Lobbying for Utah’s Public Lands
by Marion Klaus

June 4 through 9 I was in Washington, DC, for the Resilient Habitat Lobby Week. A group of fifteen volunteers from eleven states met with Athan Manuel and Matt Kirby from the Sierra Club’s Land Team and Fran Hunt, Resilient Habitat’s Campaign Director to be briefed on the lobby goals.

Green jello shots build healthy wilderness twelve ways. Utah Chapter Chair Marion Klaus toasts Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) at his breakfast jello buffet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Utah Keeps Moving Beyond Coal

by Mark Clemens

The chapter held a Water Sentinels training near Alton, Utah, over the weekend of 15 to 17 July. Twenty-three volunteers were trained in taking grab samples and using a hand-held device (supplied by our national Water Sentinels program) to conduct on-the-spot tests. Our volunteers will be taking measurements at a half dozen or so sites downstream from the Coal Hollow strip mine every two weeks using the hand-held device and a grab sample will be forwarded to a credentialed lab once a month. This volunteer-led water quality project will allow volunteers from Sierra Club and KanabCares, among others, to keep tabs on the mine’s impacts on water quality. More information about the Water Sentinels program can be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/.

Sierra Club litigation staff have also filed an intervention with the Utah Public Service Commission on a Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) rate increase request.

In a nutshell, RMP is asking for a rate increase to pay for incremental capital investments to meet new EPA standards. Our case contends their request fails to take into consideration all current and reasonably foreseeable clean air regulations. We believe Rocky Mountain Power is segmenting the costs of compliance and submitting them to the Public Service Commission piecemeal in order to avoid having to look at options to their existing fleet of coal plants.

If they were to consider all the regulations in a single study, the cumulative capital and operation and maintenance costs wouldn’t be a least cost, least risk investment as required by Utah statute. We’re trying to compel them to look at decommissioning or re-powering of coal-fired units at the Hunter and Huntington generating stations.

HISTORY OF BEYOND COAL

The Sierra Club has fought new coal-fired power plants across the Intermountain West using political, economic and judicial means. We’ve defeated every new plant proposed since 2000. In Utah and Nevada, these plants include IPP unit three; a greenfield plant at Sigurd, Utah; Hunter unit four; greenfield plants near Toquop, NV, and two near Ely, NV—White Pine and the Ely Energy Center. We have also been plaintiffs or parties to agreements leading to the decommissioning of the Mohave Generating Station at Laughlin, NV, (demolished 3/11/2011) and decommissioning of units at the Four Corners Plant near Fruitland, NM.

The Sierra Club’s national litigation department also successfully appealed an EPA-issued permit for a 110 MW expansion of Deseret Power’s Bonanza Plant near Vernal. The permit for the new unit at Bonanza was the first issued after Massachusetts v EPA established in 2007 the precedent of CO2 being a pollutant that should be regulated by the Clean Air Act. The Environmental Appeals Board agreed with our argument and remanded the permit to EPA Region 8 requiring consideration of limiting carbon dioxide emissions. Although Deseret Power claims it has not moved on restarting the permit process since November 2008, we’ll be keeping an eye on this one.

OurAir

Utah Sierran Fall 2011 Vol. 44 No. 4

EDITOR: Mark Clemens
DESIGN: Peridot Design

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Salt Lake City office.

Annual dues for the Sierra Club are $39, of which $1 is for a subscription to Utah Sierran. Non-member subscriptions are available for $10 per year from the Utah Chapter office.

Sierra Club’s sexual harassment policy can be found online at: sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp or by contacting the Utah Chapter office.

OurMission

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to:

Protect and promote Utah’s outdoors and natural landscapes;
Educate and advocate for the responsible preservation of clean air, water and habitats; &
Support the development of sustainable renewable energy;
For the benefit of present and future generations.

Utah Chapter’s new Facebook page is the place for the Sierra Club community to come together in Utah. Catch up with your friends and find out about future events. You can check us out at facebook.com/utahsierran, or navigate there from the chapter homepage. Become a fan today.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As our main asks are a clean appropriations bill—one without deleterious riders such as defunding the BLM Wildlands work. In Utah, conservation in our beautiful state is just good business. We also asked for full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Utah has received $93 million from LWCF. This money has supported the Bonneville Shoreline Trail that I often enjoy hiking as well as many other beautiful places in Utah.

We also asked for no new offshore drilling. The United States has only 3% of the world's oil supplies and uses 25% of the world's energy. OPEC decides oil prices. Discovery of individual oil fields doesn't have an impact in gas prices. Seventy to seventy percent of the oil we use is for transportation, making good, convenient public transportation a must.

I met with John Newhall in Congressman Bishop's office. He's a law student at Creighton and from Cache County. Seventy to seventy seven percent of the oil we use is for transportation, making good, convenient public transportation a must.

We had a very interesting meeting with Gary Frazer of USFWS about endangered species. There were good discussions about the wolf. I stopped by two senators' offices, Mark Udall (CO) and Bernie Sanders (VT) to give them thank-you notes for cosponsoring America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. I also took a thank-you note to Rep Dave Cicilline (RI) who recently cosponsored as well. I had met with them earlier this year about ARRA.

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T he contributions of Ann and Jim Wechsler go far beyond my poor ability either to remember all their significant achievements to protect the environment or to describe them as they merit.

Both have been involved in public service, inside government and through non-profit advocacy, for many years. Ann has served with the League of Women Voters, Save Our Canyons and the Sierra Club. Jim has worked, inter alia, with Utah Waters and the Sierra Club.

They've both suffered the paradoxical fate of environmentalists: people who are most effective in working to protect the environment spend painfully long hours in meetings under fluorescent lights rather than outdoors enjoying nature's splendor. In this work, they've contributed dedication, good committee strategy and intelligent comment. This implies, of course, lots of hours under fluorescent lights. I hope they'll reap the reward of more time outdoors in Seattle.

Ann held virtually every volunteer position the club provides for from group chair to conservation chair. She even served for a time without pay as the chapter's full-time office staff person.

If one were to confine oneself to a single campaign that Ann led to a successful conclusion, one might point to her service on the environmental committee of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Olympics. Environmentalists were successful from an early stage making clear that the Cottonwood Canyons were already too taxed to accommodate any Olympic venues. But the original plan was to create a venue for the biathlon in the fragile watershed of Little Dell Creek. The hardened facilities and cleared trails required would have been hard on wildlife and all the other qualities of an already heavily used front-country canyon. Through patient advocacy by Ann and others, the venue was changed to the much more suitable Soldier Hollow location in Wasatch County.

One wouldn't want Jim's contributions to be overshadowed. He worked for many years to help improve water management in the Colorado River. His work was largely behind the scenes. He helped to assemble and bring to light the data and best practices to improve traditional water management. Jim worked for several years with the club's Southwest Waters Committee and chaired the committee for a time too.

The committee helped to promote conservation, river restoration and wetlands protection. The river's knotty conservation issues bring to mind John Muir's adage, “When we try to pick something up by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” Jim helped to focus the committee's efforts on the most important conservation issues along the Colorado even when the issues crossed borders. He and Jennifer Per from Environmental Defense helped to get language incorporated in the 2004 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River recognizing the catastrophic effects of re-activation of the Yuma De-salting Plant on the river's most important remaining wetland, the Chienega de Santa Clara in Mexico.

Jim's service was recognized by Interior Secretary Salazar conferring 2009 Partners in Conservation Award on the club's Southwest Waters Committee and several other groups for their work in conservation on the Colorado and in particular for helping to develop the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

The other quality they've both contributed that must be mentioned even in a tribute as short as this is the excellence of their writing. Gale Dick and I spoke about this a short time ago and Gale said, “No matter how complicated the matter, Ann has always been able to reduce it to a form that's not only comprehensible and succinct but usually sparkling as well.” Having had the pleasure to review many contributions from both Ann and Jim to the Utah Chapter newsletter, I can say that praise should apply to both of them. Ann & Jim moved to Seattle at the beginning of August 2011.

In Appreciation

Ann & Jim Wechsler

by Mark Clemens

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I had the pleasure of meeting with Senator Tim Johnson from South Dakota. My late husband was from SD, and I still visit family there. Senator Johnson has been a champion on protecting the Arctic. He also worked to secure the Dakota Tallgrass Prairie project, home to a large number of birds including neotropical migrants and waterfowl.

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Desert Bighorn sheep were well known to Native Americans who painted their likeness on rocks throughout the desert southwest. Originally Bighorn sheep came to America over the Bering Sea land bridge from Mongolia and Tibet. Ice Age glaciers forced the animals as far south as Mexico and when the glaciers receded, some Bighorn sheep stayed in the desert.

When Father Escalante crossed the Colorado River and entered Utah, he wrote in his journal about the abundance of Desert Bighorns here. He said, "here wild sheep live in such abundance that their tracks are like those of great herds of domestic sheep" (Rawley, 1985).

By 1964 only a remnant herd of about 100 native Desert Bighorns remained in Utah. They had taken refuge in a remote region along the Colorado River in what became Canyonlands National Park. This emphasizes the importance of preserving large core areas for species survival, a critical component of the Sierra Club’s Resilient Habitat campaign.

Desert Bighorn sheep nearly went extinct because of diseases, over-hunting, loss of habitat, and competition with livestock. Exposure to livestock-borne parasites and diseases severely reduced their populations. Pneumonia caused by bacteria like Pasteurella spp and Mycoplasma spp can cause partial or complete die-off of a herd. Conjunctivitis, commonly called pinkeye, can be deadly to wild sheep that depend on their excellent eyesight to see and evade predators as they move swiftly across the cliffs and rugged topography they call home. These diseases are contracted when bighorns come into contact with domestic sheep.

Protected within Canyonlands National Park and with careful management of livestock grazing, Utah’s Desert Bighorn sheep herds grew sufficiently by the 1980s to allow reintroduction to other protected areas like Arches National Monument, Capitol Reef National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the San Rafael Swell. Today, the Desert Bighorn population in Utah is estimated at about 3,000 animals.

Desert Bighorns are adapted to a mostly waterless environment. They live in small groups in rugged, remote country; small pockets of dry desert mountain ranges or foothills near rocky cliffs. Much of what they call home has been degraded, fragmented or lost to a variety of causes including extractive mineral development, such as exploration for oil, gas, uranium and other minerals, and ORV use. These destructive activities have been extensive in Desert Bighorn habitat and reduce the size of the area...
that will support them, fragmenting populations.

Climate change is also affecting Desert Bighorn populations. In California a study by Epps et al. 2004, found that of the 80 groups of Desert Bighorn sheep known over the past century, 30 are now extinct. Desert Bighorns inhabit a harsh environment and it doesn’t take much to significantly reduce their numbers.

Corridors between mountains are necessary to give Desert Bighorns access to other populations. This keeps them genetically healthy and underscores the critical nature of corridors between large habitat patches for species survival. Desert Bighorns will also abandon otherwise good habitat if they are disturbed by such seemingly innocuous activities like mountain biking and river running.

Desert Bighorn sheep are a distinctive subspecies, Ovis Canadensis nelsoni. They are not as stocky as the Rocky Mountain Bighorn and their horns are flatter and more spread out from their heads. A mature ram can weigh 125-200 pounds; ewes are smaller. Their hooves are padded, which allows them to climb nimbly over steep rocky desert terrain.

Desert Bighorns are uniquely adapted to living in the desert southwest, often sustaining their body moisture from food and rainwater collected in temporary rock pools. They can survive long periods without water, but do need to drink about every three days in summer. After drinking water, they quickly recover from their quarts. The winner gets his genes into the next generation.

Desert Bighorn sheep are remarkable and exquisite creatures, specially adapted to the hot, dry conditions of the Utah desert. We nearly lost them once. Now let’s work together to insure their habitat is sufficiently resilient so we can keep these splendid animals alive in their native habitat for future generations to enjoy.

KIM CRUMBO

Kim is currently the Director of Conservation for the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, a regional conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring Wild Nature in the Grand Canyon ecocoreion of northern Arizona and southern Utah. He has remained an active Sierra Club member for over a decade. For two years (1976-77) he served as the Utah Wilderness Coordinator, a staff position for the Sierra Club. Currently, Kim is the volunteer co-leader for the Resident Habitat Greater Grand Canyon Local Delivery Team. In addition, he is a former ExCom member for the Plateau Group, Grand Canyon Chapter.

Kim is an active member of the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project and The Wildlands Network steering committees, and is a Fellow for The Rewilding Institute. He is actively involved in the Mexican wolf recovery effort and serves on the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Team. From 2000 to 2005 Kim worked as the Northern Representative for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and Wilderness Coordinator for the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. He has strived to develop and maintain professional relationships with other conservation groups, legislators and their staff, and agency personnel as well as general public outreach. Kim served 20 plus years with the National Park Service in Grand Canyon as the river ranger and later as the Park’s Wilderness Coordinator. Kim worked as professional river guide in Utah and Grand Canyon for 10 years.

Before his experience on rivers and in wilderness activism, he spent four years with the Navy’s SEAL Team One completing two combat deployments to Vatnam. Kim received a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Utah State University, with postgraduate work in outdoor recreation. In 2009, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club awarded him “Conservationist of the Year” for his efforts to protect Arizona’s wildlife and wild places. In 1999, Kim received the National Park Service’s “Director’s Wilderness Management and Stewardship Award.” In 1999 The Wilderness Society presented him with the “Environmental Heroes Award.” As a result of his military service, Kim earned several combat decorations, including a Bronze Star.

His publications include A River Runner’s Guide to the History of Grand Canyon and the river running chapter in the anthology The Grand Canyon: Intimate Views. He has written numerous papers and published articles including an International Journal of Wilderness discourse entitled "Wilderness Management at Grand Canyon:WAITING FOR GODOT?"

Kim and his wife, Becky, currently reside in Ogden, Utah.

RON FRANKLIN

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1991. I now live in Mountain Green, which is near Ogden on the eastern slope of the Wasatch. I have been in Utah for three years after short periods living in Monterey, CA, and Washington, DC, and before that 16 years in Hawaii. I am a leader in the Sierra Club’s National Outings Program: for the California-Nevada Outings Subcommittee in which I have led groups for five years in the Sierra Nevadas near Lake Tahoe; and the International Outings Subcommittee, for which I will assist next year on an outing to Nepal. My passion is outdoor activities, especially hiking, backpacking, and mountains; mountains such as the Wasatch... Mountains generate an awe for nature and instill an instinctive motivation for preservation. Although new to Utah’s conservation issues, I bring a background on organizational dynamics and efficiencies; and in the principles for broad engagement with stakeholders that will improve ExCom processes and optimize outcomes. I believe these elements can assist in expanding the membership base of the Utah Chapter and its fundraising, both of which are so critical to the ultimate goal of achieving a Utah that would be renowned for its preservation of clean air and water, and the development of sustainable renewable energy.

ROGER R. HOVERMAN

My conservation ethic developed early-on, as a Boy Scout. As a kid, I loved the outdoors—hunting, fishing and camping. Later, during college, I made a conscious decision to work to change extractive resource management priorities to a more balanced, sustainable approach from within the federal land management agencies. Due to recent events in Kanab, UT where I live, I have become enamored with words by John Muir…... "not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress…...

A candidate for Sierra Club, Utah Chapter, Executive Committee, Roger and wife Andrea live in Kanab, UT. Roger is a new life-time member of SC and both are volunteer Water Sentinels. He and Andrea are very involved with the grass roots organization KanabCanes.org, working hard to stop a planned coal gasification pilot plant to be located within Kanab City Limits. He and Andrea love hiking, exploring Utah and the southwest, and visiting the national parks. Roger is also an avid and experienced white water rafter.

CONTINUED >
Your ballot must be received by November 22, 2011. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates.

**Utah Chapter**

ROGER R. HOVERMAN, CONTINUED >

Roger is currently a private consultant and member of an interdisciplinary team working with Black Hills Electric Cooperative on a transmission line project. His main assets are knowledge and experience in wildlife biology, fire suppression, fire behavior, fuel treatment planning and agency process, including NEPA.

With government service spanning 35 years, he most recently served as Assistant Fire Management Officer-Fuels on the North Kaibab Ranger District from November 1998 to February 2006 (7 years), as wildlife biologist from 1990 to 1998 on the North Kaibab R.D., Fredonia, AZ, BLM Range Conservationist From 1981 to 1990 on Burns District, Burns, OR.

Since retiring from the USDA Forest Service, he has worked as a private consultant for Wild Mountain Fire and Forestry in several capacities and continued seasonal firefighting duties until 2011. Roger has conducted a controlled burn for The Nature Conservancy in Michigan and assisted with a controlled burn on TNC-owned Yellow Island in the San Juan Islands, WA.

**Ogden Group**

INCLUDING ALL MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING ZIPS: 84015, 84037, 84040, 84041, 84050, 84056, 84067, 84075, 84089, 84302, 84307, 84309, 84310, 84312, 84315, 84317, 84324, 84334, 84337, 84340, all 844__

**BOB BECKER**

I’m 68 years old, originally from Brooklyn, NY. Been backpacking and day hiking in mountains and desert country all my life, whenever I got the chance. I retired to Ogden a decade ago from Baton Rouge, LA, finally realizing a life-long dream of living in the mountain west. I’ve been active in the Ogden Group, serving this year as Chair, and helping on the political committee, interviewing local candidates candidates, etc. Sierra Club priorities: (a) wilderness and natural area protection and marshaling public support for same (b) improving the urban environment of Ogden, with an emphasis on public transit (c) working to encourage green solutions to Ogden’s (and Utah’s) persistent air pollution problems, which now stretch the year round.

(no photo available)

**LARRY WOOLSEY**

Graduated from Weber State University in 1970 with a degree in history and political science. He retired in 2001 after teaching in the Weber School District for thirty-one years. He also served for thirty years in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Larry enjoys marathon running, hiking and fishing with his wife Chris.

Larry has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1994 and believes strongly in its goals and mission. He currently serves on the ExCom as political action chair and is frequently one of the Ogden Group’s trip leaders. He feels that the citizens of our nation need to be educated about our environment, that our resources need to be better managed, and that there should be more protection and further designation of wilderness areas. We must always be aware of the kind of environment we are going to pass on to future generations.

For its continuing generous support of the Chapter’s programs. The Foundation challenges *you* to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2011.

Your ballot must be received by November 22, 2011. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates.

**Utah Chapter**

KIM CRUMBO  S  J  
RON FRANKLIN  S  J  
ROGER R. HOVERMAN  S  J

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4 INCLUDING WRITE-INS

**Ogden Group**

BOB BECKER  S  J  
LARRY WOOLSEY  S  J  

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3 INCLUDING WRITE-INS

YOUR ZIP CODE:

Thank You!
Chapter ExCom Sets Priorities

The Utah Chapter Executive Committee held a retreat July 9-10 at the Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge in Big Cottonwood Canyon. A wide range of topics essential to the chapter’s future were discussed.

Long-term conservation priorities were established to focus on two major issues. The first was Public Lands Protection as part of the Resilient Habitat Campaign. This includes protecting Greater Canyons, a Wildlife Safe Crossing on US 6 (in its Spanish Fork Canyon/Wasatch Plateau stretch), and National Forest Riparian standards. The chapter has a long history of public land protection, and this was deemed essential for our state.

The second conservation priority focused on where the majority of Utahns live, which is along the Wasatch Front. We decided that air quality would be our umbrella issue in this part of the state and that work to reduce particulates and ozone in the air would benefit the most people. Our various coal battles, water grab issues, etc., like fit well together as a comprehensive air quality package.

On Saturday, Rebecca Wallace and Chris Plummer planned a hike in Big Cottonwood canyon and outings participants as well as other Sierra Club members who were interested joined the ExCom for a potluck dinner at the Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge on Saturday. It was a great opportunity to meet more Sierra Club folks! Thanks to everyone who participated and to Leslie Hugo and Marion Klaus for arranging so many of the logistics to make it happen.

UTAH OFFICE CHANGES

We evolve and resolve with the return of Tim Wagner to the Sierra Club. Starting in August 2011, Tim took on the role of the Sierra Club regional representative for which one of his principal responsibilities will be as the lead Utah staff person working with volunteers and other staff to protect the Greater Grand Canyon-Colorado Plateau Ecosystem.

Most of our readers will recall Tim’s work for the Sierra Club between 2004 and 2008 to fight the Utah coal boom and chart a path to a greener energy future. Among his accomplishments we should cite the following:

* Blocking construction of new coal-fired power plants in Utah and upwind locations in Nevada. Particularly effective was his creative effort to block expansion of a plant near Delta by persuading cities and counties across several states not to sign long-term contract renewals with its developer, Intermountain Power.

* Promoting development of clean, sustainable power generation in the state.

* Representing the Sierra Club on Gov. Huntsman’s Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change, the state’s Mercury Work Group, and serving as the governor’s appointed co-chair on his Renewable Energy Initiative, and

* Organizing a Global Warming Action Rally in Salt Lake City, and an event where people could have the mercury content of their hair tested for free.

Our former Chapter Chair Al Herring observed in 2008 at Tim’s departure, “A measure of the esteem in which Tim was held is reflected in the effort made by Western Clean Energy Campaign and the Chapter Executive Committee to fund the Utah Smart Energy Campaign. What started as a six-month effort continued four years.”

We also say farewell and wish good luck to Marc Heileson who takes up new responsibilities in Seattle as the club’s Senior Field Organizing Manager there.

BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

Alkiko Kamimura has developed an interesting program for the new Sierra Club Book Club. Please check out the schedule below and join us for the next meeting. For more info, contact her at kamimuraa@UMICH.EDU.

2011


February (date TBA), 6:30: Dave Rast: A Life in the Canyons, by Frederick Swanson Discussion leader: Rebecca


June (date TBA), 6:30: Crooked Creek: By Maximilian Werner Discussion leader: Max (author)

8
OnCoal

Tar Sands Update

by Sandy Bassett

The Book Cliffs are so rich in wildlife they're sometimes referred to as Utah's Serengeti. Should this terrain be strip-mined to extract carbon-heavy fuels?

As compared with crude oil, these unconventional fuels are generally more expensive and require greater energy input to recover useable end products. If their end use combustion products are included with the combustion products of their extraction and production, they are thought to emit between 10 to 45 percent more greenhouse gases than conventional crude oil. More on energy consumption issues and the likely environmental impacts of developing Utah's oil shale and oil sand resources in later articles.

The conference included presentation by companies with an interest in developing these resources. Laura Nelson, Vice President, Energy and Environmental Development, Red Leaf Resources presented an update on their development efforts. Red Leaf is developing an oil shale lease that is expected to produce 5,500 barrels of oil per day using an in-situ technology. The process consists of isolating a portion of the ore body with bentonite clay. The isolated ore body is then heated to release its oil that is collected via pipes inserted in the ore body. The process is claimed to be environmentally friendly, in that no water is needed for the process, reclamation of the mine site is concurrent, its use of natural gas for heating the ore body and its recovery of synthetic natural gas released from the ore body during the heating cycle. Two synthetic oil products are claimed, one of medium weight or density and one of light weight. A pilot plant to test the process has been constructed south of Naples, Utah.

The company claims to have proven the retort concept that uses a combination of conduction, convection and reflux to heat the retort. Additional claims made for the process include minimal surface disturbance, isolation of the retort by the nahcolite-rich shale cap to protect ground water located above the retort, since no mining is involved there is no need for reclamation, neither is there any spent shale to be disposed of. They also claim their process to be energy positive – that is more energy is produced than is consumed in the production process. Another presenter was Harri Mikk, chairman, Enefit American Oil. Enefit recently acquired the development rights to 30,000 acres in Utah including 21,000 acres of private land plus the only federal RD&D lease completed under the aegis of the 2005 Energy Policy Act. Enefit is an Estonian company that has been producing oil from oil shale for many years. They use conventional mining, retorting and refining processes to produce oil from the shale. Spent shale is sold as an aggregate for use in various industrial processes. They plan to proceed in the same manner with development of their Utah holdings. D. Glen Snarr, president, Earth Energy Resources discussed the PR Springs tar sands permit they were recently granted. Earth Energy Resources is a Canadian company based in Calgary producing oil from the tar sands of Alberta. The process used in Canada requires hot water to accomplish removal of its bitumen. The tar sands of Utah are quite different in character and require a different extraction process. Earth Energy Resources counts a number of advantages inherent in its process that uses a citrus-based solvent to extract the bitumen. They claim their Oven Process extracts 96% of hydrocarbons leaving clean dump sand for reclamation of the open pit mine. The Alberta operation uses great quantities of hot water to extract bitumen and produces large tailings ponds. While the current project has moved forward within the restrictions of the RD&D provisions of the 2005 Energy Policy Act the company has applied for a large mine permit covering 7,835 acres of Utah tar sands. The company believes 250 million barrels of recoverable oil is present on its land for a mine life of 60 years at 10,000 barrels of oil per day. Excon ran a public relations type advertisement during the week of October 28th extolling the virtues of America's unconventional and secure energy resources. It appears that Big Oil and Gas are reading their arguments for development of these resources.

The next article will focus on the environmental impacts likely from development of these "new" energy resources. This is the second article in a series by Sandy Bassett. The photos are provided courtesy of John Weisheit.
**EXPLORE WITH US! OCTOBER 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012**

| Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. |
| [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities. |
| All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. |
| Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website utah.sierraclub.org and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups. |

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**SLG Sun, 10/16, Baker’s Pass from Mill Creek Canyon.** This outing is a challenging full day hike (6 to 8 hours) to Baker’s Pass, the saddle between Gobblers Knob (9,246 ft) and Mt Raymond (10,241 ft), via the Bowman Fork trail in Mill Creek Canyon. Depending on time, there will be an option to climb Gobblers Knob, which is the highest peak on the ridgeline separating Big Cottonwood Canyon and Mill Creek Canyon. The view from the top is exceptional! We will pass Baker Spring, once the site of an old mining camp. Gobblers Knob is said to have gotten its name from the noise made by a flock of turkeys that were once kept by miners living in the area. Bring: 2 to 3 liters of water, head lamps/flashlights, extra food and warm winter gear: including rain gear, hats and gloves. The hike is somewhat difficult, with an elevation gain of over 3,000 feet. Meeting time will be 8 AM. Call SLG at 801-624-1985 for meeting place and any other information. This trip is weather dependent! 

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**OG Sat, 10/29, Brighton Lakes hike.** This classic alpine hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon takes us to Lakes Mary, Martha and Catherine. It is about 4 miles round trip; duration of the hike is about 4 hours at a relaxed pace. Turquoise lakes in white granite glacial cirques are ringed with willows and wildflowers. The fall colors may be spectacular. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot at the mouth of the canyon. Call hike organizer Sandy McKay at 801/754-4190 or sandylmq@hotmail.com for more information.

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**SLG Sun, 10/30, Sunset, Sentry Peak, Antelope Island.** Sentry Peak has just been opened up in the last couple years, having been closed for 100 years! Round trip 7 miles, hiking time 5 hours, difficulty moderate, elevation gain 1,114 feet. You’ll experience awesome views of the Great Salt Lake, Wasatch Front, and the western side of Antelope Island. The group may stop by the Antelope Island Visitor Center before and/or after hike. Meet at the Utah Office of Tourism, 300 N. State Street (about 1200 ft). 300 N. – across from UT State Capitol (at 900 ft). Participants should pick lunch and be willing to share park entry and gas expenses with carpool drivers (no more than $5 - $10). The leader appreciates your advance call that you plan to attend. Jim Paul, 801/588-9079.

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**NOVEMBER 2011**

**OG Sat, 11/5, Sardine Peak in the Snowbasin area.** Eight miles round trip, 4 hours, moderate. We will hike to the top of Sardine peak using the recently cut trail to obtain outstanding views of Ogden Canyon and Pineview Dam. This trail winds thru groves of evergreens, oaks, aspens and maples. Let’s be among the first to hike this trail. For information, call Larry at 801/732 3701.

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**SLG Sun and Sun, 11/12 to 11/16 Notch Peak Car Camp.** Notch Peak is one of the most magnificent peaks in Utah. Huge mountain walls give a whole new meaning to the word cliff. Participants will car camp on Saturday evening, climb the mountain Sunday, and drive back to Salt Lake Sunday evening. The trail is an old wash bed which cuts through a beautiful canyon containing an abundance of desert plant life including ancient bristle cone pines. We may not go the entire way to the top of Notch, but the hike to the saddle will give you one of the most awesome sights in the Rocky Mountains. Round trip distance is about 4 miles of a moderate but steady ascent. Call Richard Passoth at 801/364-1387, or Ken Evans 801/414-6067 for details. RSVP for this trip by contacting Richard, call the above number or email reppasoth@gmail.com.

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**SLG Tues, 11/8, Moonlight City Creek hike/ BBQ.** Join Ken and fellow revelers for a moon-lit walk up City Creek Canyon. Bring warm clothes, headlamps and boot traction devices in case icy surfaces are present. After a short hike, we plan to share a picnic and BBQ at one of the picnic sites. Bring a beverage and a dish to share. Meet at the City Creek Canyon trailhead gate at 6:30 PM. Call Ken Evans at 801/414-6067 or email kce57@p.com for more details.

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**SLG Sat, 11/12, Rainbow Rim and Redwall Mesa (Lost World Butte).** From the Dubinky Well road west on the Spring Canyon Point road past Tombstone Butte then north to the area between The Needles/Rainbow Rocks and Redwall Mesa. Colorful banded slickrock buttes and cliffs and a profusion of manganese nodules. High clearance recommended. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9 AM.

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**OG Sat, 11/12, Snowbasin Dayhike.** Approximate 6 mile loop. An Autumn ramble along the East Fork and Middle Fork of Wheeler Creek trails. Call John at 801/985-6854 for meeting place and time.

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**SLG Sun, 11/13, Leader’s Choice hike.** Join Patricia for a hike chosen to take advantage of whatever Mother Nature has given us this weekend, snowy or dry trails. Call Patricia Carroll at 801.824.1985 for meeting time and place.
GCG Sat, 11/19, Upheaval Dome. Start from the Syncline Loop trailhead and go down the crater wall. Not for those nervous on steep slickrock slopes. Visit the chaotic jumble in the bottom and exit the crater on the trail through the gap to the junction with the Syncline Loop. About 4 miles and a 1500’ descent to here. The hope from here is to continue down Upheaval Canyon to the White Rim Road (reopened 9/13/11) near the Labyrinth campground; another 3½ miles and 200’ or so down. This requires finding some folks either willing to drive there and pick us up or some folks willing to park there and do the hike all uphill (1700’ at least) with a key exchange. Otherwise return counterclockwise from the junction on the Syncline Loop, 3½ miles and 1500’ climb. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9 AM.

SLG Sun, 11/20 Ghost Falls and Beyond. Experience a foothill hike that makes for a pleasant off season trek. The shaded trail is adorned with orange lichen covered trees. Meet at 9 AM at the UTA Park and Ride lot at 221 West 2100 South for those interested in carpooling or join us at 9:30 at the Coyote Hollow trailhead 14200 South 1850 East. Leader: Aaron Jones 801-467-3552 or ajonesmsp@msn.com.

OG Sat, 11/26, GET OUTDOORS! Stay out of the stores. Join the Ogden Group for a slow paced hike in the Ogden Area. Leader’s choice as weather permits. joanie 801-399-0034.

DECEMBER 2011

GCG Sat, 12/3, Painted Wall. Explore the northwest end of the northeast wall of Salt Valley. It’s just northwest of the northwest tip of Arches. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9 AM.

SLG Sat, 12/3, Leader’s Choice Snowshoe, Big Cottonwood Canyon. We’ll head up to Greens Basin or Willow Lake to find some early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow. Bring boot traction devices (such as Yak Taks) in case it’s really early season snow.

SLG Sun, 12/4, Neffs Canyon Hike. Join Rebecca for a hike up Neffs Canyon, a side canyon on the north side of Mt. Olympus. This wooded canyon close to the city is lovely and wild, and always a pleasant hike. Bring boot traction devices (such as Ice Trekkers/Diamond Grips, for example, available at outdoor stores) which may be required due to possible slippery ice, or snowshoes, depending on the snow level. Expect about a 3 to 4 hour hike, about 4 to 5 miles round trip, moderate difficulty. Meet at 10:00 am at the Skyline High School parking lot at 3251 E. Upland Drive, 3700 South, in SLC. Call Rebecca at 801-557-5261 or email at rebeccawallace38@msn.com for more details.

SLF Fri, 12/9, Millcreek Full Moon hike. Millcreek Canyon is a delight all year round, especially with the silvery light reflecting off the snow and ice. We will hike up the road from the winter closure gate for several miles and then return. Meet at

6:30 at the Skyline High School parking lot at 3251 E. Upland Drive, 3760 S. Bring a snack and beverage to share. Call organizer Robert Jennings at 801-949-3597 or email at Jennings.robert@comcast.net for more details.

GCG Sat, 12/17 Steeltender. Walk the Steeltender jeep trail from Flat Pass to the golf course. Pass along the base of South Mesa and traverse the slickrock between the forks of Mill Creek. About 10 miles easy walking with a few hundred feet of up and down. Car shuttle. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9 AM.

OG Sat, 12/17, Snowshoe to Ogden Overview in the Snowbasin area. Six miles round trip, 3½ hours, moderate. This route is a favorite of the local snow enthusiasts. We will have great views of Sardine Peak, Ogden City, The Great Salt Lake, and Cold Water Canyon. We will also pass an alpine meadow as we make our way towards the maples area. Call Larry at 801/731 3701 for more information.

SLG Sun, 12/18, North Fork of the Uintas Hikes or Snowshoe. Join Ken for an exploration of this classic Uintas trail, accessed from the Mirror Lake Hwy outside of Kamas, UT. Meet at the Moab Information Center at 9:00 am at the Skyline High School parking lot at 3251 E. Upland Drive, 3760 South, in SLC. Call Ken Evans at 801-414-6067 or email at kcg57@cq.com for more details.

GCG Sat, 12/18, Deadman’s Ridge. Get some exercise over the New Year’s week. Follow a B M bike trail for good views of upper Moab Canyon and the Moab Fault. About 4½ miles and a ½ hour in the cars. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center Streets, 9 AM.

OG Sat, 12/19, Snowshoe/ Ski North Fork Park. Well end this year getting by outdoors in a beautiful location. Home to moose, and other wildlife. Well stay out for about three to four hours, enjoying the numerous trails in the area. Dress for the weather, bring water/Refreshments shall be provided. Contact joanie for more details 801/399-0034.

JANUARY 2012

GCG Sat, 1/1/2012, Snowshoe into Wheatgrass Canyon in the South Fork of Weber County. Six miles round trip, 3 hours, moderate. Every January the club snowshoes into one of the most beautiful areas in Northern Utah. It is a narrow canyon with interesting rock formations, high canyon walls, forested slopes and lots of snow. Moose, deer, elk and eagles have been spotted in the area. For information call Larry at 801/731 3701.

FEBRUARY 2012

OG Sat, 2/18/2012, Snowshoe into the Mill Creek Canyon area. This is a must do adventure for those who like winter activities. Five to six miles round trip, 3 to 4 hours, moderate. We will pick a route that offers the most snow and provides the best views of the snowy capped mountains. Perhaps we will see a moose, for they winter in this area. Call Larry at 801/731 3701 for information.

The <strong>Utah Sierra Club</strong> does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/signinwaiver.PDF">http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/signinwaiver.PDF</a>. CST 208/766-40. Registration as a user of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
Volunteer Corner

If you value the Chapter's work, why not get involved and be a part of the action? Our success would not be possible without a strong core of volunteers who are passionate about our great state and its wild places. There are currently several ways to become more active in the Chapter, including:

EVENT ORGANIZERS
In 2014, the Wilderness Act will turn 50 years old. The Sierra Club plans to coordinate a series of events to celebrate the golden jubilee of this wise and forward-looking legislation that has preserved wild areas across the country. The overarching goal of Wilderness 50 is to make the concept and benefits of wilderness better known to the American public. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is recognizing this watershed event in a number of ways. One of those ways is with Fifty Wild Years: A Utah Wilderness Photographic Celebration. This is envisioned as a year-long exhibit featuring fifty images (one for each year of the Wilderness Act) from local photographers highlighting the beautiful and sublime wild lands of Utah. The exhibit will be organized to travel throughout 2014 to various venues – museums to galleries, schools to libraries – in an effort to reach the greatest number of people. Would you like to be a part of this fantastic event? Are you a good organizer? Great managing logistics and details? Like to talk to people? We need volunteers to help with a number of tasks. Contact Jeff at jclay@clayhaus.net or 801/988-0639 and be part of this momentous celebration!

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE
The Utah Legislature makes a wide range of important environmental decisions every year that affects everything from state parks to air quality to wildlife. Too often these decisions are badly informed and badly made.

The Utah Chapter takes positions on legislation and supports an active lobbying program. Join our legislative committee to help make this project work for better air quality, protected landscapes, more public transportation and a greener energy future.

You can help us make a splash during the general session when we organize our Volunteer Lobbyist Day in February, or tracking and making blog posts on bills, and reaching out to chapter members to encourage them to call and e-mail their legislators.

If you're interested in joining the team, e-mail mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or call Mark at 801/467-9297.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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2012 Sierra Club Calendars

Support local conservation and get a head-start on the new year! 2012 Calendars are now available for purchase in the chapter office during business hours. Do drop by, as we are unable to ship. Wall calendars are $10, engagement calendars are $11.

Start a Community Shares/Utah Campaign at your Workplace by Mark Clemens

On the front page of each issue of the Utah Sierran, you’ll find the logo of Community Shares/Utah (CS/U), and you might have wondered what it is.

CS/U is a workplace-giving federation that allows employees to donate any specified amount through payroll deduction to a range of agencies and charities that work to benefit the environment, deliver critical human services, improve the community, protect human rights and promote animal welfare.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club helped to found CS/U in 1989. Check out the full roster of agencies at www.communitysharesutah.org. CS/U helps raise money for the chapter and the other member agencies in most public-sector and several private sector workplaces too.

Fall is usually the season to harvest pledges for workplace giving, and thank you to all of those who already give. If you don’t have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at 801-467-9297 or send me an e-mail at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at 801-486-9224 or lbrandley@xmission.com.

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Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

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