



Sierra Club President Mair Visits San Diego To Celebrate 60th Anniversary of Wilderness Basics Course

By Karenlee Robinson



This year the San Diego Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) celebrates its 60th anniversary of educating San Diegans how to be safe and comfortable hiking and backpacking. Every year over 300 people, ages 18 to 75, have experienced the 10-week course in how to safely and easily enjoy the wildness. Consistently students say the course has changed their lives opening a whole new ability to connect to the great outdoors.



To commemorate San Diego Sierra Club's achievement, Sierra Club President Aaron Mair made a special appearance at the WBC's March 8th class. Mair set a high bar for all of us involved with environmental advocacy with the message of the need for

President Mair continued on page 12

SAVE THE DATE- June 11, 2016 Gala Dinner & Awards Celebration

"Celebrating Partnerships"

Sierra Club San Diego will host its annual Gala Awards Celebration to recognize and commemorate the achievements of community organizations, leaders and Sierra Club volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to protect the environment of our region. The event will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at the Hilton Harbor Island Hotel at 6pm – 9:30pm. The event will include a reception from 6pm to 7pm, a silent auction, and dinner and awards program from 7pm to 9:30pm.



This year's celebration will also recognize the 60th anniversary of the Chapter's Wilderness Basic Course. In 1957, the then 9 year old San Diego Chapter, created the Mountaineering Course. The course taught basic rock climbing, backpacking, alpine camping and hiking skills. Now known as the Wilderness Basic Course, this course has grown from a beginning enrollment of 30 to over 450 students annually who are taught how to experience the remote beauty of the wilderness with intelligence and confidence.

The Gala Awards Celebration brings together Sierra Club members and supporters, community activists, elected officials and dignitaries to celebrate the special nature of San Diego and Imperial County and to raise funds for Sierra Club San Diego programs that help protect the region's environment.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Partnerships". The Sierra Club is not alone in fighting for the betterment of our environment. We stand together with other outstanding organizations that educate, advocate and make significant contributions to insuring San Diego's treasured environment is enhanced and protected. The Gala will include the presentation of the Club's FEAT (Friendly Environmental

Gala continued on page 11

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The View from the Chair



Davin Widgerow

Hello Sierra Club San Diego! Welcome to our first newly-formatted HiSierran! We are excited about the look and feel of the newly-redesigned newsletter, and we hope you enjoy it too.

2016 began on a good note for the chapter. Our finances are in order, and we ended 2015 with a number of significant accomplishments, including helping to win passage of the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan, our victory in our litigation against the County regarding their deficient Climate Action Plan, the reinstatement of our internship program and the Political Committee, progress on the rebuilding of Foster Lodge cabin, and many others.

We are excited about what's in store for 2016. This year is the 60th anniversary of our signature outdoors program, the Wilderness Basic Course (WBC). WBC is the cornerstone of our efforts to spread the gospel of the wilderness, and it is easily our most vibrant, diverse, and successful program. We will be celebrating WBC's 60th anniversary all year, including at our annual Gala in June. Additionally, we are hoping to expand our outreach and membership activities this year, and are considering seasonal picnics, membership socials, youth events, and a summer Whale Watch trip, among others. Of course, these activities will supplement our already-popular programs such as the bus trips, chapter trips, the Sierra Talks events, Movie Nights, and our monthly and annual outings offerings.

The chapter also began the year with a reorganization of the chapter leadership. 2016 marks the halfway point in the Steering Committee's mandatory term of office, and a number of the Committee members concluded that it was time to shake up the dynamic and provide space for new blood on the Committee. The Committee herein expresses our tremendous gratitude to Debbie Hecht, Joe Zechman, and Nick Ervin for their incalculable efforts to revive and restore this chapter, and wishes them only the very best for the future. It is not easy being on the Steering Committee, and we salute Debbie, Joe, and Nick for their service to the chapter. The remaining members of the Steering Committee are Karenlee Robinson, Paul Webb, and Davin Widgerow. The search process is underway to fill the vacancies on the Committee, and expect to have new Committee members to introduce in April 2016.

Thank you for all you do for our chapter and the environment in San Diego and Imperial Counties! We are always in need of volunteers of every stripe and for every sort of project and activity, so please don't hesitate to contact us to explore how you can help the chapter move forward. Of course, I am always available at dwidgerow@sierrasd.org. Here's to a successful, robust, and exciting 2016!

*Davin Widgerow, Chair –
Steering Committee*

Promote Your Business or Service

Do you have a business or service that you would like to promote? Then here is your opportunity, through Sierra Club San Diego's annual Gala. You can donate items or services for our silent auction or become a sponsor. Sponsor packages start as low as \$250, includes recognition in the HiSierran and at the event and an opportunity to distribute any promotional materials. That means over 10,000 households will see your name and know that you support a great cause – The environment. Contact Richard Miller at richard.miller@sierraclub.org or call 858-569-6005 to participate or for more information.

2016 Sierra Club San Diego Annual Gala Celebration & Awards

Saturday, June 11, 2016

6:00pm – 9:30pm

Hilton Harbor Island Hotel

1960 Harbor Island Dr., San Diego 92101

“Celebrating Partnerships”

FEAT Awardees

(Friendly Environmental Action Taken)

League of Women Voters of San Diego

San Diego California Solar Energy Industries Association

Cleveland National Forest Foundation and Regional Transportation Plans

Chapter Volunteer Awards

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Silver Cup Joe Zechman | Lifetime Achievement Mike Fry | Distinguished Achievement Mike Bullock | Volunteer of the Year Suzi Sandore | Outings Leader Lynn Nebus |
| Rookie Activist Siyuan Liu | Rookie Activist Alejandro (Ale) Montes | Political Activist Debby Knight | Chapter Service Sierra Social Section | Special Service Rob Morris |

Individual Tickets - \$75

Event includes a reception, silent auction, dinner program and awards presentation.

Tables of 10 - \$700, please call Richard Miller at 858-569-6005

Sponsorships

Sponsorship packages are available from \$500 to \$2,000

Ticket may be purchased at www.sandigosierraclub.org

CONTACT Richard Miller at (858) 569-6005 or

richard.miller@sierraclub.org



Gala Auction to Feature South African Photo Safari!

**Accommodations for 2
Valued at \$5,950
Donated by Zulu Nyala,
www.zulunyala.com**

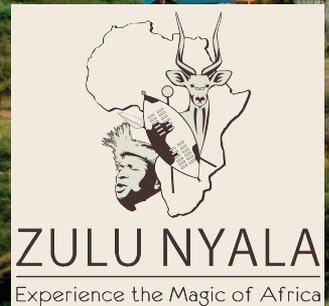
Take the vacation you have always dreamed about: a 6-day, 6-night African Photo Safari with luxury accommodations for two people. You will have your choice of staying at one of the three lodgings at Zulu Nyala; the Hemmingway Tented Safari Camp, the Heritage Safari Lodge, or the Safari Game Lodge. Situated in the heart of South Africa's Zululand conservation region, this is one of the richest conservation regions in Africa.

View a 4 minute video at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYPDo4fVd5g>

The Safari package includes full board - that means three delicious meals per day, prepared by the finest international chefs – with an African flavour, of course, two game viewing activities per day guided by professional game rangers in open game viewing vehicles, and a personal ranger that will assist you in arranging your activities during your stay at Zulu Nyala.



The Safari package does not include airfares, transfers, side trips, drinks, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities. The safari certificate will be valid for two years from the auction date.



Sierra Club Bus Trips

Part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, Sierra Club provides environmentally friendly outdoor adventures.

Since 1982 the San Diego Chapter has been offering bus trips to a variety of National and State Parks.

What makes these trips special is that they are organized by a fantastic team of volunteer leaders and nobody pays them for their efforts. They do it out of an appreciation for these special places, and a passion for sharing them with you. We look forward to having you join us on a bus trip to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



Save the date for the following trips: 2016

May 11 - 15

Sedona with an optional Day Trip to Grand Canyon National Park

Registration Now Open

July 14 - 18

Bus Trip - Yosemite

Registration opens May 21

August 17 - 21

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Hoover Wilderness

Registration opens June 25

October 6-9

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Channel Islands

Registration opens August 13

For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit www.sdsierraclub.org.

Like us on Facebook



CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.



Election 2016

All Politics is Local

By Brian Elliot, Political Committee Chair

All politics is local. We hear that time and time again, year after year. But here we are in an election year, and all the news is about the presidential race. While determining our next president is critical, we too often get swept up in national politics and neglect to consider San Diego races.

There are several major environmental issues at stake this year. Our next President will have to weigh in on the Clean Power Plan, the future of the Keystone XL Pipeline, and renewable energy incentives. However, the next President will not directly decide the future of the city of San Diego's Climate Action Plan, funding for our local transportation system, or our conservation efforts throughout the county. All of these decisions will be made right here in San Diego.

As the incoming chair for our Political Committee, I'm fortunate to work with a group of dedicated members, who appreciate the impact local leadership has on our environment. Sierra Club's mission transcends all levels of government. While we are monitoring issues like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, nationally, we cannot neglect the importance of open space preservation or water-use reductions here at home. We need a local voice in the decisions that affect our water resources, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions.

That local voice starts with Sierra Club's members and is amplified to our elected officials through the Political Committee. Our committee is dedicated to identifying the environmental priorities throughout the county and being a unified and powerful regional advocate. Local elected officials and candidates recognize us as a collective voice representing a large constituency of the county. It is because of our broad reach and expertise that they have continued to seek our endorsement and our opinion on environmental issues over the years. Since the beginning of the year, the Committee has been busy conducting candidate interviews. Our recommendations can be found in our 2016 Voter Guide on our Political Committee website at <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/political>.

During this election season our Political Committee will remain focused on San Diego's issues. I invite our chapter's membership to share their concerns and aspirations, and we will ensure that these priorities are reflected in the candidates chosen for endorsement this year. We welcome you to share your thoughts in person and join us at our monthly meetings. Your involvement helps Sierra Club San Diego remains a trusted voice for conservation and climate change mitigation, nationally and most importantly, in San Diego.

Please, Vote in June!

By Sarah Fields, Political Committee Secretary

We are so fortunate to live in the great state of California. As Sierra Club members, we know we live in a place full of tremendous natural resources and a vast array of stunning outdoor experiences. California is also a state not following the disturbing trend of making voting harder to access. Last year, local Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez authored and Governor Brown signed into law, Motor-Voter legislation to automatically register eligible Californians to vote when they apply for a Driver's license. While this is a step in the right direction for California, as an advocacy organization we have an obligation to further educate ourselves and the electorate.

Did you know that many of our local elections will be decided in June? But what of November, you might be asking yourself right about now. Voting in November is essential, but voting in June should be given equal footing in our civically engaged minds. We need to start familiarizing ourselves and our communities on the importance of the June (Primary) Election. Our election laws allow for the top two candidates in a race, regardless of party affiliation, to advance to the general election. EXCEPT when one candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in the primary, in which case the race is then over in June and that candidate has won outright.

Think June doesn't matter? Current District 7 City Councilmember, Scott Sherman won his seat in June of 2012 with 50.1% of the vote or just over 50 votes, to avoid the November General Election. Conversely, Sherman's colleague by the coast, District 1 Councilmember Sherri Lightner did not have the most votes in the June 2012 primary, but advanced as the second place winner to the November General Election with no one candidate receiving a plurality of votes. She then went on to win in November.

The June primary is incredibly important here in San Diego and so much of what Sierra Club members' value depends on our participation. Your next city councilmember could very well be selected then! Whether it's a candidate, proposition or referendum, Sierra Club San Diego is an incredibly influential voting bloc, when, and only when we all vote. Please, make it to the ballot box twice this year to cast your vote.

To confirm or update your voter registration, please visit the San Diego Registrar of Voters (www.sdvote.com). You must register to vote 15 days prior to an election to participate. Official mail ballot packets are sent between the 29th day and the 7th day before the election.

Our Volunteer Award Winners

- **Rookie Activist of the Year – Siyuan Liu and Alejandro (Ale) Montes.**

The Rookie Activist Award honors an individual who has recently begun to shine as an activist. It is vital that, each year, new volunteers keep the Chapter's tradition of volunteer activism going strong. This award recognizes the importance of "rookies" to the Chapter. Both Siyuan and Ale have been student interns and represented the Chapter at the Sierra Student Coalition SPROG, a grassroots leadership training program that teaches tools for environmental and social justice activism to young folks across the country.

- **Outings Leader Award – Lynn Nebus.**

The Outings Leader Award recognizes a Chapter Outings leader who has done outstanding work in outdoor leadership and education. As stated in the Chapter Strategic Plan, the Outings Committee takes the lead in providing safe, enjoyable, and informative outings opportunities. The first experience with the Chapter of many members and volunteers is on a Chapter outing. Lynn is a Certified Outings Leader who has been active in the Outings program for over 20 years serving in many leadership positions.

- **Political Activist Award – Debby Knight.**

The Political Activist Award is presented to the person who has done outstanding work to further the Club's political mission to preserve the environment through grassroots, bipartisan, political action and elect environmentally supportive candidates. Debby is the longest serving volunteer on the Chapter Political Committee and has often taken a lead role in the endorsement process and been actively engaged with Sierra Club endorsed candidate campaigns.

- **Volunteer of the Year Award – Suzi Sandore.**

The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to the volunteer who has done outstanding work in furthering the Club's overall mission. Volunteers bring enthusiasm and dedication to their efforts for the Chapter. They benefit the Club greatly and this award recognizes and publicizes their efforts. Suzi currently serves as Chair of the North County Group and is engaged in their Wilderness Basics Course. She has been instrumental in organizing Sierra Club members for volunteer activities, such as creek clean-ups and vegetation restoration projects.

- **Club Service Award – Sierra Social Section.**

The Club Service Award celebrates the achievement of one of our sections that has provided exemplary service to the Club. The volunteers who help with the various tasks needed to support our members and activities are the true unsung heroes of the Club. The Sierra Social Section is the Chapters most active group and took the lead to reestablishing the Chapter monthly program – Sierra Talks.

- **Special Service Award – Rob Morris.**

This Special Service Award like the Club Service award is presented to an individual that has provided exemplary service to the Club. Rob has served as the Chapter Treasurer since 2013 and has contributed enormous time and talent in helping the San Diego Sierra Club.

- **Distinguished Achievement Award – Mike Bullock.**

The Distinguished Achievement award recognizes the member who has exhibited a sustained level of service and commitment to our overall mission. It honors the person who year after year has contributed their time and knowledge and passion to help the Club achieve its goals. Mike is the Chair of the Chapter Transportation Committee and was instrumental helping us win several lawsuits by providing his expertise on how auto emissions effect climate change.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Mike Fry. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual who has provided distinguished service to Sierra Club San Diego for a significant period of time. It is these types of individuals who have given their life time experiences and leadership to make the Sierra Club the best that it can be. Mike has been an active member of the Club and Outings program for almost 50 years. He is a Certified Outing Leader and has served in leadership positions including Chapter Executive Committee, Chair of the Ski Section and Bus Trips.

- **Silver Cup Award**

Joe Zechman. The Silver Cup award is the Club's highest award and is presented to the person who has most significantly contributed to the success of the Club's mission. This is an award that recognizes efforts that not only represent a significant commitment by the volunteer but also has resulted in a significant contribution to the Club. Joe most recently served two years on the Chapter Steering Committee and served on the Chapter Executive Committee for six years, twice as Chapter Chair. Joe was active in the Sierra Singles (now the Sierra Social) Section and served on numerous Chapter committees and task forces in leadership positions.



Sierra Dilemma

Chapter Activities

All Activities are held at the Chapter Office unless otherwise stated: 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92111.

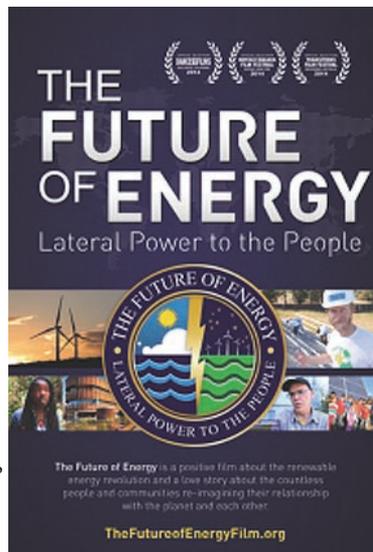
Our entrance is on the west end of the front building of Kearny Office Park, just west of I-163 and on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Other environmental and activist events are posted at www.sdeln.org

2nd Friday Movie Night

April 8, 6:30 pm

Movie: **THE FUTURE OF ENERGY**
68 Minutes

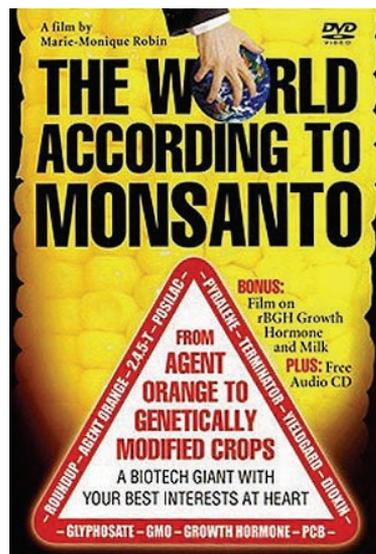
This film features some of America's top energy specialists and ecological visionaries, this film presents a clear path towards a new energy paradigm, and how each of us can participate in creating this exciting future. "The Future of Energy" is really about the clean energy revolution happening right now...By the final credits, you'll know both how and why renewable energy is the cleanest, quickest, cheapest, and safest way to supply all of our energy needs" stated Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director.



May 13, 6:30 pm

Movie: **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MONSANTO**
1 Hour 49 Minutes

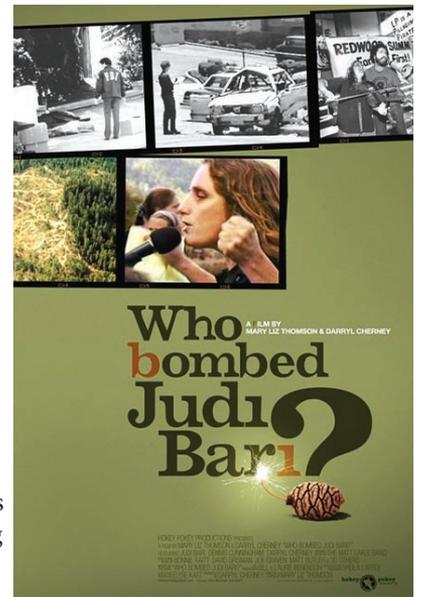
Monsanto's controversial past combines some of the most toxic products ever sold with misleading reports, pressure tactics, collusion and attempted corruption. They now race to genetically engineer (and patent) the world's food supply, which profoundly threatens our health, environment and economy. Combining secret documents with first-hand accounts by victims, scientists, and politicians, this widely praised film exposes why Monsanto has become the world's poster child for malignant corporate influence in government and technology.



June 10, 6:30 pm

Movie: **WHO BOMBED JUDI BARI?**
1 Hour 33 Minutes

Winner of Best Documentary awards at five 2012 film festivals and praised by actors Peter Coyote and Ed Asner and by political activist Tom Hayden, this film, told with humor and wit, is a moving tribute to environmental activist Judi Bari and her heroic struggle to save the redwoods. The producer, Darryl Cherney, also examines the events surrounding the 1990 car bombing that injured him and Judi Bari, and makes a clear case (later upheld in court) that the police and the FBI falsified evidence in order to discredit Bari's cause.



Chapter Outings

Chapter Outings are now an online listing only. With the time gap between publishing and delivery of the HiSierran through the mail we believe this is the best way to get you up to date listings.

Go to: <http://sandigosierraclub.org>

Then click on "Get Outdoors"

Sierra Talks

New Sierra Talks are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market. Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "E.L." Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

April 1

Not Just on Vacation: Why Leopard Sharks Hang Out in La Jolla

Have you ever wondered why hundreds of leopard sharks gather at one particular spot off La Jolla Shores Beach every summer? Join Andy Nosal, a marine biologist who has studied these animals for eight years, to learn the answer! In his talk, Andy will discuss what these leopard sharks are, what they are doing in La Jolla, where exactly they are doing it, and why that spot in particular is so special for these animals.



Dr. Nosal received a B.S. in biology from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in marine biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography where he is currently a postdoctoral researcher in conjunction with the Birch Aquarium.

May 6

Park Pushers: How San Diego's Women Enhanced Our Outdoor World

Citizen environmental activists have played key roles in getting many of our parks and preserves. Women in particular have been passionate park pushers, starting many decades ago with two well-known names: Ellen Browning Scripps (Torrey Pines State Reserve) and Kate Sessions (Balboa Park). And women have continued to be strongly active in setting aside natural areas.



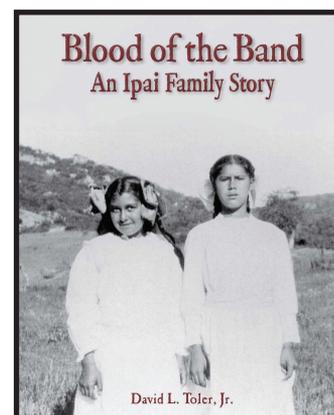
Come see the contributions of park settings we can enjoy because of their pursuits and successes including: Marian Bear (San Clemente Canyon), Eloise Battle (Tecolote Canyon), Gemma Parks (San Elijo Lagoon), Diane Nygaard (Carlsbad Calavera Preserve), Dorothy Minshall (Oak Oasis), Yolane Stout, (Back Country Land Trust, several preserves). The presenter, Tom Leech, is author of *Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping*.

June 3

Blood of the Band: An Ipai Family Story

The Ipai (also known as Kumeyaay) are the native people of northern San Diego County. This presentation illustrates how one Ipai family's remarkable story forms part of the little-known, yet profoundly significant long-term history of human habitation in the land that only recently has come to be known as southern California. Beginning with the ancestors' accounts of the creation of the world that link the Ipai with the unique characteristics of our region's natural world, the journey then goes through the archaeological, historical, ethnographic and contemporary accounts of the dramatic transformations through which the Ipai have persisted and ultimately prospered.

The presenter, David Toler, is a long-time leader of his community and a descendant of the La Chappa, Gauchena and Nejo clans. He has served for many years as a member of the tribal council of the band of the San Pasqual Mission Indians in Valley Center, California. He is also vice-chair of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy, a board member of the Inter-Tribal Court of Southern California, and a member of the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Committee.



News from the

NORTH COUNTY GROUP



SIERRA CLUB • SAN DIEGO

It's been a busy few months for the North County Group. We kicked off the year with 104 eager students enrolled in our Wilderness Basics Course that were ready to learn the skills to prepare them for a lifetime of future backpacking adventures.

As we've gotten to know these students, it turns out they are group with serious backpacking plans, as some are already planning their hikes on the Appalachian Trail, El Camino de Santiago in Spain, and the Pacific Crest Trail.



It was a packed house at our Winter Meeting in February as member and Chapter Outings Leader Karen Landes entertained and educated the group with her experiences hiking the Lost Coast Trail in Northern California. I know she inspired many in the group to put this this spectacular area on their hiking bucket list. There were also presentations about the volunteer opportuni-

ties at the San Dieguito River Park, the Escondido Creek Conservancy and I Love a Clean San Diego. These organizations could not exist without volunteers assist-

ing with habitat restoration, trail, creek, and beach clean-ups, and as docents and interpretive guides. It is our hope that these presentations serve to educate and motivate people to help out.

In March, a group of North County



Group members and WBC students joined with other conservation volunteers in a habitat restoration



project in the San Dieguito River Park, planting native plant species on Bernardo Mountain near Lake Hodges. In less than 3 hours this energetic group planted 500 natives, a mixture of white sage and bladderpod. The restoration of Bernardo Mountain will provide wildlife habitat that is essential to many endangered species like the California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

2016 Schedule!

May 8-10 June 12-14 June 12-14 July 17-19

August 21-23 September 25-27 October 23-25

Please join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkel in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions.

Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or...just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a natural-ist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program.

For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club and mail to Joan Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



Sierra Club Bicycle Section Joins Clean-up Effort

Anyone who has ridden the Rose Creek Bike-and-Pedestrian Path knows that it is frequently riddled with debris and trash generated by the homeless who camp there. In addition to the bike path trash, there is widespread vegetation in the stream bed along the portion of the creek between East Mission Bay Drive and the Garnet Avenue bridge. These man-made and natural obstructions inhibit the flow of Rose Creek into Mission Bay. The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition in collaboration with the Sierra Club Bicycle Section is trying to do something about the unhealthy conditions there.

The Bicycle Coalition is working with the City of San Diego to secure regular maintenance of the Rose Creek Bike Path incorporated into the next City Budget. In the meantime, the Bicycle Coalition is partnering with the City to sponsor a cleanup on Saturday morning, April 23. The Coalition will supply the man (and woman) power; the City will supply the equipment and provide for removal of the trash. All Sierra Club members are encouraged to participate. You can help to clean up this important environmentally sensitive area.

Go Solar With Sungevity And The Sierra Club

When you go solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity, you will receive a special \$750 discount and Sungevity will send the Sierra Club \$750 to protect local wildlife and wild lands, keep our air and water clean, and move us toward a clean energy future.

Getting started with solar is quick and easy. It takes less than three minutes.

Get started today at <http://SC.org/SolarPrint> or call 844-815-5614 for more information.

Gala continued from page 1

Action Taken) Awards recognizing organizations whose efforts help protect the environment, foster local solutions to global issues, help communities make sound environmental decisions about their own future and work to raise awareness of and advocate for climate change action.

Sierra Club San Diego annually recognizes three outstanding individuals, organizations or businesses with a FEAT Award that exemplifies the theme of the Gala. Being honored with FEAT awards this year are:

- **League of Women Voters of San Diego** - in recognition of their work of educating and enabling the citizens of San Diego to act as guardians of the environment by raising awareness and advocating for action through the democratic process.
- **Cleveland National Forest Foundation and Regional Transportation Plans** - in recognition of their commitment to sustainable regional land use planning and advocating for sensible and achievable regional Climate Action Plans.
- **California Solar Energy Industries Association, San Diego Chapter** - in recognition of their work raising awareness and advocating for climate change action and in helping the City of San Diego commit to a future of 100% renewable energy.

Our outstanding cadre of volunteers, who make Sierra Club San Diego one of the most impactful environmental organizations in San Diego, will also be recognized. This year the Chapter will recognize ten awardees for their hard work and dedication. (see page 7)

GALA AUCTION. Another highlight of the Gala is our annual auction. The big prize this year will be a 6 -day South African Photo Safari (see page 4). Past auctions have included museum and theater tickets, guided desert flower tours, hotel weekends, restaurant certificates, sports tickets, wine tastings, spa treatments, kayaking, paintings, collectibles and more.

Do you have a service or business that you would like to promote or an item of value that you no longer need? Then donate it for our auction! To donate an auction item call Richard at 858-569-6005 or email him at richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

To purchase tickets go to <https://sierraclubsaniego.mycafecommerce.com> or call the office at 858-569-6005.

10 Reasons to Bag the Plastic Bag

Every time you use a single-use plastic bag, it has an impact; and when you add up all of the bags used over the course of a week, a month and even a year, a simple decision like what type of grocery bag to use can have a major impact.

By the Numbers

1. **Californians use almost 13.8 billion bags each year.**
2. **San Diegans use 500 million bags each year and 95% of those end up in our landfills.**
3. **Less than 5 percent of plastic bags are recycled statewide.**
4. **Public agencies in California spend over \$300 million on coastal litter clean-up per year.**

Bad for the Environment

5. **Plastic bags are the debris most likely to fly away from landfills, settling instead in trees, storm drains, beaches, and the ocean.**
6. **Plastic bags linger in our lakes, rivers, oceans and landfills for 400 to 1000 years.**
7. **The average reusable bag has the lifespan of over seven hundred single-use plastic bags.**
8. **Over a lifetime, use of reusable bags by just one person would save over 22,000 plastic bags.**

Think paper bags are better?

9. **The United States cuts down 14 million trees per year to supply the demand for paper shopping bags.**
10. **Paper bags weigh nearly ten times as much as plastic bags, requiring more fuel to ship them out to stores and increasing Green House Gases, a major contributor to climate change. In landfills, paper bags produce over twice as much atmospheric waste as plastic.**



President Mair continued from page 1

diversity and inclusion within the Club, the principles of environmental justice and doing the right thing for all the communities we represent. His message inspires us to work harder, to reach even farther to fulfill the vision of a diverse and representative Club that makes “saving the planet” a meaningful mission for all of us.

After having the opportunity to meet many of the leaders of San Diego Sierra Club and learning a bit about all the varied programs and efforts of the Club, Mair said he wanted to commend “...the Chapter, Groups, leaders, and volunteers for creating a welcoming and open space in your hearts and minds for our Club’s vision and commitment to becoming a powerful diverse multicultural organization.” He said it was “...a great honor to talk to prospective members and using the Wilderness Basic Course gathering to deliver our vision and message.” He added that he was “...proud, supportive and hopeful of the direction that San Diego is moving.”



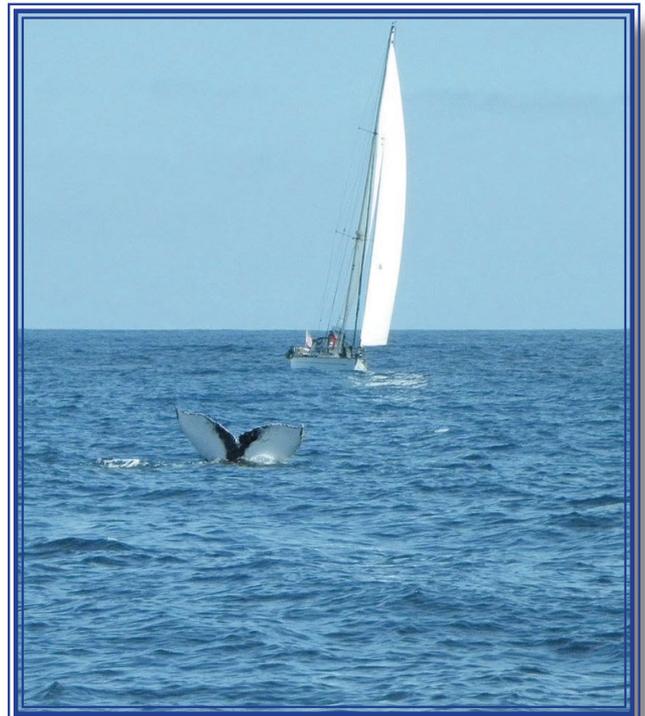
9th Annual Whale Watch Photo Contest

Our winners are Simone Gay and Deborah Boyd. On Sunday February 21, 78 people, including 14 children from our Inspiring Connections Outdoors program, boarded the boat at H & M Landing in Point Loma and set out for the open ocean outside of San Diego Bay. We saw 1 groups of grey whales and even a blue! Thank you to all of those who attended and entered our contest. Put it on your calendar to attend next year!

Blue Whale Fluke by Simone Gay



Playful Seals by Deborah Boyd



Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free wilderness experiences to urban youth, to help them realize the wonders of exploring the outdoors, develop the skills to do it safely, and nurture a desire to protect natural spaces. Please visit our website at www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Two Mountains in Springtime

by Bill Tayler

There's not a bad time to be in the mountains, but surely springtime is one of the best. And so it was that on two weekends in February, we took groups of students from Stephen W. Hawking II STEAM Charter School hiking in the Cuyamaca and Laguna Mountains.

On February 20, we took 11 students to the top of Stonewall Peak. For most of them, this was their first hike to the top of a mountain, and they soon learned that hiking uphill at altitude can be challenging. A few rest breaks were needed, so along the way we stopped to climb on rocks, listen to some crows, and watch the woodpeckers. At the top, the views stretched from the Salton Sea, to the snow-capped San Bernadinos, and south to Baja. It was one of those days that makes the effort of getting to the top well worthwhile.

The following Saturday, we took 13 students hiking along the Sunset Trail to Laguna Meadows. At the first small lake, we saw several small garter snakes prowling the edges looking for lunch, and were able to catch one to give the kids a chance to hold it. This was the first time that most of them had been able to hold a snake, or even seen one in the wild. After everyone had a chance to see the garter snake up close, the kids enjoyed watching it swim away. As the snake hunted for its lunch, we hiked to a rock outcropping near Big Laguna Lake and had our own lunch before hiking back to the trailhead.



Volunteering With ICO –

6:30 to 7:30 pm every 3rd Thursday of the month on odd numbered months (Feb, May, etc) at the San Diego Chapter office: 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101. For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Bill Tayler by email (btayler@taylorlaw.com) or by telephone (858-531-5442)

Join us on an ICO Trip – Want to see us in action? Join us as a guest on a day trip. Please contact Bill Tayler at btayler@taylorlaw.com

How to Donate – We appreciate your support helping us to provide exciting, safe adventures free of charge. To receive a tax credit for your donation, please make your check payable to “Sierra Club Foundation/ San Diego ICO” and send to:

San Diego ICO
c/o Mike Gilligan,
3446 N. Mountain View Drive,
San Diego, CA 92116

Contact info for this article:
Bill Tayler, e-mail:
btayler@taylorlaw.com

Classified Ad Rates and Information:

Sierra Club Members

(up to 25 words)

Private party

\$10 + \$.50 per additional word.

Business-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

Non-Members

(up to 25 words) Private party-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

Business-\$20 + \$.50 per additional word

Payment must be made at time of submission by check to:

Sierra Club San Diego

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

Send ad to:

info@thomascreative.com

Classified Ads

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858-569-6005 or

richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

The current issue and past issues are available to read online at

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/newsletter/>

Submission Deadlines for Hi Sierran Newsletter:

If you would like to submit an advertisement, story or article please remember these important deadlines:

Upcoming Issues:

July/August/Sept 2016

Deadline is June 1st

To submit by email, please email to:

info@thomascreative.com

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

The Sierra Club Foundation Vehicle Donation Program

To donate your car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle, or other vehicle to Sierra Club Foundation, please fill out the secure donation form below.

<http://scf-cardonations.org/DONATE%20NOW.html>

Donating your car is quick and easy. You'll not only benefit yourself with a tax-deductible donation, but the proceeds from the resale or recycle of your car will also support the vital goals of the Sierra Club Foundation - to end our reliance on dirty fossil fuels; reverse the social, economic, and environmental damage caused by global climate change; restore, connect, and protect healthy ecosystems so that wildlife and wilderness can thrive; and successfully transition to a clean, green, renewable energy economy that better serves people and nature.

A representative will contact you shortly to guide you through the next step in the car donation process. If you prefer to contact us by phone, please call 855-33-SIERRA (855-337-4377) and one of our representatives will help you with your donation.

Treasurer Needed

The Steering Committee is looking for a Treasurer

1. You should be familiar with nonprofit accounting and QuickBooks and be able to spend 12 hours a month.
2. Work well with others and advise the Steering Committee
3. Write checks, pay bills
4. Prepare financial statements, reports, and budgets;
5. Monitor and evaluate club activities including fund raising and expenditures. Provide and maintain financial records.

For more information please get in touch with Karenlee Robinson 619-572-8451 or klrobinson@cox.net

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts to Sierra Club San Diego are a way of supporting our conservation work and honoring the life of our friends and loved ones. Memorial gifts can be acknowledged with a thoughtful card to those designated by the donor. If you would like to make a memorial gift, please contact Richard Miller at 858-569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

Check out just some of our Sierra Club products at a great price: <http://donate.sierrasd.org/products>



Camper Bag
Sale Price: \$13.12



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Organic Cotton Cap
with Sierra Club Logo
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Utility/Garden Tool Bag
Sale Price: \$14.62

Order Today!

Committees & Contact Information

Meetings are held at the Sierra Club office or conference room unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER STAFF

Development Coordinator: Richard Miller
858-569-6005
email: richard.miller@sierraclub.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: Davin Widgerow
dwidgerow@gmail.com

Secretary: Karenlee Robinson
619-572-8451

klobinson@cox.net

Paul Webb
pbwebb3@cox.net

Treasurer (Non-Voting):

Rob Morris

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm Chapter Office.

International

Call for meeting information
Jean Costa (619) 463-0721

Transportation

Call for meeting information
Mike Bullock (760) 754-8025
mike_bullock@earthlink.net

Wildlife

Ellen Shively (619) 479-3412
ellenshively@sbeglobal.net

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

Chair: Paul Webb
pbwebb3@cox.net

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Davin Widgerow
dwidgerow@gmail.com

NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Annual June Weekends, call for information.

Barry Hite (619) 479-8133
NKW@sierrasd.org

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday.

Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Suzi Sandore (760)-484-3440
hikersuzi@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Chair: Starla Rivers (619)-630-9132
sd.outchair@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP REVIEW & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair: Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Meets quarterly, call for information.

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Jim Jafolla
sd.col.training@gmail.com

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777
SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information

Chair: Brian Elliott
brian.delliott@gmail.com

SKI

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

Stefanie Maio
info@wildernessbasics.com
http://www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

John Tomlinson (858) 486-4853
jctomlinson@cox.net
http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/nc/index.htm

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscls.org.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/
bicycle

Family

Jennifer Douglas
(858) 344-5490 jenniferdouglassvettel@gmail.com
www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub
Social Sierrans- formerly Singles.
Michael Taylor (619)-421-3821
www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/singles

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

(ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Co-Chair: Bill Taylor, (858) 272-8574
btaylor@taylorlaw.com

Co-Chair: Ed Barber, (619) 464-0780
rebsd@yahoo.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
info@thomascreative.com

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

Chair: Ernest "EL" Lotecka
(760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc
1st Friday of every month

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

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For more info and confidential assistance, contact Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Annual Picnic Dixon Lake, Escondido Saturday, June 4, 12-4pm

Join the North County Group as we celebrate our 45th Anniversary! The picnic is open to all Sierra Club members, family, friends, past and present students of the Wilderness Basic Course.

Morning day hike with Al Fein, contact him for details and to RSVP at: hikeral@me.com.

For general questions contact Liz at lizlvepton@yahoo.com or Suzan at sznvarg@yahoo.com.

Directions:

East on El Norte Parkway from I-15, 5 miles, turn left (North) on La Honda Drive. There is a \$5 parking fee at Dixon Lake, however Seniors park for free. Proceed to 2nd parking lot at concession stand. Look for the Sierra Club banner. Picnic area is to the left of it down a short hill. No pets are allowed.

Photo by Visit Escondido

Architect Selected for Foster Lodge Cabin Rebuild, Hubbell & Hubbell to Design

Hubbell & Hubbell Architects has been selected by Sierra Club San Diego to design the new cabin at Foster Lodge. The old cabin, constructed in 1927, was destroyed in July 2013 by the Chariot wildfire.

The new cabin will be of the same approximate size of 1,000 sq ft. It is desired that the new structure include an outside deck, two fully accessible unisex bathroom facilities with at least one wheelchair accessible shower, a host bedroom with an exterior access door, a "Bunkhouse" room, living area with small kitchen, rustic mountain cabin appearance, efficient gas heating, with auxiliary wood/pellet stove or fireplace, energy efficient appliances and fixtures, water efficient plumbing fixtures and be ADA compliant.

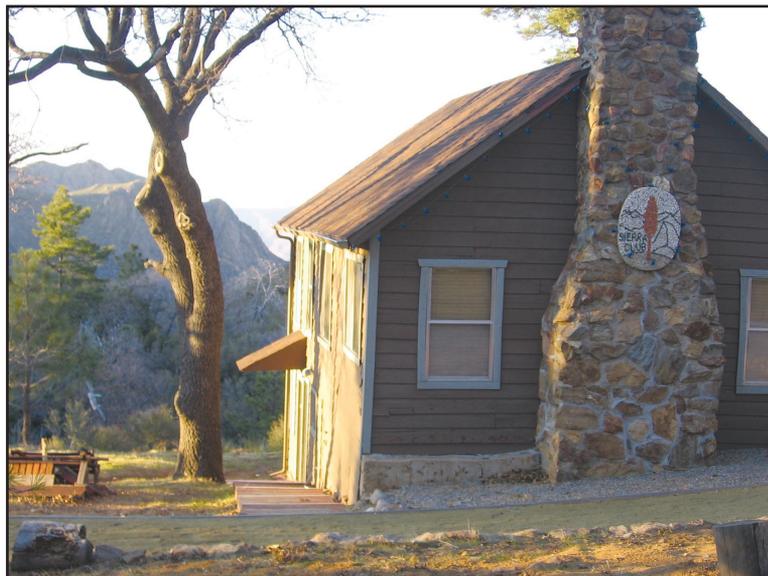
Architect Drew Hubbell stated "Having grown up in the mountains of San Diego I have a deep understanding of the unique climate issues found on and around Mt. Laguna. Our firm has

worked on over 20 fire rebuild projects after the Cedar & Witch Creek fires including the rebuilding and rehabilitation of four separate Ilan Lael Foundation buildings located on my family property in Wynola. I believe these experiences have a direct

relationship to your project and make us very qualified to serve your unique needs in designing and rebuilding the Foster Lodge Cabin."

Since 1995, Hubbell & Hubbell Architects has pushed the boundaries of sustainable design and the use of alternative building materials across the state--being the first firm to permit strawbale structures in San Diego County and the City of San Diego, and was the first firm to meet the County's Green Building program requirements. They are also skilled at creating unique designs with limited budgets

and enjoy finding green materials that meet the specific needs of the client and the site. Their extensive experience with historic preservation, green practices, accessibility issues and community engagement will be particularly useful for this project.





San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

On the north side & just west of the 163.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Whale Watching

by Bill Tayler

On a beautiful Sunday morning in February, 16 students from America's Finest Charter School in southeast San Diego boarded the Sea Adventure at H&M Landing for a day that none of them will soon forget. These students had been on a number of day hikes and camping trips with San Diego ICO, but most of them had never been on a boat, and none of them had ever seen a whale in the wild before. All that would soon change.

This adventure began a few weeks earlier when I contacted Richard Miller to ask whether I could get a discounted price for three or four students to come on the annual Sierra Club Whale Watch trip. Richard loved the idea of San Diego ICO bringing some kids along on the trip, but he had bigger and better plans. That same day, Richard sent out an email to the chapter membership asking if anyone would like to sponsor a child for the Whale Watch trip. Less than two hours later, Richard told me that he already had sponsors for 12 kids, and that others wanted to sponsor kids too. The swiftness and generosity of this support from our chapter was completely unexpected.

The trip was a resounding success in every possible way. The kids loved the feeling of being on the water, of being connected to the motion of the waves, and being so far from land. On our way out to search for whales, the kids looked out for sea lions and learned about kelp forests. And, of course, a couple got seasick. Along the way, we also passed a lot of plastic bottles and other trash floating on the surface, which prompted some good discussion about how trash tossed in the street often ends up in the ocean. After a short time at sea, we were rewarded with sighting of several California gray whales, and we even sighted a humpback whale close to the boat, which gave the kids a great view of its tail flukes as it dove.

Since the trip, the kids have told me many times how much they enjoyed it, and I know it had a real impact on how they see the ocean. None of this would have been possible without the vision and hard work of Richard Miller, and the generosity of those who sponsored those kids. On behalf of San Diego ICO and the kids, thank you all!

