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Advertising, and Sierra Club Membership

A s the cost of rooftop solar decreases, more
and more homeowners can economically benefit
from “Going Solar”. Getting a quote is free
and without obligation. When is the last time
you looked to see if solar is right for you?
The Sierra Club is helping members
fulfill their goal of a clean energy economy.
Through an innovative partnership with Sungevity, a
leading national solar service provider, the Club is able
to offer its members and supporters an affordable way
to get solar on their rooftops. For every home that goes
solar through this program, Sungevity will give $750
to the chapter for clean energy work and other efforts.
Previously, in order to get solar panels on your home
you would have to conduct extensive research, hunt for
rebates, obtain a permit, and be prepared to fork out
perhaps $20,000. That was before the one-stop solar shop.
Residential solar companies like Sungevity are now
offering a “solar service” for people who can’t afford to pay
the up-front costs to put panels on their roofs. Sungevity
will install the panels for no up-front cost, and also handle
all maintenance and service. The homeowner pays for
and supports in California to work with Sungevity to find out
if solar is right for them. Every home that goes solar gets us one
step closer to our goal of a clean energy economy,” said Sierra
Club Executive Director Michael Brune about the program.
It’s a win-win-win. An average Sungevity customer saves 15%
on their electricity costs by going solar. The San Gorgonio Chap-
ter will raise money for important campaigns and more solar will
replace coal as Sierra Club members cut their carbon footprints
and collectively help to scale this key clean energy solution.
To take the first step and get a quote for solar, visit the Chap-
ter website at http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org and click on the
Solar Evaluation Link on the home page. Once you do, Sungevity
will contact you to discuss whether solar is right for you. In
about five minutes, they can give you a really good idea about
how much it might save you. As always, you are encouraged
to do adequate comparison shopping for your solar solution.

Membership Meetings
Tuesday, July 3 “From River to Sea”
Speaker: Cal French
(see write up Page 9)
Tuesday, August 7 “Is Rooftop Solar For You?”
Speakers: San Gorgonio Energy Team
(see write up Page 10)
Programs begin at 7:30 p.m.
at the San Bernardino
County Museum, 2024 Orange
Tree Lane, Redlands
(California St. exit off 10 Fwy)

ATTENTION! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

W ith the Primary election behind
us, our endorsed
candidates, and those that we
will be endorsing this summer,
need our help. Yes, having the
Sierra Club endorsement can
really help an environmentally
committed candidate and the ability of the candidate to use our
endorsement seal on the literature
that she or he sends out, can help
get votes. But what candidates
really value, in addition to and
sometimes more than money,
is people who are willing to
put in some time helping with
the campaign. Typical tasks
include walking door-to-door in
precincts, making phone calls
(which can now be done from home),
volunteering in the campaign
office and putting labels on
campaign literature. Most of
these are group activities and can be a lot
of fun. You can typically work for just
an hour or two or you can volunteer for
10-20 hours a week. You get to decide.
I’d like the Club to have a database of
members who have expressed an interest
in helping one or more of our endorsed
candidates win election; People who I
can call or email when a candidate asks
for our help. I know that many of you
currently help on campaigns, but I’d like
to see us do this in a way that makes it
clear to the candidate that it was the Sierra
Club that helped, not just a random group
of volunteers. This can pay real dividends
for us when our candidate wins and
takes office. If you have any interest in helping,
please send me an email at Jono@Hildner.
com or call 760/861-5365.

We may not have endorsed many
candidates prior to the Primary, but they
all survived and will be going on to the
November General Election. Here’s how
they did:
Bob Buster, running for the 1st
Supervisor District in Riverside County
got a plurality of 39% of the vote, but
faces an uphill battle and will need our
help in the fall.
Norma Torres, running to hold her seat
in Assembly District 52 – Ontario, came
in first with 41.9% and will face Kenny
Cobble (35%) in November.
Mark Takano, running for the open seat
in Congressional District 41 – Riverside,
came in second with 30% of the vote and
will face John Tavaglione (45%) in the fall.

This could be a very tough battle and we
will need to help Mark any way we can.

Continued on Page 2 > >
The Palm and Pine is published six times per year January/February, March/April/ May/June, July/August/ September/October and November/ December. Submit all articles to the Editor by the 5th of the Month prior to issue. Preferred format is electronic mail. The Editor reserves the right to edit all work for reasons of space, clarity or libel. If you wish to have your photos or disks returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Outings must be submitted to the appropriate Outings Chair.

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Membership Information
There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5663 or ralphsalisbury@att.net

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
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10th Annual Xeriscape Garden Tour

Conserving water and water restrictions is a way of life in Big Bear Valley but it doesn’t mean homeowners have to go without beautiful, colorful gardens. The 10th Annual Xeriscape Garden Tour will highlight seven beautiful low-water use gardens that exemplify the best in Xeriscape landscaping plus two mountain nurseries. Held on Saturday, July 14th, this FREE self-guided tour leads participants through Big Bear Valley to see drought tolerant gardens that use the Xeriscape principles of landscaping.

The tour booklet will provide descriptions of each of the gardens as well as useful information on Xeriscape gardening. A highlighted map will make finding each home simple and easy. Volunteers and the homeowners will be on hand at each garden to answer any questions. Attendees will be able to vote for their favorite home with the winner of the People’s Choice Award receiving a gift certificate to a local nursery. You can pick-up a guide book and map at the start location, Emingers Mountain Nursery located at 41223 Big Bear Blvd., across from Denny’s, any time between 9 am and noon. The gardens will be open until 4 pm.

For more information contact Christie Walker at 909-866-5006.

July & August Meetings

Both of the next two meetings will be off site and NOT at the Discovery Center. The July meeting will be our annual pot luck poneroon boat ride aboard the Big Bear Queen on Thursday, 19th, departing from Big Bear Marina at 6:30 pm, sharp! The August meeting will be a hike and dessert potluck. The location has yet to be determined. Contact Christie Walker at 909-866-5006 or visit the group’s Web site at www.SierraClubBigBearGroup.org.

Mitsubishi Plant Tour

It was a plant tour and a plant tour. The Big Bear Group organized a tour of the Mitsubishi Cement plant in Lucerne Valley on May 22nd. Sierra Club members from both mountain and the desert groups met at the cement plant to take an educational tour of the rehabilitation process and witness the various stages in the reintroduction of native plants to the blighted landscape. Based on what we saw, restoration is a slow, labor-intensive process with results that won’t be recognizable for decades upon decades.

I n July and August the Mojave Group does not have a general meeting due to holidays etc. However, thanks to Melody and a group of regulars, the weekly evening conditioning walks continue through the summer months. We walk about 3 miles on Wednesday and sometimes 6 miles on Monday and Friday. We hope you will join us for an evening of animated conversation and exercise! See the outings section for more information. Melody, our outings chair, has also been encouraging us to attend the Pacific Crest Trail Fest in Big Bear (see below) and to lead some summer hikes on the Pacific Crest Trail (see the outings section). In the summer months many Mojave Group members enjoy hikes on the Pacific Crest Trail near Big Bear and Wrightwood; in the fall, winter and spring we often hike the sections near Lake Silverwood, and in the Deep Creek Canyon. There are many trailheads to this national treasure within an hour’s drive of the Victor Valley. “Our” section is in need of constant upkeep and repair, much of which occurs naturally by regular use by equestrians and hikers. Although the US Forest Service is ultimately responsible, scheduled trail maintenance occurs largely because of volunteer efforts by the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

“Trail Fest” On July 27, 28, 29 the Pacific Crest Trail Association is holding their annual event in our neighborhood! It will take place at the Northwoods Resort & Conference Center, 40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA. It is a weekend of fun with others who also appreciate the wonders of the Pacific Crest Trail and perhaps some who have hiked the entire trail from Mexico to Canada! There will be a Gear & Information Fair, trail classes, workshops, stories, movies, PCTA’s Volunteer and Partners Awards, an opportunity to hike the trail and also do some trail maintenance. On Sunday there will be family activities at the Big Bear Discovery Center. The Mojave Group is joining with the Big Bear and Mountain groups to host a table in the Gear and Information Fair. For all the details go to http://www.pcta.org/

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail runs through the mountains that surround the Victor Valley, providing several very convenient access points for day hikes. This treasured pathway for hiking and equestrian use is one of the original National Scenic Trails established by Congress in the 1968 National Trails System Act. Beginning in Southern California at the Mexican Border the PCT travels a distance of 2,650 miles through California, Oregon, and Washington and includes some of the most outstanding scenic terrain in the United States. The idea of a long distance footpath was conceived by Clinton C. Clarke in 1932 who then formed a Pacific Crest Trail System Conference to plan the trail and to lobby the federal government to protect the trail. The conference also included the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, and Ansel Adams. Volunteers formed the Pacific Crest Trail Association and in conjunction with the government it was finally declared finished in 1993. In May of each year I look forward to the great pleasure of meeting up with some of the 300+ hikers who attempt to complete the 2,650 miles in one season! This year, while doing graffiti cleanup in the Deep Creek Canyon I talked to about 15 such “through” hikers. First timers say the same thing – that the Deep Creek Canyon is the most scenic section so far (about 300 miles into the hike). Deep Creek has been proposed as a “wild and scenic river,” however, the graffiti on the canyon walls has been...
AAs mentioned in our news in the previous issue of the Palm & Pine, the city of Moreno Valley has apparently partnered with developer Iddo Benzeevi, Highland Fairview, to consider a 41.6 million square foot warehousing project in eastern Moreno Valley called the World Logistics Center. The project would place warehouse space equivalent to 700 regulation football fields (2,000 acres) on land that is south of Highway 60. This massive warehousing project would generate at least 25,000 daily diesel trips and would share a two mile border with the north side the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. At their May 22 city council meeting the city council voted 3-2 to include 20 private properties, many with homes & families, within the project boundary. About a dozen speakers asked that their lands be excluded from the project. The city already has the Moreno Highlands Specific Plan in place for the project area. The twenty year development agreement will expire in September. Many are speculating that the developer wants to have his warehouse plan approved and in place by the time the existing development agreement expires. In June the city planning staff indicated there is no firm timeline in place for the project, nor is there a date to which we might draft the environmental impact report would be released, no dates for hearings are set although there are indications that the project proponent would like to have action on the proposal sometime in September. The Press-Enterprise editorial board wondered whether the obvious bias of the city council on in a May 29 editorial: http://www.pcc.com/opinion/editorials-headlines/20120529-moore valley-council-bias. More information can be found at: http://www.morenovalley.ca.us/ env-form0518.html Contact for the project is John Terell, Planning Official; telephone (951) 413-3226, e-mail jterell@moval.org It would be apparent that if you would consider asking to be put on the list for all documents and meetings related to the project.

Please donate what you can to help our Moreno Valley Group make comments on the World Logistics Center’s massive environmental documents. If we could afford some professional comments to supplement those of our volunteers, it would probably make a huge difference in their final project. If we later decide to litigate, these comments could make the difference between losing and winning. Please send your much appreciated donations: to Sierra Club, Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. The City of Moreno Valley is holding a series of meetings to consider the city’s Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Strategy. A public outreach meeting and planning commission meeting were scheduled to be held in June. A city council study session is scheduled for August 13; another planning commission meeting on September 13, & a city council meeting on October 9. This opportunity to let the city know how important a climate action plan is, something that will improve our quality of life and save energy in Moreno Valley as well as significantly increase our contribution to global warming/climate change. Here is the link for the document: http://www.moval.org/ misc/pdf/res-act-strategy220512.pdf For more information contact project planner Gabriel Diaz at gabriel.diaz@moval.org & (951) 413-3226. According to Riverside County planning staff the draft environmental impact report for the Riverside County General Plan Update (GPU) has been delayed and will now be released in December. The county Planning Commission could possibly consider the plan in March/April 2013. The county Board of Supervisors could consider the plan in May or June 2013. The GPU will impact all of us within Riverside County as it will lay out land use designsations for years to come, address sprawl, global climate change, noise and open space issues. Land use designations will significantly impact the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and also open up valuable agricultural lands for development. County planner for the GPU is Frank Coyce, Riverside County Planning Department, fcoyle@rcvlda.org or (951) 955-2706. New information about the Moro Lakeview Ranch Specific Plan 366 indicates that the Draft Environmental Impact Report was to be released in early June. The proposed project plans to put 2,000 homes on land north of the Ramona Expressway and south of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (northeast of the Villages of Lakewatch project site). Prime farm lands would be lost; it would have devastating impacts on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. For more information, contact project planner Matt Straitre, (951) 955-8631, e-mail mstraitre@rcvlda.org.

The Moreno Valley Group hosted an information table at the Earth Night in the Garden event held on April 19 at the Western Municipal Water District gardens in Riverside. Volunteers handed out information about the Sierra Club talked about local planning issues, and gave out nature-oriented temporary tattoos for children. Many visitors stopped by our table and took time to learn about the Sierra Club. A big Thank You to Manya Juanino for organizing flyers, membership forms, handouts & volunteers for our table! And another big thank you to our volunteers: Barbara Dean, Theresa Carson, Kathryn Jones, Manya Juanino, Steve Juanino, Joannah Lipscomb, and Ann McKibbin.

According to Theresa Caroom, Group Outings Chair, group hikes will restart in October when the weather is cooler. This is our opportunity to let the city know how important a climate action plan is, something that will improve our quality of life and save energy in Moreno Valley as well as significantly increase our contribution to global warming/climate change. Here is the link for the document: http://www.moval.org/misc/pdf/res-act-strategy220512.pdf For more information contact project planner Gabriel Diaz at gabriel.diaz@moval.org & (951) 413-3226. According to Riverside County planning staff the draft environmental impact report for the Riverside County General Plan Update (GPU) has been delayed and will now be released in December. The county Planning Commission could possibly consider the plan in March/April 2013. The county Board of Supervisors could consider the plan in May or June 2013. The GPU will impact all of us within Riverside County as it will lay out land use designations for years to come, address sprawl, global climate change, noise and open space issues. Land use designations will significantly impact the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and also open up valuable agricultural lands for development. County planner for the GPU is Frank Coyce, Riverside County Planning Department, fcoyle@rcvlda.org or (951) 955-2706. New information about the Moro Lakeview Ranch Specific Plan 366 indicates that the Draft Environmental Impact Report was to be released in early June. The proposed project plans to put 2,000 homes on land north of the Ramona Expressway and south of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (northeast of the Villages of Lakewatch project site). Prime farm lands would be lost; it would have devastating impacts on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. For more information, contact project planner Matt Straitre, (951) 955-8631, e-mail mstraitre@rcvlda.org.

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Information Table at Earth Night in the Garden. Photographer: Ann McKibbin.

A highlight, for us, was the chance to see a Southern Rubber Boa (see photo). The elusive and seldom-seen reptile is a leading character in every EIR we review and its protection is important to us.

Rumors of the World Recreation and Park District is sponsoring four Family Summer Hikes (two in July and two in August) and Outings Leader Don Fischer, of the Mountains Group, will be leading the hikes. Don and Bob Kinzel (of both Rec. and Park and the Mountains Group) wanted to offer local hikes that could get kids (and their folks) out for a visit to our natural environment. Visit our website (http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/mountains/) for more information about the hikes. Just click on “Squirrel Tracks – Summer Issue” to see the flyer.

Developments battle are simmering quietly at the moment. We’ve done our thing (letters, comments, etc.) and now we’re waiting on various agencies to do what they do. Our brightest and best are constantly watching for signs of life on these projects and will blow the whistle at the earliest moment should anything stir. I’m not going to mention who it is that we are watching… but they know who they are!
CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE: Items for the September/October Calendar are due by July 31, 2012.
FORMAT: Items similar to these below. Send items electronically if possible.
OUTLOOK: Send your Outlook appointments to info@siangorgione.sierroclub.org
MEETINGS & other events: Send to Ralph Salisbury at ralphsalisbury@att.net.

GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES & DISCLAIMERS
All Outings and Chapter events are subject to change. See our website for the most current information. Sierra Club cannot be held liable for any changes or cancellations.

ADDRESSING OUTING INVITATIONS
I agree to go forward & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has decided to leave & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.

I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY
To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCLAIM CLAIMS, & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, to DIMINISH & HOLD HARMLESS the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders from any & all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries & Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders, in any way connected with the Sierra Club. The Leader is not a physician & make no medical decisions.

If I decide to leave early & not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.

This Agreement is intended to be as broad & inclusive as possible by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of the Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, this remainder of the Agreement shall not be affected thereby & shall remain valid & fully enforceable.

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JUNE 25 – JULY 1
Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JUNE 25 (TUE) 8:00 AM  THE SEEDS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DESERT MEETING  

JUNE 25 (TUE) 5:30 PM  SAN BERNARDINO CREEK TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JUNE 26 (WED) 7:30 AM  JENNY'S LAKE TO JACOBS CANYON HIKE  

JUNE 26 (WED) 7:30 PM  SAN BERNARDINO CREEK TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JUNE 27 (THU) 7:30 PM  JENNY'S LAKE TO JACOBS CANYON HIKE  

JUNE 28 (FRI) 7:30 PM  JENNY'S LAKE TO JACOBS CANYON HIKE  

JUNE 29 (SAT) 7:30 PM  JENNY'S LAKE TO JACOBS CANYON HIKE  

JUNE 30 (SUN) 7:30 PM  JENNY'S LAKE TO JACOBS CANYON HIKE  

JULY 1 (MON) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 2 (TUE) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 3 (WED) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 4 (THU) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 5 (FRI) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 6 (SAT) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 7 (SUN) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 9 (TUE) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 10 (WED) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 11 (THU) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 12 (FRI) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 13 (SAT) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 14 (SUN) 7:30 PM  JACOBS CANYON TO JENNY'S LAKE HIKE  

JULY 16 – JULY 22
Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JULY 16 - 20 (MON)  BIGHORN PEAK BACKPACK  

JULY 17 (TUE) 6:00 PM  OCTAVIO MEETING  

JULY 18 (WED) 7:30 PM  COMINO PEAK HIKE  

JULY 19 (THU) 7:00 PM  OCTAVIO MEETING  

JULY 20 – 22 (FRI-SUN)  LITTLE BIGHORN BACKPACK  

JULY 20-21 (SAT-SUN)  80TH ANNIVERSARY "PTG" ENCAMPMENT  

JULY 22 (TUE) 7:30 PM  OCTAVIO MEETING  

JULY 23 – JULY 29
Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)
JULY 24 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Meeting on page 6. For more info and meeting place contact Terrence McCorkle at 760-252-2194 or 760-412-1683 (cell) and oldhikerdude@verizon.net

**JUL 25 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER GATHERING
**JUL 28 (SAT) 8:00 AM VAN DUSES CYN ROAD TO CUSHENBERRY PASS HIKE
**AUG 11 (SAT) 7:00 AM GOLD MOUNTAIN HIKE
**AUG 18 (SAT) 7:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**AUG 25 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK BEST OF BIG BEAR Hike
**AUG 25 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**SEP 1 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**SEP 8 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**SEP 15 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**SEP 22 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**SEP 29 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**OCT 6 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
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**OCT 20 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**OCT 27 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**NOV 3 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**NOV 10 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**NOV 17 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**NOV 24 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**DEC 1 (SAT) 8:00 AM BERTHA PEAK VIA COUGAR CREST TRAIL HIKE
**AUGUST 20 – AUGUST 26
Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings

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If you have any questions related to the outings and activities, please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings.
NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following activities, meeting & events are neither sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & makes no representations or warranties about the accuracy, content, or supervisory adequacy of the information. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

NON-SIERRA CLUB RECURING WEEKLY & MONTHLY MEETINGS (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

AUG 13 (FRI) 7:00 PM I-10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201. PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables and socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

AUG 17 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB A non-Sierra Club event. The UC Riverside folk dance club meets twice monthly to enjoy international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highland University Methodist Church, 900 W. Center St., Highland. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from I-215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFORMATION: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 624-4427 <gail.seekins@globalnet.com> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-3409.

AUG 20 (TUE) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB A non-Sierra Club event. The UC Riverside folk dance club meets twice monthly to enjoy international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highland University Methodist Church, 900 W. Center St., Highland. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from I-215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFORMATION: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 624-4427 <gail.seekins@globalnet.com> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-3409.

AUG 27-28 (TUE-WED) TRAIL FEST PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION The 2012 Trail Fest will be held at the Nutwood's Inn Big Bear on the weekend of Aug 25-26. All hikers are encouraged to attend the opening ceremony, meet new and old friends, attend trail classes and visit the vendor and info fair. Spend a day hiking with others or volunteer for trail maintenance. Registration is required to advance and can be done in line or on line. Stay at the Inn for the weekend or camp nearby at one of the Big Bear Campgrounds. The Sierra Club Big Bear Group, Mountain Top Group, and Mojave Group will be sharing a table at the vendor and info fair.

AUG 3 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB A non-Sierra Club event. The UC Riverside folk dance club meets twice monthly to enjoy international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $2 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highland University Methodist Church, 900 W. Center St., Highland. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from I-215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFORMATION: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 624-4427 <gail.seekins@globalnet.com> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-3409.

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JULY/AUGUST 2012

SEP 4 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP SEP 4 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING Chapter governance meeting. (No December meeting.) PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RALPH SALIBER (959) 661-4614 <ralphj@saliber.com>. CHAPTER SEP 8 (SAT) 9 AM PCT - ACORN TRAIL TO VINCENT GAP HIKE Come join other hikers for a moderate 11-12 mile hike in the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area from John's Meadow to Vincent Gap. Bring 2-3 quarts of water, sturdy boots and lunch/snacks. For more info and meeting place contact Terrence McCorkle at (909) 350-2934 or tmc320@libertyemail.net.

SEP 8 (SAT) 7:30 AM PCT - INSPIRATION POINT TO VINCENT GAP HIKE Enjoy a moderate 8-9 mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) from Inspiration Point to Vincent Gap and back to Inspiration Point. Bring 4-5 quarts of water, sturdy boots and lunch. For more info, meeting place and contact call Terrence McCorkle at 909-350-2934 or tmc320@libertyemail.net.

SEP 8 (SAT) 9 AM PCT - FRAY FRIAS HIKE This is a monthly hiking event to the Fray Frias. The hike is approximately 8-9 miles, take a moderate pace. Bring 3-4 quarts of water, snacks, sunscreen, shade clothing, good hiking shoes, sunglasses and sunhat. PLACE: Meet at the Vincent Gap parking lot. DIRECTIONS: From I-10 at California St. Take the Center St. exit east. Bear left onto Pine St. The trailhead is on the right. INFORMATION: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309.

SEP 8 (SAT) 9 AM PCT - INSPIRATION POINT TO JOSHUA TREE HIKE This is a moderate 7-8 mile hike to Inspiration Point and back from the same parking area. Bring 3-4 quarts of water, sturdy boots and lunch. Meet at the Vincent Gap parking lot. DIRECTIONS: From I-10 at California St. Take the Center St. exit east. Bear left onto Pine St. The trailhead is on the right. INFORMATION: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309.

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Hiking, biking and equestrian trail systems in Southwest Riverside County has always been a high priority for the Santa Margarita Group. In addition to using them, we are active in their preservation, expansion and mapping.

A long term goal of our Group is to develop a full service trail that follows the Santa Margarita River between Temecula and the Pacific Ocean. But there has always seemed like insurmountable obstacles to our goal. Not the least of these barriers is the security requirements of the Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base at the ocean’s edge and the 4000 plus acre research field station operated by San Diego State University. But recently it seems that we are getting closer to making the Temecula Ocean Trail a reality. San Diego State has now agreed to work with the City of Temecula to come up with a lease agreement to open up part of the ecological reserve to the public. This is just the beginning, but it is a significant step in the right direction to make a trail from Temecula to the Pacific Ocean a reality.

Pam Nelson, Conservation & Educational Outreach Committee Chair
Our Conservation efforts have been extensive recently. I listed 3 Earth Day events (Temecula, Glen Ivy and Anza) and took material up to the Earth Fair in Idylwild. I think we should have a table there next year. It’s a great event and was well attended. Dave Santiny of the Tortoise and Turtle Club and Desert Tortoise Council attended 2 of the events, as well as Teri Biancardi’s tortoises. They presented the plight of the tortoise and the rescue opportunities available.

We are sending a format for our members to comment on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the amendment to the Forest Service’s land management plan focusing on the lack of road less additions in the Santa Ana Mountains. Comments are due on June 11th.

Our Educational Outreach effort through the Outdoor Families program is going very well. Teri Biancardi is managing a meetup.com site that has attracted over 50 members. Our outings are very well attended and we have been getting conservation themes out to these families while having lots of fun. Last May we visited Huibs-Sea World Marine Institute in Carlsbad where the fish hatchery is breeding and restoring wild sea bass populations. There we were limited to 25 people and that was exactly the number we had, not to mention a few babes in arms. In April we picked strawberries and learned about hydroponic strawberry growing at the Temecula Valley Strawberry Farm. In June we made our third visit to the Santa Margarita River where we explored its route to the ocean. We have visited its origin, the area in the gorge at the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve and now the river bed adjacent to Fallbrook. For more information, please email me at pamnel65n@yahoo.com.

Bob Audibert, Outings Committee Chair

By Gary Marsalone
In July we have 2 excellent hikes planned. On Saturday, July 07, starting at 7am we will hike Suicide Rock. You will enjoy a day in the mountains! This is a 7 mile out and back hike to Suicide Rock. The hike is moderately difficult with about 1900 ft of elevation gain. I like this trail in the summer because much of it is shaded by pines and oaks and the view from the rock is breathtaking. Directions to the Suicide Rock Hike: From the Ranger Station in Idylwild drive 1 mile north on highway 243. Park on the north side of the road across from the County Park Nature Center. As always bring plenty of water, a lunch, comfortable hiking shoes, dress in layers and don’t forget the sunscreen. This hike will be limited to the first 12 (12) people that preregister. Contact Gary Marsalone at (555) 663-1201 or hikesci@gmail.com SANTA MARGARITAGROUP RAIN CANCELS

On Sunday, July 29, starting at 9am join us for a four mile hike in Palomar Mountain State Park. The hike will begin at the Doane Pond parking area. I will use several trails to form a loop hike of about four miles. This is a moderately difficult hike with about 800+ of elevation gain/loss. A wonderful place to spend a summer day. We will hike through beautiful meadows and dark forests of oak and conifers. The western part of the loop offers spectacular views of the San Luis Rey River Valley. There is an 8 per car day fee use at the park. No wilderness pass is needed. Directions to the Palomar Mountain Hike: From Highway 76 at the foot of Palomar Mountain take South Grade Road to East Grade Road to where the two meet called Crestline, high atop the mountain. From there follow East Grade Road west toward Palomar Mountain State Park. Once you get past the park entrance, just keep making right turns on paved roads until you reach the parking lot for Doane Pond. As always bring plenty of water, a snack, dress in layers, sunscreen and wear comfortable hiking shoes. There are picnic areas within the park for a post hike picnic, and fishing is permitted at Doane Pond which is stocked. You must have a fishing license. Leader: Bob Audibert. To register or if you have questions, email me at bob.takeahike1@gmail.com or call me at (951)302-1059. RAIN CANCELS

Fred Bartz, Political Committee Chair

LIBERTY QUARRY – What was expected to be a routine confirmation of their original DENIAL of the Liberty Quarry project, turned out to be not only a confirmation of the DENIAL, but unexpectedly, the Riverside Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to certify the Liberty Quarry’s Environmental Impact Report. This eliminates one more hurdle Granite Construction, the project applicant must meet to get the proposed mega-quarry approved. Now, many of the groups opposed to the Liberty Quarry project’s location, significant health and environmental impacts are deciding on what grounds they may separately, or jointly, decide to file lawsuit(s) against the County’s decision. At the time of the writing of this update, the Sierra Club has not determined the next best action to take.

Earth Share is not part of your employer’s workplace giving campaign? We’d like to do something about that. Call Ladd Seekins at 909-888-0161 weekdays or 909-925-4427 evenings and weekends. Address e-mail to iwlfadd@eee.org.

Share in Cal French’s Journey from River-to-Sea at Our July 3rd Chapter Meeting

T he July 3 chapter meeting features Cal French speaking on his 530-mile journey from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum, 204 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Beginning on the first day of spring 2011, former San Gorgonio Chapter leader Cal French set out on foot from the Colorado River to cross the Mojave Desert and continue on to the Pacific Ocean. His goal was not simply to backpack 530 miles to Morro Bay. More important was his plan to demonstrate that public lands and private conservancy lands make vital connections from the river to the sea.

Years ago, Elden Hughes, a champion for wild open spaces, had pointed out that public lands—Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Game lands almost interconnect across California. The “almost” consisted in two large ranches, the mammoth Tejon Ranch and the San Emigdio Ranch in the mountains south of the San Joaquin Valley. In recent years, conservancies have protected about 400,000 acres here, tying the vital connection between the Mojave, the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Cal took 47 days to make his 530-mile trek, joined here and there by friends, including San Gorgonio’s Joan Taylor for the Southern Sierra portion. He and the others were resupplied with water and food at vital road crossings by Cal’s wife Letty. His goal of going cross-country, avoiding roads, including the four-wheel-drive Mojave Road proved a big challenge as did staying on public and conservancy lands. A sign reading “Trespassers will be shot at and then prosecuted” helped him stay on the narrow path at one point.

With the development of huge solar plants and wind farms out public lands and large, open private parcels the resilience of desert and mountain habitats is ever more threatened. Yet if 74-year-old man can find connections across California maybe threatened species of plants and animals can do the same.
getting increasingly menacing over the past few decades. The beautiful rocks are then usually painted over which just creates a new canvas for the graffiti and often the paint is not well matched to the color of the rocks. People do not come from all over the world to look at graffiti in one of the most scenic river canyons in Southern California. In the last few years, I have been experimenting with a simple and natural method of scraping or pecking the graffiti with a rock and then covering the spot with a clay-based mud. The through hikers and others I meet on this section of the trail express their gratitude. I also saw many of the through hikers hauling out not just their heavy packs but also bags of trash that they had found left by locals. If you are also interested in this section of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, please contact me at JensOusis@aol.com or call 760 220 0730. This is an ongoing problem that will not go away unless people take action. That action may be to continue to hike the section and report problems, help with the graffiti mudding and consistently hauling out a bag of trash. Suspicious or illegal activity that does not require emergency response should be reported as soon as possible to local rangers (909 383 5651) or local law-enforcement (760 245 4211) and now you can report incidents on line at http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/pct/home/?cid=stelprdb5361615.

There’s a maze of forms and permits that provide credits, rebates and energy credits available but how do you find what’s available to you? This is an ongoing problem that will not go away unless people take action. That action may be to continue to hike the section and report problems, help with the graffiti mudding and consistently hauling out a bag of trash. Suspicious or illegal activity that does not require emergency response should be reported as soon as possible to local rangers (909 383 5651) or local law-enforcement (760 245 4211) and now you can report incidents on line at http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/pct/home/?cid=stelprdb5361615.

Students: Check out http://www.ssc.org
Get Involved – Whether you’re brand new to activism or you’ve been organizing for years, the Sierra Student Coalition offers many ways to plug into the youth clean energy movement.

• Stay Connected •
Sign up for the SSC Update, our monthly newsletter, to stay up to date on the SSC’s campaigns and highlights. Join the SSC Energy Forum to receive e-mails about energy campaigns and new opportunities and events.

Find Out if Rooftop Solar is Right For You at Our July 7th Chapter Meeting

F or m os t everyone, the cost for electricity consumed is the largest part of your monthly utility bill. That is unless you have rooftop solar (a photo-voltaic system) on your home. The cost of these systems has fallen considerably:

what didn’t make economic sense before may work to your advantage now. But most people have found the issue confusing and difficult to see the economic advantages. There’s a maze of forms and permits involved. Is it best to lease or purchase? Besides the Federal Investment Tax Credit there are many additional rebates and energy credits available but how do you find what’s available to you?

Our August program will help answer these questions and more. Information will be provided about the Federal Tax Credit, State programs and other local programs that provide credits, rebates and assistance. The Sierra Club’s Solar Home Program will be reviewed so you can better understand how it works and if you might be a good candidate. But rooftop solar isn’t the only way to save money on your electric bill. Energy audits are a great way to discover the most cost-effective changes you can make. Even for those with lower monthly energy bills, there may be many additional ways to save even more. Tips on creating shade along with some of the best shade trees will be provided. Insulation, whether in the attic or your walls, and insulated (dual-pane) windows will be reviewed.

There will be tips on energy-saving lighting and Energy Star appliances. Just how much energy can you save by replacing older appliances? Is it cost effective? How long does it take to pay for itself? What is a whole-house fan? You should know as it saves significant dollars and they aren’t expensive at all. It’s a sure bet that the cost of energy will climb. Every step you take now will be compounded month after month in savings. Now is the time to act.

Eureka to San Francisco • Sept. 9-13, 2012
5 days • 320 miles
You can enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride in Northern California while supporting Sierra Club California. Climate Ride is a fully supported bicycle ride from Fortuna to San Francisco under towering redwoods, through the Russian River Wine Country, and along the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route. Climate Ride is more than a bike trip. It’s an inspiring journey with 150 like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles—the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. Climate Ride also features an acclaimed nightly speakers series, known as the ‘green conference on wheels,’ where we hear from bright minds in policy, advocacy and innovation.

Please Sign Up for Climate Ride 2012 and Support Sierra Club California
Registration for Climate Ride is $75 (which includes a beautiful jersey and more), and then you raise at least $2400 to participate in the five-day, all-inclusive event. The ride is fully-supported by a team of talented leader-hosts, bike mechanics, medics, and massage therapists. When you sign up, you’ll be joining many other people who want to do something to help create a better future for us all. Climate Ride is a great way to get involved and experience an amazing adventure, powered by your own energy. The best bet is to sign up early not only so you have time to fundraise and train, but also because spots fill up! Visit www.climateride.org to find out about the route, tips for getting in shape, and finding sponsors for your trip.

Everyone who registers for the ride gets to choose which organization they will be raising money for – and we hope you will choose Sierra Club California! Please visit www.SierraClubCalifornia.org to learn about the work the Sacramento advocates do at the Capitol and state agencies. If you would like to learn more about the event or other ways to support Sierra Club California, please contact Vicki Lee at 510-741-1201.
In case you have not heard or read, we have won a wonderful court decision on the Villages of Lakeview’s 11,350 housing units on the southern border of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Below is the press release prepared by our attorneys from Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger and the Center for Biological Diversity as well as individuals connected to the environmental groups. When you make donations and bequests to all the local environmental Groups involved in the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club as well as to the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley, San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society and the Center for Biological Diversity – you help win important cases like this. Thanks to all of you who made donations and perhaps plan to make bequests to these groups.

Judge Waters’ final Statement of Decision confirms that we have won the case. The County must go back to the court to enter its judgment. This is where the court will decide the actual remedy; whether to order the County to undo the project approval, or as we wish, or some other sort of remedy. Since the developer opposes our proposed judgment, we can expect significant debate about the outcome. She was president of the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley for many years. She stepped down last year only after the case was before the judge and in the hands of our attorneys. Ann continues her environmental work as an Executive Committee member of the Moreno Valley Group of the Sierra Club. The 10,000-acre San Jacinto Wildlife Area is located adjacent to and east of 9,000-acre Lake Perris. It is a cornerstone of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan with more than 65 of those species of plants and animals found there – including several threatened and endangered species. The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society’s Christmas bird count usually counts 145-160 different species in the area and this year places it in the top 1%-2% of all inland areas of North America for diversity of bird species. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area provides habitat for 25 species of raptors, which include five species of owls. We should all be very happy and cautiously optimistic about the pending remedy.

Riverside Superior Court Issues Final Decision Against Mega-Development

The judge also found that the County did not have properly analyzed the project’s cumulative effects. The judge held that the approved Villages of Lakeview would generate at least 8,500 car trips daily, which would collectively add up to 17,000 million new miles of car travel each year. These car trips would significantly increase the County’s greenhouse gas emissions and darken air quality, which is already rated by the American Lung Association as some of the worst in the nation. The judge did not find that the proposed Villages of Lakeview would warrant any new development; it is no good to make this proposal. The judge found that the Villages of Lakeview area would be significantly worse for the development.

The lawsuit was filed in response to the County’s approval of the development. Villages of Lakeview was to be sited northwest of the City of San Jacinto and was slated to include over 11,350 residential units and 1,000 square feet of commercial space. Plaintiffs argued that the development would cause significant environmental damage and degrade regional quality of life. The proposed development would have edged up to the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The 19,000-acre Wildlife Area represents an $80 million public investment in conservation. The public resource has long served as an outdoor classroom for area schools and is familiarly enjoyed by fishermen, bird watchers and hikers. In 2004, the Wildlife Area was designated a core reserve in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, which is designed to protect 146 imperiled species in the region.

The County of Riverside ignored California law and its own local ordinances when it gave the green light to the massive Villages of Lakeview development, said Rachel Hooper of Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger, LLP, who represented several of the plaintiffs in the case.

The rule was established that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) did not sufficiently analyze and mitigate for cumulative effects in those groups who would be negatively impacted by the project and that the County should have recirculated the EIR for public comment after it disclosed the project would emit significant amounts of pollutants than originally calculated. The court also found that the County did not adequately consider the impacts the project would have on regional traffic and on the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The County should never have approved a new city next to one of California’s most important bird habitats,” said David Evans, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. “Luring tens of thousands of residents to the edge of the environmentally sensitive San Jacinto Wildlife Area is a reckless decision that was properly rejected by the court. It is estimated that residents of the proposed Villages of Lakeview would generate at least 8,500 car trips daily, which would collectively add up to 17,000 million new miles of car travel each year. These car trips would significantly increase the County’s greenhouse gas emissions and worsen air quality, which is already rated by the American Lung Association as some of the worst in the nation. The judge did not find that the proposed Villages of Lakeview would warrant any new development; it is no good to make this proposal. The judge found that the Villages of Lakeview area would be significantly worse for the development.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruise

August 12-14, 2012

Join The Team!

A Call for Executive Committee Volunteers

The Executive Committee (the Excom) of the San Gorgonio Chapter is designed to be comprised of nine elected members and seven Group representatives. We currently have eight elected members, one appointed member and seven Group reps. Three of the elected members and the one appointed member are serving terms that end in December. That means that the Nominating Committee for this year’s Executive Committee election is looking for candidates to fill four available positions. Even if all four incumbents are willing to run for re-election we would still like to find at least one more candidate. You can help us do that. We are especially hoping to find Chapter members living in the Riverside or San Bernardino areas (and not part of one of our Groups) that are interested in providing input and helping us gain perspective about environmental issues and opportunities in those areas. You do not have to be an environmental expert, you just need to know your community and have an interest in improving it. We will help you learn what to look for and who to watch and how to get involved.

San Gorgonio Chapter Executive Committee Election Rules

1. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed on, or before, July 24, 2012.
2. Nominees for the election must be San Gorgonio Chapter members who give their consent to be nominated.
3. Requests for nomination must be received by August 27th and a final list of nominees will be available from the Chapter office on August 28th.
4. If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate will be notified and may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate. To obtain Petition Candidate information, contact Ann Turner-McKibben at mtkmckibben@verizon.net.
5. The name of any Chapter member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 15 Chapter members. Petitions with valid signatures are to be sent to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 708, Blue Jay, Ca 92317 and must be received by 6 pm on September 14th.
6. An Election Committee shall be appointed, or before, September 25th, 2012.
7. All San Gorgonio Chapter members as of September 1st, 2012 shall be sent ballots.
8. Ballots will be mailed (as part of The Palm and Pine) by October 26th.
9. Final receipt date for ballots shall be November 26th, at 12 noon.
10. Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at 6:30 pm on November 27th at the Chapter office.
11. The two year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on January 1, 2013, and will run through December 31, 2014.

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds, and watch for the enclsks that can help us inwards outwards meeting and communication techniques. Or, perhaps, your background would be useful in fundraising or membership drives. You know what you can do, tell us! If you would like to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you would want to present for nomination, please contact Mike Millesha at mmilleshav@verizon.net
Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Preserve The Future

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