

## NOTES from PAM & GEORGE

We just want to remind everyone of some things we think are important

**To earn** your year-end t-shirt you must put in 24 hours this season

**To get** an annual Adventure Pass you must put in 100 hours this season

**When you put** your name on the schedule up at Vetter Mountain Lookout you need to call or e-mail Bob Gregg 818-249-5052 or [boblg1@earthlink.net](mailto:boblg1@earthlink.net) and let him know, also, also if you are planning on spending the night you also need to let Bob know.

**We have had a policy** of no dogs in the lookout. It has come to our attention that volunteers are bringing up their dogs and letting them on the bed and not cleaning up after them. This is unacceptable.

**We need help** on Slide Mountain Lookout.



## Slide Mountain update

**We are now moving into the lookout.**

Everything is clean and looking good. Bob Moore and George raised the flag Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 13:15 for the first time in 23 years and of course I got the picture. Dick Wagoner and Kermit were happy to see it flying as they came up the trail. We are getting some fly-bys because of the flag; which, for me is very exciting. If any of you have been with me when we have one you know what I mean. What a rush!!!! George has started a trail to the outhouse so we can upright it soon. *I find it hard to relieve myself with the men around.* We are looking at September for a grand reopening. We will be going into service when we get the Osborne up there. We have a lot to look at and are of use. A BIG THANK YOU to Randy Heyn-Lamb for bringing up 5 plus gallons of drinking water.

*Kevin Copley sez never ask a black bear "Who's your Daddy?!"*

	<h1>AUGUST</h1> <h2>2003</h2>
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
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<b>Vetter: Co-Leaders:</b> Pam & George <b>Scheduler:</b> Bob Gregg <a href="mailto:boblg1@earthlink.net">boblg1@earthlink.net</a> or 818-249-5052	
<b>Slide:</b> Chuck McFate <a href="mailto:angelesfirelookout@juno.com">angelesfirelookout@juno.com</a>	
<b>Uniform Coordinator:</b> Kevin Copley. 818-541-9419 or <a href="mailto:grizzly5280@yahoo.com">grizzly5280@yahoo.com</a> .	
<b>Fundraising:</b> Bob Moore.818-353-9123 or <a href="mailto:mmoore4302@aol.com">mmoore4302@aol.com</a>	
<b>Webmaster:</b> Don Kyle. <a href="http://www.anffla.org">www.anffla.org</a> or <a href="mailto:angeleslookout@earthlink.net">angeleslookout@earthlink.net</a> or 702-232-2263.	
<b>Newsletter:</b> Ric Opalka. <a href="mailto:opalka@earthlink.net">opalka@earthlink.net</a> or 909-218-0112.	
<b>VETTER LOOKOUT CALENDAR</b> as of 7/22/03	
Bob Gregg <a href="mailto:boblg1@earthlink.net">boblg1@earthlink.net</a> or 818-249-5052	
<b>August</b> 1-White 9-5 + o/n;3-White 9-5, Coleman 9-5; 4-Lamb o/n; 5-Lamb 9-5; 6-Patrizio 1-5; 7-Opalka 1-5 + o/n;8-Opalka 9-5; 9-Patrizio 9-5 13- Patrizio 1-5; 14-Huber/Couden 9-5; 15-Moores o/n; 16-Moores 9-5 + o/n; 17-John K 9-5; 20-Patrizio1-5; 23-Fleming 9-5 + o/n; 24-Adams/Leighton 9-5; 27-Patrizio 1-5; 28-Huber/Couden 9-5; 31-Mollure/Meyer 9-5 + o/n	
<b>September</b> 12-Moores o/n; 13-Moores 9-5 + o/n; 20-Patrizio 9-5, Adams/Leighton o/n 21-Adams/Leighton 9-5	
<b>JUNE WEATHER</b>	
Vetter:Hi 86, lo 44 peak wind -21 mph	
Chilao: Hi 90, lo 43 peak wind -33 mph	
<b>SUPERSESSION</b> <i>Thank You Kevin Copley for a wonderful July super session. Job well done. Thanks to Jean also. We are sure she had something to do with it.</i> August's (Thursday,Aug 15)supersession subject is a mystery which will be unveiled at a later date. As always, however, we will eat really good.. Remember to bring your scrumptious food to the SO at 6:30pm.	
<b>Website Posting 07/20/03 By: Chris Fabbro, Patrol 16</b>	
<b>Subject: HT / Radio Use</b> Hello, a friendly reminder from Patrol 16 that when you are on duty to please monitor your radio. There has been some problem with this recently when Dispatch or someone in the field (like me) has attempted to contact Vetter. Thanks for listening...	

**Keep up to date: [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)**

**WHAT'S FOR DINNER???** Requests have come in for a Recipe section. It seems a lot of volunteers want to know how to make several of the dishes in our potlucks. So all you cooks out there please share with us. (*Among the many we have requests for: George Moreno's peach dish; anything by Ruth Eller; that meatball dish that Suellen Hussung brought to the auction potluck; Carol Rasco's to die for dish at the last potluck.*) Ric will make a recipe section in our newsletter if you start sending in those dishes via email to [opalka@earthlink.net](mailto:opalka@earthlink.net).. So get those recipes in and maybe we will be able to start our own ANFFLA cookbook. I will start with a favorite of George's.



Sweet Potato Casserole Topping  
3 cups mashed sweet potatoes (cooked)  
1-cup brown sugar  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup pecans, chopped  
½ teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup flour  
½ stick margarine (soft)  
½ cup milk  
1-teaspoon vanilla  
2 eggs  
Mix all ingredients together and pour into buttered baking dish. Sprinkle top with mixture of brown sugar, pecans, flour and margarine. Bake in 350 degree oven for 35 minutes. May be frozen after baking and reheated.



## REMEMBER???



Stay current: [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)

## Be in the Know about H2O. *Gail Wright (by permission)*

**Water makes up 2/3** of the planet and 2/3 of our bodies. We see water in many forms, but sometimes we hardly notice it. We pass by concrete-lined canals or wide sandy channels. We pass by rocky, tree-lined creeks and by streams hidden among giant reeds. We splash in calm pools and shiver in pounding rain storms. We drink, we bathe, we wash our clothes - but do we think about where the water comes from?

**The Los Angeles, San Gabriel and Santa Clara rivers** provide 35% of our drinking water. They begin as tiny springs bubbling up through the rocky ground deep within the Angeles National Forest. Fed by many springs and streams, they grow and grow until they reach the cities below. These rivers will never reach the size of the mighty Mississippi, but their importance is no less. Their watershed and the water it provides us is more sustainable and much less expensive than importing water from other parts of the state.



*Los Angeles River's  
Sepulveda Basin*

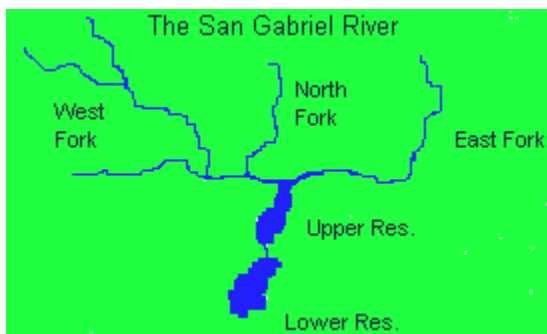
**Naturally**, the water that bubbles up in mountain springs is tinged with minerals, but otherwise pure. Then why does this water have to be treated so extensively before it reaches our faucets? Between the mountains and the faucets, the rivers flow through industrial areas, farms and ranches. Contaminants from these sources, along with water from storm drains and runoff from city streets, contribute to water pollution. Even up in the Forest the water is not truly pure. Trash left behind by visitors and debris from wildfires that roar through these mountains are the biggest problems in keeping water clean. Trash has become so common along the San Gabriel River that the Forest Service is under state orders to clean it up. Every year, more than 150 tons of trash is taken out of that area alone.

**Wildfire** increases the already rapid erosion rate. The San Gabriel Mountains are some of the fastest growing mountains in the world and they are also some of the fastest eroding mountains in the world. When a wildfire occurs in the forest, the vegetation that keeps soil firmly rooted to the earth is stripped away. When it rains, riverbeds fill with swirling sediment and ash that turns the water a muddy brown color. This is not what we would like to see happening to our land or coming from our faucets.

**Sediment-filled water** isn't the best drinking water for wildlife either, nor does it provide healthy habitat for fish.



*Santa Clara River*



### So what can you do to help?

**Think** before you throw trash down. It may end up in your drinking water.

**Think** before you drive through a stream. Oils, antifreeze and gunk that washes off your vehicle may flow downstream into your drinking water.

**Think** before you wash your hands with soap near that stream. Those bubbles may be on their way to your tap.

**Think** before you leave a campfire smoldering. The wildfire it may cause destroys more than trees.

**The next time** you take a glass of water from your faucet,

**think** of its journey from the beautiful mountains, through meadows and farms, into your community.

**Think** of how many people cooperated and worked together to keep it clean and safe along the way.

**Most importantly,**

**think** about what you can do to protect your rivers and streams.

# THINK

## **THE DAY OF THE SNAKE** *Woody McCauley*

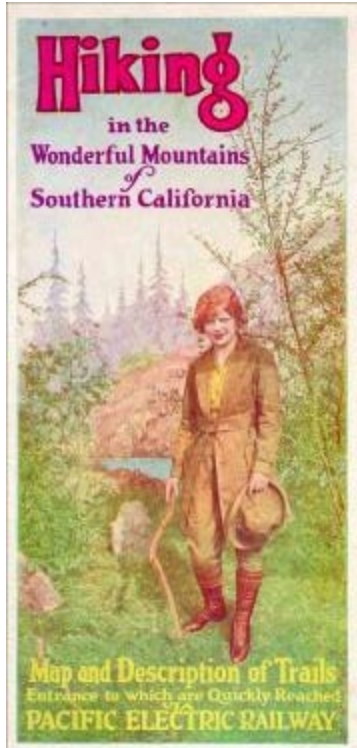
It was a beautiful Friday afternoon and my partner, Jim McGowan and I had just said goodbye to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> visitors for the day (Not bad for midweek).

Our departing couple had walked about 100 feet down the road from the weather station and Jim and I had resumed our duties in the tower. Suddenly we heard the man let out a loud “YOWEEEE!” & “WHOAAAA!” and a few other words!



We rushed to the railing to see a 2-foot long diamondback rattlesnake slithering across the road in the shade. It seems that our visitors had been walking in the bright sunlight. When they entered the shade, it took awhile for their eyes to adjust and the perfectly camouflaged snake was nearly stepped on.

Fortunately the snake gave a warning rattle and it became just a close encounter rather than a major incident.



I walked down the road and talked with the visitors trying to calm them. I also managed to get a couple of pictures of the shy snake. Please note that I made maximum use of the telephoto-zoom feature on my new digital camera that kept me at a very safe distance while provide close up photos.

The episode just reminds us that we are in the outdoors and that harmful critters may be anywhere on the mountain at any time. Anyplace that you can't see clearly should not a place to put you hands or feet.

Fire lookouts and visitors alike should always be on the watch for snakes. Easy places to overlook are when descending the stairs both from the tower to the parking area and also from the parking area to the outhouse. A snake could easily be resting on one of the steps and not be seen until he strikes you in the back of the ankle (OUCH). They frequently seek the shade on hot days and that makes them even harder to see.

Please look at each stair before stepping on it and encourage your visitors to do so also. It could make you next trip to the mountains a lot more fun.

*all pictures on this page, except one, by Woody McCauley*

Additional adventures: [www.anffla.org](http://www.anffla.org)

## **A Few of Woody's Other Vetter Visitors**

