

Sierra Sage

Sierra Sage of South Orange County, a Group of the Sierra Club ■ Bimonthly Events & Outings

October: Sierra Sage Group Hikes

● **October 6, 2021.** Laurel Canyon loop. Meet 9:00 am at the **Willow Staging Area Parking Lot off Laguna Canyon Hwy CA133, just south of El Toro Junction.** Enjoy a 5-mile hike up the Lower and Upper Laurel Canyon trail to Serrano, then down Camarillo to South Stagecoach back to Willow Staging Area.

Recommended: Water and munchies, and a hat. \$3.00 per car fee to park in Willow.

Leaders: Mike Sappingfield, Sherri Sission

● **October 23, 2021.** Meet at 8:00 am. **West Ridge Trial Loop in Caspers Park.** Meet in front of Ball Park Pizza at Ortega Hwy and Rancho Road. We will carpool 7 miles to Casper's Park. OC Parks passes provide free entrance, otherwise, it is \$5.00 per car. Once past gate, drive north on the main road all the way to Old Corral and we will meet at the most Northern Parking Lot. This is a 4.5 mile hike up the Dick Lorskorn Trail, then walk the West Ridge to the Starr Rise Trail to the Bell Creek trail back to the parking lot.

Recommended: Water, munchies and a hat.

Leaders: Mike Sappingfield, John Kaiser

● **October 30, 2021.** Meet at 8:00 am. **Live Oak Trail from North end to Vista Point,** then down the east side to hike the Homestead Trail to Vista Trail then back on the Live Oak Trail to the parking area. Meet at the South End of Meadow Ridge Road. **Directions:** Drive East on El Toro about 5 miles from I-5 to the Valley Vista road, turn right and it shortly turns into Meadow Ridge. Drive to the end of Meadow Ridge and park along the road.

Recommended: Water, munchies, and hat. Poles are useful going up and down the grades.

Leaders: Mike Sappingfield, Sylvia Stevenson



2021 Sierra Sage Elections

Each member can vote for the Management Committee leaders for the Sierra Sage of South Orange County group of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

There are five candidates. You may vote for four or fewer. The statements below are listed in alphabetical order. Incumbents are marked with an asterik. All candidates are currently listed in the Club membership database, and all have submitted candidate statements and pictures.

2021 CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

I graduated from college this past May into a world recovering from COVID-19 but accelerating towards irreversible climate crisis. My degree is in civil engineering, and I've done all I can to put that technical knowledge to use. I minored in a sustainable design program and participated in various sustainability-focused extracurriculars in design, strategy, and education. My senior capstone project designed a natural method for treating a lake in LA county.



I recently started my first full-time job as a sustainability consultant. In my free time, I've been working with Sierra Sage to advocate for Community Choice Energy (CCE) in Mission Viejo. I would love the opportunity to do more for the group and make a bigger impact. I hope you'll consider electing me for a seat on the management committee.

■ LESLIE FITCH

After joining the Sierra Club in Los Angeles in 1986 I began to enjoy the relatively easy access to nature in an urban environment through group hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains. Now, as a volunteer for the Forest Service at Mt. Pinos in Frazier Park I have taken the required First Aid courses to qualify as a hill host for the National Ski Patrol. I help families find the trails most suited to their abilities and have administered first aid for hypothermia. In addition, I have had winter survival training that included an overnight in a snow cave on Mt. Pinos.



I wish to further my membership and participation in Sierra Sage by becoming a member of the management committee.

■ TOD FITCH

I have been a Sierra Club member since the early 1980s, and my wife and I have been life members since 2015 when we moved into the area served by the Sierra Sage group. I've been in leadership positions with the Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and in the National Ski Patrol. Currently, I am the candidate trainer and assistant patrol representative for Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and a Nordic/Backcountry qualified Instructor.



My interest in the outdoors, especially hiking and camping, has been life long starting with family hiking and camping in the 1960s. Over that time I have seen great changes, usually for the worse, in the health of our natural environment.

I have enjoyed many local hikes sponsored by the Sierra Sage and would like to contribute to the future success of the group. Your vote will allow me the privilege of serving on the Management Committee.

■ VICKI HAZLEY*

I am a current member of the Sage Management Committee and running for re-election as I wish to continue serving the organization in a leadership role. Also, I am the current treasurer for Sierra Sage. I have enjoyed participating in many day hikes and Sierra Club Outings Trips so much that I'm now a hike leader. If elected, I'd have the opportunity to provide input on Sierra Sage matters regarding preserving nature areas. I would continue participation in activities that showcase and promote the Sierra Sage Chapter in O.C. Also, to support Sierra Club's mission of keeping outdoor spaces protected and accessible for everyone to enjoy. Please consider supporting my desire to continue as a committee member.



■ DUANA MILLER*

I am currently the Vice Chair of the Sierra Sage group. I would like to continue to serve on the management committee and continue my commitment to the environment via the group's activities and outings as well as supporting environmentally-minded people seeking public office at all levels. I use this platform to inform others about the environment, the issues surrounding it and protecting it for future generations.



Hiking in the Redwoods State & National Parks | Linda Ledger

The first of two hiking trips to the Redwoods State & National Parks in Northern California took place August 7 through August 15. The trip

was led by **Mike Sappingfield** and **Linda Ledger**. There were 19 participants with most being from Southern

California and two joining from Kentucky. After meeting up at the Oakland Airport we picked up two twelve-passenger vans and headed for our first stop in Fortuna where we stayed for two nights.



Sierra Club hikers in Redwood National Park

Our first hike was an 8.5-mile loop in Humboldt State Redwood Park on the North and South Bull Creek trail. We divided into two groups heading in opposite directions to minimize noise and impact. Linda's group was amazingly quiet while walking as though mesmerized by the beauty and grandeur of the giant trees. Mike's group couldn't resist all the photo ops along the way. At about the mid-point the two groups met up and discussed the experience.

The next day we drove to the quaint Victorian town of Ferndale to do some window shopping, tour the old cemetery, and have some coffee and snacks. We then drove to Fort Humboldt for a self-guided tour of the fort and logging museum. We



Giant Redwood and Vicki Hazley

learned that Ulysses S. Grant was stationed there in the 1850's. After lunch we did a very different hike around Trinidad Point with magnificent views of the ocean below. We then drove to the Thomas Kuchel Visitor's Center where we picked up entry permits for the next day's hike. From there we drove to Arcata for our next two nights.



Redwood trunk over trail

The attached video was beautifully filmed and produced by Sierra Sage group member, **Tod Fitch**. We invite you to come along on our recent trip—a Northern California Redwoods Sierra Sage hiking adventure.

Thank you, Tod!

<https://video.fitchfamily.org/videos/watch/f1ca11c6-ff3a-47d2-809b-5d857e5c4a3b>

Day 4 we drove to the Tall Trees Grove Trail and hiked down to a creek at the bottom. More magnificent trees and ferns all along the trail. At the bottom the scenery changes to moss draped trees reminiscent of the south.

Day 5 we did most people's favorite hike in the Prairie Creek Redwood Park. It is a 6.5-mile loop that has the feeling of being in a cathedral. You could not help but feel a reverence for the giant trees and lush green ferns. After our picnic lunch we headed for Crescent City for 3 nights.

The next morning, we headed for our tour of the Battery Light House and the Del Norte Museum where we learned about the 2-story First Order Light House Lens and the Tsunami that hit Crescent City, a consequence of the 1964 Alaska Earthquake.

Heading back to Fortuna for our last night we did a short mystical hike on a foggy coastal trail. We then had a Jet Boat Ride on the Klamath River with views of Bald Eagles, Cormorants, Egrets, and other water birds with our guide giving us some history of the Indigenous People in the area.

The second trip, September 11–19 was led by **Linda Ledger** and **Karen Belville**. It followed the same itinerary with some minor changes. A rainy day didn't permit us to do the Jet Boat Ride but was replaced by another visit to Ferndale when the shops were open and a walk down to a beautiful beach with some tide pool explorations.

Both trips received enthusiastic praise from the participants. Everyone loved the Redwoods!



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Note: * Denotes voting member of the Executive Committee

Announcing... Sierra Sage Group's New Website

We are delighted to announce that we have created a new website for the Sierra Sage Group. Over the past months, **Ed Maurer** has created and led a committee to review and improve our communications with our members. A new and revamped website is now ready to be enjoyed. You can visit our new website at www.sierrasage.org. It has numerous new pages, interesting items, and many features, to keep you busy and learning about everything that the Sierra Sage group has to offer.

After you explore the new web site, feel free to send an email to **Ed** at balois@cox.net and let him know what you like and what changes you'd like to see.

Sierra Sage | Subscription Information Sierra Sage Newsletter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- ☐ 1 year \$9.00
☐ 2 years \$15.00

Note: Please mail your check to:

**Sierra Sage | P. O. Box 524
Lake Forest, CA 92609**

PUBLICATION NOTES

- Sierra Sage is scheduled for delivery on Jan 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept 1, & November 1 of each year.
- Please note that submission deadline is *one month prior to publication*.
- Electronic copies are sent via email and are free. Just send an email to mikesapp@cox.net and tell us you want the emailed Newsletter
- Newsletter Design & Layout: Risa Koppel | Graphic Design risa.koppel@me.com