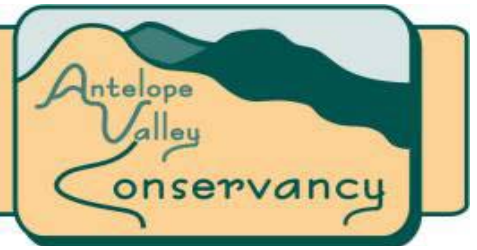


# The Conservancy NEWS



Newsletter of Antelope Valley Conservancy, Issue 19, March 2012

## Volunteers needed April 14, Earth Day Cleanup



Antelope Valley Conservancy will host its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 14, targeting two sites.

Litter will be removed from Saddleback Butte State Park. Illegal

dumpsites will be removed from the Una Uplands along East Barrel Springs Road. Please RSVP to (661) 943-9000.

All volunteers need to wear work gloves that fit, sturdy shoes, protection from the elements, and should bring refillable bottles of water. Check the web site for maps to the meet-up locations <http://avconservancy.org/Events.htm>.

April 14 is a Free Dump Day for unincorporated area residents of Antelope Valley. For more information see <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/illdump/>. We encourage you to clean up litter from your neighborhood as well.

## Wildflower Conference April 4-6 in Palmdale

California Garden Clubs Inc. will host the 2012 Wildflower Conference at the Holiday Inn in Palmdale, April 4-6. A day of informative presentations on April 5 will include a presentation by Antelope Valley Conservancy Directors Ricardo Montijo and Wendy Reed.

CGCI promotes gardening, floral design, civic beautification, environmental responsibility and the exchange of information and ideas.

Now in its 75<sup>th</sup> year,

CGCI is the largest nonprofit, volunteer gardening organization in the state of California. An

affiliation of over 350 garden clubs and plant societies throughout the state, CGCI represents more than 21,000 members.



Information and registration are posted on CGCI web site April Calendar, at <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/events-calendar>.

## Antelope Valley Beekeepers



A growing organization of area beekeepers and honeybee enthusiasts now meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., at Judy's Café, 43855 Sierra Highway in Lancaster.

Anyone is welcome to attend. For information, or referrals for swarm removal, call Greg Price at 661-9422822.

## Please help us reach 100 Good Searchers!

It's **FREE!** Every time you search the Internet, you can support habitat acquisition and stewardship in the western Mojave Desert. You can even "proceed without registering" if you prefer. Just designate AV Conservancy as your chosen charity.

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## SOAR students host Envirofair

SOAR High School students organized Envirofair 2012, to raise awareness about how students can "Save The World." The Envirofair was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Located on the Antelope Valley College campus, SOAR (Students On the Academic Rise) is an Early College High School which integrates college courses into the high school curriculum. Successful students receive both a high school diploma and an Associate's college degree within five years. SOAR High has an emphasis in mathematics, science and engineering.



A designer with model in newspaper dress. The Fashion Show featured designs of recycled materials.

Antelope Valley Conservancy Director Wendy Reed was invited to teach a class about carbon footprint. Other presenters taught classes about sustainable energy technologies, radiation pollution, and oil spills.

The event was organized by students, and included a recycling drive, live musical performances, theatrical skits, and a Fashion Show of clothing designs with recycled materials.



AV Conservancy founding director Wendy Reed taught carbon footprint

Antelope Valley Conservancy appreciates receiving the invitation from Kasthuri Sivagnanam, gracious support for the Envirofair and the presenters from SOAR Biology Teacher and Advisor Yvonne Campos and Antelope Valley College Math, Science and Engineering Dean

Dr. Leslie Uhazy, support from the students who helped man the classes and prepared food for the presenters, and the warm response from the students in our seven classes.

## Poker Ride, Photo Day fundraisers for Saddleback Butte SP

Seventy California State Parks are slated for closure this July due to budget cuts. Two fundraisers are planned to support efforts to keep Saddleback Butte State Park open.

This park was established as a Joshua tree preserve.



### Save Saddleback Butte State Park Poker Ride and Lunch

on Saturday, March 17, is hosted by Equestrian Trails Inc. Corral 9 "Littlerock Trailblazers" and Corral 138 "Barrel Springs Riders." The Save Saddleback Butte State Park Poker Ride and Lunch will offer a 3½ hour, ten-mile ride led by former Antelope Valley Conservancy Director and AVTREC founder Elaine Macdonald. Riders may return to the staging area at any time. For details, see ride info posted at <http://savesaddleback.org>.

**Photographers Day**, March 25, is Sponsored by California State Parks, PR/MDIA, the Photographers Society of America, and the Lancaster Photography Association, and will include a photography competition and auction of fine art. For more info, contact Helen Henry at [helenhenryRD10@yahoo.com](mailto:helenhenryRD10@yahoo.com).

Other parks slated to close in the California State Parks Tehachapi District are Fort Tejon Park, Providence Mountains State Preserve (Mitchell Caverns State Preserve), and Tule Elk Nature Preserve. The Antelope Valley Indian Museum reportedly a donation from a relative of the original donor that will keep open another three years.

Photo credit: Celia Rejas



## Pipes hazardous to birds

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Audubon Society, and other sources, thousands of birds are trapped and killed in pipes, and we can all help to solve the problem.

Birds investigate pipe openings, but once inside they become trapped. The width doesn't allow the bird to spread its wings, and the sides are too smooth for the bird to climb out.

There are pipes holding up fences, vent pipes on roofs, PVC pipes used for plot markers, mining claims, well casings, and irrigation. All materials, sizes, and lengths of pipe—even short pipes—can be a death trap.

The Kern River Preserve and the Southern Sierra Research Station began looking into this problem after discovering an 8" vent tube with a solid black mass inside, comprised of hundreds of dead bird skulls and carcasses.

Sean Rowe of Audubon California's Kern River Preserve says, "Pipes of all sizes are a problem. We have found dead birds in pipes from 1 1/2" to 10" in diameter. A very high percentage of pipes I've looked into contain at least one dead bird. And pipes don't have to be in place very long. Twice I have leaned a 3" steel pipe against a building, expecting to use it within a few days, only to find dead birds inside."

Two inspections in Nevada of 1,177 pipes in 2008-2009 revealed 957 dead birds. A later inspection of 854 pipes revealed 879 dead birds. The Nevada practice of using open pipes was made illegal in 1993, and a measure passed in 2009 required removal of the pipes. The Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife started extracting the pipes. The Las Vegas-based Red Rock Audubon Society has even sponsored volunteer pole-pulls. Their slogan: "Pull, baby, pull!"

## Solutions:

- Remove pipes that can be removed.
- Purchase caps for pipes, or plug pipes with sand/gravel or a heavy well fitted rock or sticks.
- Cover pipes with 1/4" mesh hardware cloth held in place by a stainless steel hose clamp.
- Large gate posts – fill with sand, concrete or gravel. Weld on steel caps, or cap with a concrete plug.
- Small steel pipes – used for signs or chain link fence posts – cap with metal cap or crimp top together.



50 year old uncapped irrigation vent pipe.

A simple cement cap fixed the problem.



Bones, a dead fence lizard and a dead Northern Flicker were found in this pipe.



Thousands of skulls were found in seven feet of detritus in a 20' irrigation pipe that had fallen down.

Photographs courtesy of Audubon Kern River Preserve, along with much of this information

## Do you know natural history?

The History Press is seeking a qualified author to write a natural history of the Antelope Valley. Contact Jerry Roberts, Commissioning Editor, The History Press (866) 457-5971 ext 151



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