



This year's presidential election is truly the most important of our lifetimes for the safety of our planet, our families, and future generations.

The choice we face in this election could not be more clear: America can elect a

leader who will continue and build upon President Obama's climate legacy, or we'll watch as the first-ever climate-denying president strips away decades of hard-fought progress.

Donald Trump has said that climate change is a "hoax," and vowed to bring back coal, approve Keystone XL, eliminate the EPA, and

*Endorsement continued on page 10*



Joe Zechman receives the Silver Cup Award at this years Gala

## The Clock is Ticking at the Salton Sea

**Air, Water, Health, And Habitat Are At Stake**

*By Kim Delfino*

Fourteen years ago, the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) and California Legislature decided to approve the largest agriculture-to-urban transfer of water in the country. At its peak, the water transfer would move more than 367,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water from farmland in the Imperial Valley to urban Southern California each year. That's enough water to supply the household needs for more than 2.2 million people for an entire year. At the time, Defenders of Wildlife and our partners – including the Pacific Institute, Sierra Club, and Audubon California – argued that any transfer had to address the environmental consequences of diverting so much water. While the transfer was necessary to create a more reliable water supply for the residents of San Diego and Palm Springs without taking that water from the fragile Bay Delta, we knew it would have an enormous impact on the Salton Sea that could not be ignored.



*Photo above: The geothermal field at the south end of the Salton Sea.*

*Photo by Jim Pompy*

The Salton Sea is fed primarily by the runoff from nearby agricultural fields. The transfer reduces the water to the fields by more than 300,000 acre-feet of water each year. The Water Board was warned that as the water level in the Sea lowered, it would expose more than 70,000 acres of dusty and dry sea bed by 2047 and would accelerate the path of the Salton Sea habitat toward biological collapse.

*Salton Sea continued on page 7*

# HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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**Davin Widgerow**

Sierra Club San Diego first six months of 2016 were fantastic! The chapter held its very successful annual Gala, WBC graduated almost 270 more students, the Political Committee interviewed and endorsed a slate of local candidates, the Conservation Committee was revived, and a new panel of Steering Committee members was installed. We are excited to continue this streak of fun, excitement, and activism through the second half of 2016.

Our annual Gala was held on June 11 at the Hilton Harbor Island Hotel, and was an enormous success! We had almost 30 more attendees compared to last year, almost doubled our fundraising totals, and welcomed a large slate of elected officials and political candidates as honored guests. The energy at the Gala was electric, and we received rave reviews for this year's event. The chapter honored three FEAT awardees: the San Diego League of Women Voters, the Solar Energy Industries Association, and the Cleveland National Forest Foundation, as well as a selection of our amazing volunteers. Thanks and appreciation must go to the Gala Committee (Karenlee Robinson, Suzi Sandore, Ellen Shively, and Fred Rogers), who worked tirelessly to plan and organize this event. Special appreciation is extended to Richard Miller, who worked for hours organizing logistics, selling tickets, developing promotional material, and planning the order of ceremonies - we could not have done it without you, Richard!

This year's Gala also honored the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Basics Course (WBC), and Bob Stinton presented a lively and entertaining history of the WBC program and its ethos. True to form, WBC graduated almost 270 students again this Spring - including the author - and presented a gift of \$10,000.00 to the chapter. WBC is an indispensable part of our chapter, and its mission of training future conservationists through wilderness exposure was highlighted when the California Department of Parks and

Recreation issued a new set of restrictions that would severely curtail members' use and enjoyment of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The hikers and backpackers of WBC mobilized, sent letters, and organized to express their concerns and opposition to the proposed restrictions. As of this writing, final decisions about the restrictions are yet to be made, but WBC staffers and students demonstrated their willingness and drive to step up to the plate to fight for and defend the wilderness spaces they have stewarded for decades.

The Political Committee and the Conservation Committee are thriving! The Political Committee interviewed and endorsed a full slate of candidates, and is pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of those candidates either won their races outright in the June primary, or earned a place on the November ballot. The Conservation Committee has a new chair in George Courser, who has seized his role with vigor and has brought back a devoted and brilliant team of conservation activists to the committee. We are excited to see the amazing work that both committees will do for the chapter in the months and years ahead. Finally, the Steering Committee recently filled out its ranks with four new members: Ruben Arizmendi, Katelyn Hailey, Fred Rogers, and Brian Elliott. See the spread later in this newsletter for their bios. We thank these new Steering Committee members for volunteering to serve, and we are eager to do great things together.

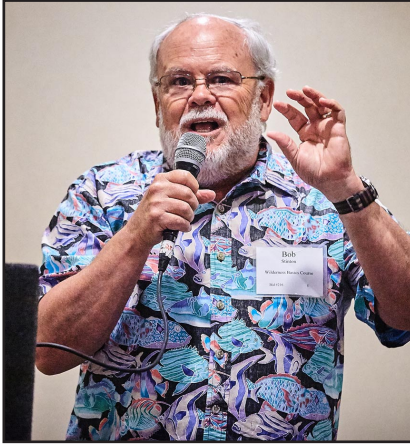
The coming months will be exciting times for the chapter. We are planning a number of social and other membership events, including an exciting event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. We could always use more help and volunteers, so please consider giving even just a little bit of time to Sierra Club San Diego. See you out-and-about, and on the trail!

*Davin Widgerow, Chair –  
Steering Committee*



# Wilderness Basics Course 60th Anniversary

*This speech was given by Wilderness Basics Course long time instructor Bob Stinton at the Chapter's June 11th Gala and awards Dinner.*



"This year our Chapter is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Sierra Club San Diego Wilderness Basics Course and the 45th anniversary of the North County Group (Escondido) Sierra Club Wilderness Basics Course. These two wilderness programs share common roots and continue the work of John Muir and the Club. These programs then and now are the Chapter's most successful outreach programs,

presenting the club and its work, changing people's opinion about the club, attracting new members and changing the lives of the course participants.

The Wilderness Basic Course was originally named the Basic Mountaineering Course, which was born out of tragedy when a family on a day hike in the local mountains was lost to a fast moving winter storm. As a result, the city of San Diego asked the Chapter if it could put together a training program to address safe travel in local mountains and desert, and the Chapter stepped up.

It is difficult to accurately trace the history of the program. There are only a few newspaper clippings that would indicated that the program was a success from the start. Part of the problem, in tracing the development of the program is that the staff and leaders were mountaineers; always looking forward to the next climb. This forward looking, what's next approach, does not leave much room for recording history or reminiscing about the past, except around the occasional campfire. This forward looking, what is next and how could we have done that better attitude, has been and still is today, an important factor in the success of the program.

The invitation to participate in the wilderness program has also been a key element to its success. The invitation has always been a key element of mountaineering; one does not generally climb alone and someone you trust needs to be on the other end of the rope. I experienced the invitation as a humble student in the early 70's, and though I had been backpacking for years, I still felt humbled compared to the experience of the course staff and leader. While climbing Rabbit Peak, the trip leader Mike Fry said "Bob you should get involved." This opened my mind to the possibilities maybe I had some skills to share. The following year I received a call, additional snow camp leaders were needed; would I lead one? There was no training just handing over of a 1970 Sierra Club Council Leader Handbook and the snow camp coordinator answered my questions. This fast track method of becoming a leader may seem strange compared the steps required today but at the time the practice was in line with the Clubs practice for recruiting national leaders. By the mid 90's when changes were taking place in the Outing programs on a National and Chapter level, about one third of the active course leaders were grandfathered in as Chapter Outing

leaders. A few of these leaders, still active in the program today, are still extending innovations to get people involved. The invitation then and now is still one of the best recruiting tools for bringing in new people and new ideas into the programs, keeping the programs fresh and responding to changing times.

Adaptability is another mountaineer's trait as one needs to adapt to changing conditions during a climb and this trait has been invaluable to the program over the years. In the late 80's and early 90's the Club as a whole experienced an insurance crises and the ability to purchase affordable insurance for some of the Club's activities became impossible; resulting in the loss of whole sections such as Rock Claiming, River and the severely curtailed mountaineering activities. The mountaineers adaptability came into play and the Basic Mountaineering Course was simply renamed the Wilderness Basic's Course and the staff and leaders hung up their ropes and ice axes and continued to building the program never looking back. Today, staff and leaders are still needing to adapt to changes, changes driven by external factors of which they have no control or self-imposed changes to improve the programs.

Commitment is also a mountaineering trait. Once committed to a climb you are there for the duration and committed to the success of the climb. To the public the Wilderness Basics Course is ten weeks long. However, it is not hard to find groups of staff and leaders putting in a full 42 weeks before the next class. The Wilderness Basics book is not only the course text book, but is sold to generate income for the Chapter. The book is now in its 4th edition and is the result of staff and leaders turning writers and editors, with very dedicated people who make such endeavor's possible. This is only one of the many activates going on behind the scene.

Commitment and dedication like this makes the program what it is today as the staff and leaders reach out to our communities and change the lives of the participants in unimaginable ways. Sitting on the sidelines, you can see this happen. For example there are friends, family members, and spouses being dragged in kicking and screaming on the first night, and within the duration of the course being transformed into future staff and leaders. Individuals who have lived all their lives in San Diego and never traveled over the mountains, because there is nothing but dry desert wastelands on the other side, after experiencing a single outing to Anza Borrego Desert State Park cannot wait to return. You can just sit and watch new groups of friends, friends who just meet during prior weekend outings, start planning together what outing they will all try to do next.

John Muir understood the mind-clearing nature of the wilderness and its ability to allow an individual to disconnect so they could reconnect to what is important. The wilderness mind-clearing nature is best expressed in John Muir's quotation.

"Climb the mountains and get there good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine follows into the trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy. Where cares will drop off as like autumn leaves."

The Wilderness Basics Course continues the work of John Muir by providing a means for people to experience the wilderness so they can disconnect and reconnect to what is really important. To live the Club's motto: To Explore the previously unseen world from a new prospective, To Enjoy the moment and the company of their fellow travelers, while learning the stewardship needed to Protect the lands we are only borrowing for a few passing moments, from future generations.

This is 60 years' worth celebrating."



# Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner



Chair Davin Widgerow presenting FEAT Award to San Diego CALSEIA Tara Kelly and Justin Hammond



Mike Fry receiving Lifetime Achievement Award from Outings Chair Starla Rivers



Chair Davin Wigerow presenting Political Activist Award to Debby Knight



Chair Davin Widgerow presenting FEAT Award to League of Women Voters of San Diego Jeanne Brown and Miles Pomeroy



Suzi Sandore receiving Volunteer of Year Award from Richard Miller



Rob Morris (center) receiving Special Service Award from Steering Committee members Karenlee Robinson & Davin Widgerow



Jack Shu, President of Cleveland National Forest Foundation, FEAT awardee



Pete Hasapopoulos (left) and Chair Davin Widgerow (right) presenting Rookie Activist Awards to Luis Alejandro Montes and Siyuan Liu



Chair Davin Widgerow presenting Distinguished Achievement Award to Mike Bullock



Joe Zechman presenting Michael Taylor, Chair of Sierra Social Section with the Chapter Service Award



Wilderness Basics Course leaders and staff presenting the Chapter with a check for \$10,000

Photos by CeCephoto.com—Thanks so much!



# 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**

**July 14 - 18**

**Bus Trip - Yosemite**

Registration Now Open

**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](http://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.*

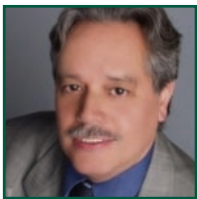


## Meet Our New Steering Committee Members

Four members of the Steering Committee have now retired after two years of service. Retiring Committee members were Diane Nygaard, Debbie Hecht, Nick Ervin and Joe Zechman. Each of these members were devoted to the Club and worked tirelessly to move the Chapter forward, protect our natural places and strengthen the Club in San Diego. Mr. Zechman was recently honored at the Chapters annual Gala with the Silver Cup Award which recognizes the person who has most significantly contributed to the success of the Club's mission.

### The four new members to join the Committee are:

#### Ruben Arizmendi



Ruben Arizmendi is an attorney who has been in a civil practice, which includes business litigation, estate planning, bankruptcy and business set ups. The business transactions include forming corporations, LLC's, Family Limited Partnerships, in addition to many business lawsuits where-in he represented plaintiffs and defendants. His estate planning experience includes the preparation of hundreds of living trust documents and probate.

Ruben received his Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State University and his Juris Doctorate degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Ruben is a member of the California State Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, Hispanic National Bar Association, California La Raza Lawyers Association, San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni Association, and the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Ruben's interests in the Sierra Club arise out his desire to see the world as environmentally strong and healthy, not only now but for generations to come. This is only going to happen when we all work in harmony to preserve the precious few environmental gems that seem to be sifting rapidly through are hands.

#### Katelyn Hailey



Katelyn Hailey believes that the strongest way to speak out for the environment is at the ballot box. That is why she works tirelessly to advocate for the environment and prevent climate disaster with elected leaders and activists.

She received a B.A. in sociology and an M.A. in political science, and was involved in developing a statewide network of Marine Protected Areas, pushing for critical water infrastructure, and mitigating coastal pollution. Katelyn has worked in the field offices of two state senators, where she served as an environ-

mental policy expert and liaison to communities. In her free time, Katelyn likes to hike North Fortuna peak in Mission Trails Regional Park, swim in the ocean, and explore the rest of California.

#### Brian Elliott



Growing up in the Pacific Northwest laid the foundation for Brian's two passions in life, protecting nature and spending as much time outdoors as possible. To be a successful advocate, Brian recognized early on the critical role science must play in decision-making. This led him to study biology, chemistry and political science at the University of Portland. The thrill of Washington, DC brought

him out to the East Coast and eventually up to Philadelphia where he received a Masters in Environmental Policy from the University of Pennsylvania.

Since arriving in San Diego, Brian has been an active member with Sierra Club and the greater environmental community as a volunteer and professionally, focusing on energy, water and climate policy matters.

Brian and his wife Sheila, a biomedical researcher, are avid trail runners that spend their weekends exploring everywhere from the desert floor to top of Cuyamaca Peak.

#### Fred Rogers



A native San Diegan, Fred is a graduate of UCSD with degrees in both Political Science and History. Since graduating from college he has worked for several technology companies as a Technical Writer and Technical Documentation Specialist for the past 17 years.

Fred has been active with the county Democratic Party for over the past 12 years and has held various Executive Board positions including serving as Vice Chair of the party from 2009 to 2012. Currently he is serving his fourth term as the elected representative for the 78th Assembly District to the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party. He is the cofounder of the San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action which is the only Democratic Club in Southern California dedicated to advancing environmental issues.

An active Sierra Club member since 2002, Fred has been serving on the Political Committee for the chapter since 2013. He is a strong believer in building strong coalitions among like-minded allies in achieving environmental goals. He welcomes the current challenges the chapter is facing at this time, and looks forward assisting the chapter during this critical time.



Sacrificing the Salton Sea is not an option. It provides habitat for more than 400 species of birds – approximately two-thirds of all bird species in the continental U.S. As a critical stopover on the Pacific Flyway, it is one of the most important locales for migratory birds in the Western United States. When the water transfer is operating at full capacity, these species will pay the price. The Sea's remaining fish population will crash, eliminating food for birds – both those that live there, and those passing through. In addition, the shallow waters around the southern and northern ends of the Sea which are important feeding and resting areas for migrating shorebirds will disappear. With these important habitats destroyed, migratory birds will have few options to rest and feed during their migration up and down the Pacific flyway.

Less water flowing to the Sea will also create severe health issues for residents in this region. It will leave more than 100 square miles of lakebed exposed to the wind, creating horrific dust storms to plague a region that already has the highest rates of childhood asthma in California. A report by the Pacific Institute found that the combined impacts to wildlife habitat and public health could cost the state as much as \$70 billion over the next 30 years.

The state recognized that these were problems that needed to be addressed, so it came up with a deal to buy everyone some time. The Water Board required Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to send additional water to the Sea for 15 years to keep it from receding. In the meantime, the State of California promised to take the lead in coming up with a plan for a more sustainable Sea. More importantly, the state agreed to ensure that the impacts of the water transfer would be mitigated in the event that the mitigation funds provided by the regional water agencies were insufficient to fully address the impacts of the water transfer. With those commitments in place, the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) went forward, and the clock started counting down to 2017 when the mitigation water from the transfer will cease to be delivered to the Sea.

For more than a decade, little progress was made at the Salton Sea. The Natural Resources Agency released an \$8.9 billion plan in 2007 that proposed massive infrastructure and expensive details that were unrealistic and proved to be a barrier to any activity occurring at the Sea. Indeed, such a large and expensive plan fell flat at the Legislature and served as a roadblock for moving forward expeditiously to address the inevitable impacts of the water transfer on the Sea.

While a larger solution for the Sea stalled out, smaller efforts did move forward slowly. The Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife developed the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) program, in which the state proposed to build up to 3,700 acres of aquatic habitat cells near the New River. The project has received its permits and has funding to develop 640 of the 3,770 acres. In addition, the state awarded \$3 million in Financial Assistance Project grants to three projects – the Torres Martinez Tribe wetlands/geotube project, the Salton Sea Water Habitat Project, and the Red Hill

Salton Sea continued on page 11

## A Final Appeal for the La Jolla Seals Approved by City Council



Left to right - Pam Thomas, Carol Archibald, Dr. Marilies Schoepflin and Ellen Shively.

It is not easy for wildlife to survive with increasing human encroachments on their habitat, nor is it easy for those of us who do our best to protect them. The harbor seals of Casa Beach are a case in point. In 2014, the SD City Council passed an ordinance for the seasonal closure of Children's Pool Beach (aka Casa Beach) located in the middle shoreline of the business district of La Jolla. The agreement prohibited anyone to access the beach from December 15 to May 15 to allow a safe and secure place for harbor seals to be born, nursed and weaned, with a one-month buffer on either side of the pupping season.

This decision was challenged and appealed by a pro-beach access group. This May, the case was heard in Orange County by a Superior Court Judge, who ruled that closure of the beach was unlawful in taking away citizens' rights to coastal access under the California Coastal Act and the original 1931 provision that the beach was to be used as a public park, and safe swimming pool for children, among other designations. The court also stated that the City and the California Coastal Commission failed to obtain the proper agreements with the federal government agencies concerned with managing marine mammals.

After hearing public comments from a number of people on June 14, with only one speaker defending the Superior Court ruling, the Council announced approval for funding an appeal with a 7-1 vote. The City Attorneys will now collaborate with the California Coastal Commission's legal team. This is a saga with an end in sight if the welfare of the seals is upheld.

*Ellen Shively, Former Wildlife Chair,  
Conservation Committee*

# SAN DIEGO

## Chapter Activities

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

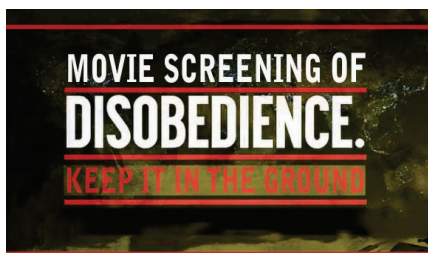
Our entrance is on the west end of the front building of Kearny Office Park, just west of I-163 and on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Other environmental and activist events are posted at [www.sdeln.org](http://www.sdeln.org)

### 2nd Friday Movie Night

July 8, 6:30 pm

**Movie: DISOBEDIENCE:  
COURAGE TO BREAK FREE**  
41 Minutes

Sponsored by the climate action group 350.org, the message is one of realistic optimism, depicting moments in our past when people have united behind other moral issues and joined in non-violent, peaceful civil disobedience to achieve change. Its purpose: to inspire us so that we are empowered to stand up and demand a sustainable world. Discussion will follow the film so that we may exchange ideas.



August 12, 6:30 pm

**Movie: THE TRUE COST**  
1 Hour 32 Minutes

This 2015 documentary explores the impact of fashion on people and the planet. Filmed in countries around the world, from the brightest runways to the darkest slums, this groundbreaking documentary pulls back the curtain on the untold story and asks us to consider who really pays the price for our clothes.



September 9, 6:30 pm

**Movie: THIS IS WHAT FREE TRADE LOOKS LIKE**  
60 Minutes

Filmed in Cancun, Mexico on the occasion of the 5th ministerial of the World Trade Organizations in September, 2003, this documentary shows how so-called “free” trade operates, from the perspective of the Mexican experience with ten years of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. An update will be provided, as it has now been over 20 years since NAFTA was passed by Canada, Mexico and the United States.



## 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](mailto:sdwalks@interactor.cc)

## July 1 The Canyoneers

John Muir said it best: When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe. That is exactly what Canyoneers like to do! Canyoneers are citizen scientists and volunteers with comprehensive natural history training by San Diego Natural History Museum scientists and local experts. They have been leading free, county-wide public walks on behalf of the Museum since 1973. They encourage you to look, listen, touch, smell, and examine the world around you to learn about and respect San Diego, one of the most biologically diverse counties in the United States.

Pauline Jimenez became a Canyoneer 2011, and is an enthusiastic trail guide who enjoys helping to train her newer colleagues. Pauline was awarded the Silver Cup Award for her long-term leadership of the Hi Sierran Committee, ongoing commitment to Wilderness Basics Course instruction and leadership, leadership of chapter outings and backpacks, and long-standing service as the chapter's Outings Committee secretary. She is a contributor to the new book, "Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Guide to San Diego Outdoors". Join her as she features special photos from San Diego walks, discusses the Canyoneer program, and celebrates your love of the great outdoors as she sings and plays her guitar for you.

## August 5

### San Dieguito Citizen Science Monitoring Program

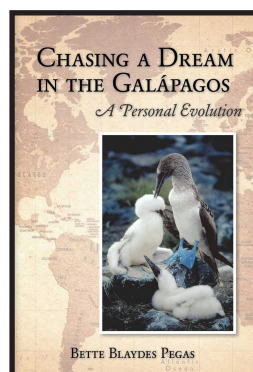
Come learn how everyday citizens are partnering with local experts to collect scientifically valid data to meet regional management goals and objectives as part of the new Citizen Science Monitoring Program at the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and River Park. Citizen science takes advantage of the fact that visitors to the River Park are constantly observing their surroundings as they hike, bike or ride their horse on our trails. This program offers residents, volunteers, trail-users and other outdoor enthusiasts a way to actively contribute to the betterment of their local outdoor spaces; they can be a field scientist for a day. It also offers students, when combined with school and university programs, a great way to get hands-on learning opportunities. Recent examples include Argentine ant surveys, wildlife tracking outreach program, herp surveys, bird surveys, rare plant surveys, and botanical survey.

The presenter, Jess Norton, brings over 10 years of federal, state,

and local experience in protected species regulation, natural resource management, and environmental planning to the Conservancy. Jess gained extensive knowledge of San Diego's native habitats and species during her four and one-half years with the County of San Diego Department of Parks & Recreation, where she was responsible for preparing Resource Management Plans, overseeing biological/cultural surveys, and obtaining grant funds for habitat restoration projects.

## September 2

### Chasing a Dream in the Galapagos



Action is the flip side of dreaming. In her presentation, Bette Blaydes Pegas travels beyond the Galapagos into a world she's only dreamed about a world of saying yes to adventure and no to self-doubt and fear. She enters a universe of giant tortoises, salt-crested marine iguanas, and crimson-throated Magnificent Frigatebirds. She follows the tail-drawn sand etchings of iguanas, struggles

to comprehend the mysteries of natural selection, and confronts other tourists who desecrate a sea lion shelter in defiance of park regulations. Her odyssey is a time for family bonding, "a search for Charles Darwin", and a reminder of the fierce competition for natural resources. Above all, her journey to the Galapagos, and exotic locations in Ecuador and Peru, is a time of self-discovery, showing a brave unknown side of herself that was waiting for its own personal evolution. The story includes eye-witness insights on unique animal behavior and natural selection,

Bette is a writer-editor, currently working on short stories. She says her journey -- to the islands Charles Darwin made famous -- was inspired by desire to see a finch that makes its own tools and to walk among noble creatures that exist nowhere else.

# News from the NORTH COUNTY GROUP SIERRA CLUB • SAN DIEGO

## Call for Nominations

The North County Group (NCG) will be holding elections this fall to fill 4 vacancies on its Executive Committee.

The Group Executive Committee has overall responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members are consistent with the Bylaws, Rules, and Policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected.

If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating

Committee, or would like more information, contact Dan Conger at conger.daniel@gmail.com. Names must be submitted by September 1, 2016.

The North County Group comprises the zip codes of 92003, 92025-30, 92033, 92046, 92058-61, 92064-65, 92069-70, 92074, 92078-79, 92081-85, 92088, 92127-28 & 92198.

## Annual Picnic Was a Blast

A fun filled afternoon was had by all at the NCG Annual Picnic at Dixon Lake in Escondido. The morning hikes were well attended and the hikers came back hungry and ready to enjoy the barbecue that was cooking on the grill. The afternoon gave everyone a chance to relax under the tall trees, socialize with old friends and meet new

ones. The picnic is typically held the first Saturday in June, if you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for next year!



*Endorsement continued from page 1*

“cancel” the Paris climate agreement. Trump wants to wipe out the critical environmental protections that are reducing carbon emissions and keeping our air and water safe. It’s a wish-list straight from the fossil fuel executives and climate deniers that are advising him and writing his speeches. As if that weren’t enough, Trump has built his campaign around racism, xenophobia, misogyny, childish bullying, and inciting violence. Trump is fundamentally unfit for the presidency and stands in direct opposition to everything we value.

In stark contrast, Hillary Clinton has a strong, detailed plan to tackle the climate crisis, protect our public lands, and accelerate the clean energy revolution underway across the U.S. She’s listened to the voices of the millions of Americans who’ve spoken out for action, and she’s responded by siding with our movement against the toxic TPP trade deal, saying no to Keystone XL, opposing dangerous oil drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic, ending the extraction of fossil fuels from

public lands, and supporting a just transition to a clean energy economy that works for everyone in America.

It’s clear that Hillary Clinton will work to tackle the climate crisis, which is why the Sierra Club is proud to endorse her for President of the United States. Stand with us and be a #ClimateVoter this year -- add your name now to show you’re ready to stop climate deniers like Trump!

The principled debate we’ve seen in this year’s Democratic primary has put the urgent need for climate action in the national spotlight. Senator Bernie Sanders has elevated this issue on the agenda and has made this a robust debate with his tireless advocacy to protect our climate and our communities. The Sierra Club wholeheartedly applauds Senator Sanders’ historic campaign, and we are eager to continue fighting alongside him to protect our planet.

This movement is stronger and better than ever before because of the passion and engagement of grassroots members

like you throughout the primaries. But now, with a demagogue like Trump as the Republican nominee, we must set our sights on the general election and unite to elect climate champions up and down the ballot. There is far too much at stake for us to not come together now.

With more than 2.4 million members and supporters, and chapters in all 50 states, the Sierra Club is ready to organize and mobilize Americans in every corner of the country. We will speak out against climate deniers like Donald Trump, and we will support Hillary Clinton and other climate champions to win on Election Day.

**We can’t afford to sit on the sidelines. I hope you’ll stand with us and be a #ClimateVoter this year. Add your name now to show you’re ready!**

*Onwards,*

**Michael Brune**

*Executive Director, Sierra Club*



Bay project. Of all of the projects, the Red Hill Bay project, led by IID, is the closest to breaking ground. This project, like the SCH project, is intended to test out how to construct habitat at the Sea.

With less than three years left before the mitigation water ceases to be delivered to the Sea, IID launched an offensive to get the state of California to pay more attention to the looming disaster at the Sea. On November 18, 2014, IID filed a petition to the Water Board requesting that it initiate a collaborative dialogue among the various stakeholders with the objective of building consensus around a restoration and funding plan that can be implemented immediately. More importantly, IID asked the Water Board to modify its original order requiring the state to fulfill its obligations to the Sea.

The Brown Administration took notice of IID's petition and the looming deadline and launched a Salton Sea Task Force in 2015, comprised of lead staffers from the Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources, Energy Commission, CalEPA, California Air Resources Board, and the Water Board. The Task Force released a set of recommendations related to projects, deadlines, and governance. In addition, the Task Force recommendations resulted in the hiring of Bruce Wilcox as the Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea policy within the Natural Resources Agency in September 2015. No stranger to the Salton Sea, Assistant Secretary Wilcox worked for several years for IID as the lead on the Salton Sea. He has worked extensively with the Salton Sea Authority, and is respected by stakeholders as a knowledgeable advocate for the Sea. Wilcox has been tasked with the daunting responsibility of bringing together the various stakeholders to arrive at a solution for the Sea before it is too late. Those stakeholders include Riverside and Imperial County elected officials and staff; the various water districts (IID, Coachella Valley Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, and Metropolitan Water District); local and regional air districts and the state Air Board; the Salton Sea Authority; assorted local, statewide, and national NGOs; and state and federal agencies.

Today the Salton Sea is less than two years away from disaster, though there is at least activity and some effort to address the looming deadline. However, as was the issue when the State launched its first ill-fated restoration planning process, there are diverse views among stakeholders on what a "restoration and management" plan should look like. While the current leadership of the Salton Sea Authority, and its supporters, have recognized that any plan for the Sea will not return it to its past hey-day, there are still those that continue to hope for a full sea solution that would 'freshen' up the Sea's salty waters by delivering water from the Gulf of California or by generating water from desalinization plants in order to return it to a more marine environment for fish and stabilize the shoreline so that housing developments and golf courses could be built along the shores of the sea.

However, both the "Sea-to-Sea" idea and the desalinization idea suffer fatal flaws. More than a decade ago, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation examined and rejected options for pipelines or canals to pump water about 100 miles between the Gulf of California and the Salton Sea in part because the costs were estimated to run between \$15 billion and \$38 billion. The Natural Resources Agency and the Salton Sea Authority have also rejected the "Sea-to-Sea" concepts. The use of desalinization plants also suffers from cost and technical problems.

It has been estimated that it could cost at least \$17 billion to build enough desalinization plants at the Sea.

While a fully formed solution for the Sea has not yet sprung forth, there is movement at the Sea that hopefully will coalesce into a larger, widely supported project. Parties are beginning to recognize that even without importing or generating more water to make up for reductions in inflows to the Sea, there will still be hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of inflow for the foreseeable future, and that a large amount of water can produce a comprehensive plan that will give everyone at least most of what they are seeking: fish and wildlife habitat, air quality projects, and the ability to keep a smaller open water surface for recreation and habitat.

IID and Imperial County have been working with partners on a "Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative." This initiative knits together the existing proposed projects, such as Red Hill Bay and SCH, with a vision of incremental building projects that address air quality and habitat concerns as the Sea recedes as well as more fully developing the Sea's geothermal energy resource. Not surprisingly, IID's project is focused on the near term threat at the southern end of the Sea created by shrinking inflows and a shallow southern seabed. Stakeholders in Riverside County, including elected officials, have proposed their own plan, the Salton Sea Water Incremental Funding in Time (SSWIFT) proposal. The SSWIFT plan proposes to build levees



Site of the Red Hill habitat improvement project.  
Photo by Jim Pompy

around the Sea to separate the high salinity center of the lake from a lower salinity outer lake. This outer lake would receive 140 thousand acre-feet per year of freshwater from the New River and Whitewater River to support bird and fish populations and the inner brine sink would keep the lakebed wet to prevent fugitive dust. Again, not surprisingly, the SSWIFT plan is focused on stabilizing the shoreline around the Sea with a deeper lake to attract more development and economic opportunity. The state is currently examining both proposals to determine if they are both technically and financially feasible and if they can be "married" together into a plan that will satisfy all interests.

While the fate of the Sea remains uncertain, there should be optimism with the State's renewed interest and efforts by stakeholders to work together. With this optimism should come caution as there is no extra time to argue over plans for the Sea, and any solution should avoid the fate of the past restoration plan – death by price tag. If parties can keep these cautions in mind, we may avoid environmental disaster at the Sea and create a plan that benefits both fish and wildlife and the people who call the Salton Sea home.

*Kim Delfino is the California Program Director for Defenders of Wildlife. She has developed expertise in California wildlife and land use planning laws, energy policy, and water issues. Kim has worked on protecting the Salton Sea and its diverse array of wildlife since 2001.*

*Article printed with permission of:*

*Desert Report: News of the desert from Sierra Club  
California/Nevada Desert Committee*

## 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 rehabili-

tation 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.



## Climate Mobilization Rally

### July 10, 10am, Midway Aircraft Carrier Park

Sierra Club Chapter Chair Davin Widgeow will be among the speakers at a Rally sponsored by the San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition at 10 a.m. , Sunday, July 10th at the Midway Aircraft Carrier Park on Harbor Drive.

The Event will be one of a number of events across the nation sponsored by The Climate Mobilization based in New York City, according to retired Superior Court Judge Robert Coates, Mobilization spokesman and former chair of the San Diego Sierra Club. The Sierra Club is a member of the San Diego Climate Mobilization Coalition, along with SD 350, Greenpeace, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Environmental Health Coalition, the Democratic Party and the San Diego Labor Council.

Coates said the purpose of the Rally will be to call upon the Federal Government to conduct a World War II-scale National Mobilization to transition the U.S. from Fossil Fuels to clean, safe Wind, Water and Solar renewable energy at wartime speed. Coates, a former environmental law professor, brought Roger Revelle into one of his classes more than 30 years ago. Revelle, founder of UCSD, taught climate science to former Vice President Al Gore at Harvard.



# Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler  
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



## "I Have 24" from Joshua Tree National Park

by Bill Tayler

"Mr. Bill, I don't have 22. I have 24." Paulina had counted them, and then recounted them, and in doing so had learned that she had two more than she had thought. And she reported the results of her recount with satisfaction, perhaps tinged with pride, as we drove home from a weekend of camping in Joshua Tree National Park on our way back to Stephen W. Hawking II STEAM Charter School where she attends fourth grade. As with most of the kids, this had been Paulina's first time camping in the desert, and it was filled with adventure and a sense accomplishment. On Saturday morning, we explored the Wonderland Ranch Wash, which gave everyone a chance to try out their rockhopping skills.

In the afternoon, as we hiked and climbed through a different part of Wonderland of Rocks, a cautious but curious desert bighorn sheep climbed down from one of the larger granite formations to stand watch over us and pose for photos. And after that long, hard day of exploring, the kids climbed and climbed and climbed the rock formations surrounding our campsite back at Indian Cove. Saturday night, we took a night hike, gazed at stars, told scary stories around the campfire, and of course, climbed a few rocks in the dark. On Sunday morning, we explored the off-trail reaches of upper Rattlesnake Canyon, which involved more rockhopping and some slickrock scrambling.

And throughout the weekend, Paulina collected – a total of 24 – cuts, nicks and scrapes on her arms and legs. And the recount of her injuries – reported without a shred of complaint in her voice – was as satisfying for me to hear as it was for her to deliver. Because really, if you don't come home from Joshua Tree with some skin missing, you just haven't done it the right way.

*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](http://www.sandiegosierraclub.org)*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:btayler@taylorlaw.com)





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### Sierra Club Members

(up to 25 words)

Private party

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

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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

## 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.

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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  
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### Submission Deadlines for Hi Sierran Newsletter:

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

#### Upcoming Issues:

**October/November/December 2016**

Deadline is September 1st

**To submit by email, please email to:**

[info@thomascreative.com](mailto:info@thomascreative.com)

**Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.**

# Wilderness Basics Course 2017

"Experience the beauty of the wilderness with knowledge and confidence!"

## 10 Week Course Starts:

**Escondido - January 10th**

**San Diego - January 17th**

This comprehensive 10-week course consists of 10 Tuesday night meetings and 4 weekend trips to the local deserts and mountains. The weekend trips include car camping, navigation, backpacking and even snow camping (you'll love it). Choose from outings that range from easy to extremely challenging. The Wilderness Basics Course is only offered once a year. It is open to both members and non-members of the Sierra Club.

## For More Info and To Register:

**San Diego**

[www.wildernessbasics.com](http://www.wildernessbasics.com)

**Escondido**

<http://wbcnc.sierrasd.org>





## 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  
krobinson@cox.net

Ruben Arizmendi  
rfalaw@gmail.com

Katelyn Hailey  
katehail1234@gmail.com

Brian Elliott  
brian.d.elliott@gmail.com

Fred Rogers  
fred.e.rogers@gmail.com

Paul Webb  
pbwebb3@cox.net

**Treasurer** (Non-Voting):  
Rob Morris

### COMMITTEES

#### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

**Chair:** George Courser  
gcourser@hotmail.com

#### 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@sbcglobal.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.lrscc@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 Elliot  
brian.d.elliott@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@sdscbs.org.  
www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/  
bicycle

#### Family

Jennifer Douglas  
(858) 344-5490 jenniferdouglasvettel@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 Tayler, (858) 272-8574  
btayler@taylerlaw.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

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## 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.sandigosierraclub.org](http://www.sandigosierraclub.org)

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Assemblymember.Atk  
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