



NEWS RELEASE

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DAVID BYBEE WINS SIERRA CLUB OLIVER KEHRLEIN AWARD

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – David Bybee of Vancouver, Wash., has won the Sierra Club’s 2009 Oliver Kehrlein Award. The award honors service to the Sierra Club Outings program over an extended period of time.

Bybee has been involved with Sierra Club outings at the section, group and chapter level for more than 35 years. His involvement with the club’s outings program began with his participation in a day hike sponsored by the UCLA Section of the Angeles Chapter in 1974. During his time in the Angeles Chapter he not only trained new outings leaders and led more than 2,000 miles of High Sierra backpack outings, but also taught new classes and introduced many innovative programs and events for the membership.

Bybee credits his Angeles Club mentors, Alan Coles and Bob Marshall, with turning an “apprehensive introvert” into a proficient outings leader who leads with compassion, expertise and kindness. One of his passions remains helping others discover and preserve hot springs throughout the West. In 1990, he co-authored *Hot Springs and Hot Pools of the U.S.* with Jayson Loam. Among his Angeles Chapter leadership positions and awards, Bybee was appointed “Keeper of the Angeles Hot Spring List” – a title he continues to hold 23 years later.

In 1999, Bybee moved to Portland, Ore., and in 2002 was elected to the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club’s Columbia Group, where he served as secretary. He also has been active in community efforts to preserve trails and hot springs access in the Mt. Hood National Forest. This year Bybee will lead the 27th annual “Hot Springs in the Shadow of the Range of Light” outing in conjunction with both the Columbia Group and Wilderness Adventures Section of the Angeles Chapter.

Bybee has been the Columbia Group’s liaison with the Adopt-A-Park program sponsored by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department since 2004. This is a trail maintenance partnership for the very popular Latourell Falls Trail in the Columbia River Gorge.

Within the Columbia Group and the Cascade Chapter, Bybee is the “go to” person for Club history, knowledge and outings lore. Karen Benton, outings chair for the Columbia Group, said she has tapped his expertise to mentor new leaders.

“To Dave, outings are a spiritual experience and helping people evolve into better people in a kinder, greener world through outdoors experiences is only a small part of his wisdom,” Benton said.

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