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DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL NATURAL AREA

December 5, 2012

Leader: Sally Spotts

(One of those, ahem, longer drives. Would we were ravens.)

General location: north side of the San Gabriels.

South Bay and Valley: take Highway 14 to Pearblossom Highway/138 then to N6.

Orange County: perhaps take the 15 to Pearblossom Highway/138 then to N6.

At the town of Pearblossom, turn on to LONGVIEW/N6.

Orientation: for those coming from Highway 14 look for Longview/N6 on the far side of the town, and turn right.

Turn onto Longview/N6 (and stay on N6 even if name changes) and drive south for 8 miles to the Punchbowl entrance and parking. The trail begins behind the park nature center.

THE HIKE

6-7 miles, 800 to 1200 feet? , to the Devils Chair and return the same way. Plus to add on, an easy one-mile loop from the visitor center into the depths of the Punchbowl, switchbacks gradually down, spending time with some of the taller rock slabs.

Longing for long? Continue another 3 miles past the Devil's Chair to South Fork Campground. Return the same way.

We think the trail to the Devils Chair will be well marked.

...Visual proof you are in earthquake country, where faulting and erosion have made bizarre shapes out of ancient sedimentary rocks...vertical walls as high as 300 feet....a giant abyss that is the working of the San Andreas Fault and result of centuries of stream carving.