

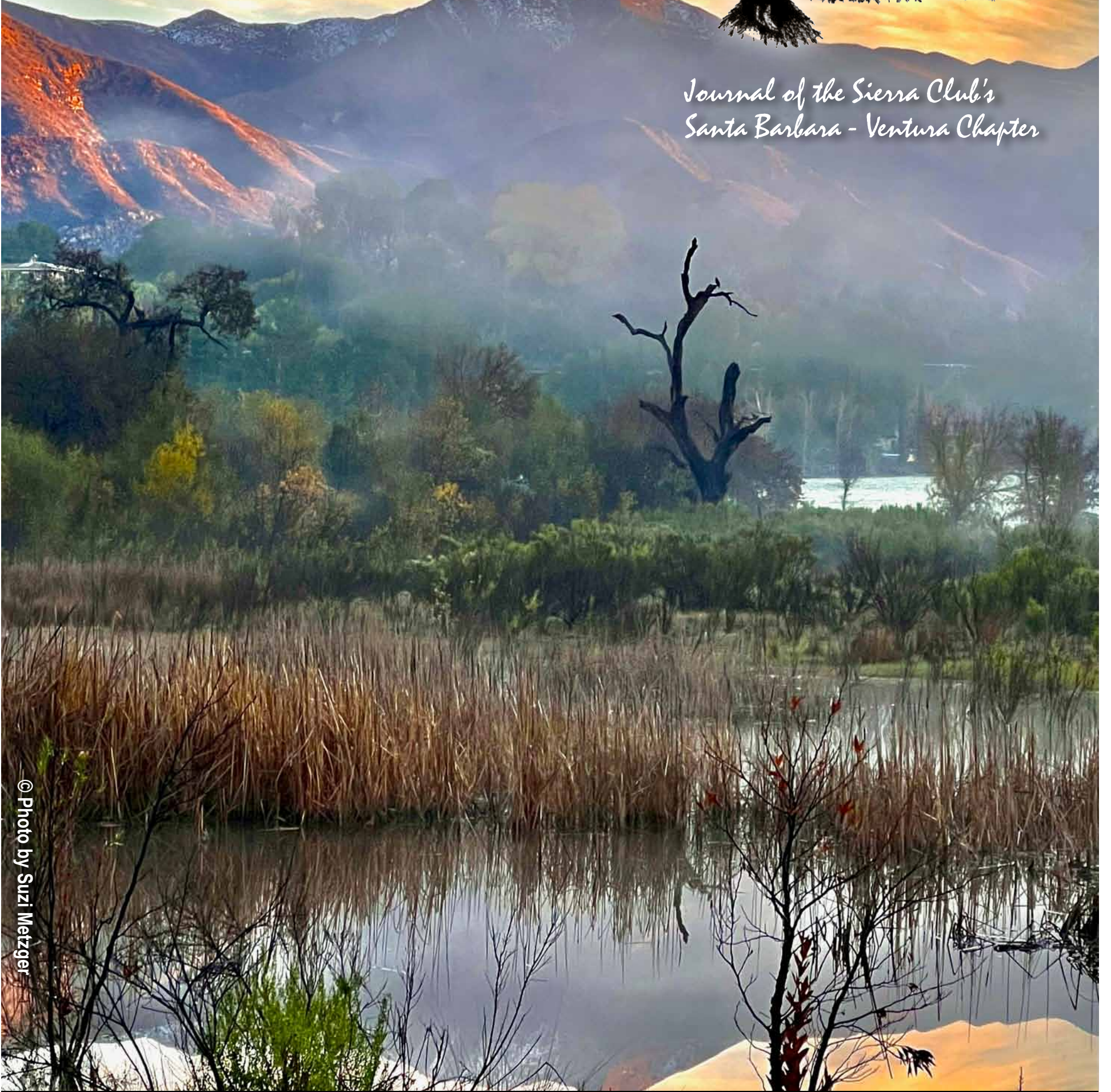
Vol. 22, No. 4 of 6

August - September 2022

Condor Call



*Journal of the Sierra Club's
Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter*



© Photo by Suzi Metzger

Renewables ... Uh Oh Oil ... Plastics too ... Wild Films ... Night hike

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Jon Ullman and Kent Bullard are shown protecting the future via the Sierra Club. Jon is our chapter's ED and Kent our EV transportation chair who organized the event. The booth was packed all day with many questions about the Sierra Club. But wait, there's more. See EV events story pg 7 (Photo by John Hankins)

Our booth was packed

On the Fourth of July, the Ventura Sierra Club joined the city's celebration downtown with our booth and an Electric Vehicle show that was estimated to draw 10,000 people because of the traditional parade and the events and booths on the side streets.

"This event was excellent, and the Sierra Club booth was seen by many of those folks, into the thousands. Not bad for a no cost event," noted Kent Bullard who arranged our booth and an EV show.

The city's recreation coordinator, Allyson DesBaillets, said "I am so glad your team had a good day. I came by a couple times

to try to check in, but your booth was always packed!"

"The bottom line is that the event served well to educate participants about EV options, to answer their questions and hopefully help them make educated decisions," Bullard said. Besides Bullard and his wife Cathy, Jon Ullman and Condor John staffed the booth fielding questions and handing out *Condor Calls* and other information about the chapter.

There was a half-dozen EV models right up to the latest 2022 options. Across and down the street were classic cars all decked out by the proud owners, many of whom came over to inquire about EVs!

Huge forest project aims to reduce fire

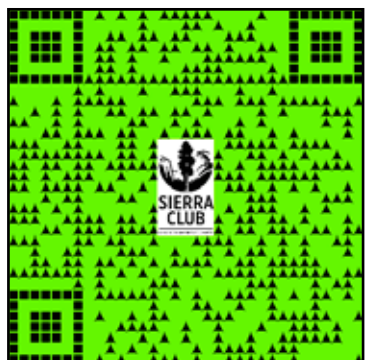
Forest officials encouraged interested members of the public to comment on the scope of the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) Ecological Restoration Project, which is being proposed on four of the five LPNF Ranger Districts.

The purpose of this project is to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce fuels, and reintroduce fire on the landscape by prescribed burning on approximately 235,495 acres of land administered by the LPNF within Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

But for such a big project, the LPNF is allowing very little time, with a deadline for comments due Aug. 28. For readers of the *Condor Call*, you likely won't get to hear about two virtual public meetings slated for Aug. 8 and 10, but we will post those dates on the internet. But you can register for an Aug. 16 webinar by Los Padres ForestWatch on its website:

www.LPFW.org

According to ForestWatch, the announcement—signed by new



If you have a printed *Condor Call* in your hand, you can tap into this QR code to get a full color version that has hot links! Try it.

Los Padres Forest Supervisor Chris Stubbs—including a letter and a short description of the new proposal, dubbed the "Ecological Restoration Project," that was crafted behind closed doors in recent months.

The project is likely the largest to ever be proposed for the Los Padres National Forest as it includes 48,000 acres of logging and other vegetation removal across several areas designated as "forest health treatment units" in addition to 186,000 acres of tree and shrub removal along roads, trails, and in many remote parts of the national forest.

If approved, the project would allow the same activities the agency is planning on Pine Mountain—activities that were opposed by over 16,000 people, including tribal groups, elected officials, organizations, and businesses across the region—at an enormous scale.

"What the Forest Service is proposing here is truly massive and dangerous," said ForestWatch director of conservation and research Bryant Baker. "It would facilitate the construction of dozens of ecologically damaging remote fuel breaks that have been shown time and again to fail under the extreme weather conditions that fuel the largest fires in our region."

To comment online with a link to the project details, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ForestPortal>

The main page for the project is at:

www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62369

If you agree with ForestWatch, easily submit a comment via: www.LPFW.org/ERP



Renewable energy is here, now

By Katie Davis
Goal Tending

Back in 2017 when I was meeting with each of the Santa Barbara and Goleta City Council Members as part of Sierra Club's "Clean Energy for All" campaign and urging them to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030, I got some push back. Would such an ambitious target be achievable? Would it be affordable? How would we do it?

Nevertheless, those cities did pass 100% renewable energy goals. Fast forward to 2022 and the path is clear.

All of Santa Barbara County and its cities are now part of programs that enable them to procure renewable energy for our region. Because cities like Goleta had set goals of 100% renewable energy when they joined Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE), the entire utility has adopted that goal. That means our electric utility is buying renewable energy for all five counties it serves from here to Monterey.

Examples of renewable energy projects enabled and procured by CCCE include the first geothermal plant to be built in California in the last 30 years. The Casa Diablo IV project started commercial operation on July 14 and provides 30 MW of electricity, enough to power 22,000 homes and offset 160,000 tons of CO2 annually. As a geothermal plant, it provides the benefit of baseload production, meaning it can produce energy in all hours of the day.

The following week on July 21 was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Mountain View Wind Project which was completed six months ahead of schedule and will provide enough wind-generated electricity to power 40,000 homes.

The week after those projects, on July 28, the City of Goleta had a ribbon-cutting for their very own solar project. The Monarch 1 project at Goleta City Hall will generate enough solar power on site to meet nearly 100% of City Hall's energy needs. It is wired

to be micro-grid ready so battery storage could be added and pre-wired for six electric vehicle charging stations to be added later. It also provides a shade structure in the parking lot; a strategy also being implemented at numerous school districts where solar arrays are also being installed in parking lots this summer.

In addition to investing in new renewable energy projects, CCCE offers incentives for switching to electric. The recently launched, "Electrify Your Home Program" is the first local program of its kind to target existing buildings and provides contractors with cash incentives for switching gas-powered water heaters and HVAC equipment to all-electric versions. The program is integrated with TECH Clean California, a statewide initiative to transition buildings and households away from fossil fuels to help meet the state's goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2045.

Contractors enrolled in the TECH program will be able to apply for rebates via one application and receive one check – generating savings that can be passed on to consumers.

The biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions on the Central Coast are transportation and buildings, which rely on natural gas (methane) to power water and space heaters, stovetops, and more. By working to procure 100% renewable electricity and by helping to electrify those sectors, we can reduce both greenhouse gas emissions, and the air pollution that causes roughly 9000 premature deaths in California annually.

COVER PHOTO

Suzi Metzger created this photo entitled "Ojai Morning" and it sure evokes that area's beauty and peace. In the distance you can see Chief Peak. After seeing the photo posted and loving it, Condor John had to track her down.

CCCE committed \$2.8 million in rebates for electric vehicles and chargers and \$1.6 million for building electrification this year.

Learn more about building electrification at: www.switchison.org

Leases in Pieces

WE WON! Declared the Sierra Club's coalition leader Jenny Binstock, adding "Our coalition's legal team has just agreed on a settlement with the Bureau of Land Management and Department of Justice" to suspend all new oil and gas leasing across more than 1 million acres of public lands in California's Central Valley and Central Coast.

"This important step forward would not have been possible without all of your tireless efforts and turning out tens of thousands of Californians to resist the former Trump administration's plans to open up CA public lands to more oil and gas extraction. This is a pause in any new oil and gas leasing, but it must be followed up by a ban on fossil fuel extraction on public lands."

Attention turns now to the Biden administration which has continued to open federal public land for drilling despite campaign pledges not to do so.

EAVESDROPS

"We are not doing enough. And [the Central Coast], of all places, can serve as an example. As Robert Frost wrote of a star shining in a smog-free night sky, 'It asks of us a certain height.' So does living here – the sheer natural beauty of our home and the legacy of its importance in the environmental movement."

~ Scott Wilson, Washington Post Pulitzer Prize journalist, the keynote speaker to SB Community Environmental Council's *Metamorphosis* fundraiser this year. Learn more here:

www.cecsb.org



Ventura's Lake Casitas' level is only at 32% capacity, and still in Stage 3 drought conditions since 2016. As for Santa Barbara's Lake Cachuma reservoir, the drought has it down, but it has State Project water feeding into it. (Photo contributed)

Oil platforms leaving, but oil bubblers aren't

By Jim Taylor

Exxon Sues

After the SB Board of Supervisors ruled Exxon can't transport oil by trucks, it has sued, claiming that the decision was based not on the facts of the case, but rather a prejudice against oil production in general.

Offshore Update

Our Rep. Salud Carbajal applauded the Biden-Harris Administration's announcement that it does not intend to sell new leases for offshore drilling off the California coast for the next five years, a priority he has pursued since his first days in Congress.

Most of California's offshore oil platforms are in the Santa Barbara Channel, and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report is being drafted currently that addresses the de-commissioning of all of them. Many are no longer operational due to bankruptcy. Some were shut off when the Refugio pipeline spill occurred in 2015. Others are underperforming their lease requirements.

Over the next decade, most of these platforms will be taken down, in some cases leaving underwater frameworks of steel that have become artificial reefs, teeming with

EAVESDROPS

"We didn't know what we were doing, actually."

~ Petaluma Council member D'Lynda Fischer, who led the charge last year to prohibit new gas stations in the city of 60,000, the first city to do so. It started a movement in green energy policy, wrote the LA Times, adding that "gas stations are a dying business . . . that may take years and millions of dollars to clean up."

marine life.

Carpinteria Bubblers

State Lands will use a magnetometer to determine whether there is a pipe near the oil bubblers, and if so excavate to find the casing, and work with CalGEM to remediate. There are at least two other known bubblers in the surf zone nearby.

Senate Bill 47, (Monique Limon, Steve Bennett) signed into law last September, increases annual funding for oil well cleanups from \$1 to \$5 million per year. Hopefully, we will see some of that money spent along our coast.

However, the more that this problem is investigated, the worse the situation appears. Oil companies have left a trail of devastation wherever they have operated, and the number of poorly abandoned, dangerous old oil wells in the US is currently thought to be about 40,000.

Rincon Island

I walked the causeway that stretches 3,000 feet to an artificial island that until recently was a disaster in the making.

The State Lands Commission has made good progress here, capping 75 oil wells and removing tons of rusted equipment that was allowed to disintegrate after its owners, The (Greka) Limited Partnership, went out of business, sticking the taxpayers with most of the costs of cleaning it up. Under consideration is re-purposing the island or removing it as well as the causeway.

Public comment has been taken, and a full feasibility study and EIR will be coming soon. Brown Pelicans seem to like it just the way it is.

Chevron / Venoco Cleanup

The Carpinteria Plant (including the Casitas Pier) is one of the five oil and gas facilities that Chevron is currently decommissioning in Santa



While the oil platforms may be coming out, the bubbler's aren't in the Carpinteria area, notably near the Seal refuge. It can be a natural seep or more likely from old oil operations. State Lands is trying to figure it out. (Photo by Jim Taylor)

Barbara County. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required for the project, and Chevron plans to submit the complete application soon.

The lengthy permitting process is expected to be complete in 2023 at which point the company will begin

the 2-3 years of work necessary to decommission the facilities and remediate the property. All the oil and gas processing equipment will be removed, and the soil will be cleaned to residential standards, the highest level of clean-up available.

The City of Carpinteria is the

lead agency for decommissioning. A re-zoning of the 55-acre bluffs property is also underway as part of the City's General Plan. Future zoning designation of the Chevron property will be determined over the course of several public hearings in the coming years.

Whoa to faster oil permits

Environmental groups expressed alarm at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's approval of a plan that will expedite the permitting process for oil and gas activities that may harm three endangered and threatened species in Santa Barbara County.

The plan encompasses a broad range of activities, from exploration to drilling and production, storage, transportation, and decommissioning, but it will allow oil companies to kill or injure the endangered California tiger salamander and Lompoc yerba santa and the threatened California red-legged frog, according to the Santa Barbara Environmental Defense Center.

Although titled a "General Conservation Plan," it's a holdover from the Trump Administration designed to expedite oil and gas drilling in Santa Barbara County, at the expense of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants, the sensitive coastline, and the health of our communities.

"This is a major disappointment. We expect the Federal Government to protect people and wildlife from oil and gas, not enable it," said Jonathan Ullman, director of the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club. "This is the 11th hour for climate change, but they aren't looking at the clock."

"This plan will encourage an increase in oil and gas development which also threatens our communities' air quality and water supplies, all at a time when we need to be transitioning away from dirty fossil fuels," said Rachel Kondor, staff attorney for the EDC that represents its own members as well as the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club and Santa Barbara County Action Network.

The General Conservation Plan was originally proposed in 2017. The Plan covers more than 674,000 acres and replaces the normal requirement that oil

companies seek individual permits before harming protected species or disturbing their habitats.

This proposal was developed after the County of Santa Barbara denied an oil drilling project in 2016, in part due to the potential impacts to the California tiger salamander and Lompoc yerba santa. Subsequent applications to the County for 700 new wells in the Cat Canyon oil field would similarly impact these and other species, including the California red-legged frog. Some of these animals, such as the Santa Barbara County population of the California tiger salamander, are near extinction and live nowhere else on the planet.

"Ironically, the Service contends that the Plan will fulfill

a need for better conservation of these species, when in fact it may pave the way for their destruction," noted Kondor. EDC and its clients submitted extensive comments and expert reports explaining the devastating impact this Plan will have on imperiled wildlife. In addition, we noted that the Plan does not ensure that such impacts will be avoided or mitigated.

The Plan was also opposed by Representative Salud Carbajal and Senators Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla, who asked the Service to withdraw the proposed General Conservation Plan because the Plan fails to adequately consider all the impacts of oil and gas development, including impacts to air and water quality and endangered species.

Over 2,000 idle oil wells plague Ventura

Since the defeat of Measure A during the June ballot measure in favor of the oil companies, a large coalition of 17 groups, including the Sierra Club, is recommending new zoning amendments to hold the oil industry accountable and "ensure our environment is not plagued by legacy fossil fuel infrastructure."

What that means is there are 2,267 idle oil/gas wells in the county, 1,520 considered "long-term idle wells" (8 years or longer), and 1,275 of those more than 15 years, while 155 have been idle for a century or more!

According to a letter signed by all the groups to the county Planning Commission, the "idle well problem" is likely to soon become an "orphan well problem" in Ventura County. "Orphan wells have no financially solvent operator of record, therefore pushing the cleanup to the state and costs to the taxpayer. Since the staff report was written, CalGEM has distributed a list of potentially deserted and orphaned wells throughout the state and about 312 with in Ventura County. Impacts include water

contamination and air pollution, notable methane, a climate-damaging greenhouse gas.

Recommendations to the planners include:

~ Limit permit expiration to 10 years,

~ Limit the number of wells and redrills on a permit and if a new well is don, an idle well must be abandoned, one for one,

~ Increase renewal application deadline to 24 month prior to expiration,

~ Increase the \$5 million maximum caps on proposed sureties to reflect more accurately

the resources needed to properly abandon all wells,

~ Develop a priority for closure of idle wells.

To accomplish these goals, "we will especially need to fight some misinformation from the oil and gas industry. They frequently brought up Measures A and B to paint Ventura County voters as wholly accepting of the industry's current practices and the County's regulations in general," cautioned Bryant Baker of ForestWatch.

Condor Call

SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:

Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members

Non-members, \$15 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins

Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Sometimes it's all in the timing

By Jonathan Ullman

Director, SB-Ventura Chapter

Lessons from the Webb Telescope, the Inflation Reduction Act and a visiting Swedish Nobel Prize winner: Never skip a meeting.

There has been great discussion as I write this about the Inflation Reduction Act and the 40% reduction in greenhouse gases promised. If true, it would be a solid down payment towards continued life on Earth, but we know humans have a mixed record on predicting future events. This legislative product to fix the world comes with no warranty.

The Schumer-Manchin meeting made news just a couple weeks after NASA's Webb telescope produced crisp photos of the universe a quarter of a billion years ago. It was exciting to see the photos, but it couldn't tell us what it looked like now. Those two events made me think about humans' limited perception of time, getting the math right on past and present events, and the difficulty of future predictions.

Could powerful people meeting with the right set of facts and predictions change the future?

We've all seen the photo of John Muir camping with President Teddy Roosevelt in 1903. It seems like that meeting sped the pace of environmental conservation. Documents show Muir squeezed in the President's request to camp at Yosemite before embarking on a year-long global tour.

But when Muir came home to Martinez CA in 1904, there could have been another meeting of great importance to the future. That summer, Muir was only 25 miles from where Nobel Prize-winner Svante Arrhenius, one of the world's most well-renowned physicists, was a visiting lecturer at the University of California's "Summer School" in Berkeley. Arrhenius was invited to California, primarily to talk about his theories on antibodies that could save humanity from terrible diseases, but there was something else he had been working on the last few years: manmade CO₂'s impact on the earth's climate.

Using mathematical equations, he determined that the earth should have been cooler than it was, and human burning of coal was why it wasn't. He didn't think there would be another ice age because of coal burning and that this extra warmth would provide more food for humans, but he predicted that if left unabated, human-caused

Carbon Acid (now called CO₂) could lead to human extinction in 10,000 years.

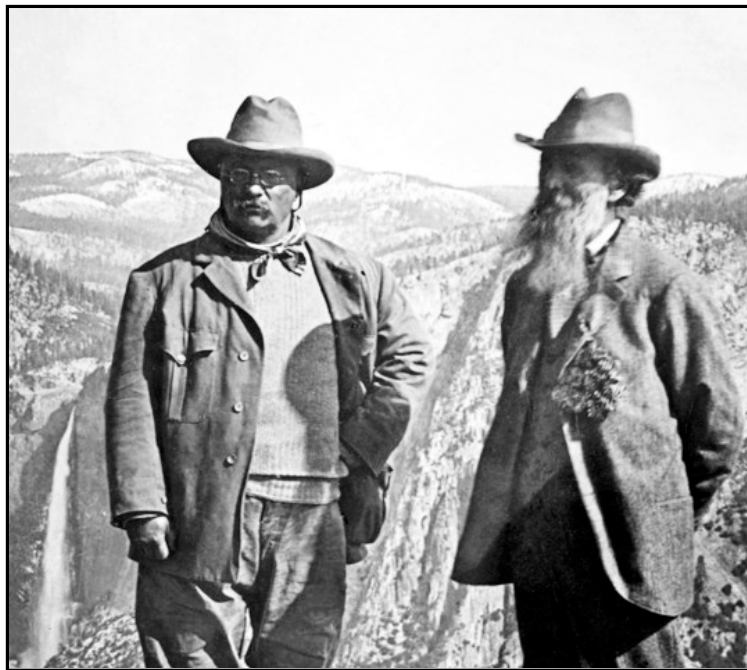
He couldn't foresee how high greenhouse gases would surge. He didn't know that the surge would unleash trapped carbon uncovered by the result of rapid melting of glaciers and sea ice and that would also affect ocean currents and atmospheric jet streams which would then melt more ice in feedback loops. Nevertheless, by the turn of the 20th century he had developed the math that showed anthropomorphic change was real. His only error was in predicting how soon it would become a problem.

Did John Muir know about climate change? Arrhenius' climate findings were already in newspapers across the US in 1902, so he must have been aware. Did either seek a meeting with the other the summer of '04? Did one take place? Both made front page headlines in the San Francisco and Los Angeles area newspapers that summer. They most certainly knew of each other and were aware of their proximity, but there are no digitized newspaper clippings or archival info to suggest a meeting took place. Muir could have travelled to Berkeley, and Arrhenius told the press he wanted to see Yosemite that summer, the park Muir was working hard to protect.

Just as Apple TV's "For All Mankind" series presents an alternative timeline for the US Space program as the Russians land on the moon first, leading to a hyper-space race that will drastically alter the next 50 years, I can imagine a timeline where Arrhenius and Muir meet directly and discuss climate change in 1904. Muir forecasting the true speed and trajectory of human industrialization decides that while Arrhenius is right on the science, he's wrong on the timeline.

Instead of focusing on saving Hetch Hetchy, which San Francisco will take in both timelines, Muir starts writing about climate change in his last 10 years on earth in spiritual terms, reaching much wider audiences and spurring massive government-funded research by President Teddy Roosevelt. Muir directs the Sierra Club before his death to focus on an invisible, all-consuming threat while there is still time.

Teddy Roosevelt Republicans become known as Climate Republicans and by 2000 when Al Gore wins the presidency by 215 votes, he has a bipartisan majority



In 1903, John Muir went camping with President Teddy Roosevelt at Yosemite followed by a one-year global trip. The world's most famous environmentalist could easily have met with the world's most famous physicist that summer. The 1902 news clip (below) wasn't just in the Selma newspaper, but widely known.

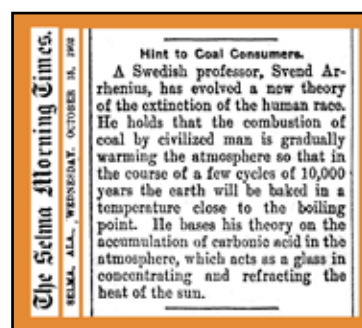
in Congress and in the states ready to implement the last phase of the Green New Deal started under FDR.

The movies "Inconvenient Truth" and "Don't Look Up" were never even contemplated. Manchin became neither coal baron nor senator because coal burning was phased out before he was born. And instead of the famous 1903 photo of Roosevelt and Muir at Yosemite, there is an even more famous statue of Muir, Arrhenius and Roosevelt on the Mall in Washington at the signing of the 1908 Carbonic Acid World Protection Act.

If only a certain meeting had happened then, we wouldn't be so anxious waiting for miracle legislation at the 11th hour as scientists are pressing the UN to examine a wider range of scenarios. "Climate change: More studies needed on possibility of human extinction" (BBC, Aug. 1, 2022).

But according to NASA -- which is a clearinghouse on Arrhenius, and the universe, and time travel -- humans can't go back in time and change the future. But thinking about the past and what could have been, where we got it wrong and how and not making the same mistake, is itself a form of time travel.

We know the Manchin-Schumer meeting may not be the best-timed meeting to deal with climate change. Success or not, it's still a Cat in the Hat. But it's what we've got, so we might as well roll with it.



EAVESDROPS

"Rooftop solar panels reduce the amount of power the grid needs to deliver, making the system more efficient . . . also reduces the need for new powerplant and long-distance power lines, which have ignited large wildfires."

~ NY Times article about the effort by utilities to cut solar panel incentives.

Most meetings continue online for now

Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, via internet for now.

Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

~ Chapter website and blog at:

www.SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. For details and to follow the South Coast area, contact:

<http://www.sbsierraclub.org>

<https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraclub>

<https://TWITTER.com/SBSierraClub>

<https://www.INSTAGRAM.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara>

<https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara>

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGGroupBlog>

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group will keep you informed on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup ~Volunteers needed;

your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or:

RebeccaAugust@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ For board meeting dates, times and location email:

sierraclubventura@gmail.com

~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook

and a blog:

<http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>

~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc:

www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

CONEJO GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you send an email request to:

ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com.

Or view the Conejo Group website:

www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura

www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings

The Sierra Club has partnered with SunPower to bring you a great deal on solar panels, the future of energy. Editor Condor John did it five years ago and recommends it highly, especially in 2022 with a 26% tax rebate that will drop to 22% in January. Check out this fantastic deal with a simple online appointment here:

<https://tinyurl.com/RunSonRun>

Climate Watch

It's easy to avoid plastic use

Editor's note: While it's increasingly clear that the need for climate action is urgent, it can be hard for an individual to know where to start. This year we are featuring specific actions you can take, authored by UCSB lecturer in Environmental Studies, Deborah Williams.

California recently adopted a landmark plastics reduction law, requiring a 25% decrease in the sales of plastic packaging and 65% of plastic be recycled by 2032.

Negotiations were intense and Sierra Club didn't support all the industry compromises. America creates more plastic trash than any other nation in the world, and less than 9% is recycled. Annually, the average American throws away about 185 pounds of plastic.

There has never been a better time to reduce our individual use of plastic. Here are easy and effective steps to do so:

Reducing or eliminating plastic containers.

Instead of utilizing big plastic bottles, use laundry detergent pods that come in small cardboard boxes: like Dropps, Blueland, Tru Earth, Biokleen, and Meliora. Added benefits: pods are much less messy and take up less shelf space.

For the same reasons, try dishwashing and descaling pods and powders like LemiShine, Dropps, Blueland, Ecover and Beyond.

Enjoy using hand soap.

Embrace shampoos and conditioners that have zero or near zero plastic waste like Humankind and Sustainable Jungle List. Same thing with deodorants, like Shape's Best Zero Waste Deodorants, Good Housekeeping List and Sustainable Jungle List.

Try toothpaste, dental floss and mouthwash that have no or minimal plastic waste, like Bite, Humankind, and Byrdie Best 2021.

Find refillable cleaning solutions as well as bath and body products at stores like The Refill Shoppe in Ventura, CA.

Storing food without plastics.

To reduce plastics, and for health reasons, it is great to store food and leftovers in reusable containers, instead of reaching for single use plastic bags or plastic wrap. Here are some win/win possibilities:

Glass containers let you see what is inside easily and have fewer health concerns than plastic containers. There are also reusable storage bag options.

Cover bowls with a silicone lid instead of single-use plastic wrap.

Try Reusable sandwich bags.

When you shop, by-pass single-use-plastic fruit and vegetable bags and either go without a bag (you will be washing the fruits or vegetables anyway) or use reusable produce bags.

Just say "no" to plastic water and beverage bottles. Collectively, Americans buy approximately 50 billion disposable water bottles annually, which require more than 17 million barrels of oil to produce, not including transportation. Furthermore, a study found microplastics in 93% of tested bottled water.

What's more, drinking bottled water is expensive. The average yearly water bill associated with drinking 8 glasses of tap water a day is about 50 cents; but the same amount of bottled water costs

around \$1,400 annually. A few good strategies include:

Carry a reusable, BPA-free beverage bottle. Here are some "best of" lists: Best According to Hyper-enthusiastic Reviewers (*New York Magazine*); Eight Best (*New York Times*); Seven Best (*Good Housekeeping*).

If you want flavor, vitamins and or electrolytes in your water, just add powder or tablets. There are many highly rated options, including lists from: 99Boulders; Rolling Stone; Yoga Journal and Influencer.

Bring Your Own Bags

When Shopping. Single use plastic and paper bags are a serious problem for our environment. In the US, manufacturing plastic bags requires approximately 2.2 billion pounds of fossil fuel as well as 3.9 billion gallons of fresh water annually, while producing 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide and a billion pounds of solid waste. Over 1 million marine animals are killed by plastic bags each year. Using your own bags is easy and important.

Editor's note: Condor John highly recommends the Sierra Club's own brand at:

<https://tinyurl.com/FourBags>

More reasons to ditch plastics

As noted by the Endocrine Society: "plastics contain and leach hazardous chemicals, including endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) that threaten human health . . . Many of the plastics we use every day at home and work are exposing us to a harmful cocktail of endocrine-disrupting chemicals."

The oil industry makes more than \$400 billion a year producing plastic, and it's telling shareholders that future profits will increasingly come from plastic.

For all these reasons and more, the time to reduce plastic use is now.

EAVESDROPS

"The court appointed itself -- instead of Congress or the expert agency -- the decision maker on climate policy. Whatever else this Court may know about, it does not have a clue about how to address climate change."

~ Justice Elena Kagan, strongly opposing the 6-3 decision of the Supreme Court claiming the EPA had no power to regulate power plants without specific permission from Congress.



Condor John highly recommends these cool nylon shopping bags that are great for your trip to the grocery store, overnight travel etc. They are very strong, very light, and CJ's bags have lasted for years. Buy them at the Sierra Club store here: <https://tinyurl.com/FourBags>



Volunteers with Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper know a lot about where plastic ends up: A dead whale with **33 pounds of plastic** in its stomach; a seal with a **frisbee** stuck around its neck; microplastics found in the **meat and milk** we consume and lots of plastic in our rivers and oceans. It you'd like to help out, go to: www.sbck.org



Santa Barbara Maritime Museum opened its newest and long-awaited art exhibit: *The Peaceful Sea: Paintings by Kevin A. Short* running from Aug. 11-Dec. 31. One of 30 seascapes, this one is called Gold Diggers #5. "There is magnetism in looking at glare and the effects of sunlight—something magical and calming that somehow makes our troubles seem smaller and our thinking become clearer," said Short of his work. A Santa Barbara native, curator Emily Falke said: "Short's paintings are imbued with narrative and emotion. They chronicle our experiences as a coastal community, depicting all the outdoor joys available to us—paddling, boating, surfing, swimming, just being at the beach—and pay tribute to the beauty of the ocean and the culture that has helped form this part of the world."

SIGHTINGS

Lots of action

By John Hankins

Here's what we've been up to the last two months on their way to spring. And it's really been busy but with some good stuff happening. Check out the links.

Please join our activities and activism; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved and find free hikes. We encourage all to go outside on your own or by MeetUp. And check out our outings on pages 6&7.

If you'd like to donate (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), do not pass go, but go directly to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

July 21: **Rim of the Valley** Corridor Protection Act passed by a Senate Committee and on it's way to the full Senate. Legislation would authorize the National Park Service to work to protect close to 300,000 acres in western Los Angeles County and Eastern Ventura County as a protected wildlife corridor, open space and passive recreation lands.

July 18: **Cienega Springs** Ecological Reserve habitat restoration project is now underway.



If you have a printed *Condor Call* in your hand, you can tap into this QR code to get a full color version that has hot links! Try it.

The goals of the project are to actively restore over 230 acres of degraded Santa Clara River channel and floodplain. To keep apprised or to volunteer go to: www.SantaClaraRiver.org

July 15: **Pollution Solutions** to reduce plastics was presented as a webinar by SB Community Environmental Council. See our story on this page. for practical solutions similar to the webinar.

July 14: **Channel Islands** National Park welcomed Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland, committing about \$100,000 for restoration and trail work on Santa Cruz Island. Funds via Infrastructure Law and project will be a partnership via the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

July 14: **Hearing showdown** at the CA Public Utilities Commission due to SoCalGas wanting to go ahead with upgrading its Ventura Compressor Station across the street from an elementary school and youth center. Opponents (including our chapter) want the compressor moved away from its current location.

July 11: **Call for comments** to the city of Ventura voting on upgrading the electrical building code favoring electric, not gas, appliance. Also, to create an Electric Vehicle Plan of Action. Club members did participate mostly by a WebEx link sent by the chapter.

July 10: **Bike Clean & Fix It Day** repeats wherein volunteers give bikes a new life for kids who can't afford them. Many thanks to Nina Danza of the Ventura Sierra Club *continued on page 7*

Bikeways nurture cities

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair

I spent time in France this summer marveling at how cities can be transformed by bike paths.

In Paris, separated bike paths are everywhere, including the busiest sections along the Seine, and the city is cleaner and less polluted as a result. Bordeaux has been transformed with the addition of trams and bike paths, and streets closed to cars. Apparently, they'll give you a free bike if you live there.

There are examples in California as well. In the city of Davis, which extended separated bike paths from its UC campus to the rest of the city, fully 20% of commutes are made by bike. Providing safe, separated bike paths is particularly beneficial for poorer residents, students, young people, pedestrians, the handicapped, and anyone who would like to drive less.

But is also an important climate action. Studies find that swapping the car for walking, cycling and e-biking even just one day a week makes a significant impact on personal carbon emissions in cities. Cyclists have 84% lower CO2 emissions from all daily travel than non-cyclists.

With our temperate weather, relatively flat cities and with infrastructure money now available to fund transportation, our region could become far more bike friendly. The Sierra Club has supported local Active Transportation Plans that improve infrastructure for bikes and pedestrians, and we're pleased to see more separated bike paths such as the recently completed and beautiful Las Positas bike path in Santa Barbara.

Goleta is now taking comments on the San Jose Creek

bike path, which would connect the popular separated paths from UCSB and Goleta Beach to the rest of the city of Goleta, including a new 101 underpass. There has been some movement in restriping Old Town Goleta to make it safer for bikes as well, and we encourage the city to move forward.

On the other end of that path, Santa Barbara County has a unique grant opportunity to complete a missing gap in the popular Coastal Access Route by connecting the Obern Trail from Goleta to the city of Santa Barbara's newest bike paths on Modoc and Las Positas. The Modoc Path is important because Modoc has a relatively high accident rate, including biker deaths and severe injuries.

Unfortunately, there is a time limit on the \$5 million grant and the plan faces obstacles because of community opposition to the loss of up to 63 trees. They have a point. Urban open space and mature trees are valuable and should be preserved. Hopefully the County can build a shady, multi-use path that minimizes the loss of mature trees.

The preferred route reduces removal to 41 trees, with opportunity to reduce the loss of mature trees to far less than that. Most trees removed would be Eucalyptus, a non-native and highly flammable tree. As a mitigation, the County could plant 60- 120 oak trees, which are both native and fire resistant, a better long-term choice given climate change and hotter, windier conditions.

We are going to need to support city and county planners and decision-makers if we want to improve our bike infrastructure. If you'd like to help in the Santa Barbara and Goleta region, contact: santabarbara.group@sierraclub.org



That's a Paris bike path with lots of space and connections, inspiring activist Katie Davis of Santa Barbara to ask why can't we do that? See Modoc Road's bike accident graphic on the jump page 7. (Photo by Katie Davis)

AUGUST 20

Films are wild and scenic

Ventura Land Trust's annual benefit -- the Wild & Scenic Film Festival -- returns for its 13th year on Saturday, August 20th featuring about two hours of films, music, food trucks and local beer, wines and spirits. Just spread out on the expansive lawn with friends and family for an outdoor experience in front of a very big screen.

It opens at 5pm. on the spacious turf of the Ventura County Credit Union headquarters, 2575 Vista Del Mar Dr., Ventura, overlooking the ocean. Films start near 8pm as the sky darkens. Note: a virtual option is available. Tickets and details (including sponsorships) are available here:

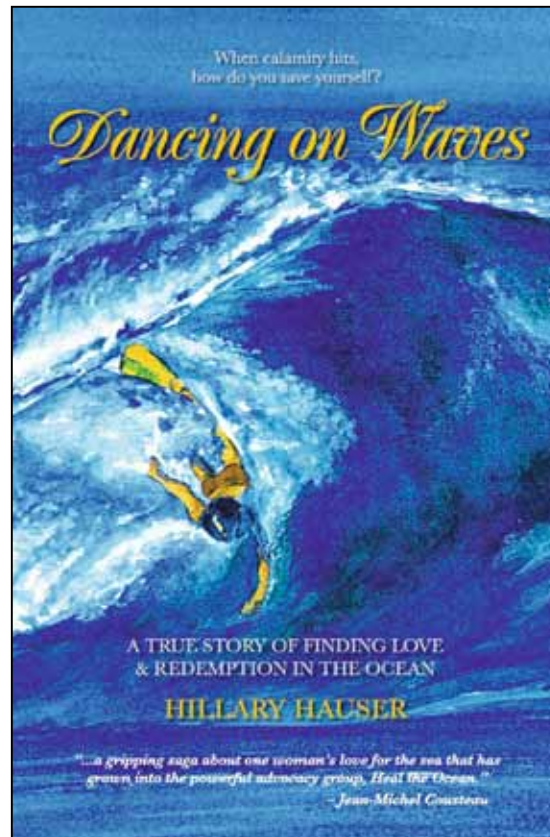
www.venturalandtrust.org/wsff2022

The Trust's purchase of nearly 4,000 acres in the last two years proved a pent-up demand for an outdoor recreation experience that not only

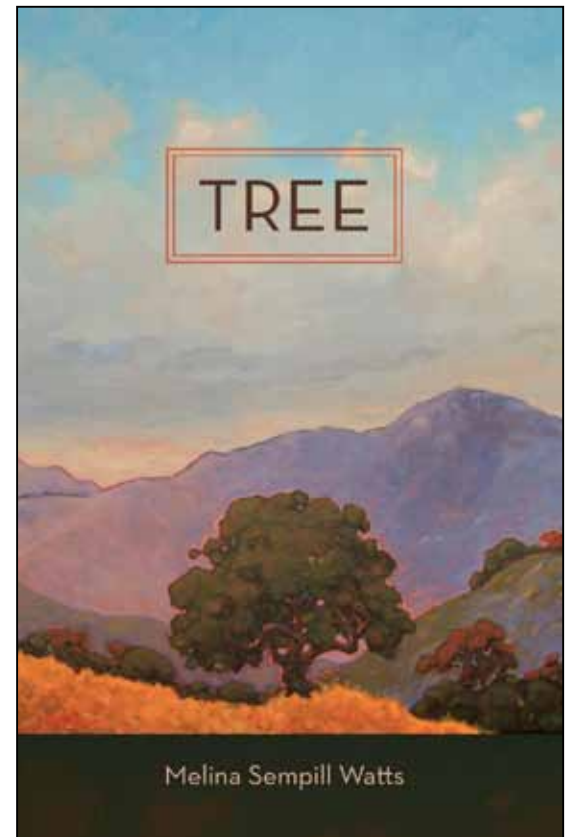
allows hiking, biking, birding, sitting under oak trees etc. but also acts as a firebreak protecting the city and as a wildlife preserve.

"General operating funds are the lifeblood of a nonprofit organization. Everything about this event, from corporate sponsorship to ticket and beverage sales, helps raise those important funds for Ventura Land Trust," said Melissa Baffa, Executive Director of the Trust. Its two major purchases are the 2,123-acre Harmon Canyon Preserve in Ventura already attracting hundreds of users, and the recently announced permanent conservation of Mariano Rancho Preserve, 1,645 acres of land overlooking the Ventura hills from Two Trees to the west end of the mountain.

Baffa said "My favorite part of the event every year is getting together



While Hillary Hauser's new book is about the ocean and its healing properties (left), Melina Watts' book is about the life of a CA live oak from the tree's point of view. Watts teamed up with plein air painter extraordinaire Jeff Sojka to illustrate this fine book.



Local authors embrace the wild

DANCING ON WAVES

"Dancing on Waves" is a new book subtitled "A True Story of Finding Love & Redemption in the Ocean" written by Heal the Ocean's director and co-founder, Hillary Hauser.

The non-profit was founded in 1998 in response to the closing of local beaches in Santa Barbara due to bacteria that was not properly regulated, causing sickness among swimmers, surfers and affecting marine life, with such slogans as "Ocean or Outhouse?"

An initial effort was to get Rincon homeowners to tap into a sewer system rather than their septic tanks which polluted the ocean at and around the famed Rincon Surfers' Point. It used DNA testing to prove the pollution sources.

It started an anti-pollution drive against beach pollution in our region and lately, it has been the spear point of getting old oil wells capped that require public money since the former companies no longer exist.

Co-founder Jeff Young, whose oyster farm was polluted out of business, wouldn't even allow his kids to go into the local ocean during pollution events.

The book was released on Aug. 5 and is already getting good reviews, such as this excerpt from the website Miroirs:

"...Throughout Hauser's vividly

written story, (Dancing on Waves), the sea remains her inspirational and regenerative life force and from this analogy we symbiotically relive a cascade of land and water situations that describe treatment for breast cancer; signing divorce papers on Good Friday; losing urchin diver friends to horrific accidents off San Miguel Island and finding 'gunk' on the water in Shark's Cove at Fernald Point which initiated her environmental mission (Co-founding Heal the Ocean)."

TREE

"GO WILD: Watts and Sojka" is a show at the Museum of Ventura County focusing on the experience of falling in love with a landscape and interconnecting with the lives of the plants and animals that make it alive.

The show runs from Aug. 26 – Oct. 2, 2022; and at the opening night reception on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 3-5pm Melina Sempill Watts will talk about her novel *Tree* at 4pm.

Watts is the author of novel *Tree*, an exploration of 229 years in the life of a California live oak from the point of view of ... the tree! As Watts sees it, "Sometimes the adventure on the outside is on the inside."

Jeff Sojka is a plein air painter from Ojai. He dove into the book and began painting his vision of the tree's reality, each painting honoring the aliveness and richness of California's landscapes.

This art show, sponsored by ArtsVentura, really began when

Watts was halfway through writing *Tree*. Watts went on a road trip to Ojai and walked into a gallery, where she came upon *Oak* by Sojka. Watts explains, "The tree in the painting had this quality as if light was emanating from the plant itself, the whole landscape had an interior glow."

"Sojka captures the vitality of a place, of the plants, air, sky, rocks, mountains and water so that you stand in front of the art feeling the magic he felt as he made the piece. *Oak* felt like a portrait of *Tree*, like he was sharing that emotion, that life, in visual form. When he said yes to putting *Oak* on the cover of *Tree*, the painting brought the narrative to life."

This multimedia experiment, with the exhibit available both on-site and virtually, will offer the audience the opportunity to expand their imagination, stepping into the life of a tree from multiple vantage points. Consider the world from the plants' perspective: begin going wild.

Another event related includes an interview with Watts by Elena Brokaw during the museum's Local History Happy Hour, Sept. 8 from 5-6pm.

More details, photos and art are on the museum's website:

<https://venturamuseum.org>

On Oct 2, Dr. David White of Once Upon a Watershed will give a talk on oaks from 10-11am. Tiny Plants and Growing Works will host a native plant sale on site from 10-2pm. Dr. White asks participants to BYOA (Bring Your Own Acorn).





WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted.

A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites. See Group News on page 3 for links.

Fire Danger

Due to drought and heat, fire danger is extremely high so do not build any fires or smoke except in official campsites that have fire rings. For latest information on this and other aspects of the forest, go to:

www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf



HIKE LOS PADRES

CONDITIONS

Campgrounds trails and roads in Los Padres National Forest can be closed, have restrictions due to habitat protection, repair or weather. Before you go into the backcountry ensure you check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (805 area unless noted) are:

Los Padres Forest Districts

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Headquarters | 865-0416 |
| Ojai-Ventura | 646-4348 |
| Mt Pinos | (661) 245-3731 |
| Santa Barbara | 967-3481 |
| Santa Lucia | 925-9538 |

Other Areas

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Santa Monica Mtns | 370-2301 |
| Conejo Park | 381-2737 |
| Simi Valley | 584-4400 |
| Montecito | 969-3514 |

Forest Information

For updated info, maps, news releases, and other goodies:

<http://FS.USDA.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info

Lots of local info on websites that give you varied info on outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, work opportunities and much more.

www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-ventura
www.LPForest.org
https://LPFW.org
www.HikeLosPadres.com
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
https://SBTrails.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com

Take a Hike!

SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

UPDATES: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura



From our Mountains to the Sea where to go?

"Maybe they shouldn't be called hikes. Maybe that defeats the joy and the purpose. I don't like either the word [hike] or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not 'hike!'"

It's a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages asked where they were going, they would reply, 'A la sainte terre' (To the Holy Land). And so they became known as 'sainte-terre-ers' or saunters.

Given that Sierra Club's co-founder John Muir was one of history's greatest saunters, we should not only allow him his grumpiness, but give it profound consideration. And there is no better place than the Ventura - Santa Barbara region to amble in the great outdoors and give anything consideration.

As a wise soul once said, "It's only in the great open spaces that we find ourselves."

(Editor's note: Taken from Visit Ventura website with light editing to include Santa Barbara! Photo:

<https://www.facebook.com/SteveACattanach>

Click to access all hikes

Most of the many free Sierra Club Outings are usually listed here for a two-month period. However, we have found that planning that far ahead may change due to weather, Covid restrictions, closures etc.

So, we ask that you now rely on the many Meetups and websites for the chapter and some others. For our chapter Meetups go to Group News box always on page 3, otherwise, here we go:

The chapter's website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

Wilderness Act anniversary

The sixtieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act that established America's National Wilderness Preservation System is just around the corner!

Wait a minute: didn't we just celebrate the fiftieth?

Our gala events in 2014 may seem like "just" past, but it's eight years later, and on Sept. 3, 2022 we hail the 58th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's signing the Wilderness Act. That gives us just over a year to prepare for the big Six-Oh! How will we take advantage of public attention to a big round number-anniversary to get the word out broadly on how vital wilderness protection for wild nature is?

During the 50th, many Chapters conducted outings in honor of wilderness, held joint events with one or more federal wilderness-managing agencies, or with in-state wilderness organizations, and wrote

EAVESDROPS

"The Sierra Club Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter operates on Chumash land, the First Peoples of the central coast for over 13,000 years."

~ This is the invocation whenever the Executive Committee meets to show respect to those who were here first.

A very special personal website run by Diane Soini which includes our chapter hikes, blogs, connections and a dragonfly on the screen:

www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com

Visit Ventura has a lot of information about hikes in the county and the Channel Islands. Go here:

<https://visitventuraca.com/biking-hiking/>

Los Padres National Forest is the turf for Los Padres Forest Association and it's the 'bible' for the forest as it shares amazing information gleaned from hikers and others outdoor sites.

Here's its hiking site (see QR code too) www.HikeLosPadres.com

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has a handy Trailfinder for our phone. Go to:

www.ovlc.org/trailfinder

Going a bit more afield, the LA Times has published a trail guide for the SoCal region here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NearUsGuide>

Even more! UCSB's Deborah Williams created a new and expanded website as part of her "Public Lands and Waters" class. Here's the link:

<https://50greatpubliclanddestinations>.

HIKE REVIEWS

Sierra Club's free hikes have always gotten good reviews, and you can check them out via Meetups and other links on these pages.

But don't take our word for it, here's some comments posted by people after hiking with us.

~ "An interesting, diverse, enthusiastic and welcoming group," Yuri

~ "Nina is a wonderful host!! Thank you, Nina, for a fabulous morning," Sue

~ "I am so glad I went on the social hike. I met a great group of people. Looking forward to seeing you all next time," Kim

~ "Nice club with some very nice people who all share a common enthusiasm for our precious environment," Paul

~ "Enjoyed the hike thoroughly-even got to wade through the stream. Thank you Nina and uh oh I think, Wade, for showing us the way and for sharing your passion for the Santa Clara River Property," Pamela

~ "I have been reading about the Sierra Club for a long time and am very pleased that I finally joined. (a hike and the club!)," Melinda

~ "Wonderful club and outings," Frances

~ "Group was helpful and friendly as a first-time night hiker," Jay

And for those who summed up their hikes in one or two words: *Fantastic, Love It, Super, Awesome, Excellent, and Great!*

OUTINGS

August 7

HOPE RANCH: This is a hilly 2.2 mile walk in the western section of Hope Ranch. The route is mostly on paved roads. Great views and lots of shade. Bring water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. GERRY 805-964-5411 (SB)

August 14

THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: A primitive trail with some class 3 rock climbing. Jump or slide into a small natural pool to get refreshed. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 miles round trip. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

August 17

CARPINTERIA BLUFFS and salt marsh: Meet in the Rincon Beach parking lot at 8:30am for a 6.5-mile, flat walk up the shore to the Salt Marsh. We'll be on the watch for dolphins and flying fish. Exit Bates Rd. head west and park in the lot on the right side. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, moenandez@gmail.com (Ventura)

August 20

SAN YSIDRO TRAIL to East Camino Cielo: Very strenuous 9 miles out and back, 2970' elevation gain. Bring lunch and min 3 liters of water. Meet at San Ysidro Canyon Trailhead, 1801 E Mountain Dr in Montecito at 8am. Group size limit 10. DALE 805-886-1674 (SB)

August 27

FREMONT RIDGE/PINE FOREST We will just do the first mile or so of the Fremont Ridge Trail, starting at East Camino Cielo. On the way back we will branch off into a small, beautiful pine forest with some interesting rock formations. About 3-mile loop with some steep, slippery sections. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 event@swt.org (SB)

August 31

VENTURA HARBOR AND SETTLING PONDS: Meet in at the Channel Islands Visitor Center, 1901 Spinnaker Dr., at back entrance at 8:45am. We'll walk along the harbor, through the settling ponds (no dogs allowed) and return to our cars. This is a popular hangout for blue herons and other wild life. 5.5 miles and flat. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, moenandez@gmail.com (Ventura)

September 11

SUMMERLAND: This is a 2.8-mile hike in the hills behind Summerland. The route will consist of a mixture of roads and trails. Great views of Summerland and Montecito. Bring water, a light snack and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. GERRY 805-964-5411 (SB)

September 14

BUBBLING SPRINGS: This is a 6.0-mile, flat walk down the creek to the beach and lighthouse. Lots of ducks and birds along the springs. Meet at Bubbling Springs Park at the corner of Bard and Park in Port Hueneme at 8:45am.

continued on next page

EV owners happy to help

By Kent Bullard

After a two-year hiatus the 2022 fourth of July Ventura Downtown Street Fair roared back to life. Ending covid restrictions, \$5 + gasoline, fantastic weather, and a great venue drew over 10,000 visitors to downtown Ventura.

The Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club partnered with the EV Advocates of Ventura County to bring back the Green Car Show. With limited assigned space, we had our new booth and six 2022 vehicles, a Rivian R1T, Ford Mach E, Kia EV6, Tesla Model Y, VW ID4 and Hyundai IONIC 5.

But wait, there's more. We will also be sponsoring and participating in three more Electric Vehicle showcases this fall. We hope you will be able to support the events, participate and or visit the venues. Even better, owner/drivers will be there to answer questions, provide owner insight and educate participants on how living with an Electric Vehicle has made life better.

Sunday Sept. 25, 1-5pm

Our big show, the National Drive Electric Week EV Showcase in the Ventura Harbor.

On the main lawn of the Ventura Harbor Village you will find an amazing showcase of electric vehicles. There will be cars, vans, SUVs, trucks and other electric equipment, even some vintage EV conversions and an electric boat. These cars are displayed by their owners who have years of EV ownership and have driven many petroleum free miles.

To further your knowledge about EVs, charging options, electrical service and rebates, there will be booths from community organizations and service providers to answer your questions. Take a virtual test drive of a variety of vehicles.

If you own an EV, register, and bring your vehicle to the showcase, meet and mingle with members of our local EV community. Enjoy

the opportunity to visit the Ventura Harbor Village for some excellent eats and shopping, you might even stroll down to the Visitor Center of Channel Islands National Park and learn about the amazing resource just off our coast (sorry, no chargers out there).

This will be the 10th National Drive Electric Week Showcase in Ventura County. Last year's event had 52 vehicles representing 24 models. There even was an electric school bus, port yard tractor (UTR), delivery vehicles and a boat. This year we anticipate a greater diversity of vehicles, more owners, and experiences to share.

Register to participate with your EV, hybrid or environmental booth at:

www.driveelectricweek.org/3333

Friday Sept. 30 5:30 - 8:30pm

Come to the Santa Maria Downtown Friday event that includes the farmers market, live music, local foods, produce, and craft vendors. On this day you will also have opportunity to experience

the National Drive Electric Week EV Showcase. See the display of several electric vehicles, talk to the vehicle's owners about the EV experience, and get informed about EV rebates, incentives, charging, and local resources.

The showcase is a collaborative educational opportunity sponsored by the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Sierra Club, The Community Environmental Council and C5, the Central Coast Clean Cities Collaborative.

to participate go to:

www.driveelectricweek.org/3410

Sunday Oct. 16 9am - 4pm

The EV Showcase will be at the Thousand Oaks Rotary Club Street Fair on Moorpark Road (between Hillcrest & Wilber).

The 30th Annual Rotary Street Fair is Thousand Oak's big community event.

This year it will have an EV Showcase and educational booth sponsored by the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the



The new electric Mustang had plenty of visitors during the Fourth of July EV show in Ventura. But wait there's more shows coming up in the months ahead with dozens of options. Talk to the owners, ask them questions and decide which EV you want. (Photo by Kent Bullard)

Sierra Club with on the ground coordination by the EV Advocates of Ventura County. Our booth is in space # SWW5, right in front of the Chick-fil-A. Come to the booth and showcase to learn about vehicle options, incentives and rebates, local resources and to get information about charging your vehicle.

Sightings...

continued from page 4

and the Bike Hub folks. Finished bikes will be stored at Ventura Bike HUB for Christmas Bike Giveaway and other events during the year (such as bike rodeos) to kids who do not have the means to buy a bike.

July 9: **Water & Weed** native plants installed last fall at Kimball Park, sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club. Includes butterfly, bee and pollinator species.

July 4: **Street Fair:** After a two-year hiatus the 2022 fourth of July Ventura Downtown Street Fair roared back to life. Ending covid restrictions, \$5 + gasoline, fantastic weather, and a great venue drew over 10,000 visitors to downtown Ventura. The Santa Barbara / Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club partnered with the EV Advocates of Ventura County to bring back the Green Car Show.

July 1: **State of Emergency** declared by Gov. Newsom for Santa Barbara and Monterey counties to aid the process of recovering from two significant wildfires, the Alisal (Oct 2021, 17,000 acres burned In Santa Ynez Mountains and shutting down Hwy 101 for days) and the Colorado Fire in Monterey (Jan 2022, 600 acres).

June 16: **Logging plan** by the Forest Service across 1,692 acres atop Mt. Pinos was delayed, like due to widespread opposition. A decision on what to do was delayed until December. The Sierra Club was one of 23 environmental and community groups signing onto a letter detailing what's wrong with the plan.

June 14: Chris Stubbs named the new supervisor for the Los Padres National Forest, starting on June 26. He succeeds Kevin Elliot who retired after a 42-year career with the Service.

June 12: **Solve climate change** one bike at a time! We help repair, clean and spiff up kids bikes for giving away to local Ventura County families in need. Our volunteers meet at the Bike Ventura County location: Ventura Bike HUB, 490 N Ventura Ave., hosted by Nina from our Ventura Sierra Club.

June 5: **Chumash honored** at the Environmental Defense Center's annual fundraiser, Green and Blue.

June 3: **Fracking blocked** by the US Court of Appeals, ruling that a full environmental review is needed before approving permits off the California coast. The judgement noted environmental groups learned through the Freedom of Information Act that Interior authorized permits for fracking without environmental review.

GREETING FRIENDS

Hit the trail at night

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

The sun goes down and new outdoor adventures begin. There is a whole different world to explore when darkness covers our natural world. Coyotes howl, frogs croak, crickets chirp, owls hoot and bats go into flight. It is all about nature at night.

Hit the trail at night and study the stars, watch the moon rise, see what creatures are on the move, raccoons, possums, skunks, all nocturnal creatures whose world starts as the sun sets. Deer browse during the nighttime hours. And the ghost cats, mountain lions roam at night. Life is on the move in the darkness.

Creeks and rivers still flow in the dark and a world of wildlife drinks from those flowing waters, settle into a quiet place out of sight and observe what comes to drink, you will be amazed.

Visit the seahorse at night and sit quietly and allow the sounds of the waves to fill your soul with positive vibes, see crabs moving across the sand and watch grunion come ashore.

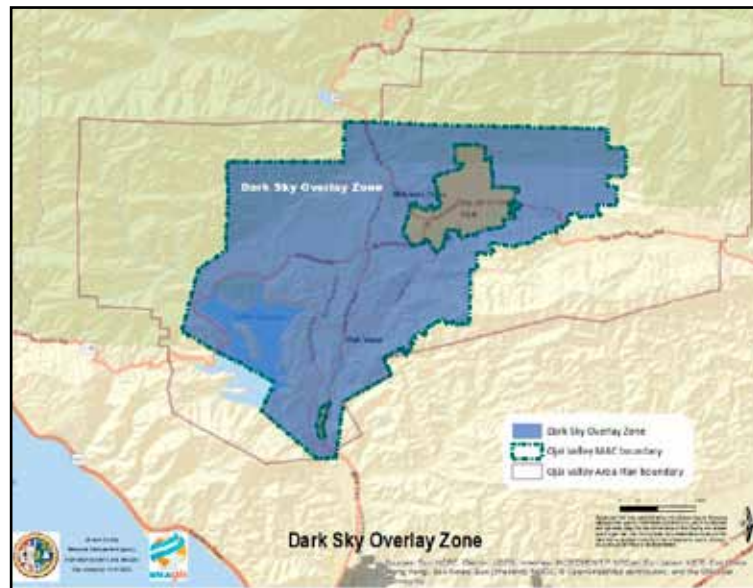
Sometimes you will not see the creatures of the night, but you will hear them. Learn to identify their sounds and calls. Nothing like an owl hooting from the trees or a bobcat growling as she moves through the underbrush seeking prey. Small creatures are plentiful at night, field mice, weasels, moles, rabbits and plenty of foxes.

The richness of our natural world after dark is filled with the flight of bats. Amazing creatures who dart around like ballerinas in the darkness of the night sky.

A full moon walk will allow us to see a world which teems with life and is truly amazing. The stillness of the night allows us to hear sounds of our natural world which we do not hear during the daylight.

Count the stars, get a star chart to see what stars and planets are dominant at this time of year.

Do not fear the night for darkness brings life to our natural



world, explore the charm of seeing things differently, experience new creatures and learn from the darkness as she settles over our land.

~ For the wild, Jim Ojai has Dark Sky ordinance

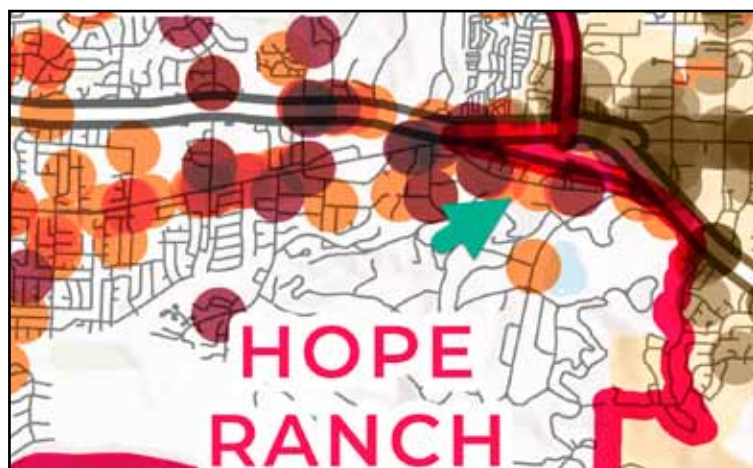
Editor's note: A recent New York Times feature was entitled: "Unhealthy Glow: A Case Against Illumination." It noted a Dept. of Energy study concluded 99% of our lighting "has no clear purpose" while the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) asserts, "light pollution is absolutely growing." There's a term for it: "light trespass" in which light from a neighbor's house or business "spills onto one's property that creates a disturbance." And most of the urban world can't even see the

Milky Way.

As for Jim's article above, the Times piece notes "entire ecosystems suffer, too, (from light pollution) including bird migration patterns, turtle nesting, even the rest cycle of trees." It asserts that "more than half of species are nocturnal."

Did you know that since 2014 the Ojai Valley has the county's only Dark Sky Overlay zone within the Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council jurisdiction (see map). Thank the Green Coalition for that. By the way, Jim grew up in the Ojai Valley which explains his knowledge of nocturnal wonders.

For those who want to learn more about the dark skies movement, go to: www.darksky.org



Modoc and Las Positas area have a lot of incidents of bike accidents and even death. Activist are trying to fix that. See story on page 5

Outings...

continued from page 6

MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, moenandez@gmail.com (Ventura)

September 17
ROMERO CYN TRAIL TO ROMERO SADDLE: Very strenuous 7 mi out and back, 2970' elevation gain. Bring lunch and min 3 liters water. Meet at Romero Cyn Trailhead, Romero Cyn Rd in Montecito at 8am. Group size limit 10. DALE 805-886-1674 (SB)

September 24
MISSION RIDGE: Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we'll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we'll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 miles round trip. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

September 28
VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS to the pier: Park in the Vons parking lot at 115 W. Main St., Ventura at 8:45am. We'll hike up to the cross and down to the beach. Distance 5.7 miles, 528 elevation gain. Beautiful views of the Ventura coastline and the islands. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, moenandez@gmail.com (Ventura)

SIERRA CLUB

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Wildlife on the edge, indeed. Artist Hilary Baker's "Burrowing Owl" seems stuck at the LAX airport.

Wildlife on the edge

Wildling Museum of Art and Nature has planned a 2022 fall exhibition entitled "Wildlife on the Edge: Hilary Baker" on view from Oct. 8, 2022, to March 6, 2023. The public is invited to attend an opening reception on Sunday, Oct. 9 from 3-5 p.m. at the Museum.

Wildlife on the Edge features new and recent acrylic paintings from Hilary Baker's Predators series alongside a new series of animal portraits on birch wood. From a group of common pigeons to an elusive cougar, Baker's subjects make themselves at home in urban locales.

Coupled with Baker's alternately bright and moody color palette, viewers are provided a fanciful peek into the secret lives of their wild neighbors, often hidden in plain view.

"I consider my Predator portraits and present them straightforwardly," says Baker. "Their gaze is oblique,

their confrontation with the viewer unflinching and their presence – like the past – uncompromising. It might be argued that these mostly nocturnal creatures serve as stand-ins for any city resident attempting to co-exist with a disappearing homeland."

The exhibition will also include video and photography highlighting native wildlife in the urban landscape, providing local context for creatures who make the Central Coast home, and exploring California wildlife crossings such as the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing currently underway at Liberty Canyon.

A resource table will also offer visitors a chance for reflection with recent news on efforts to improve wildlife habitats and how the public can better coexist with animals in an increasingly modern landscape.

For more details and other exhibits, go to: www.WildlingMuseum.org

Teresa Norris rocks!

Our chapter's Wilderness Basics Course started with a simple notice in the 2009 issue of *Condor Call*, and on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 1:30 to 3:30pm we will honor the prime mover who created the course, Teresa Norris.

The milestone will literally be a stone, a rock bench that will sit for generations and represent her steadfast commitment to create wonder and joy of the outdoors to everyone.

Her appreciation rock and plaque will be presented to her and her family, followed by refreshments and no doubt anecdotes from the hundreds of students attending the WBC, along with the chapter's board and expert teachers.

All are welcome to attend and help celebrate her and the WBC volunteers at Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center, 17017 Maricopa Hwy near Ojai.

WBC often had a 'warning' that it could change your life. And it did, with all ages, families and couples taking it together and even experienced hikers learning something new. Some were timid at first, others anxious to learn

more to feel safe and comfortable in extreme wilderness. It grew in reputation and other outdoor experts from wilderness groups and authors became speakers, such as Search and Rescue.

At the chapter's December holiday party in 2021, Teresa was given the Wilderness Hero Award, but as at-large member David Gold said, "Whatever we do, it won't be enough."

Enter Maureen Hernandez, our chapter's outings chair, and another hike leader Suzanne Tanaka, to accomplish more, to find something public and permanent. They thought of a bench and more appropriately a rock from the outdoors she loved so well.

So, they went outdoors searching for a proper rock that would serve as a bench, which is a story of itself and will be told in the next issue of *Condor Call*.

"And for all eternity, people will visit Wheeler Gorge Center, walk by the bench and know that Teresa Norris made an impact and is appreciated," Hernandez said.



Teresa Norris will soon be presented with this rock bench and plaque in her honor. But before it got to its permanent home at Wheeler Gorge, her grandkids had to check it out. They are Ebbett, Odella and Gregor. All are invited to the presentation and to sit on this permanent tribute to a woman who brought joy to so many. (Photo by Tom Norris)