



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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January/February/March 2023

In Memorial George Courser

It is with great sadness and deep regret that I must report the death of Sierra Activist George Courser. George was a great conservation advocate and worked tirelessly every single day on behalf of the environment.

In San Diego County, George served as the Chair of the Sierra Club Conservation Committee, a board member of the Steering Committee, a member of the Executive Committee, and a member of the legal committee. At Sierra Club California he was a member of the State Conservation Committee.

Over the past decades George has been a leader in dozens of major battles including: several successful lawsuits on the climate action plan for San Diego County, successful opposition to numerous major San Diego projects that circumvented the California Environmental Quality Act process, positive resolution of the Gregory Canyon Landfill, stopping "out of county" greenhouse gas mitigation, preventing sprawl housing developments, fighting environmentally dangerous General Plan Amendments, and helping in numerous community environmental fights.

He was active in finding a binational solution to the massive pollution in the Tijuana River and in the restoration of the Salton Sea. He led Sierra Club lawsuits that fought the bundling of general plan amendments in San Diego, fought the environmentally destructive border wall, opposed offshore oil drilling, fought to protect the Harbor Seals and Sea Lions at Pt. LaJolla, and fought for every Californian to have clean and safe drinking water.

George was a leader at the state level in expanding and diversifying the club's membership and impact. He has founded and actively served on an environmental justice committee and provided weekly newsfeeds both at the local level and state level. These actions helped protect the most impacted Californians by from environmental pollution and damage to their health. This was an important part of Sierra Club's effort to diversify and include new people in our important environmental coalitions. As a result of George's relentless efforts on behalf of the environment he won the prestigious Sally and Les Reid Award for Conservation from Sierra Club California and the Conservation Activist Award from the San Diego Chapter.



In Memorial continued on page 3

Chapter to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Do you have a story to tell?

In September 1948 the Sierra Club Board of Directors approved a petition signed by 53 members to establish the San Diego Chapter. The San Diego Chapter was the 5th Chapter that the Club had created. There are now 65 Chapters nationwide and the Territory of Puerto Rico. That means a long history of events, highs and lows, successes, setbacks, outings, activities, celebrations, awards, and the list goes on. Unfortunately there is no one place where the history of the Chapter is available.

So, we need your help. Do you have a story to tell? Old photos, records, or documents?

If you would like to help us to highlight the important events or just daily life in the Chapter's history, then tell us your story!

Volunteer to help us celebrate

Do you like throwing parties or have experience with large events? Then we need you! Don't think you have the skills? We still need you! There are a lot of things to be done; selecting a venue, what kind of food, presentations, seeking sponsors, even writing an invitation takes time. So, volunteer to help us plan, create and then attend our 75th Anniversary Celebration. Just contact the office at scoffice@sierrasd.org or call the office at 858-569-6005 and let us know you want to help.

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scoffice@sierrasd.org or call the office
at 858-569-6005.**



Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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Lisa Ross

Welcome to Sierra Club 2023. Building on 2022 Successes.

At the time of this writing, there is overwhelming joy and grief as we celebrate the triumphant end to a decades long struggle to preserve 2000 acres on the now formerly Newland Sierra development site and mourn the passing of George Courser, battle warrior and Soul of Sierra Club San Diego.

Through lawsuits and countless showdowns before the Board of Supervisors since 1999, Sierra Club with our sister environmental organizations and scores of volunteers have fought developers hell-bent on profiting from urbanizing this habitat sensitive fire-prone open space.

George Courser could always be found in the thick of it.

Throughout his Sierra Club career, George was a gentle giant walking softly and carrying a giant velvet stick. A few weeks before his passing, the County Board of Supervisors who he beat with that stick on climate action, environmental justice, and habitat preservation in far too many testimonies at the microphone, proclaimed October 11 George Courser Day.

That was our last in-person chuckle together. Ironies abounded. We could envision the looks on the faces of Supervisors past who wanted to pave paradise and got earfuls and tomes of protest letters from George.

With his constant co-conspirator leading our Conservation Committee, Dr. Peter Andersen, were penned our most articulately detailed informed letters our Chapter has sent to public agencies.

And often embedded in these scrupulously researched comments were some literary winks among the eye-watering bureaucratese. The flourishes never failed to crack me up and begged the reader to continue a read that educated as well as promised the Wrath of George.

One of my favorites is contained in a letter opposing building in an environmentally sensitive area: "The Development Services

Department is shielding itself behind a firewall of some 300 esoteric acronyms, depriving both decision makers and the public of an understanding of probable and likely project environmental impacts.... Breaking through such semantic obstacles requires either retired City of San Diego Planners or CEQA Environmental Attorney."

George would have qualified for either job. I'd add Professor of Environmental Studies.

The importance of the acquisition by Golden Door Resort for conservation of the former Newland Sierra property cannot be overstated. This is an essential wildlife connection needed to help complete the North County Multiple Species Habitat Plan and at the same time preventing another luxury development in a high fire area.

The first blow was the success of Sierra Club litigation over inadequate greenhouse gas emission mitigation. The Newland Sierra project, the last in a line of bad ideas for the area, would have resulted in an additional 5000 people and their cars. The win at the ballot box in 2020 after a successful referendum against the County Supervisors approval was the last straw.

With Peter Andersen, George Courser and Richard Miller from Sierra Club, La Jolla Group's Bob Glaser and I formed SAS (Stop All Sprawl) to stop the sprawl Newland Sierra project at the ballot. We joined with newly elected Executive Committee member and housing advocate Susan Baldwin and her group of volunteers to support a coalition of environmental groups including the Endangered Habitats League and the California Native Plant Society to kill the project.

With the Golden Door acquisition, native chaparral, oaks and wetlands that support a vast array of wildlife will be preserved for future generations and provide a vital link connecting the County habitat system.

It's no secret to those of us engaged in protecting wildlife that San Diego County is home to more threatened species than any region in the country. As we head into 2023 Sierra Club will continue to build on the successes of the past year to preserve and protect lands yet to be conserved in honor of our dear friend, George Courser. I only hope I've learned enough from him to help make it happen.

People describe George as warm, welcoming, tireless, open, kind, and collaborative. These wonderful qualities did not prevent George from taking on cities, counties, and developers as a fierce and unrelenting champion for the environment.

George's family has asked that gifts on his behalf be made to Sierra Club San Diego (<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate/>).

Peter Andersen

Remembrances

"George welcomed me so warmly to the Conservation Committee. I was new to the Committee, and it made all the difference. George was an amazing advocate for conservation and a good person."

- Lisa Kaczmarczyk, Conservation Committee Member

"George was so supportive of our fight against the environmentally destructive San Marcos Highlands project. He was right there by our side every step of the way, from requesting funding from our Chapter for the Administrative Record for the litigation, to the LAFCO hearing where the annexation of the Highlands property to the City of San Marcos was approved by the LAFCO Board. His support meant so much to me. He was a wonderful Chair of the Conservation Committee -- his dedication to our battles on behalf of the environment throughout the County was extraordinary. And he was always optimistic, cheerful and very kind. I deeply grieve his loss."

- Mary Clarke, Conservation Committee Member

"George WAS Mr. Conservation. It seemed that George knew something important about every environmental issue we faced. He was always happy to help, providing guidance and expertise. He wasn't afraid to speak up and let city council members, mayors and supervisors know where he, the Sierra Club and environmental community stood on issues. Above all he always had time to listen, made you smile, even if he was telling you that you were wrong, and friendly and generous with his time. He was a wealth of information, an inspiration to everyone and will be a great loss to the Sierra Club and environmental community."

- Richard Miller, San Diego Chapter Director

"I first met George in San Luis Obispo after one of the Sierra Club's Conservation gatherings, many years ago. He was a devotee of the natural environment and we immediately connected. When I came home to San Diego, George greeted me as an old friend and colleague. He had the soul of a citizen who cared so deeply for the natural environment. His example will live on in each of us."

- Pam Heatherington, Chair, North County Group

"Eric Bowlby and I were George's first introduction to environmental activism. He was a jet-fast learner and the fight for his community of Hidden Meadows culminated in a smaller, more eco-friendly project. He represented the Back Country Coalition in the County's Interest Group Committee meetings for the General Plan update. His contributions to an improved Sunrise Powerlink (SDG&E)

project were awesome. He was a true environmental hero and steadfast friend. His loss is heartbreaking for all who knew him."

- Bonnie Gendron, Conservation Activist

"The small amount of time I got to know George has had a big influence on my life. His kindness, compassion, depth of knowledge, and connections within the environmental community will be missed. George leaves a rich legacy of conservation and activism."

- Ron Askeland, Chair, Conservation Committee

"George Courser was an invaluable chair and member of the Conservation Committee. He truly cared and was very helpful to the Sierra Club Seal Society. His passing is a great loss."

- Carol Archibald, Sierra Club Seal Society

Here is my last message to George - "Hello George. I just read your letter that you're stepping down due to health issues. Your health is the priority and I hope you have a great medical team and family support to get you through this difficult time. Thank you for your assistance, as you have always made yourself available to me and those, I referred for your greater expertise & knowledge. Most importantly, I have truly enjoyed your sunny disposition, charm, and generosity. You, Richard, and Rochelle have been my mentors from day one.

I have not seen you in probably a year or so and have missed your presence & energy. You will be missed my friend and thank you for all your contributions to making the world a better place. If you need anything do not hesitate to contact me.

Much Love, Martha Marquez"

- Martha Marquez, Administrative Assistant, San Diego Chapter.

"I remember George as a Conservation Committee Chair as a co-worker on many issues the chapter took on. He would write letters, attend the city's various committee meetings and speak up for the environment in a convincing manner, while being polite and respectful. His heart was truly in the right place, and we are all better for his leadership."

- Ellen Shively, Past Chapter Chair, Seal Society Leader

"George Courser was a great defender of the earth. He was one of those activists who loved the planet and nature and loved people just as much. He cared deeply about environmental justice and did everything he could to make the world a better place. He will be missed."

- Laura Hunter, Chair Conservation Committee, North County Group

Among all the wonderful and dedicated experts I was honored to meet and learn from while volunteering at Sierra Club, George Courser was supreme because of his amazing character. He was trustworthy, patient, dedicated, encouraging, friendly, kind, respectful, funny, non-judgmental and humble. I grieve his passing. He was my friend, teacher and mentor and will definitely leave a big hole in the lives of many people, but we can all honor him for enriching our lives. Whenever I asked him, how can you do as much as you do, he would always say it's because I have a wonderful wife who supports me. He was a true gem of a man. Thanks! Take care, be well and safe,

- Cynthia Wooten

Salton Sea

The Saga Continues

By Joan Taylor, Jenny Binstock

Current status? Complex, to say the least.

Like the proverbial blind men and the elephant, the Salton Sea means many things to many people: a critical stopover on the Pacific Flyway threatened with collapse; environmental justice communities faced with escalating health hazards; a potential multimillion dollar international canal; and even promise of fortunes to be made.

Just As A Refresher:

The Two Main Problems At The Salton Sea Are

- 1) *It's getting too salty to support life, and*
- 2) *It can emit hazardous airborne substances, in the form of fine dust from its increasingly exposed shoreline and/ or unusual bacteria emitted by the water itself.*

Progress on State's Ten-Year Plan

Just to recap: in 2003 the state of California assumed responsibility to mitigate adverse impacts of the largest ever rural-to-urban water transfer from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to San Diego, which drove the Salton Sea into a steep decline. But not until 2018, spurred to do so by legal petitions from IID, Sierra Club and others, did the state finally promulgate a "Ten Year Plan." This Plan is a suite of projects to be built around the edge of the Sea to capture inflows for habitat cells and to mitigate dust.

One of the largest projects, the \$200 million awkwardly-named Species Conservation Habitat (SCH), will spread New River water over roughly 4000 acres at the south end of the Sea to create both shallow wading habitat for shorebirds and deeper ponds for fish eating species. SCH finally got underway last year, was 60% complete as of August, and is projected to be complete at the end of '23.

Another big habitat project, the North Lake, is still in the pilot stage, with a small 156 acre pilot slated for breaking ground this coming Spring. It will link to the iconic North Shore Yacht Club and provide a deeper water fishery for birds, as well as a recreational amenity for the nearby communities that have been consistently vocal about the need for Salton Sea projects to invest in community infrastructure. The pilot aims to prove up how best to construct levees for impounding inflows on the Sea's silty substrate and to inform building the much larger North Lake.

Other smaller projects are underway as well, including "dust sup-

pression" by either revegetating the exposed shoreline or making giant furrows in the playa to slow down wind driven particles.

Prospects For Importing Water To Refill The Salton Sea?

Given the world and enough time, one would import enough water to refill the Salton Sea and return it to its former glory days when it was more visited than Yosemite. But significant hurdles stand in the way of doing so, not the least of which are crafting a fair and enduring international agreement and avoiding impacts to the International Biosphere Reserve at the Gulf of California. There's also considerable time and cost to design, complete environmental review, permit, and construct a massive conveyance infrastructure plus a very large desalination plant, and last but not least, the need to dispose of millions of tons of salt a year. Not impossible, but daunting and very time consuming in the face of an urgent need to act.

This past year, to the tune of a couple million dollars, the state paid an "Independent Review Panel" to assess various proposals to import water into the Salton Sea. After a year of study and some public zoom meetings, the Panel pro-

nounced that none of the import proposals were very feasible, yet the Panel itself proposed a plan to incentivize farmers to fallow their land and supposedly desalinate the Salton Sea over several decades.

To say the Panel's recommendations were not well received would be an understatement. Credible sources maintain that the Panel made erroneous assumptions to inflate the costs of importing Gulf water on the one hand, and to seriously underestimate the cost of inducing farmers

to give up farm water on the other. Result: the process intended to bring clarity to water importation may have only muddled the waters, pun intended.

Long Range Planning

A long range (2028 - 2078) plan for the Salton Sea is due out by the end of the year. The state reconvened a panel of stakeholders (Long Range Plan Committee, LRPC for short), and staff and consultants have proposed and scored a suite of alternatives. None of these alternatives involve importing any water, and many simply resurrect projects proposed, reviewed, and then dropped around 2006-7.

The LRPC is asked to react to these alternatives and their scoring. But unfortunately, some of the alternatives seemingly favored by the state consultants take too long



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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to address the immediate threats and would provide little if any benefit to local communities. Plus, many core questions remain unanswered. What is the water budget for the Ten Year projects? What is the water demand for each alternative? In view of extreme drought on the Colorado River – lifeblood of the Salton Sea – how can the state justify predicting robust future inflows to the Sea? What will be the maintenance cost for the Ten Year projects? For the long range projects? And so on.

Taking The Pulse Of Local Communities

Meaningful engagement of local communities most impacted by the decline of the Salton Sea has long been a source of frustration. Residents continue to request deeper and more consistent opportunities to weigh in and ensure Salton Sea projects bring tangible benefits to communities long underserved. While there is still much progress to be made, over the past year there has been a robust offering of community meetings, and the state is also working to develop a strategy with community stakeholders to explore opportunities for integrating community amenities into Salton Sea projects.

Show me the money...

Bond funding to complete the state's Ten Year projects appears obtainable. The feds have obligations here too, and may pony up to help fund a long range plan. One big unanswered question is the cost to operate and maintain remedial projects. Most involve pumping, and all involve structures which will need to be maintained and adapted as the state learns from experience how to deal with the vagaries of this huge super-saline body of water. Further, as drought compels more farm water conservation, the agricultural runoff supporting the Salton Sea will diminish and become more laden with minerals, so some serious desalination may be required, or importing ocean water. All this will cost millions a year, but the state has yet to estimate these costs, much less fund them.

Water In A Drying Era

Barring a solution to the hurdles to importing water from the Gulf, the fate of the Salton Sea is inextricably tied to the Colorado River which created the Sea in the first place, and from whence 90% of its inflows still come. Unless you've been living in a cave, you're well aware of ongoing drought plaguing the Colorado River basin, with little likelihood of it abating in the face of climate change.

One thing's for sure: all eyes are on Imperial Irrigation District to relinquish more of its large allocation of Colorado River water, this time to the thirsty populations of AZ and NV. That translates to less inflows, a steeper decline, and a need to fully mitigate inevitable impacts to the Salton Sea, something other western states have yet to embrace.

Lithium Gold Rush

Finally, the promise of fortunes to be made: Salton Sea is a hotbed of geothermal activity, with eleven geothermal power plants pumping hot brine up from underground. That brine is laced with lithium, estimated to be one of the largest sources in the world. Lithium, for rechargeable gadgets, electric vehicles, and keeping the lights on when the sun goes down, is in huge demand but is in short supply. Its cost has skyrocketed 600% percent in the last year.

So the race is on to extract lithium from geothermal brine after it has run the power plant turbines and before it is re-injected back into the ground. Both state and feds are eager to see this rich source of domestic lithium developed. If commercially feasible and with strong environmental safeguards, this could be a boon not only to electrifying the economy, but to the local disadvantaged communities with high rates of unemployment.

Still, questions remain. Will lithium extraction from geothermal plants be commercially competitive with strip mining or dry lake extraction methods? Will disadvantaged communities potentially affected by lithium development benefit from it? Can the fees on lithium help support Salton Sea remediation? What about water use and potentially hazardous wastes?



Sierra Club photograph by David Bacon

What's Next

The report of the state's Lithium Valley Commission will be finalized in the not-too-distant future. But actual lithium recovery pilot projects may be hitting technical roadblocks, so no one's making any fortunes yet. Meanwhile, the state's "Vision Document" of long range alternatives for the Salton Sea will feed into a US Army Corps feasibility study kicking off this December, which may lead to as much as 2:1 in federal matching funds for remediation. Concurrently, the construction of the North Lake pilot project will get underway. All the while, the state will hopefully be upping its game to more deeply engage local communities that have been in a holding pattern for far too long.

In sum, 2023 will be a pivotal year to build on community outreach efforts, ensure lithium development receives full environmental review, respond to the scoping for the Corps feasibility study, and generally advocate that any cutbacks to address shortages on the Colorado fully address and mitigate impacts to the Salton Sea.

*Joan Taylor Chairs the California/Nevada Desert Committee of Sierra Club
Jenny Binstock is Senior Campaign Manager – Lands, Water, Wildlife
- Sierra Club*

This article has been re-published with the permission of the News of the Desert from Sierra Club California & Nevada Desert Committee Desert Report, December 2022. Go to www.desertreport.com for more information on the Desert Committees including desert hikes and activities.

HEEHRA and the Big Boost for Electrification

By Karl Aldinger, Conservation Organizer

The Inflation Reduction Act includes something we at Sierra Club have been fighting for and eagerly anticipating from the federal government: aid money designated to help replace gas appliances in homes with electric versions. We're doing this to stop greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate harmful air pollution. The High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act, affectionately known as HEEHRA, might sound like a heroine from a comic book. And it embodies the best of what we expect from a super heroine with equity, justice, and planet saving help.

Decarbonizing existing buildings takes some work and can be expensive. Taken piece by piece, you might first imagine shopping at your local Best Buy to purchase an electric induction stovetop to replace that gas stove which has been emitting toxins in your kitchen. **HEEHRA will pay up to \$840 as a point of sale rebate to purchase and install that stovetop.** But you'll want to do your homework first. Because that electric stovetop, as with many electric appliances that replace gas appliances, will likely require a 220V outlet behind your cabinetry, so a call to an electrician for a 220V outlet and additional wiring will be needed. **HEEHRA will pay up to \$2500 for rewiring, and again it's a point of sale rebate, so you're not expected to have the money up front, getting paid back at tax time or when a rebate check comes back. It's discounted when you do the project.**

When that electrician arrives, and they examine your service panel and assess the work, they may warn about your service panel being nearly at maximum capacity already. They might say, "I can do this job for you today, but if you want to do all the remaining work to switch the gas dryer, gas water heater, and gas furnace to electric, we'll need to upgrade the service panel and bring in new heavier wiring from the street to the panel. **HEEHRA will pay up to \$4000 towards that service panel upgrade.**

I've started to paint an image of a project that's got a bit of scope creep. HEEHRA is there to help, with up to \$14,000 in total to be used for electrification projects. HEEHRA is means-tested, so to get the full \$14,000, a family must qualify with no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. If instead a family income is between 80% and 150% of AMI, HEEHRA will still pay those point of sale rebates, but they will drop by 50% for each item for a total of \$7000. HEEHRA is also ready to help multifamily housing with the same allowances, but the income assessment requires that 50% of the occupants be below 80% AMI or within the 80-150% threshold, with accompanying rebates applying to all units.

I mentioned the role of the electrician being both an important asset to electrification, and possibly the thing that slows down your ability to make a quick change. Electricians should obtain permits for this type of work from your local municipality, and doing this every time you are ready for another appliance upgrade can make things more cumbersome and costly. A different way of accomplishing the same task is to work with your electrician to rewire all of the necessary parts of your home for All-Electric readiness and if needed get that service panel up to spec for the whole home. We're trying to work with local agencies to create a program that offers assistance in getting that initial estimate for All-Electric readiness to help accelerate and enable easy transition of appliances to electric, even if some of those appliances don't get exchanged until there is a failure. Not having the electrical wiring in place is the most common reason people aren't willing or able to switch to electric when there's a failure of a gas appliance. They need a speedy replacement and don't want to wait for permits and an electrician. So prewiring as a preparatory step using HEEHRA rebates is a fantastic way to make it easier to clean the air and fight the Climate Crisis.

HEEHRA rules are still being crafted in each state, so we're working on getting the word out to communities that can really use assistance. We're hoping to see it available for use in early to mid 2023.

North County Group Releases Series of At-Home Climate Action Resources

Sierra Club North County Group (NCG) has released a series of fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations, guides, and other resources to help community members make an immediate impact in the ongoing battle against climate change.

The At-Home Climate Action resources are designed to empower individuals to take simple measures on their own immediately to increase our resilience and reduce climate warming emissions.

Laura Hunter, chair of the NCG Conservation Committee, said, "Most people are concerned with our planet's warming, but don't feel they can

do much about it as individuals or as a family. It turns out there's a lot each of us can do to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Sierra Club's At-Home Climate Action resources are designed to offer simple measures we can all take to make a difference now."

Climate action topics in the series are:

Climate Basics
Nurture Nature
Grow Trees
Use Clean Energy
Grow Food, Buy Local
Protect from Extreme Heat
Electrify Landscaping
Walk, Bike, Ride Transit
Work for Justice
Make Positive Change

The series also includes helpful resources such as tips on planting trees, a list of native trees and shrubs, and a step-by-step guide to turning a back yard into a "Nurture Nature" garden.

All of the At-Home Climate Action resources can be found on the Sierra Club North County Group's website at

<https://sierraclubncg.org/home/sierra-club-at-home-resilience-project>.

The fact sheets are also available in Spanish at <https://sierraclubncg.org/resources/acciones-climaticas-en-casa>.

"Even making a few changes can help greatly," said Pam Heatherington, NCG chair.

ARE YOU A

Professional Landscaper?

Now Available! \$27 Million in Vouchers for Zero-Emission Professional Landscape Equipment.



Do You Use a Landscaping Business?

Huge Discount on Electric Landscape Equipment!

Protect Worker Health and the Environment

Health hazards posed by gas-powered leaf blowers are an environmental justice issue for both workers and our most vulnerable populations. Landscape workers are exposed to toxic fumes and fine particles. Vibrations from gas-powered leaf blowers are known to cause nerve damage in the hands and arms of operators. Unsafe noise levels at close range can cause permanent hearing loss. Children, older people and others with respiratory issues, hearing disorders or neurological conditions like autism are especially vulnerable.

Small off-road gasoline engines, such as leaf blowers, lawn mowers and portable generators, produce more smog-forming emissions than all of the passenger cars in California. Two-stroke engines, used in handheld landscaping equipment, are highly polluting because they burn gas mixed with oil. One hour of leaf blower operation equals the same level of smog-forming pollution as driving a midsize sedan 1,100 miles from Los Angeles to Denver. Fortunately, healthier zero emissions technologies have arrived and so have the incentives to move away from these unhealthy relics of the past. Zero emission landscaping equipment is better for our health, quieter, and costs less to operate. If you use a landscaping business to take care of your yard, garden or care for your trees and shrubs, please let them know about the new voucher program.

CORE Voucher Program

The State of California is offering a new voucher program to help small landscaping businesses transition to electric lawn maintenance

equipment. The program reimburses about 70% of the costs of leaf blowers, mowers, string trimmers and other handheld tools as well as charging units and extra batteries.

The CORE (Clean Off-Road Equipment) \$27,000,000 voucher program began on November 7, 2022. Because it is first come, first serve and the funds are limited, it's important for landscapers to go to their dealer as soon as possible.

To participate, a California issued driver's license or identification card is required. A business license is not needed to apply, but proof of being a professional landscaper (such as a business card) must be presented.

CORE's website features both a list of approved zero-emission professional landscape equipment and manufacturers <https://californiacore.org/equipment-category/landscaping-gardening/> and a list of approved dealers <https://californiacore.org/dealerlist/>. This program does not require landscapers to turn in or destroy old equipment. For more information, please visit CORE's website at <https://californiacore.org>.

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SD-APCD) encourages all eligible manufacturers, dealerships, and owners of landscaping businesses in San Diego County to participate in this program, as it serves to improve our air quality and protect public health and the environment <https://www.sdapcd.org>

A complete list of participating dealers in San Diego County can be found at the SD-SEQUEL (San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping) website on the lower right side of the home page: <https://sd-sequel.org/>

Upcoming Zero Emission Landscaping Equipment Events

CORE, in conjunction with AGZA (American Green Zone Alliance) and CALSTART, is holding a series of zero emission landscaping equipment outreach and demonstration events. The first events will be held in San Diego County in early 2023. Tentative plans are:

Thursday, January 5 - Webinar for homeowners, apartment managers, HOA's, and other interested parties

Sunday, January 29 - Landscaping equipment demo event at Kimball Park in National City

Sunday, February 5 - Landscaping equipment demo event at Kit Carson Park in Escondido

More information on statewide events can be found at <https://agza.net/>. For information on events in San Diego County, including a soon to be announced SD-APCD landscaping equipment voucher program, please visit <https://sd-sequel.org/>. If you have questions, please send an email to SD-SEQUEL sd.sequel@gmail.com.

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 Tentative Trips: 2023

May 3-7, 2023

Zion National Park

Bus camp and backpack

June 21-25, 2023

Sequoia National Park

Bus camp and backpack. (most problematic)

July 26-30, 2023

Yosemite National Park

Backpack

August 24-27, 2023

Channel Islands

Short backpack, base camp with day hikes

Oct. 5-8, 2023

Mammoth Fall Colors Trip

Stay in condos, day hikes

Check The Website For Updates

www.sdsierraclub.org

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New Year, New Challenges For Our Seals and Sea Lions

What is your perception of our chapter's Seal Society? Is it about being "a social group and being protective of animals"? As Richard Bangs (TV host on "Travel With a Purpose") said, "Yes" !

We are a group of docent educators and a voice for the voiceless. We bring awareness to local and foreign visitors of the needs and vulnerability of the colonies of sea lions and harbor seals living year-round on two La Jolla beaches. We also write letters to decision makers, host individual tours and provide public comment at important meetings.

Several days during the week, you may find us in our blue tees speaking to curious individuals at Point La Jolla or on the seawall at the Children's Pool, pointing out the distinctive features between the sea lions and harbor seals, explaining the various techniques they use to catch fish, swim, walk on land, dive deeply, use their senses to navigate the watery and land base and instinctively practice social behaviors needed for survival. It is fascinating to watch as an adult sea lion bull challenges another for territorial rights and/or male privileges with sexually mature females, or a mother and pup bellow with high pitched voices to find each other at nursing time. Each year, many of the females give birth, nurture their pups and live in this urban littoral space as wild and free animals. We call it La Jolla's unique natural treasure.

After several seasons, the harbor seal pupping season closure at Children's Pool has given the harbor seals the

peace and space they need. They seem able to navigate for much of each day to avoid the summer "open" season when the beach is full of people, and then return for longer periods as they rest longer to prepare for the birthing season.

As this is the first sea lion pupping season closure at Point La Jolla, we hoped the wildlife/human disturbances would be minimal. It worked well. Now, the beach is again open to the public with Rangers present during daylight hours. They and our docents are "on site" to monitor how the Ca Coastal Commission's proposed open beach "Special Conditions" can provide the needed separation between humans and the sea

lions. However, the visible signage and sketchy monitoring has not discouraged all visitors from roaming freely over the area used by the colony for sleeping and socializing nearly enough, often causing instances of disturbances to the wildlife. An amended city "Management Plan" is due in April, so we are sharing photos and descriptions of violations with the powers that be in hopes these irresponsible interactions will be managed effectively over time.

We have made suggestions to provide better protections, such as enlisting UCSD senior students with projects to study the effects of beach closures on the mammals. Our "Counting Teams" have made significant contributions to our data collection. We have revised some of our docent style to observe human/visitor behaviors and filmed instances of "harassment" and sent the photos to the responsible offices.

As a volunteer group, the many tasks needed to be effective were overwhelming and energy depleting. So with our fundraising efforts, we brought on an Intern for the next few months to help. Our chosen Intern Natalie has taken on some of these jobs and allowed our docents to spend more time doing what we really enjoy - taking in the spectacle of the wildlife and making their lives better, while enhancing the appreciation by the public of our local wildlife.

Please look at our Facebook to see more of our activities and meet the docents:

www.facebook.com/SealSociety/
Then join us if you are able.

Send your letter of interest to join us to scsealsociety@gmail.com. We provide docent training and more.

Ellen Shively, SCSS docent.



L to R: Robyn, Cat, Svetla, Elena, Ellen and Susan

Zeroing In On Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered

by Ron Askeland

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll answer two questions submitted by Sierra Club members and review some of the most environmentally favorable bills passed in 2022 CA legislative session. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran. Zero Waste Subcommittee meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to attend or join the subcommittee, please send an email to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

Artificial Turf Environmental Issues

Sierra Club member Kathy Moser asked "Can you direct me to a good source to understand the environmental issues around artificial turf? I understand it heats up more than natural grass, but what are the other issues?"

Synthetic turf is an impervious material that readily reaches temperatures of 160oF-180oF and beyond. It overheats the earth, killing the living biome beneath and adding to runoff of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals known to leach from this petrochemical plastic grass product.

To date, every synthetic turf product tested has shown levels of fluorine, an indicator of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a class of chemicals known to cause a multitude of human, domestic animal, wild and aquatic life health effects, bioaccumulating and lasting multiple generations. In addition to polluting the air, water and soil, synthetic turf contributes to climate change by off gassing methane and ethylene. Despite industry claims, synthetic turf is not recyclable.

Better alternatives to artificial turf are drought-tolerant grasses and groundcover, native plants and xeriscaping.

More information can be found at <https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org>.

What Does Happen to Materials Put in the Blue Recycling Bin?

Another Sierra Club member wanted to know more about the fate of materials put in the blue recycling bin.

Cardboard and paper recycling is going strong and there is a good market for clean and baled cardboard. Paper is made

into facial tissue, paper towels, newspaper and chip board (cereal box type material), among other things.

Nearly all plastic types are accepted in the City of San Diego's recycling program, with the exception of a few (such as compostable plastics or mixed-material plastics). The most widely collected plastics are #1 PETE, #2 HDPE and #5 PP. Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) within San Diego County are able to find markets for mixed plastics bales (see photo below). Severely contaminated plastics that come through MRF's go to the landfill.

CRV (California Refund Value) containers placed in blue bins are turned in for cash by the MRF's. Redemption centers across San Diego are open and residents can turn their own CRV containers in for cash.

Previous Zeroing In On Zero Waste articles on recycling can be found in the July-September 2021, October-December 2021, January-March 2022, and April-June 2022 issues of the HiSierran on the San Diego Sierra Club Chapter website at <http://sandigosierraclub.org/news/newsletter/>



California 2022 Legislative Session

It was a very good year for environmental bills in California's 2022 legislative session. Sierra Club California tracked 854 bills. Of the 154 supported bills, 59 were passed. There were 56 bills opposed by the Sierra Club and only 5 of these were passed. Key pro-environment bills that were signed into law include:

SB 54 - Producer responsibility bill that sets ambitious recycling and reduction rate targets for plastic and other types of packaging.

SB 1137 - Bans new oil and gas wells within 3,200 feet of homes, schools and other sensitive sites.

SB 1013 - Extends the scope of California's Bottle Bill to include all wine and distilled spirit containers.

AB 1857 - Removes the diversion credit for municipal solid waste incinerators and redefines the practice of incineration as disposal. Also requires CalRecycle to ensure that municipalities are prioritizing zero-waste strategies before constructing new incinerators.

AB 1817 - Bans the use of PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) chemicals on apparel and textile products.

AB 2278 - Directs the California Natural Resources Agency to implement the 30 x 30 program and report on its progress. (In 2020 Governor Newsom signed executive order N-82-20, committing to protect 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030.)

SB 1314 - Bans the fossil fuel industry from using liquified carbon dioxide (obtained from carbon capture) to enhance oil recovery.

Golden Door Acquires Newland Sierra for Climate Action Initiatives

Purchase Protects 2,000 Acres In San Diego County

San Marcos, CA — Golden Door announced its acquisition of a 1,988-acre property that will be focused on environmental stewardship efforts in northern San Diego County. Purchase of the rural site known as “Newland Sierra” ensures that the critical open space, wildlife and precious habitat areas of the property will be protected for generations to come.

“We are excited to finally secure this remarkable benefit for climate action initiatives,” said Kathy Van Ness, General Manager and Chief Operating Officer of Golden Door. “Protecting this property reflects our deep commitment to sustainability, which we believe is part of our responsibility to our community and beyond. Caring for the incredible resources on this site is a way we can truly contribute to our shared climate action goals.”

Nathan Fletcher, Chair of the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors, applauded this unique win-win opportunity for

the region. “This acquisition is poised to create lasting, meaningful positive impacts on climate action and sustainability in the San Diego region, supporting the North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP),” Fletcher said. “There are very few examples anywhere of a land purchase of this magnitude for the purpose of environmental protection. It is truly extraordinary that Golden Door made this happen in San Diego County, helping advance the work our County is doing to create a healthier future for our residents, including our wildlife and habitat, and our planet.”

The potential development of the Newland property garnered much attention from environmental groups that now are pleased with the purchase by Golden Door. “This is the most successful conclusion to years of uncertainty for this important resource, historically known as Merriam Mountains, and brings great hope for the future,” said Dan Silver, Executive Director of Endangered Habitats League. “Golden Door has been a tireless advocate and now the stage is set to move forward with the critically important Multiple Species Conservation Plan for wildlife protection in North County.”

The property purchase was completed in November 2022. The Golden Door’s immediate goal is to begin the process

of selecting a highly qualified land stewardship organization to help care for the critical open space, wildlife and habitat areas of this property consistent with Golden Door’s commitment to sustainability and climate action.

“As a neighbor here in San Marcos, this has been a long-awaited moment to celebrate,” said Tony Eason, a resident in Deer Springs Oak Estates, an age-restricted mobile home community. “North County residents are heavily committed to the protection of our natural habitats here. We are beyond ecstatic that Golden Door’s purchase secures and strengthens environmental benefits for all of us.”

About Golden Door

The Golden Door experience empowers each guest to achieve a healthy mind, body and spirit. Located in a serene valley a few miles north of San Diego, the resort is nestled in 600 acres of breathtaking natural beauty with more than 30 miles of hiking and walking trails, mountains to climb, vistas to discover, and a bamboo forest.

Golden Door donates 100 percent of its net profits to philanthropic causes, including helping to end child abuse and transform young lives. Visit Golden Door at <https://goldendoor.com/>

“Flaming Fields,” a.k.a. Harvest Hills, Granted Special Designation by State Commission

The San Diego Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) voted to designate the 1,098 acres proposed for Harvest Hills as a “special study area” at its December meeting. This will allow the project to be considered by LAFCO anytime within the next five years without conducting the normal update to a Municipal Services Review.

This action has been steadily opposed by over 20 organizations and numerous local residents.

Articulating the many concerns raised about the project, Commissioner Alternate David Drake remarked that he has had a long history with this project. “I was on the planning commission in the 1990s when the Harvest Hills project was known as Valley View Estates...” he said. “It became Sierra

(sic) Highlands. It became Harvest Hills. But what I worry about is, it’s going to become Flaming Fields.”

Mr. Drake was not a voting member for this item.

Laura Hunter, conservation chair of the Sierra Club North County Group, submitted a letter and testified against the action.

Hunter stated, “*This project is merely a result of developer wishful thinking and constitutes what former LAFCO Chair Dianne Jacob rightly called ‘jurisdiction shopping.’ The record contains abundant information that this project would pose unprecedented fire hazard risks and endanger on-site and surrounding communities. It threatens a globally significant endangered species facility and major economic driver for our region, the Safari Park.*”

Hunter concluded by urging the Commission to “safeguard the region and remove the Special Study designation.”

The commissioners present voted 6-0 to approve the designation, in several cases noting that their vote was for process and not any judgment on whether the project should be supported or not.

30 By 30 Campaign Gains In California

by Erin Woolley

California is ramping up efforts to deliver on its commitment to protect 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by 2030. Sierra Club California has been involved throughout this state process, providing feedback on the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) planning process and advocating for our strong 30x30 priorities. In April, the CNRA released the final “Pathways to 30x30” report, which will guide California’s conservation efforts through 2030. The final Pathways document provides a solid framework and initial steps to advance 30x30 efforts, but there is still a lot of work to be done to develop the specifics of implementation. CNRA has since moved forward and announced the new 30x30 Coordinating Committee, which will help CNRA share information about 30x30, elevate local and regional opportunities, and foster coordination of ongoing efforts. In September, the CNRA hosted a 30x30 kickoff event to launch the 30x30 Partnership as a space for environmental groups and leaders to communicate and share knowledge, best practices, and opportunities for progress towards 30x30. Throughout the fall, CNRA has been hosting a Virtual “Expo” Series for the public to learn more about 30x30 programs, funding, and available resources. We are watching to ensure that CNRA’s implementation builds upon the ideas in the Pathways report, and delivers on its commitments to biodiversity, conservation, and equity.

Achieving 30x30 will require significant and consistent investments over the next seven years. In August, the Legislature and the Governor finalized this year’s budget, which includes funding for 30x30- related programs, including land acquisition and community capacity building. Among other investments, the state appropriated \$245 million for the Wildlife Conservation Board to support planning, acquisition, and restoration projects, \$120 million for various state conservancies, and \$100 million for a Tribal Nature based Solutions Program. AB 2278 was signed into law in September. The bill, by San

Jose area Assembly member Ash Kalra AD27, creates an accountability mechanism requiring CNRA to report on the progress made toward achieving 30x30, including the number of acres conserved, the funds spent on 30x30 projects and programs, and the progress made to advance equity as part of 30x30 in the prior year. Sierra Club activists participated in in-district meetings over the summer to advocate in support of AB2278 and other legislative priorities.

This year’s budget is just the first step for 30x30. For California to achieve this ambitious goal, a consistent source of funding will be required in the coming years to support additional science and research, acquisition, restoration, and ongoing stewardship and monitoring of conserved lands. We will continue to track the budget and legislative processes to ensure that the state elevates 30x30 and provides the resources required for its success--to truly conserve at least 30 percent of California’s lands and waters.

The Sierra Club 30x30 Task Force volunteers** and local Chapters have been busy working to identify and support conservation projects that contribute to 30x30 goals, advocate for Sierra Club’s 30x30 priorities at the local, regional, and state governments, and educate members of the public and officials about 30x30. The 30x30 initiative is a major opportunity to uplift local and regional conservation priorities, improve access to nature, and stop ongoing harms to California’s ecosystems.

You can get involved with local 30x30 efforts by connecting with your Chapter, or with the statewide campaign by signing up on our 30x30 webpage! (<https://www.sierraclub.org/california/sierra-clubs-california-30x30-campaign>).

Erin Woolley is Policy Advocate with Sierra Club California in Sacramento. Her article appeared first in “Capitol Voice”: <https://www.sierraclub.org/california/capitol-voice-november-2022#30x30>

**** See WOW, April 2021 and Dec 2021, for more on Sierra Club’s 30x30 task force and its activities.**

This article is reprinted with permission from the WORDS OF the Wild, newsletter of the Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, December 2022.



L:R Chai, Fern, PJ, Zwanny, Hao, Dawn and Philip.

Bicycle Section members share good tidings every year by gathering together for a holiday potluck and donating unwrapped toys to a local cause. This year was no exception: Saturday night, about 30 revelers savored holiday fare and toasted the memories of two bicycling comrades, Harvey and Jerry, who passed away since our last gathering.

Sunday, despite a forecast of high winds and intense rain, a dozen Bicycle Section members met at Mission Bay Park for our 27th annual Jingle Bell Toy Ride. Elf-in-Chief Fern Siegel collected 20 unwrapped toys that she would later deliver to the California Highway Patrol CHiPs for Kids toy drive. Only five (fool)hardy bikers braved the inclement weather. The others came to donate toys, munch brownies and candy canes, and enjoy each other’s company.

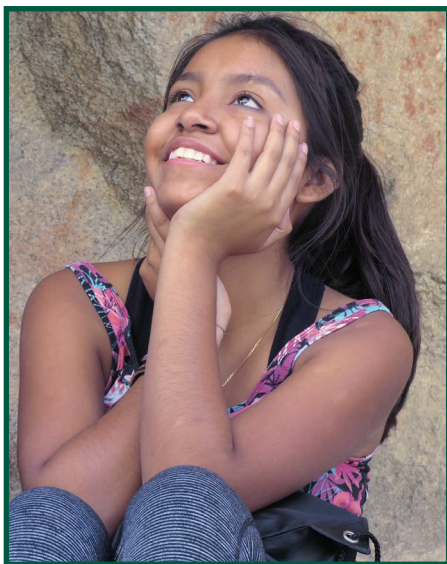
Inspiring Connections Outdoors



Karen Santos: Forever in Our Hearts

by Bill Taylor

Some 10 years ago, a young girl named Karen Santos took her first few hikes with San Diego ICO and captured our hearts with her love of nature and her joyful spirit. We introduced her to our favorite places in Joshua Tree, and I shared with her my love of snakes. Karen truly loved being outdoors, and when she became older, she continued being part of ICO by mentoring younger children on many hiking, snorkeling and camping trips.

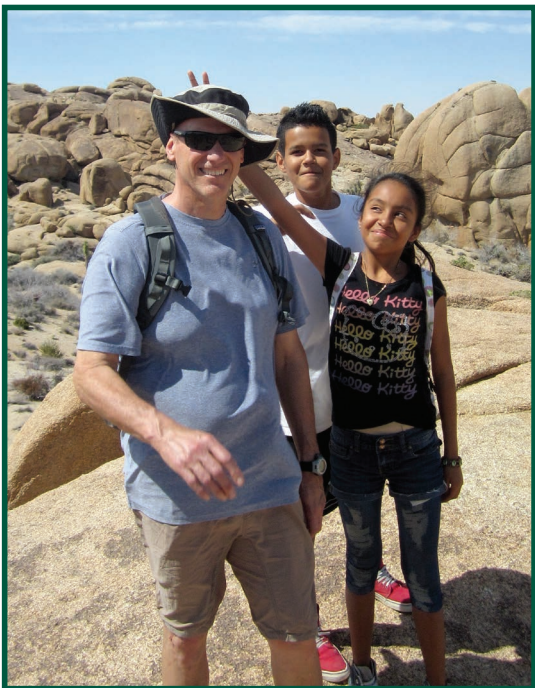


Joshua Tree

And those children absolutely adored her. When Karen graduated high school, she became the first in her family to attend college (SDSU), and a few of us put together a scholarship fund to assist her. When she saw the lasting effects the COVID shutdown was having on children, Karen decided to become a child psychologist to help them cope.

In early January we learned that Karen had been diagnosed with inoperable glioblastomas (brain tumors). For the last 11 months, Karen awed and inspired us with her strength, determination and resilience as she fought to give her mother and sister as much time as she could, and we thought about her often on our ICO trips. Sadly, we lost Karen on November 26, when she died peacefully and surrounded by family and friends. I was honored to be there with her. A group of ICO volunteers who knew Karen attended her memorial service on December 2 and took a special hike to remember her on December 4.

I have been active in ICO since 2008, and in that time have gotten to know many outstanding and wonderful children. Karen was truly special, and she holds a very special place in my heart and in the heart of those other ICO volunteers who knew her. And she will be in our hearts forever.



Joshua Tree

Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free outdoor experiences to under-served youth, to help them 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

Volunteering With ICO – For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Greg Shadoan (gregshadoan@yahoo.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
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858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

**April/May/June 2023
Deadline March 1, 2023**

**To submit by email,
please email to both:**
thomascreative2@cox.net
richard.miller@sierraclub.org
Submissions are subject to
approval for content and
subject matter.

I.T. Technicians Wanted

The Chapter does as much as it does because many volunteers donate generous amounts of time to making it all work. We can always use more hands. The Chapter will soon be moving to new office space, and we need IT people to help us in determining what we need, set up our computers, and what other tasks we need to do.

If you can help, contact Richard Miller at 858-569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org

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Committees & Contact Information

Due to COVID most meetings have moved on-line. Please check our Activities Calendar (<http://sandigosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/>) on how you can participate.

CHAPTER STAFF

Chapter Director Richard Miller
858-569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez
858-569-6005
martha.marquez@sierraclub.org

Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger
karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office
Contact Chair or check website for location

Chair: Lisa Ross (2023)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lisaross.com

Vice-Chair: Ron Askeland
ronaskeland@gmail.com

Secretary: Rochelle Hancock (2024)
Rae_1024@yahoo.com

North County Group Rep:

The North County Group will appoint their representative at its January 2023 meeting.

North County Coastal Group Rep:

Sally Prendergast
Sallyp123@mac.com

Susan Baldwin (2025)
susanbaldwin@aol.com

Alan Geraci (2025)
alan@alangeraci.com

Dale Russell (2023)
Dalerussell05@fulbrightmail.org

Agatha Wein (2024)
agathawein@gmail.com

Treasurer (Non-voting):
Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

Chair: Sally Prendergast
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm currently via Zoom <https://sierraclubnccg.org>

Chair: The North County Group will elect a new Chair at its January 2023 meeting

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
Chair: Ron Askeland
ronaskeland@gmail.com

Transportation

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 5pm
David Grubb
davidgrubb@gmail.com

Zero-Waste

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm
Contact the Committee at
zerowastesdsc@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:
Ellen Shively
ellenshively@sbcglobal.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 6:30pm
Chair: Stephanie Peck
sapeck425@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Bob Stinton
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Michael Taylor
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Bus Trips

Mike Fry
mnfry@cox.net

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

Rob Langsdorf
SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Kristi Andersen
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Kelly Conrad
slpypup@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubnccg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

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

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org
Steven Cirone
stevencirone@gmail.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler,
btayler@taylorlaw.com


PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net




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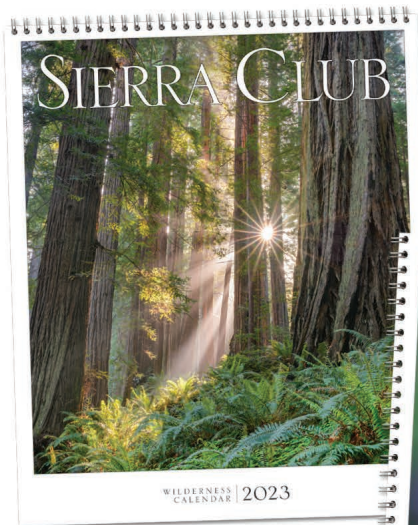
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Phone: 858-569-6005

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2023 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

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Save The Date San Diego Chapter Awards & Gala Celebration

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID 19, Sierra Club San Diego will once again recognize and commemorate the achievements of the Chapter, community organizations, leaders and volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to protect the environment of our region.

Saturday, March 18, 2023

**Hilton Harbor Island Hotel
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The event will include a reception, silent auction, hearty food stations and awards program.

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CONTACT Richard Miller at (858) 569-6005
or richard.miller@sierraclub.org