

Volunteers needed 9/24

Gerhardy Wildlife Sanctuary Cleanup

National Public Lands Day

To celebrate National Public Lands Day on September 24, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Antelope Valley Conservancy request your help to clean up illegally dumped litter at the Carl O. Gerhardy Wildlife Sanctuary.

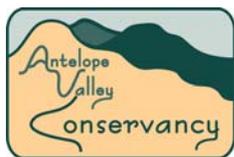


The Gerhardy Sanctuary is located at 240th Street East between Avenue N and N-8. The Cleanup will be conducted 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept 24. If you can bring a group, please RSVP to let us know.

Volunteers should wear work gloves that fit, sturdy shoes and sun protection, and bring a refillable bottle for water. Special care should be given to ensure that any children who volunteer are properly outfitted and have gloves that fit their hands. Tools, water, and snacks will be provided, but additional shovels and grippers are welcomed. For a map and information, visit www.avconservancy.org/Events.htm or call 661/943-9000.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. Typically held on the last Saturday in September, the event has grown by leaps and bounds.

In 2010, 170,000 volunteers worked at over 2,080 sites in every state, the District of Columbia, and many U.S. territories. NPLD volunteers are estimated to have removed 450 tons of trash, collected 20,000 pounds of invasive plants, built and maintained 1,320 miles of trails, planted 100,000 native trees and plants, and contributed \$15 million to improve public lands.



National Public Lands Day
A National Environmental Education Foundation Program



Wetlands dedicated

On Endangered Species Day, May 20, Antelope Valley Conservancy held a ribbon cutting ceremony for 40 acres of wetlands it recently acquired adjacent to the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area.

Speakers included Kate Gale, Managing Editor of Red Hen Press and *The Los Angeles Review*, conservancy president Wendy Reed, Hayden Sohm of Los Angeles County Parks, and Juniper Hills Town Council president Vance Pomeroy. Bill Neal Elk Whistle's flute music enchanted attendees. Dr. Gale pointed out that "Antelope Valley Conservancy is not preserving the past; it is preserving the future."

LA County Parks' naturalists have wanted to preserve the wetlands for decades but lacked funding. AVC was



able to purchase the lands with its Proposition 84 and Fish and Wildlife Service grants. Northrop Grumman started the endowment with a \$3,000 contribution, and more contributions are needed www.avconservancy.org.



16th annual
Antelope Valley Conservancy
ANTELOPE VALLEY RIDE

The 16th annual Antelope Valley Ride doubled ridership from last year, with 51 riders, and raised almost \$1,000 for Antelope Valley Conservancy.

The support tables were manned by wonderful volunteers, Mo Weston, Dick and Susan Zahnter, and the entire Pixley family. Wendy Reed, Wendal Reed and Sean Ponso organized the ride. Thank you to all the riders, volunteers, and sponsors!



Ride founder Elaine Macdonald was finally able to ride in the ride that she organized for 14 years. Landon Morrow, a young motocross rider new to bicycle riding, completed the 30 mile route along with his father. The wind came up early, raising the difficulty, but all but two riders finished their intended routes.

When two birds flew across Elizabeth Lake Road by Mo's table, one was killed by a passing truck. As the other hopped disoriented in the road, Mo went to help. The bird jumped onto Mo's pant leg, and held on while Mo walked it to safety.

Thank you again to all the volunteers, sponsors, and riders, and to Los Angeles County Parks and Department of Water Resources!

Mark your calendars --- Next year's ride is planned for May 5. Sponsors are needed, and we have great sponsor packages. Please call Wendy or Sean for information at 661/943-9000.



Wildflower Walk

at AVC's target preservation, Gorman Hills
By Michael O'Brien

They said it was too late in the season, that the rains had not come at the right time to have wildflowers at Gorman, however, there was a lot to see.

The wildflower walk was led by Michael O'Brien of the California Native Plant Society and Ileene Anderson of the Center for Biological Diversity. We explained the importance of this part of the state, where the coastal, desert and Sierra Nevada biomes come together along the San Andreas Fault. We found a dead Gopher Snake at roadside, and with two young children along, this started the walk on a high note. We then discovered some small mammal poop, and broke it apart to find bug parts inside. As far as the kids were concerned, this was the best trip ever!



Photo Jan DeLeeuw

In addition to the three most common invasive grasses--Wild Oats, Red Brome and Foxtail Brome--we found California Poppies and Lupines. The huge pods of astragaluses were fun to pop. We peeled Filaree fruits and watched them curl, which is how they corkscrew themselves into the soil. We saw Amsinckia, Gillia, Coreopsis, Cryptantha, Bladderpod, Buckwheat, Purple Needlegrass, Goldfields, Phacelia, Wild Rhubarb, London Rocket, Mustard, Stinging Nettle, Monkeyflower, Bee Plant and Watercress. In a pond, we saw tadpoles and some young froglets, and we found a rodent path leading down to the water. Again, the kids were mesmerized.

So, although "there is nothing there," we found plenty to observe, and had a fun, intimate Endangered Species Day walk.



Steve Fox





Renewable energy projects advance, LA County policy planned for 2013

Northern Los Angeles County residents gathered with planners from the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning on June 18, to discuss renewable energy development in the region, only to learn that no policies will be enacted until 2013. (<http://planning.lacounty.gov/search/77b341472dab72417df75316e2832206/>).

Federal and state leadership is committed to increasing renewable energy generation to 33% of California's energy portfolio. The urgency for energy plants to break ground is partly a genuine commitment to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, but also spurred by billions of tax dollar subsidies. Projects are being approved quickly. Two meeting attendees requested a moratorium on projects, but Senior Planner Thuy Hua said a moratorium would be counterproductive to the goal.

Direct notification is required for neighbors within 1,000 feet of a project, as compared to 500 feet in other areas of the county. Long-time rural residents are learning that their new neighbors will be 7,000-acre industrial energy plants. Concerns include the livability of their homes and communities, declines in property values, impacts on wildlife, and public safety.

LA County has developed a draft renewable energy planning map, and established an online resource for learning about proposed projects at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/energy>.

For review and comment

August 10, 9:00 a.m. DRP, 320 W Temple Street, Rm 150. R2011-00177, RCUP 201100018. Replace three existing meteorological towers and add two additional, vicinity 170th West at Lancaster Road.

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 Mountains Study <http://www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel>

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

Energy and Mitigation

Sustainability is the core value of all the Antelope Valley's General Plans. Sustainability means having resources for our needs while ensuring future generations will have the resources they need. It is why ecosystem functions and agricultural lands need to be preserved, and why we are racing to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Sustainability is the reason that certain habitats and watershed resources are protected by law. When protected habitat will be impacted by a development project, government agencies can require compensatory preservation of habitat as "mitigation."

Antelope Valley Conservancy incorporated in 2005 to ensure the specialized, professional services necessary for mitigation to be implemented in our region. At that time, the California Environmental Quality Act and state and federal Endangered Species Acts were not being fulfilled. Mitigation was rarely implemented by lead agencies, and when it was required, the lands preserved were not in our area.

Progress has been made in requiring mitigation, but much of the mitigation promised in public environmental review is still not fulfilled. There is also a troubling trend of underfunded and unsupervised mitigation being approved.

Government entities that delegate the holding of mitigation lands to a third party are required by California Law to conduct a due diligence investigation, to ensure the entity's ability to manage the public lands and moneys in compliance with all laws and standards of practice. Los Angeles County and the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster do not appear to have adopted Due Diligence policies and procedures. The California Department of Fish and Game (*continued on page 6*)

Lynne Plambeck awarded Water Policy Advocate of the Year

The Planning and Conservation League has awarded Lynne Plambeck the Dorothy Green Award (Water Policy Advocate of the Year). Perhaps the Santa Clara River's best friend, Plambeck has worked many, educating the community about the river's history and ecology, and advocating for prudent river planning, and wiser water use in Santa Clarita and statewide. She has fought to protect the quality of water supply to residents of her community and to preserve the environmental values of the



Lynne Plambeck and PCL Board Member Kevin Johnson
Photo: Amber Schmaeling, PCL

Santa Clara River. In addition, her conservation work has included strongly opposing sprawl development in Southern California and eliminating our reliance on "paper water." In addition to serving as president of the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment, Plambeck is in her fourth term as an elected member of the Newhall Water District Board member and a member of the Association of California Water Agencies.

Nereida Henderson, 1927-2011



Nereida Consuela Henderson, an artist, inventor, and tireless advocate for recycling, poppy fields, and the native plant nursery, died of a stroke in May.

Henderson was Conservation Chair of the Lancaster Woman's Club, an Associate Director of the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District, and a beloved member of the Antelope Valley Allied Arts Association and the Lancaster Museum and Art Gallery. She

conducted games and "Creativity" projects at schools, to teach children the principles of recycling and reuse. My family helped at her presentations and her home, and it was Nereida who asked me to volunteer at the AVRCD to prevent closure of the Nursery, which we achieved. She will be missed dearly. -- Wendy Reed

2012 sponsors needed for Antelope Valley Ride

Corporations and bicycle clubs are needed to sponsor the 2012 Antelope Valley Ride. AVC has some wonderful opportunities for you to garner local or national exposure through this ride, so please give Sean or Wendy a call at 661/943-9000 to discuss your needs.



Weekly Rides:

Saturdays 7 a.m. - High Desert Cyclists. Meet at Ave L and 20th Street West. 40 to 80 miles at 17 to 19 mph.

Saturdays 7 p.m. - Bicycle John's Caffe Racers Beginner Ride. 1715 West Ave K.

Events:

October 22 – **Fall Memorial Century**

Dec 2011/Jan 2012 - **SoCal Prestige Series of Cyclocross** in Palmdale.

Identity theft

Once again, unscrupulous people are representing themselves using Antelope Valley Conservancy's good name for their own purposes. Please ensure that your communications are with genuine members of the Antelope Valley Conservancy Board of Directors: Wendy Reed, Gary Moll, Ricardo Montijo, and Jennifer Matos.

661/943-9000

www.avconservancy.org

Rodent poisons harm pets, wildlife

from California Department of Fish and Game

Californians are reminded to use caution when using poison baits (rodenticides) to control rodent pests. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and other agencies have found that rodenticides pose dangers to wildlife and pets, particularly through secondary poisoning. Secondary poisoning occurs when scavenging species eat dead or dying rodents that have been killed by rodenticides. Owls, hawks, foxes, and coyotes are at risk, as are pets that will also eat dead or dying rodents and unprotected bait.



Since 1994, DFG's Pesticide Investigations Unit has confirmed at least 136 cases of wildlife poisoning from anticoagulant rodenticides. Species impacted include bobcat, mountain lion, black bear, coyote,

San Joaquin kit fox, golden eagle, owls, hawks, and many more.



Over-the-counter rodenticides - including many common brands that contain the active ingredients brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone - can only be legally used to control rats and house mice in and very close to structures. It is not legal to use these products in open areas such as pastures or fields. Even in residential back yards, they are dangerous to non-target species.

Bait products that contain the ingredients chlorophacinone or diphacinone can be used legally to control outdoor rodent pests such as voles, ground squirrels and gophers. These compounds require multiple feedings to kill rodent pests, so they pose a lower secondary poisoning.

Read product labels carefully and strictly follow all directions. Use rodenticides only in small treatment areas close to structures. Be sure to check these areas daily for dead rodents. Collect the carcasses as soon as possible, place in plastic bags, and dispose in garbage cans with tight lids that other animals can't open. Always wear protective gloves when handling any dead animal.

Protect your wild neighbors and pets from accidental poisoning. There are many effective natural controls you can use.

"We would like to see rodenticides used only as a last resort," said DFG Environmental Scientist Stella McMillin.

For more information on protecting wildlife and pets from rodenticides, see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/education/rodenticide> and <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7439.html>.

Requests for proposals

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for contract, employment and volunteer opportunities at Antelope Valley Conservancy are now being posted on our web site at www.avconservancy.org. Check this portal if you provide services that can assist the conservancy's work, or if you are interested in volunteer or internship opportunities.

Lake Los Angeles Festival OCT 8

Parade and festival --- Come by!

<http://lakelachamber.com/>



If horses travel or need to be evacuated, they need identification bands.

Teresa Spencer and Myra Conti run an Acton--based company,

EquestriSafe, that offers long-lasting bands of nylon web with hook and loop closure. There is a fetlock band, a collar, and a halter that glows in the dark.

Check it out at www.EquestriSafe.com.



Energy and Mitigation (cont'd from page 3)

has an adopted procedure of Authorization, but does not appear to implement it consistently.

Underfunded mitigation can promote poorly located projects that defy the General Plan and defy citizens' desires, such as we saw with the racetrack at Fairmont Butte. Underfunded mitigation also passes costs to taxpayers, such as at Joshua Ranch, where habitat and the trail built by Highland High School students were bulldozed, and there is no money for restoration or management. A reliance on annual payments rather than endowment does not meet the standards of practice for land stewardship or mitigation.

Antelope Valley Conservancy brought together the specialized expertise to implement mitigation, and earned Department of Fish and Game Authorization to Hold Mitigation Lands and Conservation Easements in 2007. AVC manages a robust mitigation land acquisition program for a variety of habitat and watershed impacts. AVC saw the renewable energy boom as an opportunity for more mitigation land preservation, but was stunned to find that energy plants are locating themselves in the most environmentally sensitive areas, the areas for mitigation.

Preserving the Significant Ecological Areas fulfills the General Plan; targeting the SEAs for race tracks and vast energy plants does not. Preserving the forblands that sustain bees that pollinate a third of California's billion dollar agricultural industries fulfills the General Plan; locating solar plants in these areas defies goals of sustainability. And we feel the heartbreak of local landowners who relied on the General Plan to invest in rural residential zoned property—who planted orchards and gardens, and built self-sustaining homesteads—whose new neighbor is industrial energy.

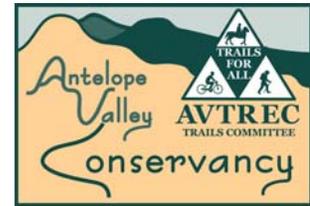
Strong, sustainable regional economies rely on sound regional planning. Successful economic areas such as Portland Metro and Minneapolis-St. Paul ensure that preserved areas and forests border to rural and agricultural lands, with suburbs surrounding urban cores. Industrial uses are located in industrial areas. The



conservation of agricultural lands and ecosystem function is not only critical to sustainability; it promotes a livable community with a strong tax base. The question is: what future do we want for the Antelope Valley?

**THANK YOU
SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS**

**Cindy Breor
Robert Large
Mark Stiver**



**THANK YOU
DONORS & GRANTORS**

**Jennifer Matos, Ph.D.
Sean Ponso
David Erickson
Elaine Macdonald
Eugene & Susan Kaufmann
Valerie Zera
Carolyn Mitchell
Linda Adams
Abbe Hofstein**



PLEASE SUPPORT ANTELOPE VALLEY CONSERVANCY

YES! I want to preserve habitats with my contribution of \$_____

- Please designate my donation to the Sustaining Endowment (the Sustaining Endowment allows AVC to accept donated lands).
- Please designate my donation for the AVTREC Trails Committee.
- Please note my donation in memory of _____
- My employer _____ has a match program.

Please provide newsletter by email (free) no newsletter

I am enclosing \$25 for one year subscription to newsletter by US Mail.

Name: _____

Address (if changed from label): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email (please print clearly): _____

THANK YOU!

Antelope Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation.

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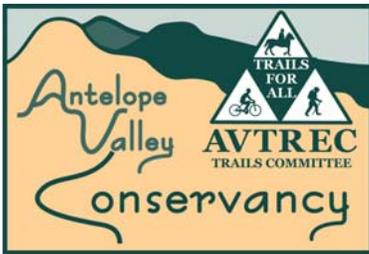


published by
Antelope Valley Conservancy
 P.O. Box 3133, Quartz Hill, CA 93586
 (661) 943-9000
www.avconservancy.org

Subscription by email is free.
 Subscription by US Mail \$25 per year
 (not tax deductible)

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