



# HISIERRAN

*Working To Preserve The Special Nature of San Diego for Over Half A Century*

Vol 74 No. 3

Visit our website at: [www.sandiegosierraclub.org](http://www.sandiegosierraclub.org)

May/June 2015

## My Generation Report: Good Day Sunshine

*Pete Hasapopoulos, My Generation Campaign*

The vision of the Sierra Club's My Generation Campaign is that San Diego (and the rest of California) will be powered by 100% clean energy. In fact, the sparkling prospect of San Diego becoming the first region in the



From left to right: Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall, County Supervisor Dave Roberts, Solana Beach Councilmember Peter Zahn, and Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune

United States to reach that pinnacle is so enticing that Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune came to town in March to put an exclamation mark on it. Michael enthused a gathering of our members and conversed with clean energy champions Supervisor Dave Roberts and Solana Beach Councilmember Peter Zahn.

The gathering was in the home of Peder Norby, a Sierra Club member and County Planning Commissioner, and his wife Julie. What made the venue special—in addition to Peder and Julie's fine hospitality—is that their Carlsbad residence is a very rare net-zero energy home that powers two cars with sunshine. Peder had this to say in his most recent blog: "The day in our collective technological evolution is here when you can live in a home and drive two cars typical mileage with no utility cost and no gasoline cost—all powered by the sunshine harvested on the roof of the home. More importantly you can do so at 15% the overall cost as compared to utility supplied electricity, and gasoline purchased at the gas station. With this emission free combination, you can reduce your overall GHG emissions from 40 tons per year per household to two or three tons per year." Like the Beatles sang, good day sunshine.

Now something from the SDG&E hymnal. They would like residential customers to pay a fixed charge of \$120 per year. If you have rooftop solar—or would like to get it—you wouldn't be able to erase this charge. The same goes for energy efficiency upgrades to your home. SDG&E would also like to change the way we pay

*My Generation-continued on page 8*

## San Diego Earth Fair 2015

Sierra Club San Diego was an active participant in this year's Earth Fair at Balboa Park on April 19th. Earth Fair in Balboa Park is the oldest and largest Earth Day celebration in the world and this year's crowd was estimated to be 60,000 people.

The Club's booth was never empty. This was a great opportunity for us to educate the public on many environmental issues, introduce people to the Club, and recruit 42 new members. We had information on Sierra Talks, Sierra Social, the 1% Land Fund, Sungevity's Solar Program, Climate Change, Clean Electons and why we should be using reusable shopping bags. The Club handed out Sierra Club green reusable bags along with 20 Reasons to Bag the Plastic Bag.

Special thanks to our volunteers; Chair Debbie Hecht, Steering Committee members Karenlee Robinson and Davin Widgerow, intern Ale Montes, the Sierra Social Section's Jennifer Beckman, Joyce Odom, and Sutton Gunning.



San Diego Sierra Club Earth Fair 2015 booth members: Richard Miller (staff), Karenlee Robinson, Debbie Hecht (chair) and Davin Widgerow from the Steering Committee

*Earth Fair-continued on page 3*

# HI SIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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**Debbie Hecht**

## The Water Savings Challenge

Do you consider yourself an environmentalist? An environmentalist is defined as: one concerned about environmental quality, especially of the human environment with respect to the control of pollution. OR are you a conservationist? A conservationist is defined as: someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources

If you're a conservationist, we have some work to do to protect our quality of life! I challenge you to change your habits and help to educate others as to the benefits of conserving water to assure a healthy future for our children and grandchildren.

The outcry for water conservation gets louder:

Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order on 4.1.2015 for governments state wide to work out water rationing measures.

These statistics are staggering from Michael Bardin, Santa Fe Irrigation District:

- **2014 was the hottest year on record for San Diego and California since 1895.**
- **2012- 2014 was the driest period on record for the state.**
- **Snowpack is only 19% of the long-term average.**
- **State water allocation is only 20% of requested supply.**

Jay Famiglietti, the senior water scientist at NASA and a professor of Earth System Science at UC Irvine called for water conservation measures in a LA Times article <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-famiglietti-drought-california-20150313-story.html> that shows (through satellite maps) the changes in the green areas in California:

1) Mandatory water rationing. He

stated: "A recent Field Poll showed that 94% of Californians surveyed believe that the drought is serious, and that one-third support mandatory rationing."

2) Accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. The existing law only requires formation of groundwater sustainability agencies by 2017. Each agency must adopt a plan by 2022 and "achieve sustainability" 20 years after that. At that pace, it will be nearly 30 years before we even know what is working. By then, there may be no groundwater left to sustain. Total water storage in California has been in steady decline since at least 2002 ... while groundwater depletion has been ongoing since the early 20th century.

3) Formation of a task force of thought leaders that starts right now brainstorming to lay the groundwork for long-term water management strategies. Although several state task forces have been formed in response to the drought, none is focused on solving the long-term needs of a drought-prone, perennially water-stressed California.

San Diego is desert masquerading as a tropical paradise. Small changes add up and can make a big difference! The facts are clear, we need to conserve water! I challenge you to conserve water by:

1. Learn about Xeriscaping, which is landscaping and gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water.
2. Learn about native plants species that survive in this climate at the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society <http://www.cnpssd.org/>
3. Choose drought tolerant plants or ornamental grasses for your yard. [http://www.californiagardens.com/Lists/Drought\\_Tolerant\\_List.htm3!](http://www.californiagardens.com/Lists/Drought_Tolerant_List.htm3!)
4. Decide to replace your lawn- use succulents or better yet natives. San Diego was originally a desert not a tropical landscape.

*The View continued on page 11*





Debbie Hecht and Richard Miller with Dave Roberts, who will be our Master of Ceremonies at the Gala on June 20th.

## Bloomberg Philanthropies Boosts Investment In Sierra Club

### Funds Retire U.S. Coal Fleet & Transition The Nation Towards Clean Energy Sources

WASHINGTON – April 8, 2015 – Bloomberg Philanthropies announced it will invest an additional \$30 million in the Sierra Club to secure the replacement of half the nation's coal fleet by 2017 with clean energy. The new round of funding builds on a previous commitment of \$50 million, raising the foundation's overall investment in the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign to \$80 million. This adds to the successful, state-driven and community-based strategy that has made it possible for the U.S. to become a world leader in aggressive emission reductions. Additionally, acting as a catalyst in the fight against climate change, Bloomberg will lead a coalition of funders which aim to match up to \$30 million in grants, further boosting the Sierra Club's capacity to move the U.S. towards clean energy sources faster.

The coalition of more than a dozen funders includes individual donors, family foundations and major philanthropic organizations recognizing the urgency to fight climate change. Select funders include the Hewlett Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Yellow Chair Foundation, the Grantham Foundation and the Sandler Family Foundation. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune and

Michael R. Bloomberg announced the investments at the Sierra Club in Washington DC.

"The single biggest reduction in carbon pollution in the U.S. has come by retiring and repurposing coal-fired power plants - and that's the direct result of our Beyond Coal campaign," said Michael R. Bloomberg. "Thanks to the community leaders who have spearheaded this work, the U.S. led every industrialized nation in reducing carbon emissions last year. But much more work remains, and today we are doubling down on what has proven to be an incredibly successful strategy for improving public health and fighting climate change."

To date, the Bloomberg Philanthropies-Sierra Club partnership has led to solid results including:

- A steady stream of plant closures – 187 coal plants have already retired or announced their retirement, making way for public health improvements and a shift towards cleaner energy.
- A lower US coal dependence – Coal has plunged from 52% of US electricity generation to under 40%, and states are investing in cleaner, newer energy sources.
- A reduction of carbon emissions – The announced retiring coal plants effectively cut more than 280 million metric tons of carbon emissions from the U.S. electric sector. By burning less coal, the U.S. leads the world in lowering its carbon emissions, which are down 7.7% economy wide since 2006.

Working with more than 100 partner organizations nationwide, the Sierra Club is on schedule to meet its original goals and

Bloomberg-continued on page 10



# Sierra Talks

## Formerly Monthly Meetings

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)

### May 1 - Capture the Cosmos!



When the sun sets and most people retire to the safety and comfort of their homes, Dennis Mammana grabs his camera and heads off to work; such is the life of a world-renowned night sky photographer. In this exciting program, Dennis will present his unique cosmic images and will share some tips on how you, too, can try your hand at night sky shooting the next time you're out under the stars. One thing is certain: you'll never view the heavens quite the same again!

Dennis has delivered the wonder and mystery of the cosmos to audiences for more than four decades. A nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate (<http://www.creators.com/lifestylefeatures/astronomy/stargazers.html>) and author

of six books on popular astronomy, He is also an accomplished night sky photographer and invited member of TWAN (<http://www.twanight.org>) — an international team of the most highly acclaimed sky photographers on the planet. Dennis Mammana writes about and photographs the heavens from around the world, but mostly from his desert home in Borrego Springs. His work can be enjoyed online at <http://www.dennismammana.com> and his Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/DennisMammana>.

IMAGE CAPTION: A spectacular display of the dancing northern lights (aurora borealis) over Fairbanks, Alaska. © Dennis Mammana/[dennismammana.com](http://dennismammana.com)

### June 5 - Temporary Paradise? Smart Growth Catalysts and the Battle for Good Planning and Design



As an expert in transportation, land-use, and urban design, Dr. Bruce Appleyard will provide an insightful presentation

on the history, challenges, and opportunities facing the evolution of our special region. Bruce is an Assistant Professor at SDSU and serves as an Associate Director for both the Active Transportation Research Center and the Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age (HDMa). He has over 20 years of experience focusing on environmental policy. His many prior positions include Neighborhood Planner, Planning Commissioner, and technical adviser to regional- & state-agencies.

Bruce often leads workshops helping communities create more livable streets and neighborhoods. He specializes in applied Geographic Information Systems research combined with quantitative-qualitative analysis on human behavior patterns in support of achieving a range of sustainability, livability, social equity objectives. He is currently working on one of the largest national research projects to date on Transit Corridor Livability, and he recently won a Strategic Growth Council Grant to help a number of California communities achieve key Climate Action Planning objectives. As the creator of the concepts of "Livability Ethics" and "Smart Growth Catalysts", Bruce Appleyard is passionate about helping people create joyful enriching communities that are economically vibrant and yield environmental and health benefits for all.

## **Hike and Learn about Carlsbad's Future - Fossil Fuel or Renewable Energy**

Carlsbad and San Diego County face some historic choices regarding our future energy generation. On Saturday May 30th, join us for a hike around the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and an opportunity to learn more about our region's energy future. Carlsbad's Climate Action Plan is currently out for review. Will the final plan include a Community Choice Energy component that would boost local renewables?

In addition, the existing Encinitas Power Plant will lose its ability to produce power using ocean water for cooling in 2018. But the power plant operator wants to build a new natural gas plant at the same site. The City of Carlsbad has entered into an agreement to support this new plant. But just last month an Administrative Law Judge from the California Public Utility Commission released a preliminary decision that the plant was not needed since SDG&E did not first consider the abundance of renewable energy that could be built in the area.

Join us for an easy 2 mile hike on two different trails along the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. As we hike the Discovery Center Trail and the Hubbs Trail, we will have sweeping views of the lagoon and its wildlife, as well as the existing power plant's huge concrete structure and exhaust stack. You will also learn about the energy issues facing our region from members of the Carlsbad My Generation committee that are working on climate issues.

Meet at the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center parking lot (1580 Cannon Rd, Carlsbad, CA 92008) at 9:00 am on Saturday May 30th. A car shuttle will be used to access both trails.

For further information, contact Dave Voss at [bossvoss@gmail.com](mailto:bossvoss@gmail.com) or 760-717-8823.

## **SAVE THE DATE- June 20, 2015 Gala Awards Celebration "Building a Better Future"**

Sierra Club San Diego will host its annual Gala Awards Celebration to recognize and commemorate the achievements of community leaders and Sierra Club volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to protecting the environment of our region. The event will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at the Hilton Harbor Island Hotel at 6pm – 9:30pm. The event will include a reception from 6pm to 7pm, a silent auction, and dinner and awards program 7pm to 9:30pm.

This year's event will celebrate "Building a Better Future", how individuals are making a difference in the quality of life of the San Diego region. The gala will also include the presentation of the Club's FEAT Awards. This year's FEAT awards will honor those who have contributed their time and effort as guardians of the environment, foster local solutions to global issues, help communities make sound environmental decisions about their own future and work to raise awareness of and advocate for climate change action.

### **Being honored with FEAT awards are:**

**Masada Disenhouse, climate change activist and co-founder of SanDiego350, the local 350.org organization;**

**Nicole Capretz, Executive Director for Climate Action Campaign, whose mission is simple – Stop Climate Change;**

**The City of Solana Beach for environmental leadership in government and leading the fight to ban single use plastic bags.**

*Our outstanding cadre of volunteers, who make Sierra Club San Diego one of the most impactful environmental organizations in San Diego, will also be recognized.*

*This year's awardees are:*

**Conservation Activism & Education Award – Walter Konopka**

**Outings Leader Award – Starla Rivers**

**Political Activist Award – Davin Widgerow**

**Volunteer of the Year Award - Diane Purkey**

**Club Service Award - Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)**

**Distinguished Achievement Award - Jan Chatten-Brown and Malinda Dickenson**

**Lifetime Achievement Award - Pat Klaasen**

**Silver Cup Award - George Greer**

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

To purchase tickets, Click Here: [richard.miller@sierraclub.org](http://richard.miller@sierraclub.org) or call Richard at 858-569-6005 or email him at [richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org).



# Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

**For over 33 years 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:**

## **May 21 - 25**

Memorial Weekend Bus Trip - Zion National Park

**Waiting List Only**

## **July 8-12**

July Bus Trip - Yosemite

**Registration opens May 1**

## **August 12 - 16**

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Eastern Sierra

**Registration opens June 15**

## **October 1-4**

Multi-Day Trip - Channel Islands

**Registration opens July 24**

**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





# Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler  
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



## San Diego ICO: To Explore, Enjoy, Protect and Enrich

by Bill Tayler

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect. You may recognize those three words as the motto

proof is in all the spontaneous questions they ask on hikes about the animals, plants, geology, etc. that we encounter." Kathleen Roth, who has been leading ICO outings since 2007, says, "One of my greatest joys about leading is when one of the kids stops to look at something like a lizard and all the other kids gather around to look, and there is just so much excitement about their discovery."

The excitement of children is infectious. "My all-time favorite memory is when a nine-year-old girl that we took to Sequoia National Park asked me while standing in front of the General Sherman Sequoia tree "Is this the largest tree in the world?" I'm sure that before I spoke she already knew the answer. Her eyes were so large and the look on her face was complete amazement," recalls Al Fein, an ICO leader since 2002. "Giving our time to enable



of the Sierra Club. And they apply fully to what we do at San Diego ICO. But I believe a fourth word also applies to our program: Enrich.

On our outings, enrichment works both ways: our volunteers facilitate enriching experiences for the youth we serve and, in return, they are enriched by being a part of the children's experience. Pete Kronfeld, who has volunteered on more than 60 ICO outings over the last five years, finds that "ICO outings are the perfect way to provide kids the opportunity to be fascinated by nature. The



these children to experience the wild places, the wilderness, is itself gift." "At a young age I realized that something about being out in nature really touched my soul, and ever since I've wanted to pass that experience on to others, especially children," says Peter Woodworth, an ICO volunteer since

*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)*

**New Volunteer Orientations** – 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. Anyone interested in ICO is welcome to attend. Please contact Allan Fein for more information: email [hikeral@me.com](mailto:hikeral@me.com) or call 858-449-3333.

**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)

2008. "There's something very gratifying when you see a young person really 'get it.' It doesn't always happen, but when it does, it's something very special. I remember on a hike in Daley Ranch, toward the end of the day, a ten-year-old boy who hadn't talked much, suddenly blurted out, 'This is the funnest day of my life.' It's moments like that when you realize you've made a difference."

Personally, I find it very rewarding to enrich the children's lives by pushing them past their own self-imposed boundaries and limitations, whether it's climbing to the top of a mountain that they thought was too high, holding a snake that they thought was too scary, or climbing up a rock they thought was too difficult. Watching a child's fatigue turn into accomplishment, or fear turn into confidence, are the most enriching parts of ICO. We invite you to join us.

## PolComm Postings

### Dispatches from the Political Committee

*Davin Widgerow, Chair*

April 2015. The Political Committee is busy developing relationships with elected officials around the County to build rapport and strategize regarding our shared goals. The Chair met with Councilmember Jennifer Mendoza of Lemon Grove in February, and enjoyed a very productive conversation with this environmental champion. Some issues discussed included smart growth in Lemon Grove, pocket parks, and our shared ambitions for a proposed Chollas Creek Regional Park. Councilmember Mendoza is also a conservationist who leads by example, and uses innovative water recycling and composting techniques in her own home. The Chair also met with Councilmember Ed Spriggs of Imperial Beach, and enjoyed extensive discussion regarding the Tijuana River Estuary, cross-border environmental issues, and water supply solutions. Councilmember Spriggs is committed to helping Imperial Beach invest in long-term environmental goals that will not only maintain and enhance the City's natural heritage, but which will also ensure that Imperial Beach remains a prime vacation destination for decades to come.

The Committee hosted Port Commissioner Rafael Castellanos and John Hartley at our February meeting. Commissioner Castellanos gave a well-received presentation on the San Diego Unified Port District's environmental programs and its efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change. The Commissioner also answered questions from the Committee regarding heavy metals contamination in Bay sediments, sea level rise issues, and measures to guarantee clean air and water to Bayside residents. John Hartley spoke to the Committee about his Clean Elections Campaign to promote public financing and minimize the influence of private, secretive money in our elections. Mr. Hartley showed a very informative video about municipalities and states that have adopted Clean Elections systems, and then answered questions about the effects of the Great Recession and the Citizens United U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Clean Elections idea, and how such a proposal would work in San Diego. We look forward to working with both Commissioner Castellanos and John Hartley further to advance their very laudable aspirations and programs.

The Political Committee has an exciting roster of guests planned for its meetings through June, and we encourage all interested Sierra Club San Diego members (and non-members) to attend our meetings and become part of the discussion! We are especially interested in expanding our Committee's contingent to include more young people and members living south of I-8, but of course we welcome any and all interested parties! Contact Davin Widgerow at [dwidgerow@sierrasd.org](mailto:dwidgerow@sierrasd.org) for more information. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month, from 7pm to 9pm.

## 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"**

*My Generation-continued from page 1*

for electricity so that those who consume the least will pay more than they do now and those who consume the most will pay less. San Diego Councilmember David Alvarez (with strong backing from Councilmember Todd Gloria) introduced a resolution opposing these changes, resulting in City Council approval of a powerful statement that they then sent to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). It should be noted that not a single council member stood up for SDG&E, so they all deserve a thank you for supporting a measure that granted SDG&E a richly deserved bad day.

The Sierra Club led a drive to gain council support, with just under 600 of our members and supporters sending messages to their respective council members. We also turned out the largest number of pro-clean energy people to the council meeting. A policy advisor to one of the council members later said that Sierra Club gave valuable "political cover" to his boss. The CPUC will decide this matter in the next several months. Know that Sierra Club is a party to the proceeding and in there fighting with all we got.

SDG&E's latest scheme is another reason that there is a movement afoot in San Diego and other cities to give the fossil-fueled monopoly some clean energy competition. This competition is called Community Choice Energy, which is a locally controlled nonprofit electricity provider that takes over energy and ratemaking decisions from the utility, which would be limited to continued operation of the local grid. The Cities of San Diego and Chula Vista have embarked upon formal evaluations of Community Choice and our volunteers are making headway in cities like Carlsbad. Like all things that SDG&E doesn't want, political will is going to be the most important factor in determining whether or not we get what's best for people and the environment. Our volunteers are already in motion, building the base of support that we need to carry the day. Please get in touch with me at [phasapopoulos@hotmail.com](mailto:phasapopoulos@hotmail.com) if you would like to play a part in this epic, be it great or small.



# Sierra Club San Diego Annual Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner

Hilton Harbor Island Hotel

Saturday, June 20, 2015 - 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Reception-Silent Auction-Dinner & Awards Program

## **"Building a Better Future"**

Come join us in celebrating the achievements of leaders in our community who are visionaries for our future and Sierra Club volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to safeguarding our environment.

**\$75 per person**

Tickets can be purchased at [www.sandiegosierraclub.org](http://www.sandiegosierraclub.org)  
or call 858-569-6005. Sponsorship Opportunities Available.

More Information: 858-569-6005 or email: [richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org)



**Masada Disenhouse, Co-Founder SanDiego350.org**

**Nicole Capretz, Executive Director, Climate Action Campaign**

**City of Solana Beach**

## **Volunteer Awards**

Conservation Activist Award:	Walter Konopka
Outings Leader Award:	Starla Rivers
Political Activist Award:	Davin Widgerow
Volunteer of the Year Award:	Diane Purkey
Club Service Award:	Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)
Distinguished Achievement Award:	Jan Chatten-Brown and Malinda Dikenson
Lifetime Achievement Award:	Pat Klaasen
Silver Cup Award:	George Greer



# San Diego Chapter Outings Leader Training

The Sierra Club Statement of Purpose includes, "To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth..." and it is also our mission to share our passion for the wild places with others. To do that we need committed, passionate and fun loving people like you to join us as Chapter Outing Leaders (COL's)

*To become a COL 1 for leading car camps and day hikes you need to:*

1. Join us on at least four Sierra Club outings.
2. Be a Sierra Club Member.
3. Be at least 18 years old.
4. Attend our COL1 Training session
5. Have a Red Cross Standard First Aid card or equivalent.
6. Plan, publish and execute 2 evaluation outings before June 2016.

The COL1 Training session will be held on the weekend of 16 May 2016 at the Clubhouse in the Kearney Lodge Mobile Home Park in Kearney Mesa. You will get classroom training on COL practices and policies and, optionally, Standard First Aid training and certification (see below).

**Class size is limited to 15.** Sign-up by contacting Jim Jafolla at [SD.COL.Training@gmail.com](mailto:SD.COL.Training@gmail.com):

*Get er done!* As a special offer to COL trainees. First Aid Gone Wild will offer First Aid Class just for you at a special rate. Earn your Red Cross First Aid Certification and discover how to manage in wilderness situations. First Aid Gone Wild Classes are focused on wilderness activities. This Class is a basic First Aid class that fulfills your COL1 requirement and does not replace Wilderness and Remote First Aid.

<http://firstaidgonewild-sfacoltr05172015.eventbrite.com>

For COL 2 trainees check the website at [www.FirstAidGoneWild.com](http://www.FirstAidGoneWild.com) to sign up for Wilderness First Aid classes.

COL 2 Training will also be offered on 6 June 2015 in Mission Trails Park. A fun day learning advanced Leader techniques for planning and executing wilderness backpacking trips, plus a nice hike in the park!

Class size is limited to 15. Sign-up by contacting Jim Jafolla at [SD.COL.Training@gmail.com](mailto:SD.COL.Training@gmail.com):

*Bloomberg-continued from page 2*

the new funding will both accelerate and expand this success. Further, the initiative will help the United States act upon the growing shift seen among investors, local governments, and power providers to move towards affordable, competitive clean energy alternatives.

With the new round of funding, the Sierra Club will continue to use tactics as varied as grassroots advocacy, community organizing, paid advertising, technical research and litigation. The Sierra Club will also continue to push regulators to crack down on harmful pollution and replace dirty power generation capacity with solar, wind and energy efficiency.

In addition to helping the country move away from coal towards a new energy economy, today's investment in the Beyond Coal campaign will put the United States in a stronger position to drive more ambitious climate action at the 2015 United Nations climate change conference in Paris, where nations, businesses, cities, and other actors will convene to make bold commitments on further greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The Beyond Coal campaign's success in retiring coal plants and replacing them with clean energy has already positioned the U.S. as a global leader going into the Paris negotiations, and the goals announced today

by the Sierra Club put the nation on a path to exceed the climate targets announced recently by the Obama Administration.

Further, reducing America's reliance on dirty coal will not just help protect the climate – it will save lives. For every 50 gigawatts of coal taken offline, more than 3,600 deaths and 60,000 asthma attacks are prevented. In addition, \$2.3 billion in health care costs are saved each year. Closing even one coal plant can prevent 29 premature deaths, 47 heart attacks and 146 asthma attacks. That's why community figures - from city council members to doctors to faith leaders - have been the leaders of local coal retirement campaigns, which have mobilized thousands of Americans concerned about public health in dozens of cities and small towns across the country.

"Mike Bloomberg's continued commitment to clean air, water, and climate action demonstrate his understanding that we are at a critical turning point in our nation's history when it comes to how we power our economy and ensure healthy families," said Michael Brune, Sierra Club executive director. "The Sierra Club's partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies has helped us work with communities nationwide who are fighting to protect their air, water, and children's health from toxic coal pollution. Together, we have secured

the retirement of 187 dirty power plants – we cannot and we will not stop there. With this new investment, a clean energy economy is in our sights, and dirty coal is a thing of the past."

"The Sierra Club and our 2.4 million members and supporters are proud to stand with Mr. Bloomberg today to continue building on the successes of the Beyond Coal campaign and we look forward to more victories for public health and our planet that will be won state by state, city by city, and by dedicated people across America."

Bloomberg Philanthropies began funding the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign in 2011 with a goal to phase out one third of the nation's coal plants, beginning with the oldest and dirtiest units, and replacing the retiring coal fleet with cleaner energy sources, reducing toxic mercury emissions by 90 percent by 2020. The initial \$50 million grant was used to expand the Sierra Club's campaign to 45 states from 15, enforcing state and federal environmental laws and helping communities impacted by coal mining and coal plants to make the clean energy transition and address concerns left from closing coal plants.

Maggie Kao, Communications Director  
Sierra Club 202-675-2384  
[maggie.kao@sierraclub.org](mailto:maggie.kao@sierraclub.org)





The newly formed NCG Conservation Committee will be focusing its efforts on environmental stewardship and habitat restoration projects primarily in the North County. In April, members and other volunteers took part in a habitat restoration project at the San Dieguito River Park and the Creek to Bay Cleanup event at Dixon Lake.

The NCG will be again be awarding a \$2000 Conservation Grant to a San Diego County organization that works to conserve and manage open space and endangered species habitat or supports hiking and the enjoyment of the outdoors in North San Diego County. If your group would like an application, contact Suzi Sandore at [hikersuzi@hotmail.com](mailto:hikersuzi@hotmail.com) by May 9, 2015. Completed applications are due by May 16, 2015.

Come and meet other members of the Sierra Club in North County at the NCG Annual Picnic which will be held at Dixon Lake Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 12-3pm. There is no charge to attend and there will be a bar-beque lunch and refreshments.

For more information on events, volunteer opportunities, outings and the picnic go to our website <http://sierraclubncg.org/>.



The North County Coastal Group (AKA the Coasters) is the geographic division of the San Diego Chapter for the north coastal area, Del Mar to Oceanside. We organize a variety of Sierra

Club activities in coastal North County, including outings, social events, and conservation efforts.

In 2015, we are returning to a full meeting schedule. The meetings will be on the third Tuesday of every month. Our meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr, Encinitas, CA.

On May 19, our topic will be Water: Where it Comes From, Where it Goes, and What Happens to it Along the Way. An expert panel will discuss water supply and wastewater disposal issues. As a bonus, earlier in the day we will see the reality on a tour of the Encina Wastewater Treatment Plant in Carlsbad. Tour details will be published on the Coasters email list in May

On June 16, we will look at water in a different light as we learn about Planning For Sea Level Rise. Our experts will discuss the impacts of sea level rise on our local beaches and bluffs, and what can be done to prepare for them.

For more news and activities, you can sign up for a monthly Coaster News email at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE?A0=SANDIEGO-NORTHCOUNTY-NEWS>,

or you can find our meetings and events on the San Diego Activities calendar at <http://sandigosierraclub.org>

*The View continued from page 2*

5. If your landscaping is on a timer, install the sensor that overrides the timer if it's been raining.
6. Don't use "hardscape" (cement and impervious surfaces) in your landscaping, or intersperse it with areas of stones or ground cover to catch and hold the rain. Your plants will thank you and your property will be cooler.
7. Plant deciduous trees on the west side of your home- for shade in the summer and to allow the sun warm your home in the winter.
8. Use shade elements- kites, awnings and ramadas to shade pavement, your home and garden in the summer and remove them, if possible, in the winter to warm your home passively.
9. Install on demand hot water heat- you won't have to wait for warm water to reach the faucet.

10. Turn the water off when you brush your teeth.
11. Install low flow toilets- you will save the cost of purchase in a few years.
12. Fix leaky faucets right away. Install a new flapper if your toilet runs.
13. See if your water company does free water audits. Ask if a water expert can come out to make sure you are not wasting water from leaks. . If they don't, encourage them to start the process.
14. OR you can do it yourself. Call me; I'd be happy to explain 808-989-3222.
15. Buy a low water use clothes washers
16. Use your dishwasher on a short cycle with extra hot water. Turn off the high heat dry.
17. Install low flow showerheads.
18. Take shorter showers.

19. Fill in your swimming pool and use the municipal pool.
20. Capture and store rainwater from roofs and gutters.
21. Use a gray water recapture system (using biodegradable cleaners).

So, what are you doing to conserve water? A plan is needed for your home. Our health and quality of life is affected by having clean water to drink. Let's work together to secure a sustainable clean water future for San Diego and Imperial counties. Here's the challenge: Change a few habits and talk to a few people!

*Warm regards.*

Debbie Hecht 808-989-3222  
[hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com)

# 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

**We have moved our movie night from the 1st Friday to the 2nd Friday of the month..**

**May 8, 6:30 pm**

### Movie: GMO OMG – Is This the End of Real Food?

1 Hour, 25 Minutes

Filmmaker and concerned father Jeremy Seifert is in search of answers about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and how they affect our children, the health of our planet, and our freedom of choice. His journey takes him to Haiti, Paris, Norway, and even the front door of agri-giant Monsanto, the largest provider of GMOs in the U.S., as he poses perhaps the ultimate question about what we eat: is it still possible to reject our current food system, or have we already lost something we can't get back? GMO OMG is a timely, informative, entertaining and ultimately insightful documentary about the question that's a growing concern to citizens' around the world: who controls the future of our food?

**June 12, 6:30 pm**

### Movie: YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY: Episodes 1 and 2

2 Hours

This ground breaking, Emmy-winning Showtime documentary television series, consisting of 9 episodes, explores the human impact of climate change.

Episode 1: DRY SEASON

Harrison Ford goes to Indonesia to investigate how the world's appetite for palm oil has inadvertently created one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gasses. Thomas Friedman travels to Syria and reveals how climate change can be the stress point in volatile political situations.

Episode 2: END OF THE WOODS

Ford continues his investigation, exploring the corruption that has led to the deforestation of the Indonesian landscape and caused such huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Arnold Schwarzenegger joins an elite team of wildland firefighters as they battle the new breed of forest fires made more deadly by climate change.

## Get On Your Bicycle and Ride!

Enjoy the outdoors and make friends too. Explore the back roads of San Diego County and neighboring areas with the Sierra Club Bicycle Section.



We offer bicycle rides for all levels and distances (beginner to fast-paced) throughout the year. Weekends at Warner Springs Ranch, Anza Borrego, Agua Caliente and more. Potluck suppers, annual beach barbeque and our very own book club. Our monthly schedule of road rides is posted online and in our monthly OutSpoken newsletter.

**Check us out at: [www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle)**

For a free sample of our newsletter *OutSpoken*, phone Jerry Fitzsimmons (858) 224-3437 or email: [Membership@sdscls.org](mailto:Membership@sdscls.org).

## New Homes in County to be Greener

In April, San Diego County Board of Supervisor's Dave Roberts and Diane Jacobs led the fight to amend the county's building code to make all new single-family homes in unincorporated areas accommodate solar power and electric vehicle charging. The measure passed 4-1 with Supervisor Bill Horn opposing. Horn felt that the county should not be telling builders how to make homes more attractive to buyers.

Starting July 1 the code will require all new homes be fitted with 200-amp electric panels and the conduit for photovoltaic collectors and electric vehicle chargers, should the homeowner wish to install them. The new building code also calls for keeping south-facing rooftops clear of vents or chimneys or other obstructions to make space for rooftop solar panels.

"These changes will make it easier for homeowners to take advantage of cutting-edge, energy-saving technology. I'm a big believer in rooftop solar panels and similar home improvements because these projects stimulate our local economy and give consumers power over their energy future," stated Supervisor Diane Jacobs.

With the emergence of green building technology and continued advancements toward greater energy efficiency, consumers now have the ability to choose from a growing range of options to help reduce energy consumption and the climate.

### The Case for Environmental Investing

Shane Yonston, Certified Financial Planner and Principal Advisor at Impact Investors, will discuss how companies operating efficiently in a resource scarce marketplace are poised to outperform in the future June 17 2015 at 6:30. Call or email Debbie Hecht to sign up [hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com) 808-989-3222

**Public Relations Help Needed** Please get in touch with Debbie Hecht.[hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com)

**IT/ Computer Support** help needed at the office to reorganize and streamline our computer systems. Call Richard at 858-569-6005



# The Endangered Gnatcatcher

Renee Owens

Odds are you've heard of our local resident known as the Coastal California gnatcatcher, a feisty little gray bird with a penchant for eating flies and spiders. What you may not know is that over ninety percent of the habitat that the bird calls home, a.k.a. coastal sage scrub, has been destroyed, and what's left is seriously fragmented. This is what prompted the species' listing in 1993 and helped environmentalists (among others) develop a complex set of Habitat Conservation Plans, including the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program. The gnatcatcher's ascendance as a protected species is nothing short of a miracle, given the fact that this bird is one of hottest political potatoes ever listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Once again the bird's feet are on the fire; yet another challenge to delist it has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This isn't surprising given the convoluted political history surrounding of the gnatcatcher; development interests have been tenaciously fighting its protected status for as long as it has been in the spotlight. As such, the species' recovery has been rocky at best. For instance, as soon as FWS announced that a total of 513,000 acres of coastal sage scrub from San Diego to Ventura counties must be protected as 'critical habitat' for the species'

survival, developers came out of the woodwork and successfully sued this determination. As a result the bird's critical habitat was reduced to 200,000 acres, less than half of what was deemed necessary. Even its listing status as 'threatened' instead of 'endangered' was more of a political move than a scientific one, since the ESA allows for greater 'take' of habitat under the threatened designation. In layman's terms what this amounts to is that it is possible for developers who want to bulldoze gnatcatcher-occupied habitat to get



a permit to do so, as long as a mitigation strategy is established that will, in theory, offset the negative impacts of the loss perpetrated by the development.

A database gathered by the Center for Biological Diversity documents that such 'take' has resulted in a minimum of the death of 1,280 breeding pairs of California gnatcatchers, if not more. Such take allowances are at the heart of the question as to why this species has not yet recovered. Due to the compromise of mitigation issued by FWS, developers are rarely told they cannot move forward even when listed species occupy their land. This may surprise some given the creative myth-spinning by anti-environmentalists who decry how the ESA inhibits development. It doesn't. Essential as it is to conservation, the ESA does not have the power to squash projects in their tracks willy nilly, and although FWS is tasked with protecting wildlife, they are hardly in the business of halting development. Neither are their administrators immune to lobbying pressures by corporations. When the cost of mitigation

alters their bottom line, powerful landowners have been repeatedly willing to spend time and money in attempts to remove the gnatcatcher from its protected pedestal any way they can.

This time their strategy comes in the form a challenge to the species' existence altogether. The Pacific Legal Foundation, the National Association of Home Builders, and the California Building Industry Association are arguing that the California gnatcatcher isn't genetically unique after all and therefore does not deserve protection. This isn't the first time this argument has been made, what is unique is that it is being considered based solely on one research study by Dr. Robert Zink, who admitted his research was partly funded by grants from real estate developers. Shortly after its publication at least six other geneticists have countered with their own detailed analysis as to how Dr. Zink's work is not based on the "best available science", and their argument is compelling. Ultimately it will be up to FWS to decide whether one study can completely undo a species recovery plan that began over a quarter century ago. What we do know is that according to FWS, the gnatcatcher is in danger of extinction due to "habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from urban and agricultural development, fire, nonnative plants, and predation." Don't forget that protecting the gnatcatcher helps to conserve many other species as well, species up against the same foes of habitat fragmentation, pollution, urban sprawl, drought, and climate change. The comment deadline for this petition to de-list ended in March, we'll be sure and keep you informed on what the fate of the California gnatcatcher will be when FWS makes their final determination.

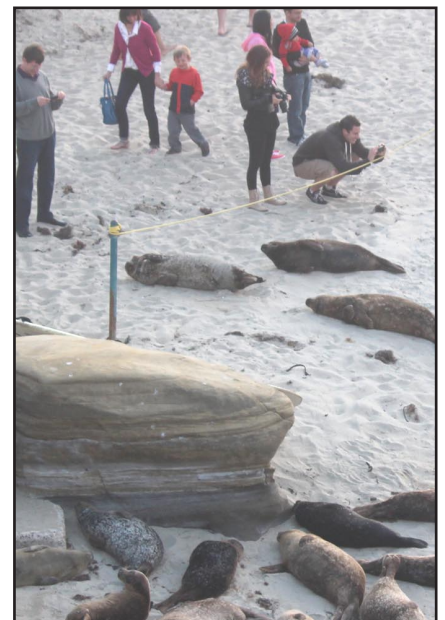
- Renee Owens has held a federal Recovery permit to study the California gnatcatcher since 1994.

## "Guideline Rope" for the Harbor Seals to be heard by CCC in June

Ellen Shively

If you have visited the harbor seal rookery in La Jolla over the pupping season you may have noticed a rope across the "closed" beach. It was authorized for a three year trial by permit of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) but will expire this coming July. The rope is a visual reminder to visitors to keep a safe viewing distance from the seals for our mutual safety, and is most essential during the summer and fall "shared use" period.

The San Diego Sierra Club's Seal Campaign, working with other dedicated groups, is asking our members to attend the CCC hearing in Newport Beach during their June 10-12 session to speak up for a continuation of the "guideline" rope all year long. You may also write a letter in support of renewing the rope across the Casa Beach to the California Coastal Commissioners. Mail it to our office (Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Drive, Ste 101, San Diego, CA 92111 and we will deliver it at the meeting in June. Please contact our Wildlife chair Ellen Shively - Phone: 619-479-3412 or email: ellenshively@sbcglobal.net ) if you are interested. We will plan on a day trip by carpool or by chartered bus. The actual date the item will be discussed will be known by early June. Your presence and support will make a huge difference. "If not you, Who?" wrote Dr. Seuss..



## Classified Ad Rates and Information:

### Sierra Club Members

(up to 25 words)

Private party

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

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

### Non-Members

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

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

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

Sierra Club San Diego

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

Attn: HiSierran Treasurer

Send ad to:

HSEditor@SierraSD.org

## Online or Hardcopy HiSierran

SAVE TREES- opt OUT OF THE PAPER HiSierran and enjoy the FULL COLOR online EDITION

It is very expensive to mail hard copies of the HiSierran! Would you rather get yours online and help save trees and save money for conservation? WE can email you when a new copy is posted online with a link. We PROMISE we will NOT share your email. If you would like to get the HiSierran online, contact Richard Miller at the Chapter Office:

858-569-6005 or

scoffice@SierraSD.org.

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

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

### Submission Deadlines for Hi Sierran Newsletter:

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

#### Upcoming Issues:

July /August 2015

Deadline is June 1st

To submit by email, please email to:

HSEditor@SierraSD.org.org.

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

The Hi Sierran Committee is also looking for members to assist with writing, editing and producing an informative and interesting newsletter for our members!

## Sierra Club and Allies' Climate Action Plan Press Conference

Davin Widgerow

On Wednesday, April 8, 2015, Sierra Club San Diego and its allies held a press conference at the County Administration Building to call on the Board of Supervisors to draft a new Climate Action Plan (CAP) with legally enforceable greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The Board was scheduled to repeal their existing CAP that day, following the Sierra Club's victory in the Sierra Club v. County of San Diego court case, in which the courts ruled that the County's original CAP lacked the requisite enforceable measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sierra Club was joined by our allies in the CAP effort: the Climate Action Campaign, the American Lung Association of California, the Cleveland National Forest Foundation, and the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation. Sierra Club's Davin Widgerow opened the press conference by thanking the volunteers and attorneys involved in the CAP effort, and then explained that the Club would expect that any new CAP contain five elements necessary to ensure that it is meaningful and enforceable: measures to increase energy efficiency, investments in renewable energy, reorientation of transit modes to include substantial bike, walk, and public transit options, neighborhoods designed around mixed development, and adaptation and resilience waste and energy practices.

The press conference was well attended by members of the local press corps. Mike Bullock, Sierra Club's Transportation Chair and lead climate change activist, was interviewed by

KPBS' Erik Anderson, and his interview was the subject of a television segment broadcast later that day and on the KPBS website. The San Diego Union Tribune

also covered the event, and quoted Mike Bullock, who explained that the Earth was at a "tipping point" that would "cause the climate to transition to one which will not support most of



the life forms living on this planet, including our own species." Davin Widgerow was also quoted by the UT, stating that "Sierra Club wants to see a climate action plan that has meaningful and enforceable measures to achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets," and that "any such targets should be science-based and have emissions goals for each particular source," adding that renewable energy, biking and walking, and community choice aggregation, in which residents pool their energy purchases, needed to be part of the plan. Pete Hasapopoulos, Sierra Club's My Generation representative, and lead activist in getting San Diego to adopt community choice aggregation, was also on hand to provide support and answer press queries.

Sierra Club will continue to monitor the County's efforts at drafting a new CAP, and the Club looks forward to working with County officials in enacting a CAP that will mitigate the effects of climate destabilization, which will improve the lives of every person living in San Diego County, and which can serve as a model for the entire United States.



# Climate Change Death Toll Rises

Renée Owens

When you hear the phrase 'climate change', what comes to mind? Flooding islands? Worsening drought? It's likely that starving marine animals weren't foremost in your thoughts, but they should be, because it's a very real symptom of climate change that is happening right here, right now. You can see it for yourself along our beaches, including the La Jolla Cove. A typical year might reveal a total of up to five sea lion pups in need of rescue at this locale, however two weeks ago I counted twelve emaciated pups plus one dead one floating nearby; without rescue these pups were all doomed to die within days. Tragically this has become the new norm. The numbers across California beaches are staggering, rehabilitation facilities report that they are reaching maximum capacity and volunteer-based groups are flying trained personnel from the east coast to help treat the tsunami of starving pups arriving an average of 44% underweight. "These are pups that should still be nursing," said Dr. Shawn Johnson, director of veterinary science at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. "They're arriving extremely emaciated with no energy stores. They're just skin and bones, wasting away and on the brink of death." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has officially dubbed this an 'Unusual Mortality Event', and for good reason: over 2300 sick pups have been reported between January and March this year, as compared to less than 300 the same months last year, and that doesn't include countless sick pups dying unreported.

Due to a century of overhunting, sea lion populations were decimated prior to implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and are only recently reaching healthy numbers again. However in 2013 pup birth rate was considered 35-55% below normal, and researchers are reporting 50 to 70% mortality of pups on island rookeries this season. By all accounts pups are

starving because their mothers have inadequate fat stores to nurse their young, and are forced to go out to sea to find their primary food sources like sardines and anchovies, species being impacted by massive blobs of warming waters off our coast. "It's been a really unusually warm year, and disruptive to the normal marine food web, from Baja all the way up to Alaska," says Nate Mantua, a climatologist with NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Sardines and other similar species are highly vulnerable to changes in ocean temperatures, and therefore "represent an exceptional bioindicator to measure the direction and speed of climate change expected in the near future" according to marine biologist Dr. Montero-Serra, citing his team's latest study that analyzed impacts of ocean temperatures on fish using reams of data collected between 1965 and 2013.



Sea lions aren't the only marine species dropping like flies. Ornithologists from California to Canada are reporting die-offs of starving birds, primarily auklets, like never before. "This is just massive, massive, unprecedented," said Julia Parrish, a seabird ecologist who oversees the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team, a program that has tracked West Coast seabird deaths for decades. "We may be talking about 50,000 to 100,000 deaths so far." That was January of this year. As with the sea lions, the primary cause of death is starvation. Other biologists report a strong possibility of these die-offs escalating to affect other

species, and are seeing a significant uptick in marine mass-mortality events worldwide. Some of these die-offs aren't attention getting, but they should be. Phytoplankton, the essential base of ocean food chains, have declined a devastating 40% percent since 1950, and the trend is clearly linked to warming of the surface of the oceans.

Climate change-deniers may call these mortality events natural; they are nothing of the sort. According to Dr. Johnson, "there is a complex process happening in our ocean. It is clearly under stress from the warmer water and, potentially, overfishing. These sea lions are telling us we should be very concerned about the health of our oceans." This shouldn't be surprising given that NASA and NOAA showed 2014 as the hottest year in the global climate record. As climate expert Dr. John Abraham told the Guardian, "the oceans are

warming so fast they keep breaking scientists' charts." More than 90% of human induced planetary warming goes into the oceans; and to ignore the implications of such is to invite disaster. Climate change is here and now, and it is deadly. And, if you aren't a fan of wildlife, don't forget the cascade effect of

sardine and related population collapse on global fishing industries. Thanks to ocean warming impacts combined with overfishing, pollution, and ocean acidification, our marine ecosystems are telling us loud and clear that the time to act aggressively is now, in big ways, not small compromises. Rescuing pups is our duty given we are the primary cause of their suffering, but it is a drop in the proverbial bucket. When we say we need everyone on board for a sea change for climate activism, we really mean it.

- Renée Owens is a wildlife biologist and member of National Sierra Club's Marine Action Team.



## 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

email: scoffice@SierraSD.org

*Development Coordinator:* Richard Miller

email: richard.miller@sierraclub.org

www.sandiegosierraclub.org

## Committee & Contact Information

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

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

**Chair:** Debbie Hecht  
hecht.deb@gmail.com

**Vice-Chair:** Joe Zechman  
619-709-6268  
joezechman@sierrasd.org

**Secretary:** Karenlee Robinson  
619-572-8451  
klrobinson@sierrasd.org

**Treasurer** (Non-Voting): Rob Morris  
858-204-1865  
ChapterTreasurer@sierrasd.org

Nick Ervin  
858-761-1659  
desertguy1@sbcglobal.net

Diane Nygaard  
760-724-3887  
dandd2@peoplepc.com

Paul Webb  
pbwebb3@cox.net  
Davin Widgerow  
dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

**Chair:** Nick Ervin  
Desertguy1@sbcglobal.net

#### Forest & Wilderness

Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm.  
Cindy Buxton  
(619) 934-0323 iokuok2@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

### OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, call for information.

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

#### Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

#### Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Jim Jafolla  
sd.col.training@gmail.com

#### Leadership Review & Safety Committee

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

#### Pacific Crest Trail

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

#### Ski

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

#### Wednesday in the Mountains

Merrilyn Pope 858-750-3807  
merrilyn@sbcbglobal.net

### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday

**Chair:** Davin Widgerow  
dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

### FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

**Chair:** Paul Webb  
pbwebb3@cox.net

### WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

Stefanie Maio  
http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/

#### San Diego

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

### NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Annual June Weekends, call for information.

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

### SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

#### Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons  
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscls.org.

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle

#### Family

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

#### Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub  
Social- 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

bill.tayler@sandiego.sierraclub.org

**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

Call for meeting information (858) 569-6005

**Chair:** Debbie Hecht

hecht.deb@gmail.com

**Managing Editor:** Judy Thomas

HSEditor@sierrasd.org

### NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday.

Contact Chair for time and location.

**Chair:** Suzi Sandore (760)-484-3440

### NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP

See the Coastal North County web page for meeting info.

**Chair:** Dave Grubb (760) 753-0273  
davidgrubb@sbcglobal.net

### LEGAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair for time and location.

**Chair:** Davin Widgerow

dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

### SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

**Chair:** Ernest "EL" Lotecka

(760) 533-2725

sdwalks@interactor.cc