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Membership Meetings

Tuesday, January 3
“Reducing Plastic Pollution With Natural Compostable Alternatives”
Speaker: Rick Klein
(see write up Page 2)

Tuesday, February 7
“Darwin’s Enchanted Islands: The Galápagos”
Speaker: Brian Elliott
(see write up Page 8)

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m.
at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands
(California St. exit off 10 Frey)

Longtime Sierra Club Leader, Elden Hughes, Dies at 80

A lifelong environmental advocate, helped spearhead efforts to protect the California wilderness, including his beloved Mojave Desert.

by Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times, December 5, 2011

Elden Hughes holds Scottie, a tortoise who accompanied him to Washington as a guest of President Clinton to witness the signing of the California Desert Protection Act in 1994. Hughes lobbied tirelessly for the law, making an impression in congressional offices by using tiny baby desert tortoises as irresistibly cute calling cards. (Miki Kr Turner, For The Times / November 3, 1994)

Many of us have heard of and followed “Occupy Wall Street” in the news. I have had the opportunity to spend time with the Occupy Coachella Valley folks several times over the past six weeks. I have been very impressed with the passion exhibited by the participants for inclusion, sharing, consensus decision making, along with transparency. Please read the news articles below and consider exploring the world of “Occupy” yourself. Our members have many skills and passions, that if shared with “Occupy”, would help the effort move our nation toward a better place to live, work, grow and care about each other and the world.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2011
Contact: Kim Floyd, Conservation Chair, 760-680-9479

Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter issued the following statement:

The Sierra Club also supports peaceful, non-violent protest and demonstration as among the highest forms of citizen engagement in our democracy – it is our right.

Across California, the Sierra Club is working to hold corporate polluters accountable for polluting our air, land and water, hurting our health, subverting our democracy, and strangling our economy. Investment in clean energy can create millions of good jobs and save working families money on healthcare. We must work together to expand economic opportunity and equality by moving America beyond dirty, dangerous coal and oil.

The Sierra Club also supports peaceful protest and demonstration as among the highest forms of citizen engagement in our democracy – it is our right.

We stand with the Occupy Wall Street movement against corporate greed and for a more equitable, clean and healthy America.

For the past several weeks, protesters have peacefully held vigils in hundreds of American cities including the Coachella Valley and the City of Riverside calling for financial, civic and economic reform under the banner of “Occupy Wall Street.” The “Occupy Wall Street” movement includes students, workers, labor union members, concerned citizens, and environmentalists including members and staff of the Sierra Club.

In response, Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter issued the following statement:

The Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter stands in solidarity with the “Occupy Wall Street” movement.

The Occupy Wall Street protests demonstrate that the struggles of working families and environmentalists are one and the same. For too long, corporate polluters like the Koch Brothers have used their massive profits to attack fundamental worker, health and environmental protections — while suppressing advancements in clean technology which would create millions of new jobs. For too long, Big Oil and other corporate polluters have targeted low income communities and communities of color for dumping their toxic industrial pollution, and shirked their responsibility for clean up. For too long, Wall Street and Big Banks have financed destructive environmental practices like mountaintop removal and coal mining.

Across California, the Sierra Club is working to hold corporate polluters accountable for polluting our air, land and water, hurting our health, subverting our democracy, and strangling our economy. Investment in clean energy can create millions of good jobs and save working families money on healthcare. We must work together to expand economic opportunity and equality by moving America beyond dirty, dangerous coal and oil.

99% of the final version of the protection act, said, “Hughes dedicated his life to the protection and revival of our great Mojave Desert and its tortoises. I’ll never forget when he brought a couple of tortoises to a large constituent breakfast and the amazed and glowing faces of youngsters when he told them they live for decades. Elden led a huge citizen effort in 1993 to support my Desert Protection Act. We will pass the second Desert Protection Act, now probably with Hughes’ name on the bill. He will be greatly missed.”

In 2003, Hughes helped the Wildlands Conservancy, a private, nonprofit environmental group, complete a massive land-buying program. More than 620,000 acres of former railroad parcels from the Salton Sea to the Colorado River purchased with $45 million in private donations collected by the conservancy and $18 million in federal funds were handed over to the public for preservation. In an interview at the time, Hughes, an honorary vice president of the Sierra Club, stood on a ridgeline high above a patch of former railroad property, breathed reverently and reached out with his hands to embrace the vistas of glistening ancient lava flows, dry washes pooled with cactus and a lone mountain where a blue bird flitted from smoke tree to cresso bush.

“My god, this landscape is grand,” he said.

Continued on Page 10
Chapter Program January 3, 2012

Reducing Plastic Pollution with Natural Compostable Alternatives

Our chapter meeting January 3 Rick Klein will speak about the health and environmental threats posed by Styrofoam and other plastics. He will give us alternatives that will help us reduce our “plastic footprint.” The meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands.

Disposable plastic packaging is a serious problem. Rick says: “We have become a disposable society! Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour. In the US we use about 710 thousand tons of Styrofoam cups and plates annually. More than 1 trillion plastic bags are used every worldwide about 1 million plastic bags every minute. A single plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to degrade. Plastic bags are the second-most common type of ocean refuse, after cigarette butts. Every square mile of ocean has about 46,000 pieces of plastic floating (46,000 pieces of plastic floating)

Rick represents EarthSmart, a manufacturer of petroleum-free, tree-free degradable, disposable tableware, packaging and soft paper products. Many of their products are made of all-natural sugarcane bagasse, a compostable by-product of sugar productions. Samples of EarthSmart products will be displayed during Rick’s PowerPoint presentation.

Ten years ago Rick was the state’s largest live bait supplier. He estimates that over the course of his business he had supplied about ten million Styrofoam live bait cups. On a fishing trip with friends in the Eastern Sierra, he came upon one of his cups floating in a remote stream. He realized that his use of Styrofoam, which does not noticeably degrade over time, had had a major negative impact on the environment.

Rick is a resident of Lake Arrowhead and a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead. He has made his plastics presentation at a number of local Rotary clubs.
November. This year, Ed Wallace was selected for his work as the Big Bear Group Conservation
Council member. Ed’s efforts have been vital to the protection of the San Gabriels, and he will be
a welcome addition to our committee.

New Board Member

Congratulations to our newest addition to the Big Bear Group Executive Committee, Linda Quiroz.
Linda served on the Xeriscape Garden Tour committee last year and is involved in the Big Bear
Community Garden Project. With Linda’s accounting background and love of the outdoors, Linda
will be a welcome addition to our committee.

Programs for 2012

Don’t miss two exciting travelogue programs in January and February of 2012. First up, Ed Wallace
will take you along through his photographs on his amazing 283 mile hike in the Sierras last summer in
our January 19th general meeting at 6:30 at the Discovery Center. Then on February 16th, experience
the sights, sounds and scents of Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, and Phnom Phen, Cambodia with photographer
Christie Walker. Learn about the international Habitat for Humanity build in Phnom Presh, where 22
houses were built in 5 days by 300 volunteers. A local Big Bear Habitat for Humanity spokesperson
will also be on hand to answer questions about local builds and how people can get involved. Great
photos, heartwarming stories and a great time on a cold winter night await those who attend.

Los Serranos Group

Los Serranos group members have been very active in the San Gabriel Mountains National
Recreation Area proposal from the National Park Service. Members attended public comment
meetings to speak up in favor of Alternative D. At the November LSG meeting, participants filled out comment forms to be sent to the National Park Service. Throughout Los Angeles area 4 public meetings were held by the LSG. At all but one meeting, the crowd majority was supportive of a National Recreation area for the San Gabriels. Public comment will be end of December 16, and can be made on line by visiting the LSG website for this proposal.

Los Serranos Group Ballot

Please vote for 2 or fewer
- Sue Brown
- Mary Ann Ruiz

Los Serranos Group Ballot

Please vote for 2 or fewer
- Mary Ann Ruiz

Big Bear Group

Big Bear Group’s Ed Wallace Honored as Volunteer of the Year

The Big Bear Group of the Sierra Club nominates and votes for a volunteer of the year every
November. This year, Ed Wallace was selected for his work as the Big Bear Group Conservation
Chair, hike leader, board member and volunteer. The Big Bear Group counts on Ed to attend all the
local planning meetings, review EIRs, write letters to developers, the city, and government officials.
Ed also coordinates all our Big Bear hike leaders and takes groups on backpacking and hikes in both
the local mountains and the High Sierras. Ed was honored at the Big Bear Group’s annual EsCom
Christmas party in December.

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will also be on hand to answer questions about local builds and how people can get involved. Great
photos, heartwarming stories and a great time on a cold winter night await those who attend.
The Moreno Valley Group is looking for Sierra Club Wilderness wall and Engagement desk calendars for 2012. Please take time to buy some calendars and support the Sierra Club. Contact Theresa Carson at (951) 924-4732 to buy calendars. They make great gifts as do giving someone a Sierra Club membership.

The release of the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the Riverside County General Plan Update (GPD) has been delayed again, but now they will include the very important Climate Action Plan. The public review period will tentatively start in the summer of 2012 with public hearings tentatively occurring in late fall or early winter of 2012. At this point in time there is no scheduled date for General Plan Advisory Committee to meet. George Hague and alternate Richard Stewart and William Batey voted in favor of the 1,000,000 square foot West Ridge Commerce Center warehouse. The Moreno Valley Group is looking for Mountain Barrie, Chair

Looking back means first, and foremost, lots of thanks to those that made a wonderful year possible. Your contributions, in many diverse ways, are truly invaluable. Thank you Steve Farrell for being, at your office (number is listed below) to verify information about the day use fee. The wildlife area is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week, but please verify fall hunting seasons. Some areas are closed to the public because of hunting) before visiting the SJWA. Call their office at (951) 928-0580 to verify all information. Seasonal hunting occurs at the SJWA and other state wildlife areas. Hunting fees help support the acquisition of wildlife habitat throughout the state of California. For more information:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region6/sanjacinto/ Please do not drive on Davis Road if it has rained or the road is muddy. For San Juan Creek/ Please do not drive on Davis Road if it has rained or the road is muddy. For San Jacinto/Manzano (Church of the Woods petition efforts). Thank you Heather Sargeant (and your fundraising crew) for keeping us “in the money” for environmental battles, for support of the Children’s Forest, and for our scholarship at the high school. And thanks Heather for all of the outings that you lead.

Thank you Bob Kizel for your work on the Church of the Woods project and for agreeing to serve on the Excom. Have we got some surprises out of that you lead.

Thank you Bill Engs for keeping our finances straight and for overseeing our Outings throughout the year. Hope you get better Birdwalk weather next year!

Thank you Sherry Noone for keeping us up to the minute with minutes, even while moving to a new home!

Thank you Don Fischer for getting our Conservation Committee up and running so well and for adding your energy and enthusiasm to our Outings team.

Thank you to Ann Fisher (Path and Pine Editor) for keeping back our newsletter, Squirrel Tracks, and for trying to help us to learn what words not to end a sentence with.

Thank you Bob Sherman (as you leave the their hours of operation and events. Information on Limited Use Golden Bear passes can be found at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23800. Those who are age 62 and older are eligible for this $10.00 annual pass which allows access to all state parks. This annual pass may be purchased anytime during the year but is good only until December 31. See the link for application and more information. Lake Perris is a very peaceful location to take daily walks along their paths and walkways. If you are up to it, there is a ten mile walking and biking path around the lake.

For more information about our group and volunteering with the Moreno Valley Group, contact Ann Mikkelson at (951) 924-8150, Theresa Carson, (951) 242-4732 or George Hague at (951) 924-0818 or e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com

The coming year holds challenges (like the coming year holds challenges (like...
In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign the following liability waiver:

**LIABILITY WAIVER**

By participating in an activity organized by the Sierra Club, its officers, agents, & leaders, you assume all the risks inherent in such activities, whether caused by the activity itself or by any other persons, animals, or objects, including any change in weather conditions that are beyond the control of the Sierra Club. You also agree to release the Sierra Club from any liability that may arise from such conditions.

You understand that during your participation in this Sierra Club Outing, you may be exposed to a variety of hazards & risks, whether caused by you or others, that cannot be eliminated. That includes, but is not limited to, the risk of exposure to natural hazards such as storms, floods, landslides, landslides, and other weather-related events; the risk of injury from collisions with other vehicles or pedestrians; the risk of injury from other persons, animals, or objects; the risk of injury to others as a result of your own actions; the risk of injury to others as a result of your own actions; the risk of injury from negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries & Damages are inherent in each Outing & cannot be eliminated in any way, even if it means that the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries & Damages can occur by nature or causes or actions or omissions of the Sierra Club or its agents or employees, including but not limited to, the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, & leaders. I further understand that the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks.

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards & risks, whether caused by you or others, that cannot be eliminated, without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the hazards of travel & the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries & Damages can occur by nature or causes or actions or omissions of the Sierra Club or its agents or employees, including but not limited to, the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, & leaders. I further understand that the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks.

Therefore, I hereby agree to release the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, & leaders from any liability that may arise from such conditions.

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DECEMBER 26 – January 1

**DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 1 (2ND MON) HOLIDAY IN CARRIZO PLAIN**

Once again we return to the Carrizo Plain to celebrate the end of the year and to offer participants and guests the chance to explore the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, fox, kit, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, 20 and a half days of service modifying barred wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch is included. LIMITED TO 14 participants, $30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year’s morning. For more INFORMATION, contact LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE <craig.deutsche@gmail.com> (310) 477-6670.

**CHAPTER**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

**FRI 7:00 PM** MOJAVE GROUP MEETING

Please join me for a 3-6 mile condition walking around Jess Ranch. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Road. The parking area is about an hour drive from downtown Apple Valley. BAGS flashlights, jacket & comfortable walking shoes. Wear layered clothing. Rainy/Foul weather cancels, so please call before hike. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (951) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

**9AM 60 MILES** DESERT RACE


**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

**NOON 60 MILES** DESERT RACE


**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

**10AM 75 MILES** DESERT RACE


**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

**11AM 30 MILES** DESERT RACE


**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

**12PM 50 MILES** DESERT RACE


**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1**

**12PM 100 MILES** DESERT RACE

Palm and Pine

JAN 3 (TUE) 7:30 PM  SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING

PROGRAM: See front-page notice. After San Gorgonio Sierra SINGLES will adjourn for food & drink. COST: $1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Museum Dr., Apple Valley. (The parking lot is behind the museum on 16th and Mountain, Upland Stater Bros parking lot to carpool. BRING: water, good hiking shoes and layered clothing. Rain cancels. LEADER: CRAIG DEETSCH (760) 328-1090 <cgdeetsch@msn.com> San Gorgonio Chapter)

JAN 5 (THU) 8:00 AM  SUNSET PEAK HIKE

This will be a moderate 7-mile round trip hike with great views of the San Jacinto Mtns. Bring a snack for when we return cars to Snow Creek Road. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat and gloves. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 <edc@berkeley.edu> BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 7 (SAT) 8:00 AM  MOONLIGHT HIKE HIKE

This hike will take us on a 4 mile climb of about 1,200 feet the terrain opens up with only a couple more short inclines. The views are fantastic throughout the hike, starting with the Mojave River and San Gabriel mountains behind you. The sunrises and sunsets will vary. BRING: Winter clothing, hat, and plenty of water/lunch/snacks and 10 essentials. WEAR layered clothing. Rain cancels. Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (also refer to Weekly recurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 9 (MON) 7:00 PM  SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING

Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738范冰冰, Victorville. (One block north of the 15 freeway, on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <desertlily1@verizon.net> SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 10 (TUE) 7:00 PM  CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. INFO: JUDY@sierraclub.org or 909-888-8510

JAN 14 (SAT) 9:00AM  PAM’S HIKE - JUNIPER FLATS AREA HIKE

This is a moderate strenuous 10 mile hike through the Juniper Plateau Area. After starting with a warm up 4 mile climb of about 1,200 feet the trail opens up with only a couple more short inclines. The views are fantastic throughout the hike, starting with the Mojave River and San Gabriel mountains behind you. Then the San Bernardino Mountains to the south and finally the Victor Valley and beyond as you start the descent near Bonita Vista. We will be arranging a shuttle for the hike. High clearance is not required. WEAR layered clothing, hat and bring plenty of water/lunch/snacks and 10 essentials. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum. (Visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25273836@N08/sets/7215762576524030/> for spring photos of this hike. LEADER JENNY WILDER <demaria@acs.org> 760 225-5385. CHAPTER

JAN 11 (WED) 7:00 PM  MOJAVE GROUP MEETING

Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738范冰冰, Victorville. (One block north of the 15 freeway, on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <desertlily1@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

JANUARY 16 – JANUARY 22

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (also refer to Weekly recurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 19 (SAT) 8:00 AM  LADDER CANYON HIKE HIKE

This hike is within the Joshua Tree National Park and offers a unique wilderness experience in this desert. The trail travels through a variety of terrains, vegetation and grand views. It leads over mountains and ridge tops and through valleys, canyons, washes, and a dramatic precipice. This is a 12.0 mile loop hike taking 6 to 7 hours to complete. RATING: moderate/strenuous due to the distance. The elevation gain is 630’. MEET: Park Blvd Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center, just south of Hwy 62 and Park Blvd intersection. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat and gloves. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 <edc@berkeley.edu> BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 21 (SAT) 8:15 AM  STUBBY SPRING LOOP HIKE

A strenuous 4 to 6 mile hike some of which will be cross country. Good views of the Mojave Desert. BRING: water, layered clothing and hiking boots. MEET: Von’s parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 AM. PLEASE call 9097739901 or 909 866 5006 to confirm.

JAN 17 (TUE) 7:00_PM  LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING

MEETING Speaker: David Woodruff from the Eastern Sierra Land Trust - a non-profit land trust that works with willing private land owners (usually farmers and ranchers) that wish to preserve their large areas of open space land in the Eastern Sierra. informational presentation explaining how they use conservation easements to preserve open space, and have saved over 4600 acres from development. Join us to hear about this interesting work in a beautiful area. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be provided. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Stater Bros parking lot to carpool. BRING: light refreshments. LEADER: MARY ANN RUZ (909) 815-9379, <marzenayar@gmail.com> BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 18 (WED) 9:00 AM  S B MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE SNOWSHOE HIKE

Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. No prior snowshoe experience is necessary—it's not difficult to learn—just another form of winter fun. We will drive about 2 hrs to get out to Green Valley Lake. BRING: snowshoes, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, and snacks. WEAR layered clothing. Bring a lunch just a snack and please call to check on weather conditions. If no snow, we will hike: LEADER: SANDY ELLIS 909-867-7115, <sellis670@gmail.com> SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 19 (THU) 7:00 PM  SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING

Monthly meeting. The public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Office, 42155 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9607 <serracubsmg@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JAN 20 (FRI-SUN) DEATH VALLEY NV WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE

Come help restore wilderness in this beautiful and remote desert area. We will work with Death Valley Chapter leaders to clean up non-native vegetation and restore creek bank routes that are now in use, trail repair and cleaning up around historic campsites. MEET early Friday afternoon to work. Please hot potluck Saturday night. Saturday and Sunday night camping may be primitive. The nights will be cold. BRING: backpack, 3 days of food & drink. COST: $1 donation requested. MEET: Multi-day trip hike taking 5 hours to complete. RATING: Strenuous. MEET: Behind Rim Rock Shopping Center (one block north of the 15 freeway). BRING: water, good hiking shoes and layered clothing. Rain cancels. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS 909-867-7115, <sellis670@gmail.com> BIG BEAR GROUP

JANUARY 23 – JANUARY 29

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (also refer to Weekly recurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 24 (TUE) 7:00 PM  SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOMM MEETING

MEETING Speaker: 2012 Chapter governance meeting. PLACE: At Pastime, main office. 24887 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DA VE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 28 (SAT) 8:30 AM  PACIFIC Crest Trail South from I-10 Hike

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) comes down the north face of San Jacinto Mountain, spilling over into the San Gorgonio Pass, across I-10, and northward up the slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains. We will hike south from the San Bernardino Hwy (Interstate10) to Snow Creek Canyon. (Later in the spring of 2012, we will hike PCT down the San Jacinto Mountain from Fuller Ridge 16.3 miles connecting with Snow Creek Road.) This is a 10 mile through-hike hike taking 5 hours to complete. RATING: Strenuous, with an elevation gain of 2,600'. MEET On the north side of the San Bernardino Hwy (Interstate10) at the exit of Cajon Pass (the exit to the south of I-10). BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat and gloves. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 <edc@berkeley.edu> BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 29 (SUN) 8:00 AM  SANTA ROSA PLATEAU HIKE

Join us on an easy 4.5-mile hike to the historic adobe. If you’re looking for an easy hike in a beautiful area you may enjoy this one. The hike should take between 2 and 3 hours depending on our pace. BRING plenty of water, wear comfortable shoes, dress in layers and don’t forget the sunscreen. Bring a snack for when you break at the Adobes. MEET at the Hidden Valley trail head. DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 15, take exit 157 (Green Valley Lake exit). Drive 3/4 mile and turn right onto 30860 Highway 183. Continue 2 miles onto Aguanga Rd. Turn right onto 79490 <dogs111@msn.com> BIG BEAR GROUP

Continued on page 7 > > >
**January 30 – February 5**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

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**January 31 (TUE) 9:00 AM**
SANDBOX CANYON LOOP HIKE
Snowshoe HIKE

A moderate 6 mile cross country hike below the southern edge line of the Big Bear Valley. This will be a snowshoe if conditions permit and a hike if the snow is not deep enough. Contact the leader prior to the hike for conditions. MEET at the Village parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 AM to car pool to the trailhead which has limited parking. LEADER: ED WALLACE (909) 543-0347. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**February 4 (SAT) 8:15 AM**
BULLSEYE ROCK HIKE

This hike is part of the 50 year celebration of the Marta and Walter Riedinger Trail Ring. This hike takes place in the hills south of Lake Arrowhead. Follow the climb up to Bullseye Rock. This rock looks like a giant cat's head where the head becomes the pupil of the eye. RATING: Moderate. LEADER: Marci Palkovic (909) 454-2906. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**February 5 (SUN) 6:00 PM**
MOONLIGHT HIKE

Come for a 2 to 3 hour hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is February 7) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 6 and 8 miles at 400 to 1200 feet. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of U.S. Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Bvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and sturdy shoes/boots. Rain cancels. LEADERS: PATTY and DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

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**February 6 – 12**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

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**February 6 (MON) 6:00 PM**
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOMM MEETING
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb. 7, Ape. 4, May 2, Oct. 3, Nov. 7. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**February 7 (TUE) 6:30 PM**
BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOMM MEETING
The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 666-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

**February 7 (TUE) 7:30 PM**
SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. Afterwards, SAN GORGONIO SERRA SINGLES will adjoin for food & drink. COST: $1 donation requested. INFO: SAN Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS (909) 800-3911 -ladd.g.s@sbcglobal.net. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**February 8 (WED) 7:00 PM**
MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
MEETING meeting except for July & August. MEET: Steele Indian Regency Room, 1777 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on ridgcrest.) Enter on ridgcrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734. -s@dربية@inet.net. MOJAVE GROUP

**February 11 (SAT) 8:00 AM**
CALICO PEAK -ODESSA CANYON HIKE

Come join my annual moderate/strenous 14-mile hike to Calico Peak by way of Odessa Canyon in the Calico Mountains near Barstow. BRING: layered clothing, sturdy boots and 3-4 quarts of water. MEET at the BLM parking lot on South Barrow Rd across from Barrow College at 8:00 am or contact LEADER TERRENCE McCURRLE (760) 252-2194, 760-412-1863 (cell) <bikeshedhikes@verizon.net>. BIG BEAR GROUP

**February 11 (SAT) 8:30 AM**
PIPES CANYON/INDIAN LOOP HIKE

The Pipes Canyon loop hike is part of the Pioneertown Mountains Preserve managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. The woodlands in the canyon are nourished by a flowing stream from the mountains and the Juniper Flats Area. Hike includes lovely views of the mountains and Juniper Flats ACIE (Area of Critical Environmental Concern). We will check for water in the springs and the cumulative impacts of cattle. Don’t forget to bring binoculars and camera! BRING plenty of water/ lunch/snacks & 10 essentials clothing, hiking, hat, MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road at 9am. High clearance vehicle is recommended. LEADER JENNIFER WILDER <jenn.austin@aol.com> 760 220 0730. MOJAVE GROUP

**February 11 (SAT) 9:00 AM**
VATICAN TO ROUND MOUNTAIN SPRINGS HIKE

This moderate hike up to Pushwalla Plateau and pass area afford great views of Pleasant Valley area of the San Jacinto Mountain. This is a 9 mile round trip hike taking 5 hours to complete. MEET: 7:30 AM at the corner of college area SCA Antelope springs and dike poles and dispersing an illegal road. Trailhead and Saturday and Sunday are for work, and Monday, President’s Day, will be reserved to hike and explore unconventionally. Brings this is an opportunity to combine car-camping, day hiking, exploring, and camping. Relatively unknown wilderness. CONTACT: LEADER CRAIG MUSGRAVE, 310-477-6670. creag.dutschke@gmail.com. CRNCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**February 11 (SUN) 9:00 AM**
PUSHWALLA PLATEAU HIKE

This moderate hike up to Pushwalla Pass and pass area afford great views of Pleasant Valley area of the San Jacinto Mountain. This is a 9 mile round trip hike taking 5 hours to complete. MEET: 7:30 AM at the corner of college area SCA Antelope springs and dike poles and dispersing an illegal road. Trailhead and Saturday and Sunday are for work, and Monday, President’s Day, will be reserved to hike and explore unconventionally. Brings this is an opportunity to combine car-camping, day hiking, exploring, and camping. Relatively unknown wilderness. CONTACT: LEADER CRAIG MUSGRAVE, 310-477-6670. creag.dutschke@gmail.com. CRNCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**February 12 (TUE) 6:00 PM**
SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location & directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGGER, (951) 767-2203, <gardens@inet.net>. SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) COMMITTEE

**February 12 (TUE) 6:30 PM**
BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
MEETING meeting except during December. INFO: WEATHER. MEETING place, time and information, please visit the Group website www.sierrabc@bigbeargroup.org. BIG BEAR Group. Diamond Center, 4079 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

**February 12 (TUE) 6:30 PM**
LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
MEETING meeting except during December. INFO: WEATHER. MEETING place, time and information, please visit the Group website www.sierrabc@bigbeargroup.org. BIG BEAR Group. Diamond Center, 4079 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

**February 12 (TUE) 8:00 AM**
CATHOLIC SERVICE SPRING HIKE

This trail brings us into close contact with the Santa Rosa Wilderness. The trail provides some scenic vistas of Martinez Mountain and chaparral covered slopes of the vast watershed known as Horsehead Creek. This is a 9.0 mile round-trip hike taking 5 hours to complete. RATING: Moderate, with an elevation gain of 1,200’. MEET: The trailhead is located southeast of Idyllwild. From Palm Desert, take Hwy 74 south almost 16 miles until you pass Sugarbark Cafe, where you take the first paved road to the left. A sign on Hwy 74 indicates the Cactus Spring Trailhead. Go 0.25 mile, then turn left into a large parking area. We will meet there. From Hemet, the trailhead is 8.0 miles east of the junction of Hwy 371 and Hwy 74. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat and gloves. RESERVATIONS: CALL LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1098 <jag15116@msn.com>. BIG BEAR GROUP

**February 17 (TUE) 9:00 AM**
AGUA CALIENTE CREEK TRAIL HIKE

Join me on an easy 4 mile out and back hike of the Agua Caliente Creek Trail in Warner Springs. This trail is a part of the Pacific Crest Trail. This hike is not designed to be strenuous with only about 400’ of elevation gain. From the parking area / a large turnout on highway 79 the trail goes east along a cow-shouldered shaded creek. In this first mile, the trail goes through Warner Ranch resort property on an easement. Near the Cleveland National Forest boundary the canyon narrows, and water trickles or gaps depending on the rainfall. The hike should take between two and three hours. BRING: Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, BRING: Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and wear water and sunscreen. Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)
Join Us On A “Trip” to the Galapagos on February 7th
Darwin’s Enchanted Islands: The Galápagos

L
os Serranos Group member, Brian Elliott, will present our February chapter program. His topic will be his recent trip this past summer to the Galápagos Islands. Brian will give the program during the monthly chapter meeting at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands.

The Galápagos Islands were made famous when young Charles Darwin, naturalist on the H.M.S. Beagle, visited them for five weeks in 1835. Here Darwin saw numerous species of birds, lizards, and plants that though they seemed familiar, were also quite unique. There were mockingbirds and finches that looked slightly different on each island, giant tortoises, and those “imps of darkness,” the black marine iguanas that ate algae, underwater, from the intertidal rocks!

Brian visited nine of the islands while living aboard a 16-foot boat named Daphne. His group walked through the dramatic volcanic landscapes and beautiful beaches. While on land they were able to witness, learn about, and photograph the unique and fascinating flora and fauna. The cruises between islands offered Brian the opportunity to observe pelagic bird species and marine life.

Each day included two land excursions and one snorkeling trip. Zoarcids were the vessels used to land and to go snorkeling from while on the trip. The underwater life was every bit as varied and interesting at the life above the water. Swimming with curious sea lions, great sea turtles, and dolphins was a remarkable experience.

Meeting the marine iguanas, fur seals, and penguins, even nest in the trails themselves. The land and marine iguanas are also seemingly fearless and visitors have to carefully watch where they step as they walk as to avoid the great lizards. So many of the birds can be seen around some of the beaches while the Waved Albatross colony on the island San Cristóbal do their intricate mating ritual a few feet away from humans. It is all a remarkable wildlife experience!

These remote islands, over 600 miles out in the Pacific from the coast of Ecuador, were called Las Encantadas – the Enchanted Islands – by early mariners and Yankee whalers. Darwin visited the islands in 1832 and the world was changed because of his discoveries and conclusions regarding evolutionary biology.

Modern-day travelers and naturalists continue to fall under the spell of this wondrous place. The islands offer a spectacular wildlife experience. Most animals are easily approached for close viewing. Fur seals, sea lions, penguins, flightless cormorants, iguanas, giant tortoises, and the variety of native land bird species, many of them endemic, provide amazing photographic and observation opportunities. These isolated oceanic islands are also rich in unique plant and marine life. Because of their location on an active tectonic area, it is possible to study geology in a way that no textbook could match!

Our speaker, Brian Elliott, is a former geologist who is now in his 26th of teaching at San Dimas High School. He currently teaches Advanced Placement Environmental Science and Advanced Placement Physics classes and regularly takes his students on camping and hiking trips and coaches the school’s Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, and Solar Boat teams.

Outside of school he has organized and led many backpacking trips including several in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of Alaska and on Buffin Island in Canada. He has rock climbed extensively across North America, Europe, and Australia including big wall ascents of El Capitan and Half Dome in Yosemite. Brian was a member of a Himalayan climbing expedition in the mid-90s with a group of his friends in the Karakorum Mountains in Pakistan.

His wife, Janice, always wants to remind people that Brian completed the Angeles Crest 100 Mile Run the summer that they met. He and Janice are avid birders and spend a good deal of their travel time these days to bird local and not so local birding areas. The past two years have found them visiting Panama and Australia pursuing this interest.
Santa Margarita Group
by Jim Mitchell, Chair

The Santa Margarita Group has launched an outdoor pilot program that has become very popular in the Temecula-Murrieta area. The program was designed by Pam Nelson, our Conservation Chair, and Teri Biancardi, our Educational Outreach Chair. Still in its early development stage, the program focuses on the local home-school networking. The idea is to give families that home-school their children a chance to experience and learn more about the outdoors resources local to the Southwest Riverside area. Parents accompany their children on the outings that often take place at campgrounds and preserves with docents and experts guiding the group. But here is Teri Biancardi to tell you more about it.

Teri Biancardi, Educational Outreach Committee Chair

Our Outdoor Families program has had 3 successful outings with participation of enthusiastic families and other members. One of our recent trips we went to the confluence of the Santa Margarita River where we visited the River’s origin. Pablo Bryant, a staff member at the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve (SMER) explained this eastern edge of their boundary. With water quality kits, the families took samples of the Temecula, Murrieta and Santa Margarita Rivers, which they had identified earlier on maps of the watershed. On our following visit we sampled the Santa Margarita River farther into the gorge when we visited the SMER field station. On this visit, we learned about some of the ongoing research at the Reserve.

On January 1st we will visit the Dripping Springs campground, east of Temecula. This is in the Cleveland National Forest in the Agua Tibia basin. We will look at the beauty of the Agua Tibia Wilderness and have a protected habitat for the arroyo toad on the creek that runs through the campground. Ranger Ken Colburn will describe the habitat and protection efforts.

On February 25th we will visit the David Johnson Ranch Preserve where a Center for Natural Land Management Ranger will discuss the history and conservation efforts of this special wildlife area adjacent to Temecula. Burrowing owls use the site, as well as other endangered animals.

If you are interested in additional information about our Outdoor Families Program contact Pam Nelson, pamelad50@yahoo.com, 951-767-2324.

Pam Nelson, Conservation Committee Chair

The Beauty Mountain/Agua Tibia proposed Wilderness Bill is still getting much attention in Congress. I think it will be considered in January. The proposed Beauty Mountain/Agua Tibia Wilderness Bill consists of approximately 14,000 acres and if approved will be of great benefit to the Temecula Valley watershed. Water, habitat and air quality will be protected by this Wilderness. Hiking, equestrian use and other low impact recreation will remain available to Southwest Riverside county residents, in perpetuity. The entire wilderness will be doubled because of this San Diego portion add-on.

The Temecula Wine Country residents are getting more concerned as the Expansion Plan is suggesting an exemption to the county light ordinance. There are multiple impacts that are already affecting their quality of life. The EIR has now been released and will be studied thoroughly by the various grassroots groups that have been formed to watchdog the process.

Bob Audibert, Group Outings Committee Chair with hike leader, Gary Marsalone

On Saturday, February 25th we are headed for the Agua Caliente Creek Trail. We will start at 9 AM on an easy 4 mile out and back hike of the Agua Caliente Creek Trail in Warner Springs. This trail is a part of the Pacific Crest Trail. This hike is not designed to be strenuous with only about 400ft of elevation gain. From the parking area (a large turnout on highway 79) the trail goes east along a cottonwood shaded creek. In this first mile, the trail goes through Warner Ranch resort property on an easement. Near the Cleveland National Forest boundary the canyon narrows, and water trickles or gushes depending on rainfall. The hike should take between two and two and a half hours. As always bring plenty of water, a lunch and comfortable hiking shoes. And please dress in layers and don’t forget the sunscreen. RAIN CANCELS. Here are the directions: from 79 south (Temecula Parkway) and Margarita Road in Temecula drive east about 33 miles. When you pass the glider port on the right another half mile and look for a large turnout on the right. That is the parking lot for the Agua Caliente Creek Trail. Leader: Bob Audibert. For more information email me at bobatakahile@gmail.com or call me at (951)302-1099. No Wilderness permit is needed for this hike.

Laura Webster, Group Activities Committee Chair

On a sunny Sunday in November more than 20 of us gathered in historic Pasedena for a docent-led walking tour of the Arroyo Neighborhood. This is a beautiful area of Pasadena full of historically significant Craftsmen style homes. While the wealthy lived in their mansions on Orange Grove and the surrounding streets, artists congregated on the banks of the arroyo, forming what became known as the “Arroyo Culture.” Plein-air painters such as Benjamin Brown, Elmer Wachtel and Marian Kavanagh Wachtel and Franz Bischoff frequently found inspiration in this untamed natural environment. Our docent shared with us some of the philosophy behind this cultural movement and how it was incorporated into both architecture and lifestyle. Then, after lunch we all headed to The Norton Simon Museum. This small museum is truly world-class and one of my personal favorites. It was a perfect way to spend the afternoon. Then in the late afternoon we all met at an excellent local Italian restaurant. We had reserved a long table for all of us and sat together and talked about the wonderful things we had seen and enjoyed. It was a perfect way to end an absolutely spectacular day.

We are going to have more local trips just like this one in the months ahead. We will keep you informed so you can join us. Your ideas are also welcome. Please contact me at (Laurie_l_w@yahoo.com.)

Fred Burtz, Environmental Action Committee Chair

One of our focuses is the proposed Liberty Quarry in the Temecula Foothills. While the Riverside County Planning Commission voted 4 to 1 to DENY the proposed Liberty Quarry project, this subject is not yet over. The Applicant (Granite Construction) has the right to appeal this decision, and had vowed to do so, to the County Board of Supervisors. No other known gravel quarry pit has been proposed to be located on the border of a world renowned Ecological Reserve. Now more than ever, it is important to let your County Supervisor know that the proposed Liberty Quarry project is simply the Wrong Project in the Wrong Location. I urge you to write, e-mail, or call your County Supervisor and ask that they OPPOSE the proposed Liberty Quarry Project. For more information, please go to www.nogravelquarry.com or contact Fred at (951) 294-0057 on how you can get involved.

Santa Margarita Group General Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Rancheria Patria Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Road, Temecula 92599 starting at 6:30 PM.

Also, visit our web site: www.serrachub.org
Help Needed on Riverside County's GPU
by George Hague, Moreno Valley Group

Are you ever outraged by development built near one of your special places within your Chapter or by the increase in intra-urban development caused by a highway? Most of the time these harmful developments are sanctioned by a General Plan. Riverside County is now in the process of revising its General Plan. The public review period for Riverside County's General Plan Update (GPU) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will tentatively start in the summer of 2012 with public hearings probably occurring in late fall or early winter of 2012. The DEIR will help us see what impacts could occur on special places in our County and also on some adjacent lands in San Bernardino County.

Sierra Club members George Hague and alternate Ann McKibbon have represented the environmental community on the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), which is dominated by those connected to development interests. While the GPAC used to meet on a regular basis, it has not met for two years, and there is no meeting scheduled.

The GPU will impact all of us within Riverside County as well as many in neighboring San Bernardino County, as it will outline land use designations for years to come. It will also address sprawl, global climate change, noise and open-space issues. Land use designations in this GPU could significantly impact such places as Joshua Tree National Park, Santa Rosa Plateau, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Cosachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Preserve as well as open space and rural agricultural lands for development. Parts of the San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests as well as the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountain National Monument could easily be directly impacted by Riverside County's GPU.

Please become involved in this process to protect these special places and others that you know need our attention. County Planner for the General Plan Update is Frank Coyle, Riverside County Planning Department, Riverside County Planning Commission, 10350サンゲート Blvd, Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (909) 825-2434 - dc@co.riverside.ca.us or LARRY POWELL, (909) 864-2309 - lpowell@sierraclub.org.

The general plan can be described as the city’s or county’s “blueprint” for future development. It represents the community's view of its future; a constitution made up of the goals and policies upon which supervisors, or planning commission will base their land use decisions. To illustrate its importance, all subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions (except in charter cities other than Los Angeles) must be consistent with the general plan. If inconsistent, they must not be approved.

Long-Range Emphasis

The general plan is not the same as zoning. Although both designate how land may be developed, they do so in different ways. The general plan and its diagrams have a long-term outlook, identifying the types of development that will be allowed, the spatial relationships among land uses, and the general pattern of future development.

Contents

State law requires that each city and each county adopt a general plan containing the following seven components or “elements”: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open-space, noise, and safety (Government Code Sections 65300 et seq). At the same time, each jurisdiction is free to adopt a wide variety of additional elements containing subjects of particular interest to that jurisdiction such as recreation, urban design, or public facilities.

Planning Issues

Although state law establishes a set of basic issues for consideration in local general plans, each city and county ultimately determines the relative importance of each issue to local planning and decides how they are to be addressed in the general plan. As a result, no two cities or counties have plans that are exactly alike in form or content. Here is a summary of the basic issues, by element:

• The land use element designates the general location and intensity of housing, business, industry, open space, education, public buildings and grounds, waste disposal facilities, and other land uses. An approved general plan establishes the maximum development that may be allowed on an area of land. Any new development must be consistent with the general plan.

• The conservation element addresses the conservation, development, and use of natural resources including water, forests, soils, lakes, rivers, and mineral deposits.

• The noise element identifies and appraises noise problems within the community and forms a basis for distributing new noise-sensitive land uses.

• The economic element establishes policies and programs to protect the community from risks associated with seismic, geologic, flood, and wildfire hazards.

The Blueprint

The local general plan can be described as the city’s or county’s “blueprint” for future development. It represents the community’s view of its future; a constitution made up of the goals and policies upon which local planning is based. While the general plan is not the same as zoning, both designate how land may be developed, they do so in different ways. The general plan and its diagrams have a long-term outlook, identifying the types of development that will be allowed, the spatial relationships among land uses, and the general pattern of future development.

Help Needed on Riverside County's GPU
Experience Nature in Yucca Valley
With the
Desert Institute at
Joshua Tree National Park

Black Rock Lecture Series
Yucca Valley, CA.
November 23, 2011 – The Desert Institute announces the 2012 Black Rock Lecture Series. Featured are experts on natural science and cultural history topics pertaining to Joshua Tree National Park and surrounding desert lands. Lectures will be held at the Black Rock Canyon Campground Visitor Center, 9800 Black Rock Canyon, Yucca Valley, and begin at 7 p.m. Lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Desert Institute at 760-367-5535 or desertinstitute@zippnet.net.

January 20
Indicators of Spring: Plants and Climate Change
Susan Mazer, Ph.D., Plant Evolution, Professor, UC Santa Barbara and Liz Matthews, Ph.D., Plant Ecology, Postdoctoral Scholar, UC Santa Barbara

February 16
Native American Coyote Stories
Catherine Svehla, Ph.D., Mythology, Facilitator of the High Desert Mythological Roundtable in conjunction with the Joseph Campbell Foundation

March 16
The Mojave Desert: Miles of Wonder
David Jesse McChesney, Photographer, Author of The Mojave Desert: Miles of Wonder

April 20
Stone Tools: Origins of Technology
Dave LeCocoq, Primitive Skills Teacher

For further press information, please call Charlotte Boney, Program Coordinator, Desert Institute (760) 367-5535.

Center Biology Wins Conservation Award

For years, Center for Biological Diversity Public Lands Desert Director Ileene Anderson (pictured below) has been working hard both in the field and the office to save Southern California’s most endangered plants and animals, from the San Diego ambrosia to the San Bernardino kangaroo rat.

This month Anderson’s successes won her the Alice Krueper Service Award from the San Gorgonio chapter of the Sierra Club. The award recognizes her work on renewable-energy projects — striking a delicate balance between preserving natural habitat and allowing those energy projects to move forward. For example, solar energy is a key part of curbing climate change, but does an industrial-scale solar project really need to be placed in the heart of desert tortoise habitat?

Anderson knows it takes a lot of thoughtful planning and in-depth knowledge to make sure good energy projects and endangered species can coexist.

“To be honored by the San Gorgonio chapter of the Sierra Club means a lot to me,” she said.

Order Form

Save up to 30% off the list price. Support local conservation efforts.
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*Shipping to one address: $5.50 for the first calendar and 50 cents for each additional calendar. Donations are in any amount. Make checks payable to Sierra Club and mail this coupon to: Sierra Club Calendars, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501. (Cost includes all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mill)

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City, State, Zip code ______________________

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Sierra Club Calendars, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501
(Cost includes all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mill)

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National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you choose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club’s election website: http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2012election/default.aspx

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment. You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

Save the Date!

On March 15 and 16, the western edition of the 2012 Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference will be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. For the past five years, the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference has brought together a diverse group of attendees from labor, environmental, and industry to discuss solutions for a green economy that will create good green jobs. It’s important that we, the environmental community, be well-represented as this is just the beginning of the new trade policies that promote growth and prosperity across all sectors of global societies while protecting public health and safety.

The BlueGreen Alliance was launched in 2006 by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club. Today, the BlueGreen Alliance has increased its membership uniting nearly 15 million people from organized labor, environmental, faith and human rights groups—all who understand the necessity for good jobs, a clean environment and a green economy.

The BlueGreen Alliance is focusing on the passage of comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation, restoring the rights of workers in the United States to organize and bargain collectively, and toward establishing new trade policies that promote growth and prosperity across all sectors of global societies while protecting public health and safety.

Those wanting to attend the Los Angeles conference are encouraged to apply for scholarships to cover transportation, hotel, and registration fees. Volunteers from Angeles Chapter are planning to offer historic walking tours of downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood for out-of-town participants.

Look for more information; contact Joan Jones Holtz (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com) or visit the website: www.greenjobsconference.org