Member Night: Find out all about the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter’s many events and volunteer opportunities: hiking, conservation, task forces, environmental programs and adventure travel. Meet at REI in the Tiustin Marketplace, 2926 El Camino Real. Meet at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome, bring a friend! Hosted by the Orange County Group. Be a part of the larger grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. and join Sierra Club for $15. For details, go to http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange.
Los Angeles County’s last free-flow- ing river, the Santa Clara River, with legal opposition to a project that will almost completely dry out its floodplain.

“Developing in a river floodplain is ecologically suicidal,” says Kevin Anderson, biologist with the Center for Water and Nature, who argues that a project to promote tourism could destroy our precious water resources, not protect them.

The suit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court under the California Environmental Quality Act. Brought by the Southern Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Center for Water and Nature, the Seacoast Coalition, and the Wildways Foundation, the suit seeks an immediate stop to development and an order compelling the county to prepare a full environmental impact report and a mitigation plan.

In addition to greenhouse gases and toxic pollution caused by burning fossil fuels, production of and gas releases its own substantial share and increased fracking is reported to release even more dangerous chemicals into the air and water. California's public pension fund, lost $970 million of state investments in the pulling of oil from the Ranchland with the LandSource bankrupt. Now, with the inflow of cash and majority ownership by each of several state oil and gas agencies.

The California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has not established adequate scope for documentation and controls of fracking as part of any permitting and regulations for drilling new wells and for reworking existing wells. The division now states that the LandSource will be regulated. The division now states that it will conduct a study of the state legislation, which is mulling two-plus bills on fracking.

Fearing that the LandSource, Sierra Club, and the Center for Biological Diversity have sued the Bureau of Land Management to establish real regulations, which could become onshore models for all BLMs and the EPA.

However, for many environmental issues arising from oil and gas fields, the state oil and gas division says it doesn’t have jurisdiction over water or gas emissions (Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Water Resources Control Board) over these lands. It will take time to review the new regulations for all emissions from the LandSource.

Diversification has laws on the books that promote the use of alternative energy sources and controls of energy companies and processing activities. The new regulations for all emissions from the LandSource.

In the meantime, there are several other important issues to be addressed. First, the state Legislature, which is mulling two-plus bills on fracking.

For more positive trends, the state has not approved any new regulations managing activities within oil fields in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties. The division now states that it will conduct a study of the state legislation, which is mulling two-plus bills on fracking.

WHAT’S YOUR LEGACY? When writing your will, please consider the Angeles Chapter Foundation. We can help you demonstrate your commitment to John Muir’s ideals. angelschapter.org.

Travel/Trek
Donner Summit, Clair Tappan Trestle – June 1-2 - 12 step meeting+9AM hike daily. leasers@ca.realnet.net
COPPER CANYON, PERU, COSTA RICA: Galapagos, Patagonia, Bhutan, Vietnam and more. Call for free newsletter. The California Native. 310-642-1488.

Professional Services
COMPUTER HELP $45/HOUR. Get started, learn more, or solve problems. Good with beginners. Call 310-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org

MAMMOTH LAKES CONDO SPECIALS!!! Special travel rates, spa, frp, walk to shuttle, restaurant, 635-9360, 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org


Vacation Rentals
BIG BEAR CABIN RENTALS, pet friendly, high speed Internet, Jacuzzis and fireplace. 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org

MAMMOTH LAKES CONDO SPECIALS!!! Special travel rates, spa, frp, walk to shuttle, restaurant, 635-9360, 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org

Yucatan and more. Call for free newsletter. The California Native. 310-642-1488.

Vacation Rentals
BIG BEAR CABIN RENTALS, pet friendly, high speed Internet, Jacuzzis and fireplace. 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org

MAMMOTH LAKES CONDO SPECIALS!!! Special travel rates, spa, frp, walk to shuttle, restaurant, 635-9360, 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org


Vacation Rentals
BIG BEAR CABIN RENTALS, pet friendly, high speed Internet, Jacuzzis and fireplace. 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org

MAMMOTH LAKES CONDO SPECIALS!!! Special travel rates, spa, frp, walk to shuttle, restaurant, 635-9360, 1-800-770-2219. www.thebigbear-cabin.org

Yucatan and more. Call for free newsletter. The California Native. 310-642-1488.
To Permanently Protect our natural areas and open space,

And Ensure that the Angeles Chapter’s outings and conservation programs will thrive for generations to come,

Consider Including the Angeles Chapter Foundation in your will or trust.

Future Generations Will be Grateful.

Why Include the Angeles Chapter Foundation in your Will or Trust

Over the Past 100 Years, the Angeles Chapter has worked to achieve many major environmental victories and save over ten million acres of wilderness and open space for future generations. These have included:

- The Desert Protection Act (over 9 million acres protected)
- Creating Joshua Tree National Park (over 1 million acres protected)
- Preserving Tejon Ranch (over 240,000 acres protected)
- Creating Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (over 154,000 acres protected)
- Protecting Ballona and Bolsa Chica wetlands (over 2200 acres protected)
- Creating the San Gabriel River/Rio Hondo Emerald Necklace (over 1500 acres protected)
- And many other victories.

And the Angeles Chapter has conducted over 100,000 trips and outings which have inspired hundreds of thousands of Southern Californians to appreciate nature and want to protect our wild lands and open spaces.

Help Us Continue This Work.

Please help us ensure that the Angeles Chapter and its conservation and outings programs can continue to thrive for the next 100 years and beyond by including The Angeles Chapter Foundation in your will or trust—or making the Angeles Chapter Foundation a beneficiary of a bank account, stock brokerage account or other asset.

The Next 100 Years and Beyond Depends on You....

Please Act Now, or contact us for more information.

About Us:

The Angeles Chapter Foundation is the only tax-exempt entity dedicated to providing financial support for the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter and its Outings and Conservation Programs.

I’d like to learn more

[ ] Will or living trust
[ ] Retirement or savings account
[ ] Life insurance policy
[ ] Real estate
[ ] I am interested in learning how I can make a donation NOW in exchange for lifetime annuity payments

Name ___________________________ City ___________ State ______ Zip ______
Address _________________________ Phone __________________________
Email ___________________________ Phone __________________________

I prefer to be contacted by [ ] Phone [ ] Email [ ] Mail

Please Act Now.

We’ll be happy to answer any questions.

For more information mail the coupon or contact us by mail, phone, fax, or email.

Angeles Chapter Foundation
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 320
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904

Phone: 213.478.0990
Email: info@angeleschapterfoundation.org
Fax: 310.472.9460
www.AngelasFoundation.org
Tax exempt ID# 95-4112557

Serving the Angeles Chapter and its members for over 25 years.
Donations and bequests are tax deductible. Please Act Now.