

The Conservancy NEWS



Newsletter of Antelope Valley Conservancy, Issue 16, May 2011

Endangered Species Day Ribbon Cutting, weekend of activities



Would you like to meet a tortoise, take a nature walk, or visit a nature center? Region-wide activities will celebrate Endangered Species Day the weekend of May 20-22.

Many panel presenters from five years of AV Conservancy's Endangered Species Day Conferences are hosting activities this year, including Pete Johnston, Angeles National Forest Wildlife Biologist, who will present about Red Legged Frogs at Aliso Canyon. California State Parks will host a nature walk on the grounds of the Indian Museum. **Space for these and many other offered activities is limited by site size, so please see Schedule at <http://avconservancy.org/esday.pdf> and call to make reservations if indicated.**

Also on Friday, Antelope Valley Conservancy will host a Ribbon Cutting for new wetlands we acquired at the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area. Naturalists considered these year-round water resources critical to wildlife in the Natural Area, and our grantors, Fish & Wildlife Service and Rivers & Mountains Conservancy, reallocating some of our Una-1 grant funds to acquire these wetlands. Northrop Grumman contributed to the site endowment. The Ribbon Cutting features a keynote address by Dr. Kate Gale, Managing Editor of Red Hen Press, and Bill Neal Elkwhistle's Native American flute music. Seating is limited, so if you want to attend, please contact AV Conservancy at 661/943-9000.

Saturday, Meet A Tortoise, at the Rosamond Community Services District building, with a presentation by Mark Hagan, Environmental Resource Manager, Edwards AFB. nature walks will be offered at San Antonio Canyon (led by Jane Strong of the California Native Plant Society); at Gorman Post Road (led by Ileene Anderson of the Center for Biological Diversity, and Michael O'Brien, whose students studied and recommended the Gorman Hills preservation that Antelope Valley Conservancy has been pursuing; and you can hike condor country with Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel and the Community Hiking Club.

The Schedule of region-wide activities with all information and locations is posted at <http://avconservancy.org/esday.pdf>. Additional sites and activities are still being added. For nationwide activities see <http://stopextinction.org/esd.html>.

Ready to ride!



Please support the conservancy by riding the Antelope Valley Ride, a great ride for any competent rider.

The A ride is under 20 miles and very do-able. The 30 and 60 mile rides are scenic and challenging. The return along Avenue K this year improves the scenery and provides a long downhill back to George Lane Park.

All routes include legal Aqueduct riding by special arrangement with Department of Water Resources. For a flat route with no cars, ride the Aqueduct out and back.

For information and registration, see <http://avconservancy.org/Events.htm>. Check-in opens at George Lane Park 7 AM. Call for Group Rates.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!
THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Steve Fox, Esq.



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Established in 1991, Willow Springs Motorcycle Club continues to be one of the premier and fastest growing motorcycle road racing organizations in the country. Based at Willow Springs -- "The Fastest Track in the West" -- WSMC promotes racing for all motorcyclists on almost any type of bike. From 125s and 250s to the latest Superbikes, novice racers to seasoned professionals, WSMC hosts ultra-competitive racing at least once a month at Willow Springs. www.wsmcracing.com



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SPECIAL THANKS



AV Conservancy WINS!



Three conservation organizations competed for the 2011 Patagonia Pasadena Voice Your Choice grants, all worthy organizations. The odds were low that Antelope Valley Conservancy, from a community 70 miles over the mountains, could win the most in-store votes --- yet that is what happened.

In-store voting took place throughout the month of March, and each organization had a weekend to table in the store. Sean, Richard, Wendy, and Richard's daughter Kat had a lot of fun meeting Patagonia shoppers. Some shoppers were from the Antelope Valley, and friends and Conservancy friends also stopped in to vote.



Photo: Sean Carter

Garnering the most votes earned Antelope Valley Conservancy the highest grant award, \$2500.

Thank you very much to everyone who voted for AVC! Special thanks to Cory and the Meza family, and to Ina, Seth, Sean, and Alan, at Patagonia Pasadena. And a huge THANK YOU to Patagonia and all Patagonia customers, for making this grant program possible.

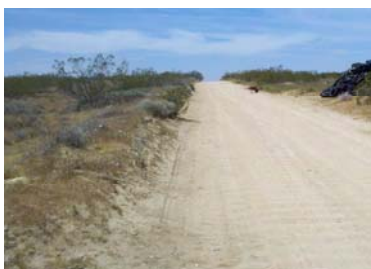
Antelope Valley Conservancy's 17th Earth Day Cleanup

Sixty-eight volunteers cleared 20 cubic yards of illegally dumped trash from the Gerhardy Wildlife Sanctuary and dozens of bags of litter from Saddleback Butte State Park.

Thank you, Chris and Bill of Los Angeles County Parks, and Norm and Kavita of State Parks, for your gracious support. Thank you to Benz Sanitation for contributing a portasan, and to Lockheed Martin for annual support of Earth Day Cleanup.

Most of all, thank you, wonderful volunteers!

Groups came from Edwards Air Force Base, Girl Scout Troops 932 and 5822, Cub Scout Pack 86, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Antelope Valley Freethinkers, and included Alice Wright, Joshua Martinez, Alissa Fanna, Ryan Paul, Jessica Miconi, David Stansifer, Elaine Rea, Nicholas Parcenickt, Karin Grace, Colleen Toussaint, Rick Martinez, Jennifer Wade, Jennifer Lindner, Billie Wattier, Don Davis, Steven Ryan, LeAnn Ryan, Stephen Chopp, David Dionne, Carol Hall, Robert Curry, Mark Brash, Tony Johnson, Paula Ferria, Erik Gunderson, Patricia Lerrica, Martha Stewart, Joseph Galepon, Hedelisa Galepon, Deedra Alvarez, Martha Hernandez, Alexander Davila, Katie Devine, Nicole Ferrier, Berenice Fredin Rojas, Jason Logan, Tracey Ruzicka, Kimberly Villa, Alyssa Bautista, Roxanne Hobbs, Wendal and Wendy Reed, Jordan, Cheyene, Victoria, Nicholas, Emily, Joy, Faith, Madison, Nathaniel, Makayla, Marco, Aaron, Asjan, Natalie, Nathan, Nicholas, Isaac, Michael, Ashley, Alice, Joshua, Alissa, Nicole, Crystal, Thomas, and Dylan. We apologize if your name was omitted. California State Parks, Los Angeles County Parks, and Antelope Valley Conservancy thank you very much!



Before and After

Photos: Wendal Reed

For review and comment

Desert Renewable Conservation Plan <http://www.drecp.org>

Los Angeles County General Plan <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan>

"Town and Country", AV Area Plan Update <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc>

San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study
<http://www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel>

LA County Bicycle Master Plan <http://lacountybikeplan.com>

High Desert Corridor <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/travel/projects/138hdc/>

California High Speed Rail <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/>

Jack Farley retires

John "Jack" Farley joined the Los Angeles County Department of Parks in 1975, and retired this year as a Regional Park Superintendent I for the Wildlife and Wildflower Sanctuaries, working from the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area.

Jack is also an accomplished photographer, whose work has been featured in Sunset magazine and on an Antelope Valley phonebook cover. Jack bought his first professional Canon camera three decades ago. When he started



working at Devil's Punchbowl, he took slides, then switched to film, and now takes digital photos. His subjects are every type of natural scene, from snakes and foxes, to sunsets and scenery.

He is also a talented wood carver, and won first place in the wood-carving category at the Antelope Valley Fair. He finds unique wood pieces and carves faces or animal figures into them, such as bears, bobcats, owls, and other wildlife.

Jack worked for the Department of Parks and Recreation for 35 years, and says, "I enjoy the outdoors very much at our parks, and have always admired the trees, dead or alive. When I would find a weathered piece of wood, and carved into it, I believed it would actually bring it back to life."

When Antelope Valley Conservancy first incorporated, Jack was on the first Mapping Committee, helping to identify areas for preservation. He has been collaborative and supportive of our work through the years. Thank you, Jack, and we wish you a lot of fun!

Renewable Energy Meeting June 18 in Lancaster

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning will host a community meeting to discuss concerns related to utility-scale renewable energy projects in

unincorporated

Los Angeles

County. The

meeting will be

held Saturday,

June 18, 2011,

9:00 to 11:00 am

at Lancaster Regional Library, 601 West Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster.



To better serve you, the Department asks you to please RSVP by June 6, by email to tnc@planning.lacounty.gov or by calling (213) 974-6476.

Why endangered species matter

By Carter Roberts, President/CEO, World Wildlife Fund

Excerpt from Parade Magazine, March 1, 2009

Our environment produces things that are fundamental to human life—and to saving human life. For example, many of the leading cancer drugs come from plants like the rosy periwinkle. If we only have species that coexist well with humans, we'll be left with starlings, rats, pigeons, and a few dogs and cats.

There are incredible consequences when species disappear, consequences we can't foresee. With the decline of predators such as wolves on the East Coast, the deer population exploded and we had an increase in Lyme disease.

We've reintroduced 120 species into the wild. When we succeed, as we did with the bald eagle, it gives the world hope.

Reduce Your Use

In downtown Quartz Hill, there is now a mural by Lauren Penn, winner of the Quartz Hill Water District's "Reduce Your Use" Conservation Poster/Mural Contest at Quartz Hill High School.



Benefits of open space

A Pennsylvania study, reported in the Spring 2011 issue of *Saving Land*, quantifies the benefits of preservation.

\$16.3 billion added to the value of southeastern Pennsylvania's housing stock

\$240 million in annual property and transfer tax revenues for local government

\$577 million annual benefits for residents who recreate on protected open space



\$795 million annual medical costs avoided

6,900 jobs added to the regional economy

Drain rules

Do not pour FAT, OIL, OR GREASE down the drain! Wipe with paper towels,

or scrape with a spatula, and place in the trash can.



Think twice before you flush! Many varieties of wipes and towels are labeled and marketed as *disposable*, but should **NOT** be flushed down the toilet. Toilet tissue is designed to immediately start to break down when it hits water, whereas some items marketed as disposable may take two years to break down. Examples include Disinfecting Wipes, Baby Wipes, Towelettes, Mop Refills, Paper Towels, and Facial Tissues.

Visit www.888CleanLA.com or call (888) CLEANLA for more information.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS!

Bring your reusable bags to shop, avoid a 10 cent charge

When: Beginning July 1, 2011

Where: Unincorporated Los Angeles County

Why: To protect the environment and help keep our communities clean.

Bring your reusable bags every time you shop to avoid a \$0.10 cent charge for paper bags.

www.aboutthebag.com
1(888) Clean LA

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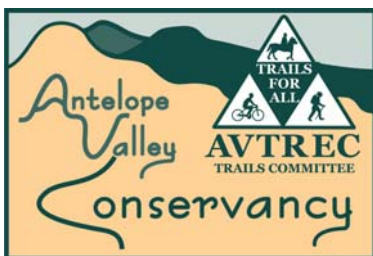
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If you were helping, we could do more.
Antelope Valley Conservancy relies on community professionals to oversee the work we do. Many hands make little work, so please, call (661) 943-9000 and discuss how you can get involved.

AVTREC NEEDS YOU!

Please volunteer a little time to help the trails committee with trails advocacy and projects.



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