



## San Gabriels' extreme makeover?

*A bold new plan for the iconic range would create a new national parkland.*

By Jeff Yann  
ANGELES CHAPTER FOUNDATION

The creation of a San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area moved a step closer to reality recently when the National Park Service outlined three options for what the new parkland would look like, including one favored by Sierra Club activists.

The NPS crafted Alternative D, as it's known, would set aside 600,000 acres. That includes the entire San Gabriel Mountain chain as far east as the San Bernardino County border, extending well beyond the current national forest boundary. It also includes water courses of the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo from the mountains to Santa Fe Springs, an area the Angeles Chapter Foundation has proposed as a string of parks known as the "Emerald Necklace."

The Angeles Chapter Foundation had earlier provided funding for a report on the Emerald Necklace concept, one developed by the Chapter's San Gabriel River Campaign, became one of the key elements in the NPS study. The inclusion is a significant victory for the foundation as well as the Chapter's San Gabriel Valley and Puente-Chino Hills task forces, the Forest Committee

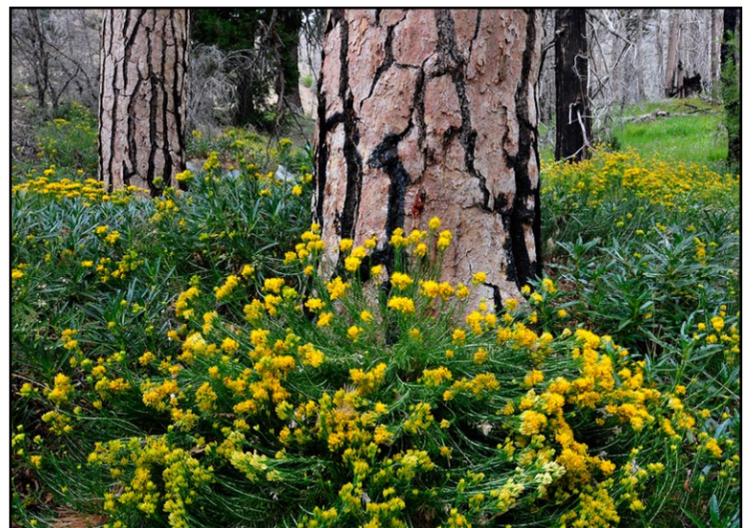
### INSIDE

- Let's make this happen! Send comments by Jan. 9 to the National Park Service.
- How Sierra Club's outreach to Latinos and other foothill residents helped this campaign succeed.

and the L.A. Field Office of the national Sierra Club — all working with partners in the San Gabriel Mountains Forever coalition.

The NPS study says in part: "In this alternative, Congress would designate a larger scale national recreation area that would recognize and protect the significant resources associated with the San Gabriel Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills, explore opportunities to protect and enhance interconnected ecosystems, provide important open space connections for recreation, and offer new educational and interpretive opportunities." An NPS environmental assessment showed that Alternative D also would be the best plan of action for land protection and recreation development.

SAN GABRIELS/PAGE 4



PHOTOS STEVE ANDERSON/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Top: A view of Winston Peak in the northern part of the San Gabriel Mountains. Above: Wildflowers surround the base of a Ponderosa pine.

## Good Job Green Jobs conference comes to Los Angeles

By Carol Henning

"What I find exciting is that the solutions to the ecological crisis can be the solutions to the economic crisis ..." Naomi Klein, author of "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism," said at a recent panel hosted by The Nation magazine.

The Sierra Club couldn't agree more. That's why it will sponsor Good Jobs Green Jobs conferences this year in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Detroit that seeks to underscore the job-creating potential of a green economy. Each regional conference will explore the "character, challenges and opportunities" unique to its area.

Good Jobs Green Jobs West in Los Angeles



will take place March 15 and 16 at the downtown Westin Bonaventure. It offers two days of plenaries, receptions and workshops that bring together community leaders, union members, environmentalists, business leaders and elected officials to discuss how the West is, and could be better at, building the foundation for a green economy.

During the conference, more than 40 workshops will look at an emerging green economy through transportation, workforce and economic development, and clean energy and manufacturing — things like building wind turbines, retrofitting commercial buildings, weatherizing homes and producing cleaner, safer chemicals.

The registration fee is \$195 per person but will be waived for Sierra Club members willing to work at the conference. Volunteers are needed to help register participants and to direct them to workshops and other events. To find out more and to register, visit [www.greenjobsconference.org](http://www.greenjobsconference.org) or contact Joan Jones Holtz at [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com).

The conferences take place amid a continuing unemployment crisis when creation of good, family-supporting jobs should be a top national priority. These jobs would shape a sustainable economy and protect the environment for future generations.

The Sierra Club chose to partner with labor unions because they are an important part of the vision for a safer workplace — one without threats to health, safety and the environment — and a more experienced workforce. It's

no secret that unions have lost ground in the past three decades; about 24 percent of non-supervisory U.S. workers were represented by union contracts in 1973, a number that fell to 12.5 percent by 2005. Wages for most of those same workers in the same time period went nowhere even though production increased by 75 percent, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

As for Klein, she sees climate change and the current high levels of unemployment "as a single crisis born of a single root, which is unrestrained corporate greed that can never have enough ... a mentality that trashes people and that trashes the planet..." Economic solutions have to focus on the ecological crisis front and center, Klein points out, which could mean millions of jobs building massive public transit systems, a smart energy grid and green cooperatives. For more, go to [www.greenjobsconference.org](http://www.greenjobsconference.org).

Glaciers and fjords and bears, oh my! Set sail on a Chapter cruise and land tour of Alaska. Page 5



Angeles Chapter Centennial: Members gather at Harwood Lodge to toast the first 100 years. Page 5



# Haven't made any New Year's resolutions? Just steal one of ours

By **Mary Forgione**  
SOUTHERN SIERRAN EDITOR

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the past and set goals for the future — and it's not that hard. Here are some easy ways to start making a difference.

- **Commit to green activism:** Make this the year you set aside time to volunteer for one of the many campaigns sponsored by the Chapter.
- **Commit to the Chapter:** Make this the year you make a contribution to the Chapter that goes beyond the membership dues you paid long ago when you first joined the club.
- **Commit to being active:** Make this the year you sample some of the 6,000 activities and trips the Chapter sponsors each year, especially fundraising trips (see pages 5 and 6).

So what has the Chapter been doing lately? Here's what we've been up to in 2011 — and what we'll continue to pursue in the new year.

The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force has been instrumental in blocking the Sweetwater Mesa Development in Malibu where U2

## Resolve to get involved in 2012

The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter is working on a variety of interesting projects in protecting local lands and upholding clean air and clean water standards — and we need your help this year.

Volunteer to help rate local cities for their efforts on environmental conservation. Work as a group or volunteer from home. Be involved with your city or at the county level. Opportunities include social gatherings, meeting with local lawmakers and making calls from home.

Projects include creating scorecards that rank cities by focusing on:

- Zero Waste
- Energy Efficiency
- Sustainable Water Use

Do you have experience with web

design, graphic design, writing skills and public relations? Get involved.

Join other activists each month at the Angeles Chapter Office (3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 320, L.A.) to learn about these campaigns. Here are some upcoming meetings:

Water Committee: 7 p.m. Jan. 10 (second Tuesday of the month)

Climate Change and Energy Committee: 7 p.m. Jan. 12 (second Thursdays).

Zero Waste Committee: 7 p.m. Jan. 24 (fourth Tuesdays).

To find out more, contact: Chapter staffers Jennifer Robinson ([jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org](mailto:jennifer.robinson@sierraclub.org)) or George Watland ([george.watland@sierraclub.org](mailto:george.watland@sierraclub.org)) to get involved or for more information.

guitarist and international humanitarian The Edge wants to build a residential colony and access roads atop a pristine ridge line.

The Montebello Hills Task Force has intervened to protect the hills

from a Texas oil company's plans to build 1,200 homes on the last remaining large area of open space between the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo, a rare coastal sage scrub habitat that is home to the

federally-threatened California gnatcatcher and red-tailed hawks that soar above.

The Banning Ranch Task Force continues to fight residential development on the 412 acres of wetlands and adjacent bluffs in Orange County, and to promote a permanent public open space, park, and coastal nature preserve that will improve air and water quality, and provide space for relaxation, education, and recreation.

The Coyote Hills Task Force is promoting a park and reserve with access for recreation and education, instead of the 760 residential units plus a commercial strip proposed by Chevron's developer. This 510 acres is the largest remaining undeveloped wild land site in north Orange County with a host of rare and endangered species and threatened habitats.

The Santa Clarita Group Conservation Committee is working to curb the developments planned on Newhall Ranch to protect the last unpaved river in Los Angeles and preserve more of the remaining pieces of open space in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The Harbor Vision Task Force is

rolling up its sleeves to take on several goods movement projects. First, wrapping-up the Clean Trucks program by gaining employee status for port truck drivers, a necessary step in locking in air pollution gains and uplifting workers' neighborhoods. Next comes promoting greener alternatives to several freeway and rail yard expansion projects as they relate to movement of goods.

The South Bay Open Spaces Task Force is setting its sites on curbing hazards arising from the Palos Verdes Landfill. This toxic site is adjacent to homes and poses health and safety concerns to nearby communities.

And the Zero Waste Committee is striving to reduce waste going to landfills. Their tools include better recycling programs, reducing excess packaging and junk mail, and promoting longer-life products like reusable shopping bags. They are putting together a "Waste Watcher's" self-audit to help families and businesses kick the trash habit.

*George Watland, Jennifer Robinson and Tom Politeo contributed to this story.*

## Elden Hughes, the Sierra Club's king of the desert

The Los Angeles Times carried an impressive obituary of Elden Hughes who died Dec. 4 at age 80. The story listed his many environmental accomplishments, among them work he did that led to passage of the Desert Protection Act in 1994 and the designation of Joshua Tree and Death Valley as national parks.

When I became a Sierra Club member, Elden's column as Chapter chair always appeared on this page; it was my introduction to the Chapter, its many conservation and political campaigns and battles, its many hikes and activities that would teach me about lands in my own backyard and beyond.

The national Sierra Club said of his life: As chair of the Sierra Club's California Desert Committee, Hughes was one of the key architects of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act and for decades was a leading voice in educating the public and decision-makers about the priceless resources in California's deserts. Along with scores of other activists, he traversed the desert identifying wild lands and wildlife deserving of protection, and told their story to the people with the power to preserve these lands.

"Elden leaves a legacy that will outlast us all," Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune says, "in the form of enduring conservation of this magnificent, diverse ecological region for future generations. He's a wonderful example of how much one determined person can accomplish if he's willing to work hard and share his vision with others."

—Mary Forgione



Elden Hughes, center, and his wife Patty take the desert protection campaign to the White House in the 1990s. Here, Elden introduces President Clinton to a desert tortoise.

*Editor's note: Judith Anderson worked alongside Elden Hughes on key desert campaigns and continues to work on desert issues for the Angeles Chapter. Here are some of her thoughts on what Elden accomplished for the Chapter and how he shared his vision of desert protection with the world.*

### AN APPRECIATION

By **Judith Anderson**

Elden could operate on a big stage, the desert, but he made it feel as though you were just sitting around a campfire with him and he

was teaching you the words to Hi Joli, the tale of the Arab who took the U.S. Army's camels across the California desert to Barstow. Elden's guitar and leadership of campfire discussions helped educate several hundred Club members from across the country.

When Elden took on the task of getting support for the California Desert Protection Act, our targets included two senators from Utah, home of the Church of the Latter-Day saints. The idea was to show LDS support and gain their votes on the bill. While he wasn't able to actually get church support, Elden

didn't give up. He followed a string of leads, one by one, until he found an elderly direct descendent of Brigham Young who would write a letter of support and detail how the act would be in line with the teachings of her ancestors.

As he gained support for the desert, Elden discovered that he didn't have an essential tool for convincing people that he met about the importance of the campaign. He didn't have an album of photos that included every one of the areas to be protected. So, he took on the task of photographing every one and, as he said it, "setting foot in each one." On a series of trips, many of which were adventure tales in and of themselves (dead car battery in the middle of the Mojave Desert), he walked in and took photos of each of the 158 named study areas. No one else in the campaign could say the same. The big fat photo albums made many trips to Washington D.C., and other VIP venues.

One of the largest and lasting projects that Elden worked on for the Angeles Chapter was the establishment of a separate foundation, then called Friends of the Angeles Chapter Foundation, now simply, Angeles Chapter Foundation. Establishing the local foundation allowed members and non-members an easy way to support the Chapter by designating the foundation as the recipient for their bequests.

## New Southern Sierran editor

By **Ron Silverman**  
SENIOR CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Please join me in welcoming (back) Mary Forgione as editor of the Southern Sierran newsletter. Forgione, a longtime Southern California journalist whose work appears in the L.A. Times and other publications, served as editor of the Chapter's newsletter from 1997 to 2000.

I am very glad Mary is back at the helm and am looking forward to her creativity and expert writing and editing skills on the six newsy, bi-monthly issues coming your way in 2012. Forgione also will be a key player as we increase the Southern Sierran's online presence.

I'm confident Chapter members will enjoy pitching ideas and writing stories as well as reading what promises to be journalism at its best.

Send letters, submissions to [southern.sierran@sierraclub.org](mailto:southern.sierran@sierraclub.org).

*For the record: The October Southern Sierran offered members an opportunity to opt out of a print copy of the newsletter in favor of an electronic version. That offer was made prematurely and isn't available.*

## Southern Sierran

[angeles.sierraclub.org/news/SouthernSierran.asp](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/news/SouthernSierran.asp)  
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**Advertisers:** To advertise, call 213-387-4287, ext. 212. Deadline for the March issue is February 5.

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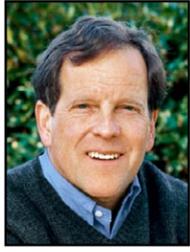
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Pictured, polar bear female and cubs, from desk calendar page. Photo by Richard Day.			

# News briefs

## Pope steps down from Club post



Carl Pope has stepped down from his position as Sierra Club chairman to devote time to new initiatives, including nurturing a collaborative effort in which business, labor, environmentalists and others will work to revitalize America's manufacturing base. Pope, who had been the Sierra Club's executive director for 17 years, was named chairman in April 2010 when Michael Brune was hired as executive director, the top staff position at the club. He is chairman of the board of America Votes and a member of the board of American Rights at Work and the Blue-Green Alliance. His 2004 book "Strategic Ignorance" was called "splendidly fierce" by the New York Review of Books.

—Sierra Club reports

100-year history, according to the UCLA College Report (Winter 2012). Hats off to Lenderking and UCLA's geology staff in recognizing Muir's vision and keeping it alive.

—Mary Forgiione

## New plan helps protect wetlands at Ormond Beach

In a big win for California's coast, the Oxnard City Council adopted a final 2030 General Plan that firmly advances the protection and restoration of the Ormond Beach wetlands. The Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter has been fighting to preserve the vast ecosystem of green wetlands and unique coastline habitat in Oxnard since the 1980s. The beach is a crucial resting spot for more than 200 species of migrating birds and home to 12 threatened and endangered species and species of concern. If restored as the state Coastal Conservancy envisions, the beach could be part of a nine-mile stretch of wetlands from Point Hueneme to Point Mugu.

—Amanda Wallner, Sierra Club California

## And the winner is ... Chapter Awards Banquet on May 6

The annual Chapter Awards Banquet is the one time of the year when members celebrate achievements of their peers. Keynote speaker will be Sierra Club President Robin Mann. The banquet to be held May 6 at the Brookside Country Club in Pasadena; reception and silent auction start at 5 p.m. with dinner and awards program starting at 6 p.m.. For more information or for reservations, go online to [angeles.sierraclub.org/about/AwardsBanquet](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/about/AwardsBanquet) or contact Silvia Darie or Donna Specht ([donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com)).

—Donna Specht

## Sign up for a week of service at LeConte Lodge in Yosemite



LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite National Park is seeking volunteers this summer at the Tudor-style stone structure the Sierra Club built in 1904 to honor geologist and early Club president Joseph LeConte. Volunteers, who must be at least 18 years old, spend a week assisting with information and evening programs at the lodge from May 1 to Sept. 30.

Volunteers receive a campsite but must bring their own tents, equipment and food. To volunteer, contact curator Bonnie Gisel at (209) 403-6676.

—Bonnie J. Gisel

## A new UCLA chair for John Muir (not one to sit on)

UCLA grad Hollis Lenderking is a runner who has logged many miles in remote landscapes. So when he decided to endow a chair at the university's Department of Geology that would reflect his love of nature, he left it up to the professors to come up with a name. The result: the new John Muir Endowed Chair in Geography. It's only the second named chair in the department's

# Sepulveda Basin's sweet spot benefits birds – and those who value them

By Jan Kidwell

The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area is a well-kept secret. The natural area in the heart of the San Fernando Valley covers 60 acres of bird habitat north of Burbank Boulevard on the basin's east side, south of the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant that releases 18 million gallons of treated water daily.

Some of that water feeds into a wildlife lake that provides habitat for great and snowy egrets, great blue herons, cormorants, geese, ducks and other birds. The lake also contains an island where birds can rest and even nest, free from human contact, except for birders and other admirers who view them from the shore.

Now a new master plan for the dam and the wildlife area reaffirms the importance of this parkland and steps that should be taken to ensure its protection. The latest update to the master plan, approved by the Army Corps of Engineers on September 28, contains a copy of the original agreement leasing most of the Sepulveda Basin to the City of Los Angeles.

The whole of the Sepulveda Basin is primarily a flood control area. The city has taken on maintenance, so residents of Los Angeles can use most of it for recreation. There's also a golf course in the Sepulveda Basin, and Lake Balboa, which is ringed by blossoming cherry trees in spring.

The goal for the wildlife area "is to provide optimum success for the wildlife while providing for appropriate public use". The plan also acknowledges that in spring and fall, during wildlife migration months, more people will visit the birds, potentially increasing instances of littering, fishing and bringing dogs through the wildlife area.

Well-placed signage to enforce the "No Dogs" and "No Fishing" rules would go a long way to help remind us all how to protect this beautiful resource.

The plan outlines 14 rules and regulations that the City of L.A. agreed to when Mayor Bradley signed the lease back in 1987. It also says that "appropriate use public information signs" will be posted both at the entrances and inside the wildlife area. One of the rules says, "No person shall disturb or take any bird... plant...fish or animal within the Wildlife Area". Another tells us, "dogs... are prohibited from entering the Wildlife Area".

So where exactly is this hidden habitat? There is only one sign from Woodley Avenue, entering to the east from half way between Victory and Burbank Boulevards. The sign, "Wildlife Reserve," is so low that it is obscured almost completely by overgrown bushes. Luckily, the same entrance leads you to the cricket field, the archery area, and the Japanese Garden. Once you find the entrance, drive in to reach the parking area. Walk beyond the outdoor auditorium and you will soon be rewarded with stunning views of multiple large birds all around the perimeter of the island in the lake. The lake is surrounded by native plants and wonderful fragrances.

The Sierra Club does not yet lead regularly scheduled outings to the Wildlife Area, although the Verdugo Hills Group will try to correct that in 2012. The best way to be shown around now is to go on a bird walk with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. Volunteers take groups of children and their families and beginning birdwatchers into the north section that includes the wildlife lake from 9 to 11 a.m. the second Saturday of every month from October through March. Bird walks also are led on the first Sunday of every month throughout the year from at 8 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information on bird-watching at Sepulveda Basin, contact [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).

## Toss out California's environmental laws? That's crazy

There's a ballot initiative afoot to repeal the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Coastal Act, the California Endangered Species Act and abolish the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Air Resources Board. Get the picture? This sweeping initiative is driven by San Francisco Bay Area rancher and Tea Party activist Oscar Braun. The measure must collect 807,615 signatures of registered voters to qualify for the ballot, according to the California Secretary of State's office.

—Mary Forgiione

## Learn the fine points of environmental law

The Chapter's Legal Committee is hosting a daylong workshop March 17 on environmental law for activists.

The workshop will be held at Loyola Law School near downtown Los Angeles. Topics to be covered include:

- coastal protection;
- land conservancies and trusts; and
- environmental effects of oil.

The workshop is free but requires advance registration. E-mail Dean Wallraff at [dwallraff@aenv.org](mailto:dwallraff@aenv.org) for info.

—Dean Wallraff, Legal Committee

## More bad news about bad air

Three new studies released in December by the California Air Resources Board reveal that exposure to airborne fine-particulate matter significantly elevates the risk for premature deaths from heart disease in older adults and elevates incidence of strokes among post-menopausal women. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in California and is responsible for approximately 35 percent of annual deaths.

The board commissioned the studies to further investigate the connection between fine particulate pollution and public health impacts in California.

—Air Resources Board

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# What makes the San Gabriels so special

*Hint: They really are rock stars*

By Mary Forgiore

I've spent a good deal of the past three decades tromping around the San Gabriel Mountains, the craggy brow that runs from high point Mount Baldy behind Claremont to the twisted rock slabs of the Devil's Punchbowl in the Antelope Valley. Snow at high elevations in winter and green-lined trails and stream beds in spring have come to define L.A.'s most iconic and beloved backyard.

Like many Angeles Chapter hikers, I thought I knew these mountains by heart — and by foot. But the National Park Service changed all that.

The federal agency issued a report in September that sketched out the possibility of creating a brand-new San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area that might be much bigger than the current national forest, adding key watershed areas and looping in the Puente-Chino Hills.

Why? The report is filled with eye-popping details about how special these particular mountains and hills are — and why they would be

## Make your voice heard by Jan. 9

The National Park Service is accepting public comments through Jan. 9 on the study, officially known as the Draft San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment.

Please write to say you support Alternative D, the plan for a proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area that would include the most land and include rivers and their watersheds. Here are ways you can comment:

Comment online at [nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel](http://nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel)

Send an e-mail to [pwr\\_sangabriel@nps.gov](mailto:pwr_sangabriel@nps.gov)

Mail a letter to:  
National Park Service, Planning  
San Gabriel Watershed and  
Mountains Study

333 Bush St., Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94104

For information on this study or questions about how to comment, e-mail [pwr\\_sangabriel@nps.gov](mailto:pwr_sangabriel@nps.gov) or call (415) 623-2311.

perfect for a new national parkland. Here are a few of the findings:

To read an executive summary or the entire San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study, go to [www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel/](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel/). To learn more about efforts to protect the San Gabriels, check out San Gabriel Mountains Forever at [www.sangabrielmountains.org](http://www.sangabrielmountains.org).

—The San Gabriels are among the fastest-growing mountains in the world, gaining about 2 inches a year due to the force of a series of faults beneath their surface.

—The mountains contain rocks from all major geologic eras — the Mount Lowe plutonic suite, Pelona schist and others — and some are more than 1 billion years old, making them the oldest rocks on the West Coast.

—The mountains are home to 67 plant species and 105 wildlife species, including some endangered or threatened.

—The San Gabriels contain “outstanding” examples of habitats such as coastal sage scrub, alluvial sage scrub, relict juniper communities,



STEVE ANDERSON/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Habitats filled with limber pine, above, juniper, big-cone Douglas fir and other native foliage in the San Gabriel Mountains are what made the National Park Service take notice.

big-cone Douglas fir and others.

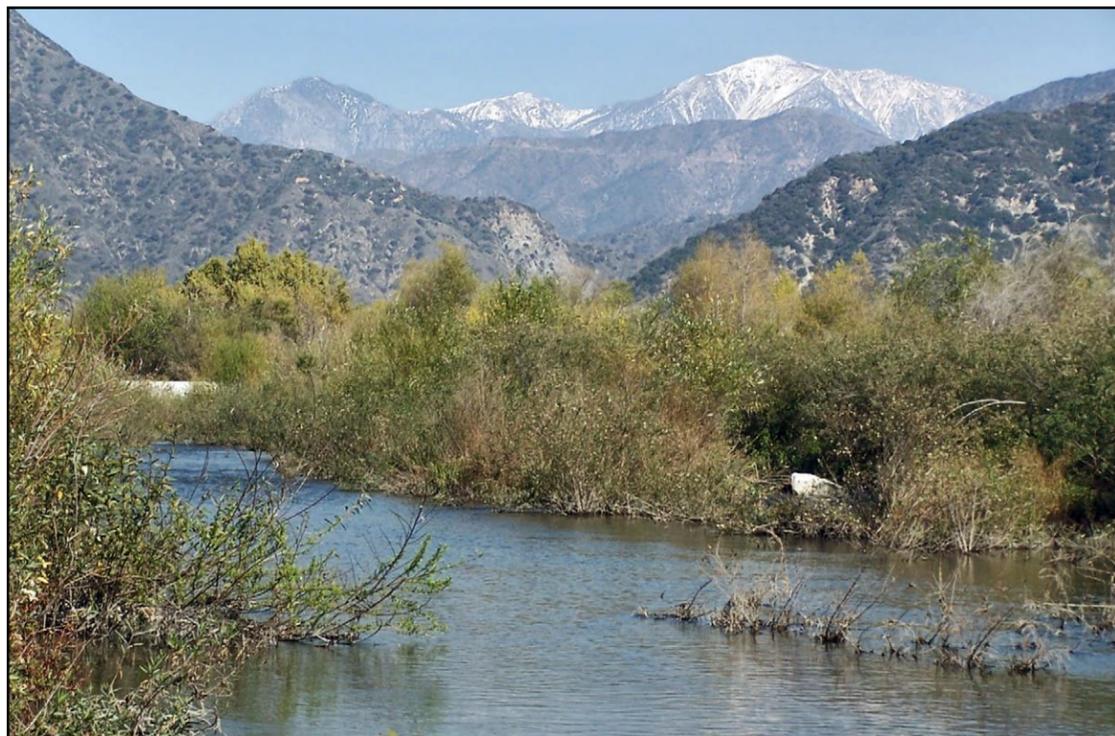
—The mountains are among the richest areas for freshwater fish in all of Southern California.

—The Puente-Chino Hills area have the best remaining stands of California walnut-dominated forests and woodlands south of Ventura County.

There's more in this report, which is well worth a read, that supports the

most compelling reason for creating a national recreation area that includes the San Gabriels and Puente-Chino Hills: There's simply nothing else like it. Anywhere.

“Together, the San Gabriel Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills contain a combination of themes and resources not found in any national park unit or comparably managed area,” the report says.



JEFF YANN/ANGELES CHAPTER FOUNDATION

A view of the west bank of the San Gabriel River in Duarte looking up San Gabriel Canyon.

## SAN GABRIELS/PAGE 1

Under this scenario, land would be managed collaboratively by the Park Service with local jurisdictions continuing to manage existing parks and facilities. The park service would provide funding, personnel and development of improved recreation and interpretive facilities. Regulatory functions, land use and other policies among the many cities and agencies contained within the boundaries of the recreation area would remain with those governing agencies, and lands acquisition would only be from willing sellers.

Other alternatives in the report include leaving the area as is — managed by the National Forest Service — or carving out a smaller recreation area around the San Gabriel River watershed.

The call for a recreation area study dates to 2000 when then-Rep. Hilda L. Solis introduced the idea in Congress. After Solis was tapped to become Secretary of Labor in the Obama administration, Rep. Judy Chu took over the district.

At an NPS-sponsored public meeting on Oct. 29, Chu pledged her

support for Alternative D and promised swift introduction of legislation to implement the recommendations made by the Secretary of the Interior. More than 200 people attended the meeting and overwhelmingly favored a recreation area based on Alternative D.

While the Chapter favors Alternative D, it also would like to see the mountain section of the proposed recreation area extended to the

Cajon Pass and eastward to Chino Hills State Park. The Sierra Club continues to advocate for additional Wilderness Area designations in the San Gabriel Mountains and for Wild and Scenic River designation for the San Gabriel River forks above San Gabriel Dam.

For more information, go to [www.sangabrielmountains.org](http://www.sangabrielmountains.org).

Jeff Yann is president of the Angeles Chapter Foundation.

## Where have all the bears gone?

Noted wildlife biologist Kevin Brennan will present “Grizzlies and Black Bears in the San Gabriel Mountains” at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena.

The Chapter's Forest Committee sponsors this program that traces the history of the mighty grizzly bear that used to dominate local mountains and valleys until the rise of two-legged competition.

Brennan also will discuss the history and habits of the black bear, the successor to the grizzly that now roams our mountain range and, sometimes our neighborhoods and hot tubs. Brennan, who has worked for the last 20 years with the California Department of Fish & Game, provides insight on how humans can best live near the black bears of the San Gabriels.

The public is welcome to attend this free event that starts with reception and refreshments at 7 pm and program at 7:30.

## Sierra Club took vision to communities of color

This summer, the Sierra Club hosted an event in Azusa to introduce the San Gabriel Mountains Forever campaign to community members who live south of the mountains.

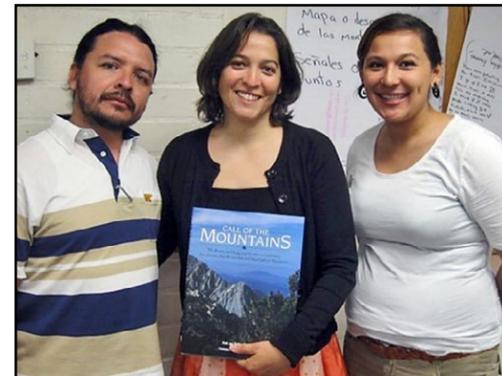
“Azusa is the gateway city to the San Gabriels” says Sierra Club organizer Juana Torres. “We had a very successful event, conducted in English and Spanish, and both area residents and local elected officials were in attendance.”

The Sierra Club's San Gabriel Mountains Campaign has been seeking to permanently protect wild places and scenic rivers in the San Gabriels, the recreational “backyard” for 17 million Southern Californians.

Club organizer Jasmin Vargas has been doing extensive public outreach in the foothill communities. “The people we invited to the June 30 event are mostly from communities of color that are socio-economically underserved,” she says. “They use the San Gabriels for recreation, but they haven't been organized per se in making their experience there a better one.”

The proceedings opened with people sharing their favorite places in the local mountains. Torres, Vargas, and campaign manager Byron Gudiel spoke about the opportunities and challenges in the Angeles and San Bernardino national forests, where the San Gabriels are located, and presented the Sierra Club's vision for the range. The audience then split up into groups to discuss ways they could get involved and what their personal commitment would be.

The Sierra Club is a founding member of San Gabriel Mountains Forever, a coalition of community, faith, social justice and environmental groups working to preserve what many consider to be Southern California's most scenic and most valuable natural resource. The San



From left, Sierra Club organizer Byron Gudiel, Azusa School Board President Xilonin Cruz, and Sierra Club organizer Jasmin Vargas.

Gabriels, which comprise 70 percent of the open space in Los Angeles County and supply one-third of the county's water, receive some 3.5 million visitors a year, many of them from L.A.'s Latino community.

There are currently five wilderness areas in the San Gabriels, and the Club, along with San Gabriel Mountains Forever, is seeking to protect an additional 36,000 acres as wilderness and designate five waterways as National Wild & Scenic Rivers. U.S. Representatives David Drier (R-CA) and Judy Chu (D-CA) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have been champions of the San Gabriels in Congress.

Ultimately, the Club's vision for the San Gabriels is to get the range designated as a national recreation area. The mountains contain some of the most beloved recreation areas in L.A. County, but they suffer from inadequate maintenance and services. Restrooms and picnic tables are scarce, few Forest Service employees speak Spanish, and there is no real visitor center or significant investment in stewardship or educational services. Designating a national recreation area would address these shortcomings.

To get involved, join the San Gabriel Mountains Forever campaign by going online to [www.sangabrielmountains.org](http://www.sangabrielmountains.org)

Calendar

# Start your New Year's adventures with these Chapter trips



Begin planning your 2012 vacation with trips to Alaska, Virginia and Colorado sponsored by Angeles Chapter entities. All benefit the Chapter while providing a good value and a good adventure — and you don't have to be a Sierra Club member to go. (But you might want to become a member and take advantage of member discounts.)

Over the last five years, fund-raising trips have generated more than \$383,000 to fund conservation campaigns, political work and communications such as the Southern Sierran and the Angeles Chapter website. These trips offer some of the best prices around, with volunteer leaders spending two or more years planning itineraries and organizing tours.

Join us on a spring cruise to Alaska, a fall tour of historic Virginia and a national park sampler of Colorado, Utah and Arizona. For full details about these trips, go online to [angeles.sierrclub.org/fundraising/ChapterTrips.asp](http://angeles.sierrclub.org/fundraising/ChapterTrips.asp).

## Voyage of the Glaciers: Alaska, the Last Frontier, May 14-21

Rated C/O and sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and OC Sierra Singles.

Cruise the Inside Passage from Vancouver, B.C. to Whittier, Alaska on the Coral Princess with ports of call at Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. Experience the spectacular grandeur John Muir encountered in 1879 when he paddled his canoe in the waters of what is now Glacier Bay. Rainforest hikes, frontier saloon explorations and onboard activities round out this cruise that visits Glacier Bay National Park and College Fjord. Fares include stateroom,



DONNA SPECHT/OCSS

meals, entertainment and more. Prices start at \$564 per person, inside cabin, double occupancy (port charges, taxes, transfers, tips, airfare are extra). For information, contact Gabriela Melgarejo at Iberoamericana, (888) 477-8669 or e-mail [Gabriela@iberoamericanatravel.com](mailto:Gabriela@iberoamericanatravel.com) or Chapter cruise coordinator: Donna Specht ([donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com)). Assistant leaders: Ana Cadez, Todd Clark, Sylvie Cote.

## Denali and the Kenai Peninsula, May 21-27 (Alaska land tour)

Rated O and sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and OC Sierra Singles.

Add a week to Voyage of the Glaciers or fly up and meet the group in Alaska for a seven day/six night fully escorted charter coach trip to Talkeetna, Denali National Park and back to Anchorage for a fun slice of urban life, Alaska style. Unique opportunity to see the best of Alaska's interior at a relaxed pace to enjoy beautiful wilderness lodging, funky towns, adventure, spectacular scenery, wildlife and glacier cruise. Price is \$1,175 per person and includes lodging, bus, transfers, happy hours, some meals. For complete information, contact trip leader Donna Specht, [donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com) or (714) 963-6345. Co-leader: Ana Cadez.

## Colorado, National Park and Monument Sampler, July 21-29

Rated O and sponsored by the Angeles Chapter.

Spend nine days of hiking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Monument, Arches National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Yucca House National Monument, Great Sand Dunes National Park and a tram ride to top of Pike's Peak. Spend three days in Estes Park, Colo., hiking, wildlife viewing and sightseeing in Rocky Mountain National Park and three days learn-



MIKE SAPPINGFIELD

The Confederate line at the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, Pa. This is one of the many stops on the Historical Virginia and Vicinity trip in September.

ing about early American Indian civilizations at Mesa Verde, Hovenweep and Yucca House. The trip begins and ends in Denver and costs \$1,450 per adult and \$900 for children under 13 staying in parents' room. Price includes, lodging (double occupancy), bus, park admissions and more. Airfare isn't included. For information, contact leader Fred Dong at (818) 545-3878. Co-leader: Stephanie Gross.

## Historical Virginia and Vicinity, Sept. 23-30

Rated O and sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage

Tour Williamsburg; Jamestown, the first English settlement in America; and Yorktown Battlefield where George Washington won the climatic battle of the Revolutionary War. Other

itinerary highlights include Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered his army to U S Grant; Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; the Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian Trail; Harpers Ferry, site of John Brown's revolt; Gettysburg Battlefield and Fort McHenry, site of the battle that inspired the Star Spangled Banner; and Annapolis and the U. S. Naval Academy. Trip includes lodging, airport transfers, admission fees to scheduled locations, breakfasts (lunches, dinners, airfare to and from Washington, D.C., are not included) Trip cost per person is \$1,250 for Sierra Club members/\$1,350 for non members. \$500 deposit to reserve, balance due July 1. For information and application forms, contact leader Mike Sappingfield ([mikesapp@cox.net](mailto:mikesapp@cox.net)). Co-leaders: Mary Morales, Patty Sappingfield.

FOR MORE CALENDAR ENTRIES/PAGE 6

## Angeles Chapter Centennial

# Toasting a successful century of activism and outings

And yes, we're ready for the next 100.

By Bob Cates  
ANGELES CHAPTER HISTORIAN

More than 60 local Sierra Club members on Nov. 5 braved the icy road to Mt. Baldy Village to bask in the cheery warmth of Harwood Lodge and celebrate the first century (plus four days) of the Sierra Club in Southern California.

In number of participants, the celebration party approximated the size of the initial gathering on Nov. 1, 1911, at the Knickerbocker Building in downtown Los Angeles when the Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club was born.

As the Club's first chapter, we were a grand experiment — and can proudly boast that the optimism of our founders was well-placed: The spirit of innovation has continued within our organization from day one to the present. In the intervening decades, we have spun off sibling chapters throughout Southern California, changed our name to the Angeles Chapter and become the largest chapter of the Sierra Club.

Formed primarily to foster and expand upon the adventurous social life of the Club's yearly High Trips, our forebears early on created an innovative outings program that became the heart and soul of the Angeles Chapter. Special-interest activity groups have flourished in this environment: mountaineering sections, nature study groups, river touring, bicycling, skiing, and of course, hiking, hiking, hiking.

The framework provided by the outings program provided an umbrella and operational model for many other diverse groups that made their first appearance in the Club within the Angeles Chapter: Sierra Singles, Gay and Lesbian Section, International Community, K-9 Hikers, Little Hikers, and Inner City Outings, among others.

Nor was conservation neglected throughout the years. How fitting it was to have our Centennial Celebration at Harwood Lodge, named in honor of Aurelia Harwood, who in 1919 led the chapter in the initial effort to set aside state lands in the San Jacinto Mountains as a wildlife preserve. (Not only was Harwood our first clearly defined chapter conservation activist, she became the first woman to be president of the Sierra Club, another first for our chapter.)

In the early decades, the Chapter followed the lead of the mother club in terms of conservation issues, but we provided strong input to those policies through the board members we elected, people such as Phil Bernays, Ernest Dawson, Nathan Clark, Harold Crowe, and the aforesaid Harwood.



PETER MASON/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Chapter members at Harwood Lodge, the building named for the Sierra Club's first woman president.

But it was chapter member Weldon Fairbanks Heald who may rightly be called the true Father of Conservation in the chapter, as well as in the Sierra Club as a whole. Decommissioned from World War II as a full-fledged colonel, Heald soon organized the Sierra Club conservation troops and had them marching in order as the first chair of both the Chapter and National Conservation committees.

Since 1945, the growth of the environmental movement within the Club has been nothing short of phenomenal. Southern Sierrans, as Chapter members are known, have been at the forefront of this movement, as illustrated by the 30 conservation entities now operating within the chapter (as opposed to 23 outings entities).

A major challenge for our second century will be to maintain the sense of community that first brought Sierra Club members living in Southern California together 100 years ago to form our chapter.

We are after all a "club," not an association or league or confederation. Judging by the warm feelings of camaraderie expressed by our membership at the various Centennial events throughout the year, that club spirit is still alive and well. Despite the tremendous growth and changes in the Sierra Club, had the original founders of the Southern California Chapter been magically transported to Harwood Lodge on Nov. 5 last year, they would have felt perfectly at home.

## Calendar

Angeles Chapter activities, trips and events are open to all — members and non-members alike.

If you have questions about a trip or event, please contact the indicated leader, reservationist or sponsoring entity. Because the Chapter leads trips at all skill and fitness levels — from easy day hikes to strenuous backpacks, bicycle rides, ski trips and other outdoor activities — be certain you're in shape for the trip you want to go on.

For a list of the 6,000 annual activities, events and trips offered each year by the Chapter, go online to [www.angeles.sierraclub.org](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org) and click on "Outings."

### Events

**Jan. 9, Orange County Sierra Singles Monthly Program: Swiss Alps With Ed and Helen Maurer:** Humorous and informative program complete with a movie trailer about their outing to the Swiss Alps in 2010 with a preview of their Swiss outing planned for 2012 (see fund-raising trips on page 5). Social hour and program, \$3 donation. Meet 6:30 PM at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, 1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa. For optional potluck, bring a dish to share and beverage. Contact: Donna Specht ([donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com))

**Jan. 10, Orange County Group's 50th Anniversary Bash:** It's party time! The Orange County Group's 50th Anniversary celebrates with friends old, new and soon-to-be. Reminisce about mountaintop moments and hair-raising and harrowing adventures around our imaginary "campfire." Join us for a special Golden Anniversary cake and other refreshments; newcomers welcome. Meet 7:30 p.m. at REI at Tustin Marketplace, 2962 El Camino Real, Tustin, 92782. Contact: Bob Siebert 714-997-0190. For more information: [angeles.sierraclub.org/orange](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange)

**Jan. 26, Sierra Singles Monthly Meeting:** Field Guide to the San Andreas Fault: Everyone has heard of the San Andreas Fault, but what exactly is it? Speaker Dr. David Lynch, a senior scientist at Aerospace Corp who works with the USGS on Southern California fault phenomenology, will display photos, maps and visuals of his many trips to the fault. Everyone welcome. 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7 p.m. program at LA Zoo in Griffith Park (follow Sierra Singles signs to meeting room; front gates close promptly at 7:30 p.m.). Contact: Jeanne Karpenko (818-244-0733)

### Hikes

**Jan 7, Franklin Canyon Hike, O-rated.** Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Endangered Species. Easy-paced, 6-mile round-trip hike with 800 feet of gain. Hike through semi-shaded oak woodland with spectacular ocean views, from Hastain Trail to peak and around lake. Learn the history of the reservoirs. Meet 9:30 a.m. at the Ranch/Hastain Trail parking lot at end of Lake Drive (contact leader for directions).

### OUTINGS LEGEND

- O** Uncomplicated hikes on trail
- I** involves off-trail travel
- C** Concessionaire-controlled event (non-Sierra Club)
- T** Technical skills

**Changes:** Trips subject to cancellation without notice.

**Outings info:** For more hike listings, please see the Schedule of Activities or visit: [www.angeles.sierraclub.org](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org), click Outings

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Seller of Travel identification number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the state of California.



Horsemen herding livestock in Mongolian countryside.

FRED DONG

## See Bali, the Gobi desert and more on these fund-raising trips

**Wild Borneo Adventure, March 28 to April 16, O-rating:** A 20-day adventure to the land of the head hunters. Stay at premier wildlife lodges and visit rainforest areas to get closeups of endangered orangutans, unusual silver leaf monkeys, rare proboscis monkeys, macaques, hornbills and more. Itinerary includes: several national parks or reserve areas including Bako, Kinabalu, Danum Valley Conservation Area, and Kinabatangan Wildlife Reserve; Sepilok and Semenggoh Orangutan Sanctuaries; and coral reefs of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park. Price includes hotel, bus transportation, some meals, airport transfers, most hikes or walks, and more; domestic and international airfare is extra. Cost for Sierra Club members is \$2,995 per person; \$100 more for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leader Fred Dong, (818) 545-3878. Co-leader: Stephanie Gross.

**Arizona Slot Canyons and Native American Sites, March 31-April 7, O-rating:** Use your spring break to visit Sunset Crater, Antelope Slot Canyon (one of the most photographed), Monument Valley and Native American sites including Wupatki National Monument, Navajo National Monument with optional hike to Betatakin Cliff Dwelling, Canyon De Chelly, Hopi Cultural Center, Montezuma Castle and the Heard Museum. Hikes involve 3 to 5 miles round-trip with up to 1,000 feet of gain. Price includes transportation in Arizona, snacks, 7 nights accommodations (2 per room/2 beds), some meals, all admissions; airfare and most meals not included. Price is \$1,250 per person for Sierra Club members, \$1,350 for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter, Sierra Sage Group, Verdugo Hills Group. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (e-mail [tomikesapp@cox.net](mailto:tomikesapp@cox.net)) and David Eisenberg.

**South Dakota Black Hills Adventure, June 23-30, O-rating:** Explore Custer State Park, known for its large buffalo herd, and wildlife sightings of pronghorn antelope, prairie dogs, elk, deer, wild burros, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Highlights include a jeep safari to the buffalo herds followed by a chuckwagon BBQ; visits to Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Jewel Cave and/or Wind Cave, Devils Tower, Harding Peak, and optional trip to the Badlands National Park. The trip includes 7 nights

lodging; transportation from Rapid City to the Black Hills and return; transportation in the Black Hills; admission fees to all group activities, happy hours. Cost is \$1,250 per person for Sierra Club members, \$1,350 for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and Sierra Sage Group. Contact: Leaders: Mike Sappingfield ([mikesapp@cox.net](mailto:mikesapp@cox.net)) and Patty Sappingfield.

**Arches and Canyonlands in Utah, May 5-11, O-rating:** Spend seven days/six nights on a fly-and-drive excursion to eastern Utah to explore Arches National Park, which has more than 2,000 arches ranging from a few feet in size to several hundred feet, and Canyonlands National Park with the deep canyons of the Green River and the Colorado River as they join to form the majestic Colorado. Fly into Grand Junction, Colo., and then drive in vans to Moab, Utah. The trip costs \$1,250 per person (double occupancy). The price includes park admissions, special fees, breakfasts and three lunches; all other meals and airfare to and from Grand Junction are not included. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter and Sierra Sage Group. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield ([mikesapp@cox.net](mailto:mikesapp@cox.net)) and Sylvia Stevenson

**Moderate Walks in the Swiss Alps, July 28-Aug. 4, O-rating:** Base camp is lively Interlaken, the center of the Jungfrau Region whose mountains and valleys have enthralled visitors for centuries. Daily outings are designed for the moderate walker interested in unsurpassed scenery, wildflowers, gastronomy and Swiss efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Participants have a choice of staying at a 4-star hotel or of being accommodated in self-service holiday apartments. Depending on housing options, the trip costs \$1,400 to \$2,000 per person for Sierra Club members; \$1,500 to \$2,100 per person for non-members. The price includes accommodations, ground transport, all breakfasts and dinners, guides. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and Orange County Group. Contact: Leaders Ed Maurer ([balois@cox.net](mailto:balois@cox.net)) and Helen Maurer; go online to [tinyurl.com/interhikes](http://tinyurl.com/interhikes)

**Hike the Jungfrau Trail in the Swiss Alps, Aug. 4-16, O-rating:** Experience the best the Alps have

to offer by hiking to mountain hotels dating back to the 1800s, explore wild valleys in the Jungfrau UNESCO World Heritage area and enjoy Swiss hospitality, fabulous trails, incredible scenery, and new friends. The hikes, some strenuous, take between 5 to 6 hours daily. The cost is \$3,200 per person for Sierra Club members; \$3,400 per person for non-members. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and the Orange County Group. Contact: Leaders Ed Maurer ([balois@cox.net](mailto:balois@cox.net)) and Helen Maurer; go online to [tinyurl.com/interhikes](http://tinyurl.com/interhikes)

**Mongolia-Gobi Desert, Mountain and Steppe Adventure, Aug. 17-Sept. 1, O-rating:** See seldom-visited sites and experience the culture of Mongolia's capital Ulaanbatar. Stay mostly in traditional Mongolian "ger" camps, which are tents camps with hot cooked meals, hot showers and flush toilets. Explore national parks on easy hikes to see the rare Mongolian wild horse, gazelles, camels, ibex, deer, possibly snow leopard and birds. Other trip highlights: Karakorum, the ancient Mongolian capital, many old Buddhist monasteries, and Neolithic ruins; the largest sand dune of the Gobi; and the Flaming Red Cliffs. Optional Beijing extension after the trip. Cost is \$2,600 per person until Feb. 29 (March 1 and later, \$2,800). Price includes transportation in Mongolia, 4-star hotels, ger camps, most meals, admissions, guides; international airfare is extra. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leaders Bruce Hale, (818) 957-1936 and Fred Dong.

**Bali Island and Komodo Dragons, Sept. 9-24, O-rating:** The Chapter's first trip to peaceful Hindu Bali and Flores Island, home to the famous Komodo Dragons. Highlights include the famous island of Bali and the island of Flores, spending varying number of days in each location. Trip includes transportation (planes, boats, and coaches) as well as accommodations (based on double occupancy), some meals/happy hours, all park/museum entrance fees, guides, tours and more. The price is \$1,695 per person plus discounted group international and domestic airfares. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leaders John Lajeunesse at [lajeunes@pacbell.net](mailto:lajeunes@pacbell.net) (use subject line "Bali") and Andrea Lim.

Bring hat, boots or very sturdy shoes, water. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Francine Oschin, [foschin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:foschin@sbcglobal.net), Maggie Belknap.

**Jan. 7, Mishe Mokwa Trail to Sandstone Peak, O-rated.** Sponsored by Sierra Singles, West LA. Hike 6 miles to 3,111-foot Sandstone Peak, the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. Comfortable pace; no beginners or tigers. Meet 8 a.m. at Circle X Ranch parking lot in Point Mugu State Park (PCH to Yerba Buena Rd). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hat, lug soles. Rain cancels. Call or e-mail leader to confirm. Leaders: Linda Hillman, [lghillman@earthlink.net](mailto:lghillman@earthlink.net). Mei Kwan.

**Jan. 7, Whitley Heights, the High Tower, Hollywood Bowl, O-rated.** Sponsored by Sierra Singles, San Fernando Valley. Explore parts of historic Whitley Heights, which boast stunning Mediterranean-style homes, many dating from the 1920s where the rich and famous were known to reside. Walk to the High Tower elevator and see views of the downtown skyline and then have a look-see at the Hollywood Bowl. Walk is 5 miles round-trip. Lunch at an eatery on Hollywood Blvd. Meet 9 a.m. at Hollywood & Highland Metro Station entrance. Bring appropriate attire, water, money for lunch. Rain cancels, light drizzle is a go. Ldr: Sandra Tapia [sltdramas64@yahoo.com](mailto:sltdramas64@yahoo.com), Co-Ldr: Elaine Ayala.

**Jan. 21, Downtown L.A. City Walk, O-rated.** Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Socially paced, 3 mile round-trip walk. Take short Metro Subway ride to heart of the city for tour of cultural and historic sites, including the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Music Center and Walt Disney Hall. See unexcited fountains, gardens and more. Lunch at historic Clifton's Cafeteria. Approximately four hours. Meet 9:30 am at information booth near front entrance to Union Station, 800 N Alameda St. Wear walking shoes, sun protection and dress for weather. Bring water, money for parking, lunch and Red Line train tickets \$3. Rain cancels. Leaders: Bob Dean, [bobdean4@hotmail.com](mailto:bobdean4@hotmail.com) and Elaine Mellinger.

**Jan. 28, Lunch and a Movie in Pasadena via Gold Line, O-rated.** Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Take the Gold Line from downtown L.A. to Pasadena for casual lunch and a movie at ArcLight Cinema at Paseo Colorado Mall. Dine at local restaurant and then attend the movie of your choice. Stay after for coffee to share movie reviews. Meet 10 a.m. at information booth inside Union Station, 800 N Alameda St. Or meet group 11 a.m. at move house, 336 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena. Bring money for parking, train fare, lunch, movie; rain does not cancel. Leaders: Mary Morales ([10ter@cox.net](mailto:10ter@cox.net)) and Elaine Ayala.

**Feb. 4, West Hollywood Hike, O-rated.** Sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Group and Sierra Singles. Join

Calendar

Ski trips for every level (beginners welcome) — and even snow-lovers who don't ski

By Carol Tucker

So you're an experienced hiker who loves to explore the back-country. From spring through fall, you're entrenched in climbing the next ridge, the highest peak, the most difficult pass. But what about those winter months when the Sierras and the local mountains are covered by snow?

For those who never learned to downhill ski or avoid the sport because of crowds and costs, going back-country skiing and snowshoeing will open up a whole new white wilderness that promises opportunities for exploration and adventure. Orange County Sierra Singles offers activities that include weekend trips and day outings for everyone, from experienced cross-country skiers to novices, and snowshoers. Downhill skiers and snowboarders who want to carve up the slopes also are welcome on trips to Mammoth as well. Non-skiers and newcomers welcome!

Experienced I-rated leaders plan routes in the Sierra and local mountains that vary in length and difficulty. Day trips include areas such as San Jacinto, Snow Valley, and Frazier Park. On weekend trips, the group heads to Mammoth for back-country tours in areas such as Inyo Craters, the Obsidian Dome, the San Joaquin Ridge and Mammoth Lakes. Most weekend trips include easy and intermediate ski tour options. Beginners who have never been on cross-country skis can take lessons during an upcoming trip to Mammoth in January.

For a complete list of winter season trips, go online to [angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss). In the meantime, check out these cool upcoming trips.

Ski trips

**Winter Sports in Mammoth Lake Bus Trip, Jan. 27-29:** O and I-rated. Downhill ski, snowboard Mammoth Mountain; beginner/intermediate back-country ski lessons and back-country ski and snowshoe touring. This trip has it all: Learn to ski back-country with certified instructors (check experience requirements online), back-country ski and snowshoe with leaders or ski on your own at Tamarack Nordic Ski Center and



DONNA SPECHT/OCSS

Leader Scott Meek and his friend, Koala, on a back-country ski tour in Mammoth.

Mammoth Mountain. Non-skiers and back-country ski lesson grads welcome. Quality Inn lodging, (two persons, two beds with private bath and more), free shuttles. Price includes bus, lodging, breakfast, Saturday night happy hour, bus refreshments, Sunday dinner. Cost is \$295 per person for Sierra Club members; \$310 per person for non-members. Sponsored by OC Sierra Singles. Contact: Reservations/Asst/Ski Leader Carol Tucker, 3166 S. Sepulveda #14, Los Angeles, 90034 or e-mail Donna Specht at [donnaspecht@juno.com](mailto:donnaspecht@juno.com)

**Snow Valley Back-Country Ski Tour, Feb. 11:** I-rated. Moderate 4-plus mile day ski in the San Bernardino Mountains. Beginners who have had at least a couple days prior ski experience welcome! We'll break trail on a route that will depend on participants skill level. Metal-edged, back-country skis and back-country boots highly recommended. Bring winter clothing, water, lunch. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles and Wilderness Adventures. Contact: Leader Mark Mitchell ([markm@lacma.org](mailto:markm@lacma.org)) and Keith Martin.

**Winter Survival Skills Field Workshop, Feb. 25:** I-rated. Learn snow skills, such as how to build an emergency shelter, fire building, signaling and survival strategies. Travel over snow with snowshoes or cross-country skis about 3 miles round-trip, 300 feet gain, at Mt. Pinos. Limit 15. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles. Contact: Leader Virgil

Talbott ([virgil\\_talbott@roadrunner.com](mailto:virgil_talbott@roadrunner.com)) and Gwen Sharp.

**Winter Sports and Sightsee in Mammoth Lakes, March 2-4:** I-rated. Winter bus trip to Mammoth Lakes for downhill skiing and snowboarding on Mammoth Mountain, daily guided back-country ski tours and snowshoe tours. Newcomers, non-skiers and cross-country lesson grads welcome. Quality Inn lodging, (two persons, two beds with private bath and more), free shuttles. Price includes bus, lodging, continental breakfast, happy hour, Sunday dinner. Cost is \$295 per person for Sierra Club members. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles and Palos Verdes South Bay. Contact: Reservationist Dick Clement, 1023 East Van Bibber, Orange, 92866.

**Winter Sports and Sightseeing in Mammoth Lakes, March 23-25:** I-rated. Winter carpool to Mammoth Lakes for daily guided back-country ski tours for participants with at least low to intermediate skills and daily guided snowshoe tours; non-skiers welcome. Ski downhill or snowboard Mammoth Mountain. Quality Inn (two persons, two beds with private bath and more), free shuttles. Price includes lodging, continental breakfast, happy hour. Cost is \$195 per person for Sierra Club members and \$210 per person for non-members. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles and Wilderness Adventures. Contact: Carol Tucker at [hikergirl50@yahoo.com](mailto:hikergirl50@yahoo.com).

**Feb. 25, Venice Beach Canals and Boardwalks,** O-rated. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Socially paced 3 miles round-trip. Walk the colorful boardwalk and along Venice Beach's unique canals, learning about their unusual history. See shops, unusual businesses, muscle beach pavilion, local artists, street vander displays and colorful people. Optional lunch to follow at variety of snack shops. Approx. 3 hours. Meet 9:30 a.m. on corner of Washington Blvd and Ocean Front Walk. Dress for weather; wear walking shoes and sun protection. Bring water, money for parking and lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders Bob Dean, [bobdean4@hotmail.com](mailto:bobdean4@hotmail.com), and Elaine Ayala.

Backpacking

**April - May, 23rd Annual Beginning Backpacking Class in the Redwoods:** O-rated. Have you ever wanted to learn to backpack and get away from the crowds? Learn how to backpack in three evening classes on Sundays (April 29, May 6 and 20) culminating in a trip to a Redwood Forest grove in Sierra Nevada on June 2-3. Learn what to take, latest in equipment, what to do before you leave LA. Backpacking equipment give-aways and refresh-

ments at classes. Attendance mandatory at April 29 Class to participate on the trip. Apply by April 10 (class may fill sooner). Conservation Committee Fundraiser. To enroll, send two 4-by-9-inch self-addressed stamped envelopes, home and work phone numbers, e-mail address and a check for \$45 per person for Sierra Club members (\$50 per person for non-members) to Leader David Meltzer, 611 E Pine Ave, El Segundo, CA 90245. Co-leader: Fred Dong.

Hawaii

**June 23-30, 37th Annual Hawaiian Islands Eco-Adventure:** Kauai, The Garden Isle: O rated. Sponsored by the Backpacking Committee. (No backpacking on this trip). Spend 8 days experiencing the unique and outstanding natural beauty of Kauai. Enjoy moderate hikes (4 to 7 miles with 500 to 1,500 feet of gain/loss) in Kokee State Park. Hike Alakai Swamp, Pahia Lookout, Awaiawipu Trail to views of the canyon and NaPali coast 4,000 below. Plus moderate 4-mile round-trip Na Pali Coast day hike to Hanakapiai Beach to explore lava caves. Snorkel/swim at picturesque, less crowded Ke'e Beach

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Personals

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**WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?** When writing your will, please consider the Angeles Chapter Foundation. We can help you demonstrate your commitment to John Muir's ideals. [angeleschapterfoundation.org](http://angeleschapterfoundation.org)

Travel / Trek

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**X-Ski Sequoia National Monument:** Small guest house at 7,200 ft. elev. \$100/night. X-Ski blue-diamond trails. (559) 542-2032.

and Tunnels Beach. Tour National Tropical Botanical Gardens, stop at views of Waimea Canyon and Kalalau Valley. Free day to shop in Hana, rent an ocean/river kayak, swim Hana Bay. Rainforest cabins for 3 nights, 1 night rustic cabins at Kahili Mountain Park and 3 nights beach-front condos. Meals cooked group commissary style; all help with duties. The price is \$1,295 per person for Sierra Club members; \$1,424 per person for non-members before April 1 (price increases after that date). The price includes ground transportation, some meals; 7 nights' lodging; grand finale aloha restaurant dinner; Airfare is extra - best prices early. Limit: 14; fills fast. Contact leader for instructions on how to sign up. Leaders Bill Crane: (818) 773-4601 and Joan Weaver.

Green the city,  
join the Sierra Club  
visit [angeles.sierraclub.org](http://angeles.sierraclub.org)  
click "join/give"

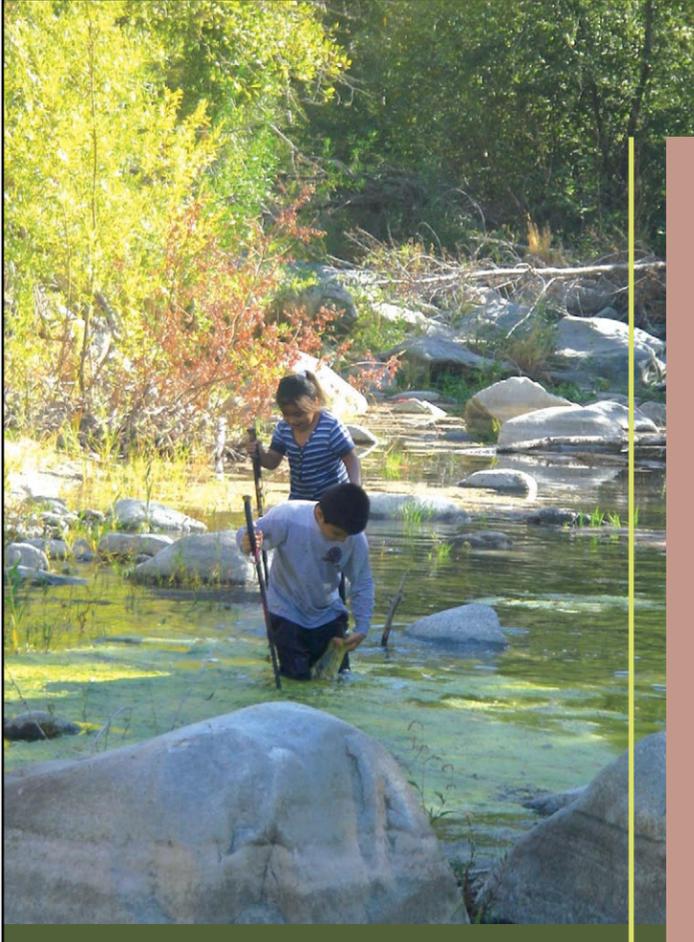
CALENDAR/PAGE 6

us on a 4.5 to 5 mile walk on mainly flat terrain. Visit small, intimate parks, some old courtyards; go in elite areas to window shop and spot a land locked "blue whale." Meet 9:30 a.m. at the corner of La Cienega & Santa Monica. Bring water, money for rides, optional lunch, and dress appropriately. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sandra Tapia, 818.365.4571, and Elaine Ayala 310.612.3619

**Feb. 5, Red Line Metro Stations Tour.** O-rated. Sponsored by San Fernando Valley Group and Sierra Singles. Docent-led walking tour of a number of Red Line metro stations beginning at Union Station and ending at Universal Station. This is a rare opportunity to study the station interiors, which are decorated with the artwork of some 300 commissioned artists. The tour is free and takes 2 hours. At tour's end, take a train to Union Station, have lunch at Olvera Street and visit Pico House, the first three-story building constructed in Los Angeles (1870). You'll receive a courtesy pass to ride the Metro free for the entire day. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Union Station Information Booth. Wear walking shoes, sun protection, dress for weather. Rain cancels. Leaders Gabe Sende (818-999-5384) and Bob Dean.

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# Leave a lasting legacy



Big Tujunga, Angeles National Forest

## If You Care Deeply

about protecting Southern California open space and natural resources,

**Make** *The Angeles Chapter Foundation Conservation or Outings Endowment* a beneficiary of your will, trust, or other asset

**To Protect** our open space and natural resources for California families and their futures,

**And Ensure** that the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's crucial outings and conservation programs will thrive for the next 100 years ... and beyond.

**Please act now,** future generations will be grateful.



## Why Put Angeles Chapter Foundation Endowment in your Will or Trust

The Angeles Chapter Foundation is the only tax exempt entity dedicated to providing financial support for the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter and its Outings and Conservation Programs. It has supported the Angeles Chapter and its programs for over 25 years.

Our Board of Directors is composed of respected former Chapter Chairs and Conservation and Outings Leaders.

**All of the Foundation's work is performed by former and current chapter leaders and other volunteers.** Because there are no paid staff, administrative expenses are kept to the bare minimum, so almost all income is used to support Angeles Chapter programs.

**An Endowment is the best way to provide funds for the long term future.** The funds in an endowment are retained intact, so the income earned from those funds can be used every year, to support the Angeles Chapter's crucial Outings and Conservation Programs.

### Why Act Now:

**If not now, when?** The long term future of the Angeles Chapter depends on supporters like you.

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

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

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

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

The Angeles Chapter Foundation has established conservation and outings endowments to provide permanent support for Chapter programs.

**The foundation is seeking pledges of support for these endowments** through bequests, trusts, and other commitments to ensure that the Angeles Chapter and its conservation and outings programs can continue to thrive for the next 100 years and beyond.

**Please help us achieve this goal by naming the Angeles Chapter Foundation Endowment in your will or trust,** or contact us for more information.

**Please Act Now.**

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

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

**Phone:** 310.472.9800  
**Email:** info@angeleschapterfoundation.org  
**Fax:** 310.472.9460  
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**Serving the Angeles Chapter and its members for over 25 years.**  
Donations and bequests are tax deductible.  
**Please Act Now.**

### I'd like to learn more (Please check all that apply)

Please send me more information about making a gift to the Angeles Chapter Foundation through my:

- Will or living trust     Retirement or savings account
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- I am interested in learning how I can make a donation NOW in exchange for lifetime annuity payments



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I prefer to be contacted by Phone Email Mail **Please Act Now.**