Meet the Sierra Club’s New Executive Director

This year Carl Pope will be stepping down as Executive Director of the Sierra Club. After a smooth transition in March, Mike Brune, 38, will begin guiding Sierra Club staff and operations and lead the Club through the most exciting and critical period in our history. Michael holds degrees in Economics and Finance from West Chester University in Pennsylvania and comes to the Sierra Club from the Rainforest Action Network, where he served seven years as executive director. Under Brune’s leadership, the RAN has won more than a dozen key environmental commitments from America’s largest corporations, including Home Depot, Citi, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Kinko’s, Boise, and Lowe’s.

Mike has been called “a hard-nosed activist with a twist.” At age 26, he led a winning campaign to convince Home Depot to stop selling wood from endangered forests, which Time magazine called “the top environmental story of 1999.” The announcement led to the protection of 5 million acres in British Columbia’s Great Bear Rainforest.

Brune’s critically acclaimed book, Coming Clean – Breaking America’s Addiction to Oil and Coal, published by Sierra Club Books in 2008, details a plan for a new green economy that will create well-paying jobs, promote environmental justice and bolster national security.

Meet the Sierra Club’s New Executive Director

Proposed Development Threatens the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

By George Hague and Ann Turner McKibben, Moreno Valley Group

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area has had a long history in the northern San Jacinto Valley. In the early 1980s the state began acquiring lands to establish the wildlife area to partially replace wildlife habitat which had been destroyed by the construction of the State Water Project (the system of canals and waterways which brings water from northern California water to southern California). Currently, the wildlife area is composed of 19,000 acres of Coastal Sage Scrub, grasslands, riparian and wetland habitat. It includes 2,000 acres of the seasonal wetland known as Mystic Lake, the lake that mysteriously appears along Gilman Spring Road when there are heavy rains. In 2004 the state acquired 9,000 acres of Potrero Canyon and has added it to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area calling it the Potrero Creek Conservation Unit. Over $80 million of taxpayers money has been invested in the wildlife area by the state of California.

Now the wildlife values of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area are under threat from a

Annual March Fund Appeal Underway

Every year in March the Sierra Club allows the chapter its only opportunity all year long to send a chapter-wide direct mail request for donations. Chapter members should receive this letter soon. The letter outlines the many priorities and accomplishments of the San Gorgonio Chapter.

Now, more than ever, your contribution is vital! Sierra Club cutbacks now have reduced the San Gorgonio return from your annual Sierra Club membership to only $1. That is less than one-half of just publishing this newspaper. Your contribution will decide whether we can accomplish this year’s goals. There is so much work to be done; it takes time and effort; it’s expensive and we can’t do it without your help. Please send your generous tax deductible gift as soon as you receive your Fund Appeal letter. Our vigilant San Gorgonio Chapter members are now, by far, our greatest source of income.

In case you letter doesn’t arrive, remember to make your checks out to: The Sierra Club. Send them to: San Gorgonio Chapter, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501.
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 for those who chose 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.

Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grass roots 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/2010/election/election.aspx

For those who receive a ballot, carefully consider the 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. Alternatively, you will find the ballot quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:
- Katherine Pendleton (TN) N
- Allison Chin (VA) N
- Phil Wheeler (CA) A N
- Don Laura (CA) N
- Jared Duval (CT) N
- Robbie Cox (NC) N
- Jim Dougherty (DC) N
- Jonathan Ela (WI) N
- N = Nominating Committee candidate; P = Petition candidate

Editor’s Note: If chapter members have questions, please contact Group or Chapter officers for feedback. The San Gorgonio Chapter does not endorse SC candidates.

Palm and Pine Advertising
Display Advertising Rates (Black and White)
Published Page rates are 9-1/2 inches wide by 14-1/2 inches deep. There are four columns per page. Each column is 2-1/4 inches wide. Display Artwork is charged at a rate of $132.95/col.cm.

Classified Advertising Rates
Personal: $0.25 per word. $5.00 minimum.
Commercial: $0.50 per word. $10.00 minimum.

Classified advertising is accepted to a maximum of 8 lines (above 4 characters in the line) per issue. The Chapter member subscription is included in membership dues. Subscription rates for non-members is $9.00 for six issues. Single copies charged at a rate of $12.50 per column inch.

Classified Advertising Rates
Display Advertising Rates (Black and White)
A bi-monthly newspaper serving Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Published by the Sierra Club

Save the date now! For anyone who cares about the wild places of the West - this is the one event not to miss! Note: Our San Gorgonio Chapter is an official sponsor of this conference.

Western Wilderness Conference 2010
Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and Northwest Wilderness and Parks Conference are the principal planning organizations, and also represented on the planning committee are The Wilderness Society, Great Old Bads for Wilderness, Desert Survivors, Audubon California, Tuleyore, and Californians for Western Wilderness.

Although the event will take place in California’s San Francisco Bay Area, wilderness organizations and advocates from all twelve western states, including Alaska, are involved, and will be represented and advocates from all those states and participate in this grand event.

Check the conference website: www.westernwildness.org

Who’s invited: long-time wilderness advocates, both professionals and volunteers, as well as new advocates; Native American leaders, academic and agency personnel, outings leaders, individuals, representatives of organizations working on quiet recreation and on varied types of land preservation efforts, decision makers at different levels of government. We will conduct special outreach to attract college students and members of minority communities and organizations, such as National Hispanic Environmental Council. Where will they come from: geographic focus is California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Wyoming, with outreach as well to Western Canada and Mexico.

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et’s start off with some fun stuff.

Bill Engs led his annual Santa Ana River Bottom bird walk on December 5th. When they reached Evans Lake, there were drumbeats in the distance and people marching up Mt. Rubidoux to commemorate the Virgin of Guadalupe. Back at the trail, the group identified 32 species, on land and water, a good showing for this time of year.

That afternoon and evening members and guests arrived at Keller Ski Hut for the annual Mountains Group Holiday Gathering. Twenty attendees hiked, socialized and enjoyed a turkey with trimmings prepared by Billie Wolff, along with assorted potluck contributions. Later, a white elephant gift exchange provided laughter, groans, feigned nonchalance, and lots of future Mountain Thrift Shoppe sales items. Since the incoming storm was not due until Sunday night, eight people stayed overnight.

In the morning Bill Engs cooked pancakes for the group… served with a dusting of snow. To conclude the weekend, Billie led a hike on the back roads. Snow depth varied from zero to five inches.

Our first event of the New Year was a January 9th hike led by Billie Wolff in Silverwood State Park, along the edge of the lake on the Pacific Crest Trail from park headquarters to Cedar Springs dam and return. The weather was perfect. Twelve people participated—nine of them came from points off the mountain.

Now, let’s look at some stuff that is not as much fun.

The Royal Rangers Adventure Park and Conference Center proposed for development in Twin Peaks has, after nine years, been approved by the San Bernardino County Planning Commission and is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors in late February. By the time you read this there will probably have been a determination by the Supervisors as to whether or not the project will be approved to move forward. We hope not.

In 2005 the Royal Rangers presented the project (despite County Staff recommended denial) to the Planning Commission, which denied the plan. The original camp (from 2001) had been “downsized” from more than 1,000 participants to 650, but careful study showed that the actual attendance at the facility could still be more than 900 and that the 650 was only a “self-regulated” maximum with no method of enforcement.

In early 2006 the denial was appealed to the Board of Supervisors who, rather than follow the Planning Commission lead, decided to give the Rangers 75 days to present a further “downsized” plan for reconsideration.

More than three years later they were back with their new “downsized” plan, this time to 350 campers and staff. Except the facility could still handle over 600 overnight visitors.
The Sierra Club settled its lawsuit against the city of Moreno Valley over the Highland Fairview Corporate Center Project (along the southern border of Highway 60 between Redlands Boulevard and Theodore Street) in January. The lawsuit was filed after the city approved the plan in February 2009. The project will house the Skechers USA Inc. distribution center. The project developer hopes the building will qualify as a LEED project and expects to start construction in 60 to 90 days.

Numerous other warehouse projects are planned for Moreno Valley. The West Ridge Commerce Center and ProLogis are proposed along the southern edge of Highway 60 between Moreno Beach Drive and Redlands Boulevard. Fifteen projects are described in a brochure found at: http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/do_biz/warehousing.shtml on page 11. There are many empty retail spaces, mall space, and numerous 99 cent stores in Moreno Valley, and the city continues to approve warehousing in Moreno Valley.

The Village of Lakeview (VOL) Specific Plan 342 was scheduled to be heard before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on February 23. The VOL project proposes to build 11,000 residential units in the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo. Approximately 1,585 units are planned on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA), a 19,000-acre Department of Fish & Game facility and cornerstone reserve in the Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The MSHCP reserve system is, in theory, supposed to preserve and protect the county’s threatened and endangered species in perpetuity.

Light pollution, air quality, damage to wildlife area lands which would harm rare and endangered plant and animal species, building next to the flood plain of the San Jacinto River, collapsible soils, and loss of prime agricultural lands, availability of water, feral animals, illegal entry by residents economic viability of the project are some of the other concerns regarding this project. The project will have devastating impacts on the rural communities of Lake-view and Nuevo. The Sierra Club, Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley and community members from Lakeview and Nuevo have attended the planning commission hearings, board of supervisors meetings and written extensive comments on the project.

If you would like to make a donation to help fight this project, make your check payable to the Sierra Club. Your donation will be used only for the expenses related to fighting this project. No amount is too small. Mail your check to the Sierra Club; P.O. Box 1325; Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. If you wish to have your donation remain anonymous, please indicate that and we will respect your wishes. Thank you for your help.

The Moreno Valley Group has a number of outings planned. Please check the Calendar of Outings and the group web site at: http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html for dates and times. You can also contact Group Outings Chair Theresa Carson at: (951) 660-7246 or tcarson22@msn.com and Dan Clark at (951) 924-2454 for more information.

The Moreno Valley Group is looking for a volunteer to organize an effort to collect signatures for the State Parks initiative which we hope will be on the ballot in November. Please call George Hague at (951) 924-0816 for more information. The Chapter needs a volunteer from the Moreno Valley Group to help chapter chair Rick Estes develop fundraising projects for the Chapter. Call George Hague at (951) 924-0816 if you can help.

The state Department of Water Resources released the draft environmental impact report for the Perris Dam Remediation Project on January 11. Comments are due April 12, 2010. The water level behind the dam has been lowered by 25 feet because of concerns that the dam may fail in a major earthquake (the San Jacinto Fault is east of the dam). The dam has been seeping water for many years and the seepage supports riparian habitat at the base of the dam. To see the draft EIR and for more information see: http://www.water.ca.gov/perrisdam/

The city of San Jacinto and the Riverside County Flood Control District have proposed to extend the San Jacinto River levee from State Street to Sanderson Avenue, a $25 to $30 million project. The draft environmental impact report may be released in April. The project would fill 1,900 acres of flood plain along the San Jacinto River so it could be developed by the city of San Jacinto. There are concerns that the project will eliminate San Bernardino kangaroo rat, burrowing owl and least Bell’s vireo habitat. There are also concerns about the downstream effects on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and south to Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore. For more information on the project, please call the city of San Jacinto at (951) 487-7330. Please check the Lake Perris State Recreation Area their web site at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651 for their hours of operation.

The Recreational Trails Board sponsors approximately five hikes throughout the year in Moreno Valley. They will have a hike to San Timoteo Canyon on March 27, 7:30 a.m. Please call (951) 413-3702 for more information and a schedule of their hikes.

The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley sponsor nature walks at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area on the southeastern border of Moreno Valley. Please check their web site at: www.northfriends.org for more information on their walks. The wildlife area is north of the Ramona Expressway in Lakeview. Take Davis Road 2.2 miles to the area headquarters. The wildlife area is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. Please Do Not Drive on Davis Road if it is muddy or wet.

The Moreno Valley Group has many issues to follow, and we are looking for more volunteers. Any amount of time you could contribute would be appreciated. For more information about our group and volunteering with the Moreno Valley Group, contact Ann McKibben at (951) 924-8150, Theresa Carson, (951) 242-4752 or George Hague at (951) 924-0816 or e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com.

Mountains Group . . . Continued from Page 3

and somehow the 51,500 sq. ft. (with 28’ high walls and 38’ high turrets) was now 57,588 sq. ft. and there is parking for enough buses, vans, and cars to deliver more than 1,000 day-use visitors to the site. The stated maximum attendance of 350 is still a self-monitored restriction with no enforcement method identified. There are so many problems with the project that the San Bernardino Mountains Community Safety and Conservation Coalition (Save Our Forest Association, Friends Of Twin Peaks, Christians For The Earth, San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, and the Mountains Group of the Sierra Club) have developed a 72 page Community Impact Report detailing the detrimental factors of the Royal Rangers project and why it should not be approved. Thanks to Steve Farrell, Hugh Bialecki, and especially Peter Jorris for their work on this report. The report outlines the project’s problems with size, EIR deficiencies, wildlife corridor and habitat, overlapping General Plans, erroneous conclusions of “less than significant” impacts, fire danger and evacuation, traffic, utility constraints, noise, land use goals and policies, zoning constraints and C.U.P. findings. And the only Fiscal Impact Report ever submitted for the project was rejected in 2005. For up-to-date information and to view the Community Impact Report please visit the Mountains Group website at: http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/mountains/

And now, back to the fun stuff for a final word.

Saturday, April 24th has been slated for the second annual “Earthday on the Mountain” event at Rim of the World High School. The program sponsors, GreenTeamArrowhead and Rim High School, put together an excellent inaugural event last year and we look forward to participating once again.

— Bill Engs provided Outings information for this report.
February 22 – February 28

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings.

(1ST THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
MEETING
Meet the public in location.
MEETING

February 22 (THU) 7:00 PM

February 23 (FRI) 9:00 AM

February 24 (SAT) 9:00 AM

February 25 (THU) 6:30 PM

February 26 (FRI) 6:30 PM

February 27 (SAT) 6:00 PM

February 28 (SUN) 6:00 PM

Palm and Pine

Thursday, March 1 – March 7

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings.

(1ST THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
MEETING

(1ST THU) 6:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
MEETING

(1ST THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
MEETING

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
MEETING monthly meeting except August. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

(2ND THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
MEETING

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
MEETING

(1ST THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
MEETING

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings.

(1ST THU) 6:30 PM JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9607 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

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MEETING

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MEETING

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
MEETING

PROGRAM: See front-page notice. Afterwards, SAN GORGONIO SIERRA Singers will adjourn for food & drink.

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MEETING
MARCH – APRIL 2010

Page 7

Continued from Page 6...

APRIL – MAY 2010

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings. (Also refer to Weekly Reoccurring Outings & Activities)

APR 3 (FRIDAY) 9:00 AM JONES PEAK (SERRA MORENA)

This is a 10-mile round trip hike on the Jones Peak Trail to the 5,745-foot summit of Jones Peak. The route is well defined and will take us up through a variety of different trail and rock up hik... (Also refer to Weekly Reoccurring Outings & Activities)

APR 3 (SAT-SUN) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA & ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

This is our new member hike but all are welcome. Enjoy an easy 5 to 1/2 mile hike over various trails in the reserve. We will be running our 17th year of this hike. Come join us and enjoy the reserve’s nature trails and enjoy our walkers who are so knowledgeable. We will be having a picnic at the end of the hike this year. For more information contact the Reserve via www.santarosareserve.org or call the Reserve at 760-389-1284.

APR 3-5 (MON-SAT) 9:00 AM SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

This is a spring hike. Bring 3 to 4 qts of water, sturdy shoes and lunch/snacks. Meet at 8:00 am at the Victor Valley Museum on for the weather. Drivers will need an adventure pass. For details, call LEADER DICK BANKS at 909-866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 4 (SAT) 7:30 AM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER

MEETING

Site: Roadside picnic area at or near the Victor Valley Museum. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 or <tcarson2@coxcom.net> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

APR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM CULP VALLEY, ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK

Carpark

Come join others hiking to experience the amazing beauty of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. We will hike along the Culp Valley Road to the Culp Valley overlook. Comfortable spring weather is an ideal time to go exploring. On Saturday, we will hike to the rock art sites in the middle of the Culp Valley. On Sunday, we will hike to the base of the hills and then returns through the arroyo of the housing tract. BRING: jacket, flashlight, water, sturdy shoes. We may need to be at the start by 7:30 am. BRING: jackets, flashlights, sturdy shoes. ELEVATION GAIN about 1,000 ft. MEET: from I-215 to I-15 to Hwy 67. Right on Hwy 67, then North, then West on Culp Valley Rd. Park in the parking lot. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379 or <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM PALM SPRINGS

MEETING

This is another 10-mile hike with about 800 to 1,000 feet of elevation gain. We will descend from the South Fork parking lot on the Santa Ana Trail to an intersection with Glass Road. We will then cross Glass Road at the Santa Ana River. We will meet at the base of the Glass Road parking lot at 9:00 AM. The hiking is moderate as we hike across some sandy areas and along river beds. BRING: plenty of water and snacks. MEET: CALL LEADER DICK BANKS at 909-866-9232.

APR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM PCT, SOUTHWEST TO BORREGO SPRINGS

Carpark

Come join others hiking to experience the amazing beauty of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park. We will hike along the Culp Valley Road to the Culp Valley overlook. Comfortable spring weather is an ideal time to go exploring. On Saturday, we will hike to the rock art sites in the middle of the Culp Valley. On Sunday, we will hike to the base of the hills and then returns through the arroyo of the housing tract. BRING: jacket, flashlight, water, sturdy shoes. We may need to be at the start by 7:30 am. BRING: jackets, flashlights, sturdy shoes. ELEVATION GAIN about 1,000 ft. MEET: from I-215 to I-15 to Hwy 67. Right on Hwy 67, then North, then West on Culp Valley Rd. Park in the parking lot. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379 or <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM SANTA ANA RIVER

This is another 10-mile hike with about 800 to 1,000 feet of elevation gain. We will descend from the South Fork parking lot on the Santa Ana Trail to an intersection with Glass Road. We will then cross Glass Road at the Santa Ana River. We will meet at the base of the Glass Road parking lot at 9:00 AM. The hiking is moderate as we hike across some sandy areas and along river beds. BRING: plenty of water and snacks. MEET: CALL LEADER DICK BANKS at 909-866-9232.

APR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA & ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

MEETING

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APR 6 (SUNDAY) 7:30 AM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDING CLUB

MEETING

This is another 10-mile hike with about 800 to 1,000 feet of elevation gain. We will descend from the South Fork parking lot on the Santa Ana Trail to an intersection with Glass Road. We will then cross Glass Road at the Santa Ana River. We will meet at the base of the Glass Road parking lot at 9:00 AM. The hiking is moderate as we hike across some sandy areas and along river beds. BRING: plenty of water and snacks. MEET: CALL LEADER DICK BANKS at 909-866-9232.

APR 6 (SUNDAY) 7:30 AM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDING CLUB

MEETING

This is another 10-mile hike with about 800 to 1,000 feet of elevation gain. We will descend from the South Fork parking lot on the Santa Ana Trail to an intersection with Glass Road. We will then cross Glass Road at the Santa Ana River. We will meet at the base of the Glass Road parking lot at 9:00 AM. The hiking is moderate as we hike across some sandy areas and along river beds. BRING: plenty of water and snacks. MEET: CALL LEADER DICK BANKS at 909-866-9232.

APR 6 (SAT) 9:00 AM MOJA VE GROUP

MEETING

This is another 10-mile hike with about 800 to 1,000 feet of elevation gain. We will descend from the South Fork parking lot on the Santa Ana Trail to an intersection with Glass Road. We will then cross Glass Road at the Santa Ana River. We will meet at the base of the Glass Road parking lot at 9:00 AM. The hiking is moderate as we hike across some sandy areas and along river beds. BRING: plenty of water and snacks. MEET: CALL LEADER DICK BANKS at 909-866-9232.
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 quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

NON-SIERRA CLUB RECURRING WEEKLY & MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

(Click in Calendar for Dates)

MAR 3 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
OPEN SPACE MEETING
Help preserve Mission Valley’s northern skyline & scenic a natural-opportunities created by the Box Springs Mountain & Ballet Arts Studio downtown Riverside. CALLER/COORDINATOR PATSY MCCOLLOM (714) 217-6951 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GoSSELIN GOSSelin@riversideca.gov Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://www.caldancecoop.org/riversidedance/index.html>

MAR 4 (WED) 7:00 PM BANFF MOUNTAIN WORLD TOUR
FILM FESTIVAL
Santa Barbara Wilderness Association (SBWA) is showing the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net> or LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

MAR 5 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE
FOLK DANCE
Place: Highgrove United Methodist Church. 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net> or LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

MAR 7 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE
FOLK DANCE
Place: All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church will be on your right. Alternately, exit at Central Ave., go north to Mission & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: When the church is being remodeled, we will use the ballet Arts Studio downtown Riverside. CALLER/COORDINATOR PATSY MCCOLLOM (714) 217-6951 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GoSSELIN GOSSelin@riversideca.gov Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://www.caldancecoop.org/riversidedance/index.html>

MAR 14 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
OPEN SPACE MEETING
Help preserve Mission Valley’s northern skyline & scenic a natural-opportunities created by the Box Springs Mountain & Ballet Arts Studio downtown Riverside. CALLER/COORDINATOR PATSY MCCOLLOM (714) 217-6951 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GoSSELIN GOSSelin@riversideca.gov Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://www.caldancecoop.org/riversidedance/index.html>

MAR 21 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
OPEN SPACE MEETING
Help preserve Mission Valley’s northern skyline & scenic a natural-opportunities created by the Box Springs Mountain & Ballet Arts Studio downtown Riverside. CALLER/COORDINATOR PATSY MCCOLLOM (714) 217-6951 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GoSSELIN GOSSelin@riversideca.gov Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://www.caldancecoop.org/riversidedance/index.html>

APR 1 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE
FOLK DANCE
PLACE: All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church will be on your right. Alternately, exit at Central Ave., go north to Mission & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: When the church is being remodeled, we will use the ballet Arts Studio downtown Riverside. CALLER/COORDINATOR PATSY MCCOLLOM (714) 217-6951 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GoSSELIN GOSSelin@riversideca.gov Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://www.caldancecoop.org/riversidedance/index.html>

APR 4 (MON) 7:00 PM BANFF MOUNTAIN WORLD TOUR
FILM FESTIVAL
Santa Barbara Wilderness Association (SBWA) is showing the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net> or LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

APR 6 (WED) 7:00 PM BANFF MOUNTAIN WORLD TOUR
FILM FESTIVAL
Santa Barbara Wilderness Association (SBWA) is showing the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 <lgseekins@sbcglobal.net> or LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

APR 21 (WED) 7:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
FOLK DANCE
Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. BAND: LES AMIS. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

APR 28 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE
FOLK DANCE
PLACE: All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church will be on your right. Alternately, exit at Central Ave., go north to Mission & turn right. The church will be on your left. ALTERNATE DANCE VENUE: When the church is being remodeled, we will use the ballet Arts Studio downtown Riverside. CALLER/COORDINATOR PATSY MCCOLLOM (714) 217-6951 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: SANDY GoSSELIN GOSSelin@riversideca.gov Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://www.caldancecoop.org/riversidedance/index.html>

MAY 5 (TUE) 7:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
FOLK DANCE
Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. BAND: ATLANTIC CROSSING. DANCER: DOUG BOWLING. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

MAY 12 (TUE) 7:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
FOLK DANCE
Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. BAND: BAND: LES AMIS. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

MAY 19 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION
OPEN SPACE MEETING
A program is presented on an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Note that the December meeting may be closed for renovation at any time. We don’t know from month to month when the church hall remodeling will start. CALLER: JOHN ROGERS.

MAY 26 (TUE) 7:00 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
FOLK DANCE
Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. BAND: BAND: LES AMIS. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 908 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: LARRY & CLARITTE POWELL, (909) 864-2309.

Contact Us . . .
San Jacinto . . . Continued from Page 1

mega-development planned on the southern boundary of the area. Lewis Operating Corp of Upland, CA, is planning a “city” on the southern border of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area called The Villages of Lakeway. The 11,000 unit project would put almost 1,785 housing units on 300 acres of agricultural lands between the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and the Ramona Expressway with the remainder of the project south of the Ramona Expressway. The proposed project/city would be divided by the Ramona Expressway, which may be expanded to an eight-lane freeway sometime in the future. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to approve the massive project on February 23, 2010. Placing almost 2,000 homes near a premier wildlife area will have devastating consequences to wildlife and the viability of the wildlife area. Part of the project lands lie within the 100 year floodplain. The developer plans to fill the flood plains which will alter the course of floodwater which in turn will alter habitat for endangered plants and the Stephens’ Kangaroo Rat. Wildlife area property adjacent to the project site was flooded this winter due to heavy fall and winter rains. If homes are built next to the wildlife area, the threat of encephalitis and West Nile Virus could cause these wetlands to be drained and thereby eliminating wildlife habitat.

Other impacts and problems include incompatible and conflicting land uses, water quality issues, source of water for the project, geological/geotechnical/liquefaction problems, noise pollution, light pollution, illegal and inappropriate access to the SJWA by new residents and their motor toys, invasive non-native plant species, feral dogs and cats, loss of prime agricultural lands, traffic, and loss of other recreational uses at the SJWA. For many years the hunting community of southern California has been a strong supporter of the SJWA (hunting is allowed at all state wildlife areas). Their activities would be severely reduced or eliminated on the southern boundary if homes are located there.

Also, the project will have devastating impacts on the rural communities of Lakeview and Nuevo. The majority of homes in these two communities have large lots, a rural life-style and residents who keep horses and other domestic animals. Their quality of life will be destroyed and the newly developed “community” will be divided by a freeway.

Mail donations to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley CA 92556-1325

Please donate to help litigation efforts to protect the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

The Santa Margarita Group has plans for some excellent programs at our General Meetings in the months ahead. Here are some of the programs we have just completed:

Bob Audibert, Outings Committee Chair:

Bob Audibert will be showing us the Many Trails of Simpson Park. On March 27th we will be heading for Beauty Mountain. This hike is still “under construction” and may include some off-trail portions, so come ready for adventures and discover the hidden corners of this remote-yet-so-close wilderness of chaparral. Shauli Rosen-Rager will be our leader. If you have questions, email Bob at vzd1s415@verizon.net.

Lynn Davis, Program & Fundraising Committee Chair:
The Santa Margarita Group has plans for some excellent programs at our General Meetings in the months ahead. Here are some of the programs we have just completed:

We heard from Richard Halsey, director of the California Chaparral Institute, a non-profit research and educational organization, brought laughter and many “aha” moments to our Group on January 28th. Rick helped us understand the importance of chaparral, a Mediterranean-type ecosystem, how it has shaped our culture and how communities can adapt to fire-prone environments. We were privileged to have Dr. Gordon Pratt, an entomologist and Associate Specialist with UCR, present his fascinating research on the problems butterflies face with human development in Southern California at our February 25th meeting. On the same program, ExCom members Laurie Webster and Teri Wagner demonstrated an “Intro to Social Networking,” highlighting communication through website links Facebook, Twitter and the like.

And in the area of funding, our focus is on our next Sierra Sunday that will be held on March 7th at the Stone Brewing in Escondido. Those that attended our last Sierra Sunday at La Cereza Winery, know how much fun you can have. For more details, check our website (www.sierraclubsmg.org). Teri Wagner, Energy Committee Chair:

On May 14-17, Santa Margarita members will have the opportunity to volunteer at the region’s popular Solar Cup Race on Skinner Lake just east of Temecula. Sponsored by local water companies, high school students from all over Southern California will compete by racing solar powered boats the students have designed and built. Volunteers will be asked to devote their time in four hour slots. The purpose of the event is to encourage conservation among our young people. If you are interested in helping out email me (teriwagner6@hotmail.com). It will be fun!
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

May 7-9 • July 16-19 • August 6-10 • September 10-12

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice both snorkelers and kayakers. Watch for the highly endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the sight of whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling waters and a colony of friendly sea lions who will swim with snorkelers and follow kayaks.

These live-aboard, eco-tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ twin diesel Truth. The fee, $590 for May & September; $785 for July & August, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and present evening programs. To make a reservation mail a $100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information: (626)-443-0706; jhoitzln@aol.com

The California poppy (Eschscholzia californica) is native to grassy and open areas from sea level to 6,500 feet altitude in the western United States.

It can grow 5–60 cm tall, with alternately branching glaucous blue-green foliage. The flowers are solitary on long stems, silky-textured, with four petals, each petal 2–6 cm long and broad; their color ranges from yellow to orange, and flowering is from February to September. The petals close at night or in cold, windy weather and open again the following morning, although they may remain closed in cloudy weather.

It grows well in disturbed areas and often recolonizes after fires. It often colonizes along roadsides and other disturbed areas. It is drought-tolerant, self-seeding, and easy to grow in gardens. It is also pictured in welcome signs while entering California. It is the official flower of California. April 6 is designated California Poppy Day.

Scientific Name: Lupinus sparsiflorus
Common Name: Mojave Lupine, Coulter’s Lupine
Flower Color: Violet-blue or rarely white
Plant Type: Herb, Annual
Height: Up to 16 inches tall
Notes: Poisonous. The banner petal has a white patch with a red-spotted yellow center. The keel petals curve upward and have a hairy fringe. The green leaves are hairy with 7 to 10 narrow, lanceolate leaflets.

Volunteers Needed for …

Riverside Xeriscape Garden Tour and Festival May 22

Saturday, May 22 will be an exciting day in Riverside as the San Gorgonio Chapter introduces the First Annual Xeriscape Garden Tour and Festival. We really hope you’ll mark this date down in your calendar as the day will be educational and offer a treasure trove of beauty as well as elevate your Water-wise consciousness.

And we really need your help too! Please consider volunteering to help produce or staff this one-day event. There are two parts: The Tour and the Festival. The tour of award-winning low-water landscapes throughout the city is free and the map will be provided at the Sierra Club booth at the Festival Event.

The Festival itself will be held at the action spot in Riverside – the Riverside Plaza. Main Street will be closed and the street will be lined with booths sponsored by non-profits and businesses, all selected to provide ideas and resources to help you convert your home or business landscaping into a dollar and water-saving visual delight. Volunteers are needed for both the Tour and the Festival and can contact Chapter Chair Rick Estes at 951-314-3328 or rickestes_92595@yahoo.com.

Teaming up with the Sierra Club will be the masters of xeriscaping, Western Municipal Water District and the “Emerald City of Riverside.” Western Municipal Water District is well-known for their one-acre Water Conservation Demonstration Garden in Riverside. The garden is open 7 days a week, has loads of ideas for your garden and turf conversion if you choose to do so, and is free to visit.

Riverside Public Works Department is also helping in sponsoring the event and will have a booth at the Festival. Lots of information to help you conserve water will be available, and for Riverside residences and businesses, information on rebates to help you financially convert your household or business with water-saving technology. Additionally, Riverside Public Works will have a composting display.

Despite recent rain, drought will be a permanent fixture in California and combined with the recession, this will help you save water and money at the same time – a win/win event! Perhaps the recession is making it difficult for you to financially assist the San Gorgonio Chapter this March during our Fund Appeal. This would be a perfect opportunity to contribute by volunteering. Contact Rick today!

Sign Up Now For Leadership Training June 6-7

If you have enjoyed the Chapter’s Outings program as a participant, consider now becoming a Chapter Outings Leader. The many rewards include the satisfaction of introducing fellow members to your favorite places as well as the convenience of tailoring outings to your schedule. June 6-7 (Saturday and Sunday) is the next opportunity for you to receive the training at the Sierra Club owned Keller Hut near Running Springs.

The course involves an overnight stay at the spacious mountain cabin and includes classes in Outings Administration, Map and Compass, the Physiology and Psychology of Leadership, and Environmental Considerations. Sunday will include a field exercise where you put into practice your newly acquired skills.

Applicants need to be at least eighteen years of age and current members of the Chapter. There will be a $34 fee for the Sierra Club Outing Leader’s Handbook, the Chapter Leader’s Folder, all materials, continental breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and use of the facility. Saturday night dinner is a great break from a long day; however, there is one more session after dinner. Participants will be asked to contribute one food item. For an application form, please send a self addressed stamped envelope to: Ralph Salisbury, LTC Chair, 2995 Floral Ave, Riverside, CA 92507. Additional questions should be addressed to ralphsalisbury@att.net.
Moving Forward After Copenhagen – March 2nd

The speaker for the March 2 Chapter meeting is Carl Wood, who represented the Utility Workers Union of America at the Copenhagen climate summit.

Carl Wood will talk about how to move forward in the wake of Copenhagen, in terms of developing a message that resonates with working people.

This involves putting flesh on the bone of Labor’s slogan of a “just transition” to a low carbon economy, addressing the practical challenges (and threats) of any transition for workers.

He will also offer his thoughts and opinions about where public policy should focus with regard to power generation technologies and (versus?) conservation and efficiency. For the Inland Empire, building heating/cooling efficiency and mass transit are important areas of focus.

Carl Wood graduated from Riverside Polytechnic High School in 1964 and attended University of California, Riverside, where he was active in the civil rights and anti-war movements.

Wood, who worked as an industrial electrician in the steel and power generation industries for nearly 20 years, has held local and national offices in the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), AFL-CIO.

As National Deregulation Coordinator of the union, he testified before Congressional and state legislative committees on the impacts of deregulation on reliability and consumer prices.

He is now Director of Government and Regulatory Policy for the UWUA. In this capacity he works on green job development and represents the union on the AFL-CIO Energy Task Force and the national Blue-Green Alliance.

Wood served as a California Public Utilities Commissioner from his appointment in 1999 by Governor Gray Davis until December 2004.

As a labor leader and as a public official, Carl Wood has been an aggressive advocate for consumers and an outspoken critic of utility deregulation and liberalization of energy markets. He also serves as President of the Board of Directors of TURN, the California utility consumer advocacy group.

The Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia: Birds, Mammals, and a Bit of Natural History – April 6th

Sherry Schmidt will give a presentation that includes photographs taken during a three-week trip to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands.

The presentation will include information of how the Southern Ocean that encircles Antarctica is unique from all the other world’s oceans and why it supports such incredible numbers of pelagic birds, penguins, whales, and other marine mammals.

The talk will include some information on the threats to Animals that inhabit the Antarctic region including the impact of long line fisheries on the albatross populations.

Schmidt is an instructor in the biology department at Mount San Antonio College. She has taught there over 25 years. She received her B.A. at University of Montana and her M.A. at C.S.U. Fullerton.

Her primary interests today are in the natural history of desert and mountain ecosystems and in conservation biology. She also loves photography and travel. Her recent trips include trips to the Galapagos, Madagascar, Antarctica and Peru.

National Geographic and New Balance presents the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Sponsored by

The San Gorgonio Wilderness Association

March 31, 2010 • 7:00 PM

Redlands High School Clock Theater

The San Gorgonio Wilderness Association (SGWA) is hosting the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. PLACE: Redlands High School Clock Theater. Date & Time: Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at 7:00 PM. Cost: Tickets are $12.00 and all proceeds go to serving the public and protecting the wilderness. Tickets are available on-line at <www.sgwa.org> or at the door the night of the performance.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is an annual event that recognizes outstanding independent films dealing with mountain culture and the environment. The festival is held in early November and a variety of these films are offered on a World Tour. This is the third annual tour visit to the Inland Empire. Last Year’s event was a huge success with over 700 wildly enthusiastic participants. This year’s program will have more than two hours of high energy entertainment. There will be drawings for door prizes so save your ticket stub and prepare for a night of adventure in the mountains of the world.

The SGWA is incorporated in California as a nonprofit association dedicated to preserving the San Gorgonio Wilderness and serving the public visiting the wilderness. The SGWA is hosting the World Tour in an effort to raise awareness of the recreational opportunities in the local mountains and the SGWA efforts to preserve the Wilderness for future generations.

Info: <www.sgwa.org>
You are invited to the . . .

Annual Walk on Blue Mountain

by Ralph Salisbury

Please join the Friends of Blue Mountain, the City of Grand Terrace and The Foundation of Grand Terrace on the Third annual hike/walk up beautiful Blue Mountain on Saturday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m. The recent rains promise a very pleasant floral showcase and this is a rare time that the gates are open to the public to explore this hidden treasure.

Easily accessed, the walk begins at the corner of Palm Avenue and Honey Hill Drive in Grand Terrace. From the 215 Freeway exit East on Barton Road and proceed uphill until Barton begins to veer left. Continue straight on Palm Avenue to the top where it meets Honey Hill Drive. Best to park along Honey Hill Drive. You’ll see lots of activity and booths at the start area. You may start at 8:00 a.m., however you must begin no later than 11:00 a.m.

The Friends of Blue Mountain is a tax-exempt organization dedicated to the long-term protection of Blue Mountain’s natural habitats and open spaces. Each year this walk has gained an exuberant audience with over 500 attending last year’s walk.

The proposed size of Blue Mountain Wilderness Park is over 500 acres. The park will be mostly within the City of Grand Terrace but extends into Colton and Riverside County. Trails in the Wilderness Park would connect to Reche Canyon and Box Springs Mountain Preserve providing access from Riverside and Moreno Valley. Additionally, future trails will link Blue Mountain to the Santa Ana River Trail system. Your participation demonstrates continued support of the efforts of Friends of Blue Mountain and the establishment of the Wilderness Park, but mostly you will have a great day in this “remote” area that you pass by often on the freeway and is a critical area in need of preservation in our ever-growing Inland Empire.

For more information regarding the walk or Friends of Blue Mountain please contact ralphsalisbury@att.net or call 909-783-1664.

Mojave Group from Page 3 . . .

through Apple Valley might start as soon as 2012. This would make a freeway connecting I-15 to Hwy 18 near Dead Man’s Point. This looks more and more like a freeway to accommodate ever increasing truck traffic through our communities, and less and less like a project that will ease congestion for the commuter and local traffic. I find no evidence to evaluate alternatives for moving goods such as rail, even though there seem to be railway corridors that might be used.

Clean Water

Unfortunately, a very informative lecture about our water supply was “rained/snowed” out! Keep your eyes and ears open for more lectures such as the ABCs of Water given by the Mojave Water Agency and visit their website. They are also on “Facebook:”

Clean Air

One of California’s major initiatives for reducing climate change or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is AB32 was signed into law in 2006. But your local Mojave Desert Air Quality District governing board does not want to comply with this law. The governing board consists of representatives from our county and cities: County of SB District Supervisors (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) City of Hesperia (Ed Pack), City of Barstow (Joe Gomez), Town of Apple Valley (Bob Sagona), City of Needles (Jeff Williams), City of Twentynine Palms (John Cole), City of Victorville (Mike Rochchold), Town of Yuca Valley (Lori Herbel), public member (Barbara Riordan), city of Blythe (vacant). Executive director is Eldon Heaston. Their website is: http://www.mdasqaq.ca.gov/index.aspx/?page=6

At their last meeting they decided to write a letter asking for a waiver due to special circumstances in the High Desert. The special circumstances include that fact that we don’t have any jobs here, that most of the residents have to ‘clean’ businesses that the cities have tried to attract?

where is the metro link or other alternatives to driving alone in a car? Where is the list of not make it more difficult by stiffly regulating dirty emissions. If commuting is the problem, is to give incentives to business to relocate here (so people don’t have to commute), and not make it more difficult by stiffly regulating dirty emissions. If commuting is the problem, where is the metro link or other alternatives to driving alone in a car? Where is the list of “clean” businesses that the cities have tried to attract?

Thank you to all who write letters to the editor and to their elected officials. Thank you to all who help us to think outside the box and find sustainable solutions. Together we can do more. We welcome you to our meetings and our outings!