

Condor Call

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



April - May 2013



Knapp's Castle (©) at sunset was taken as a panoramic, and if you go to photographer Bill Heller's link it will rotate around: <http://blh.me/X>. According to Bill, "Knapp's Castle is the best place I know to watch the most amazing sunsets locally that happen almost every day. Spend the evening here and you can understand why George Owen Knapp went to the trouble

to build his dream home in such an extreme location. Nature has reclaimed most of the man-made structure, but even in its day the most beautiful man-made mansion could not compare to nature's own vista from this magical spot." Bill has a lot more astounding photographs on his website, well worth the visit at: www.BillHeller.com

ENVI'd . . . Forest alert . . . Press . . . Earth Days . . . Buds

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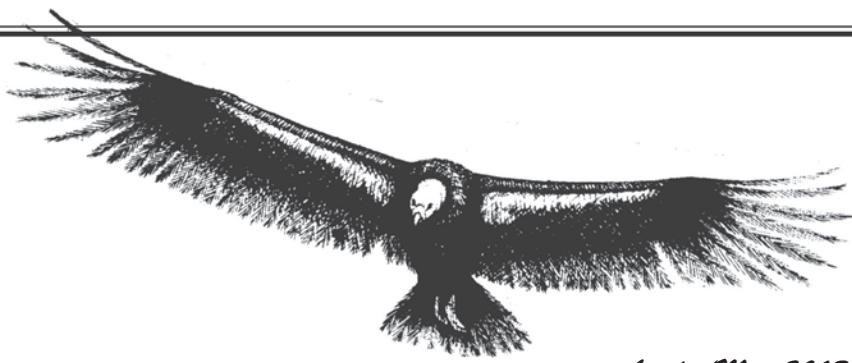
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Condor Call

Journal of the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



April - May 2013

EDC honors Sierra Club for decades of success

The Environmental Defense Center is literally "Celebrating Paradise Saved" on June 2 and celebrating the Los Padres Sierra Club on that day with its coveted ENVI Award.

The club was chosen as one of EDC's honorees "because of the organization's conservation leadership in both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties," said Owen Bailey, EDC executive director.

In a statement, the EDC said

EAVESDROPS

"The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent upon it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do."

~ Galileo

"The use of solar energy has not been opened up because the oil industry does not own the sun."

~ Ralph Nader

the club "has been a leader in the fight to prevent future offshore oil and gas development, preventing fracking and promoting the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy."

Specific projects included the club's work fighting federal leasing, and halting the Mobil Clearview project, the Venoco Paredon project and oil barging off the California Coast.

In Ventura County, EDC cites the club's leadership in preserving Ormond Beach - one of our most exceptional, and most threatened, coastal wetlands. For over a decade, the club has fought to protect the area from toxic pollution and urban development, and is helping to fulfill the vision of complete restoration of the wetlands.

The award will be accepted by two people: Fran Farina representing Santa Barbara County area and Mike Stubblefield representing Ventura

County.

Other honorees will be announced in the coming weeks.

The ENVI Award, which is simply an abbreviation for 'ENVironment', is meant as a symbol of appreciation for the many different ways in which an individual or organization has contributed to the long term environmental health of our community and planet.

The "Celebrating Paradise Saved" event is EDC's annual benefit, and will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, June 2 at Rancho La Patera and Stow House in Goleta.

Join hundreds of other ecology-minded people for an afternoon of hors d'oeuvres, wine, music, silent and live auctions, and a short program featuring the ENVI Awards.

To help sponsor the event or purchase tickets, call 709-0595 or go to www.edcnet.org.



Go to page 7 for a comprehensive list of Earth Day activities in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The Los Padres Sierra Club has a presence at Earth Days in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Ojai, and Camarillo. This Earth Day graphic by Joel Conroy became the logo for this year's Earth Day in Santa Barbara and is part of a series he calls Lil' Planets in which he turns ordinary landscapes "into something extraordinary." Check them out at www.lilplanets.com

Club's officials arrested in D.C.

By Sarah Hodgdon
Conservation Director

History was made in Washington, D.C. in February after police arrested Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, Board of Directors President Allison Chin, and an amazingly broad coalition of almost 50 other climate-crisis activists outside the White House.

This protest came because the Club's grassroots leadership decided that the obligation to address climate

disruption has become so urgent, and the opportunity to attain clean energy prosperity so real, that we had a moral duty to act.

This act of civil disobedience, the first in the Club's 120-year history, was an announcement to President Obama and other leaders that they must take bold action now to address the threat of fossil fuel pollution -- with stopping construction of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline as a critically important first step.

continued on page 2

Condor Call goes electric!

BULLETIN: Extinction faces Condor Calls

Hope lies in new electronic habitat via email

In order to survive, the Condor Call newspaper will only publish a few times per year in hard copy. It will still bring you a great read with stunning photos every other month, but by email.

The e-version is always on our website: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

but please sign up by providing your email so you won't miss it.

Call 452-2885 or better yet email:

CondorJohn@gnusman.com



Wither weather? A dark and stormy plight

By Robert Bernstein

The Santa Barbara Group of the Sierra Club co-sponsored a free public presentation on the

connection between extreme weather events and human-caused global warming and over 70 people attended, indicating a true interest

in the subject.

Presenter Katie Davis grew up in Summerland, born in 1970, the year of the first Earth Day and now she is presenting "Climate Reality" talks, the next one of which will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the Santa Barbara Public Health Building, 300 N. San Antonio Rd.

Her presentation came out of a massive training session with Al Gore, but it was very much personalized for our local and current issues.

She said that we know from internal memos that the fossil fuel industry is conducting a disinformation campaign; specifically to create the false impression that climate change is "just a theory".

Countering that, she noted that every National Academy of Science organization in every major country affirms the reality of climate change. The number that disagree? None.

She went through some of the

myths used to hide the reality, such as volcanoes emit more CO2 than humans. Actually, it is not even close: 35 gigatons for humans and just 0.15 for volcanoes.

Sunspots? Actually, the correlation is the opposite. We have been lucky.

We also know that increased CO2 from burning fossil fuel is not just raising air temperature. It is also acidifying the ocean, destroying coral reefs and the rest of the foundation for life in the ocean.

While we should make individual choices to reduce our impact on carbon emissions, we have to recognize that "changing laws is more important than changing light bulbs," Davis said.

The group Citizens Climate Lobby was also represented at the event. Its goal is to enact a carbon tax which would hold free market capitalists to their claims that the market can solve problems.

It will put an end to using our common air and water as a free

dumping ground for the fossil fuel industry. And it just might save the only Earth we know.

Meanwhile, Davis noted that the Sierra Club is endorsing various bills at the state level that would allow community renewable energy production (SB 43 and AB 1014).

Davis is a Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council Advisory Board member, high-tech marketing executive and her video on YouTube about climate change has been a popular film since 2010.

EAVESDROPS

"The Department of Energy estimates that 30 percent of the energy used in this country is unnecessarily wasted."

~ Dave Austen, UCSB's director of the Institute for Energy Efficiency, quoted in *Loa Living*, *Loa Tree's* new magazine. Check it out at www.LoaTree.com.



The January 2008 landslide along the cliff at Shoreline Park moved the cliff edge landward by as much as 38 feet and eliminated a portion of the sidewalk. According to Katie Davis, "the ocean is 8 inches higher than it was a century ago and sea level rise is accelerating so cliff erosion will increase. Sea level could rise five feet this century and Shoreline Park could be eroded by 270 feet." (Photo contributed)

REI OPENS

Outdoor economy powerful

By John Hankins
Editor, Condor Call

A veritable who's who of ecology groups and activists were treated to the new REI store in Oxnard on March 21, the evening before its Grand Opening; and a good thing too, as the public line was four blocks long the next day.

Did you think more people were indoors on the computer, watching TV, playing pool or other more tantalizing indoor sports?

"We're doing pretty darn good," said Matt Wheat, the store manager, which is borne out by a recent study of the Outdoor Industry Association. It concludes that outdoor recreation generates "an economy as vast and powerful as the great outdoors."

"We are here to partner with you," Wheat told the guests



Are you there? A veritable who's who of ecology activists, non-profits and agencies were treated to the giant new REI store in Oxnard a day before its grand opening. (Photo by John Hankins)

seated and standing between the socks and bags upstairs. Its VP of retail, Tim Spangler, promised the store "is committed to outreach and service."

All the guests and agencies were announced, including the Sierra Club twice (the chapter and Ventura Group), Surfrider, Environmental Defense Center, Horny Toad, Nature Bridge, and so many others, along with some elected officials and agencies such as Ventura Parks & Recreation. Everyone applauded for each other and connections made.

In a statement that warms the cockles of any outdoor enthusiast's heart, the federal Commerce Department concluded about the OIA's report that, "It's a reminder that we don't have to choose between environmental protection and economic growth."

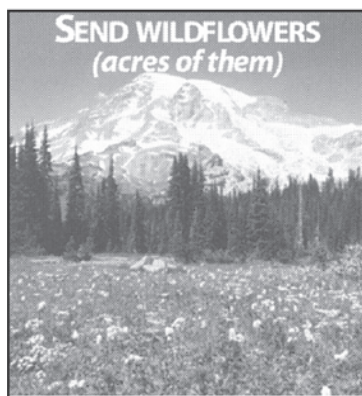
The OIA concludes there are over six million jobs generated

by outdoor activities, on which the population spent \$646 billion, generating \$80 billion in tax revenues. So why are so many parks deteriorating with skeleton staffs? A question for another time.

The activities that bring in the most money are, in order: camping, water sports, bicycling, trail sports, off-roading, snow sports, motorcycling, fishing, wildlife viewing and hunting.

REI pretty much covers most of them, and its CFO Eric Artz told Condor Call "we are a collection of specialty shops," a marketing plan that's doing just fine because it has "something for everybody."

The Oxnard REI store is much bigger than the Santa Barbara store that opened in 2011, and it will be interesting to see whether there's enough revenue to keep other outdoor stores open, like Great Pacific Iron Works (Patagonia), Real Cheap Sports, Mountain Air Sports, Santa Barbara Outfitters, Open Air Bicycles, Play it Again Sports, Big 5 and so many others. REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.) was founded in 1938 in Seattle by Lloyd and Mary Anderson who turned it into a cooperative specializing in equipment for serious backpackers and climbers. In the 1980's it branched out into many other sports and notably "sport casual clothes." It is still a cooperative with discounts for members but open to the general public.



Memorial or Commemorative gifts are a unique way to honor an individual or special event and at the same time provide important funding towards Sierra Club's long-term goals. And like the memories you hold, this is a gift that will last forever. For more information, call (415) 977-5653. planned.giving@sierraclub.org Memorial/Commemorative Program 85 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94105 Chapter Contact Catherine Graham 682-1357

Forest revisions lack 'wilderness'

By Jeff Kuyper
Los Padres ForestWatch

In February, the U.S. Forest Service proposed long-awaited changes to the management plan for the Los Padres National Forest, but fell short in expanding wilderness areas.

The proposed changes do provide stronger protections for many areas of the forest, prohibiting motorized vehicles across more than 300,000 acres of forest land – a good first step. However, in issuing the proposed changes, it failed to recommend a *single acre* for formal designation as "wilderness," the highest level of protection afforded to federal public lands.

A coalition of forest users, local business leaders, elected officials, scientists, and other stakeholders -- including the Sierra Club at the local and national levels -- are working together to demand permanent wilderness protections for thousands of acres of forest land in the Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo backcountry.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 is America's strongest land conservation tool, and has permanently protected more than 109 million acres of federal land across the country – only about 5 percent of the entire United States land base. Wilderness is forever protected from road building, development, and resource extraction, but camping, hiking,

horseback riding, fishing, and hunting are all allowed.

During last year's initial public comment period, thousands of local residents, wilderness advocates, forest users, and outdoor enthusiasts urged the Forest Service to recommend several new areas for wilderness designation. It was an overwhelming show of support, demonstrating how we all value protected wilderness areas for the benefits they provide to our local communities.

But the Forest Service failed to make any changes to its proposal, and last month released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with additional details. The agency is accepting comments on the proposal and DEIS until May 16.

Forest officials are also hosting two public hearings:

~ April 9, from 4 - 7 p.m., at the Mt. Pinos Ranger District Office, 34580 Lockwood Valley Road, Frazier Park (in northern Ventura County).

~ April 10 in Goleta, from 4 - 7 p.m., at the Southern California Edison Building, 103 David Love Place.

Help send a strong message to the Forest Service by attending one of the hearings and/or send a letter to the Forest Service. A sample letter that you can send with just a click of your mouse is on our website: www.LPFW.org.

A blooming bounty

GREETINGS FRIENDS

By Jim Hines

The beauty of the Spring season is filling the natural world around us. With recent rains and snow in the backcountry, our national forests, national and state parks abound with blooming native shrubs and wildflowers.

One cannot miss the hillsides covered with blue flowered California lilacs (*Ceanothus* species) and the cream colored flowers of the native elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) along such popular mountain drives as Hwy 154, Hwy 150 and Hwy 33.

One "must see location" is Figueroa Mountain towering over the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley, north of the charming small town of Los Olivos. The famed "Poppy Hillside" is in bloom now interspersed with blue lupines.

Day hikes around the Ojai Valley on trails such as Cozy Dell, Matilija Canyon and Sisar Canyon reward us with blooming sages, the flowers of native currants and gooseberries. As well as showy native peonies, small flowered yellow violas, colorful owl's clover and Indian paintbrushes. And before long, the majestic Matilija poppies will be in bloom as well.

The Santa Monica Mountains are now colored with many coastal wildflowers such as the striking giant *Coreopsis* (also blooming on the Channel Islands as well). A day hike in Sycamore Canyon in Pt. Mugu State Park will delight the eye with many colorful flowering shrubs and wildflowers.

Other areas to behold include

the area from Ranger Peak to Cachuma Saddle, Sunset Valley and Happy Canyon.

You can catch details of areas within the Los Padres National Forest via Ranger Helen Tarbet's wildflower updates posted at:

www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf

This flowering season will pass all too fast, so grab your pack and hit the trail to enjoy the great natural beauty that only the spring season can bring.

See you on the trail,

Arrests...

Continued from page 1

In the aftermath, Brune said in his blog: "We will launch major pushes to fight for a Coal-Free New England, combat the export of Liquid Natural Gas, and press for the declaration of some of the largest wilderness preserves in over a decade. Big Oil, Big Coal, and all the other polluters who would trade a buck for our world's future are powerful foes."

We have a clear understanding of the crisis. We have solutions. What we don't have is time. We cannot afford to wait," he added.

More than 1200 people were arrested over the course of the month to protest the construction of the pipeline. Most were arrested for open, non-violent civil disobedience for refusing U.S. Park Police orders to keep moving on the White House's sidewalk, with some protestors, including Brune, attaching themselves to the fence in front of the White House.

If the pipeline is approved, "it could undo all the real progress on carbon-pollution that the president rightly took credit for during his [State of the Union] speech," Brune concluded.

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



The wonders of our own 'backyard' are revealed in the Sierra Club's free outings every weekend and even deeper via its Wilderness Basics Course (see story on page 6). Shown is Lenore Carlton, a WBC student, on a backpack to East Fork, up Middle Lion Canyon in Rose Valley. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka)

April 5
CHORROGRANDE, LOSPADRES NATIONAL FOREST: 10.2 mile-round-trip and approximately 2500 feet of elevation gain for this strenuous, moderately-paced hike in the Los Padres National Forest. We will hike from the trailhead at Mile Marker 36 on Hwy 33 to Oak Camp (1.7 miles), to Chorro Springs camp (another 2.7 miles), and reach the turn-around point on Pine Mountain Ridge after another 0.8 miles. Weather permitting, we should be able to see Piedra Blanca, the Matilija Wilderness, and even some of the Channel Islands. We will carpool at 8am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride Lot (intersection of Hwy 150 and Hwy 33). There is a 26-mile drive on Hwy 33 to the trailhead. 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water, and snacks/lunch required. **RAIN CANCELS.** For more information, call PHIL at 218-2103 (VEN)

Check Conditions
 Any number of campgrounds and/or roads in the Los Padres National Forest may be closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats, repair or adverse weather. Before you go into the local backcountry it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted, all are 805 area code):

Los Padres Forest Districts
 Headquarters 968-6640
 Ojai District 646-4348
 Mt. Pinos (661) 245-3731
 Santa Barbara 967-3481
 Santa Lucia 925-9538

Forest Notes
 For updated information, news releases, maps and many other goodies, go to the Los Padres National Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

Other Areas
 Santa Monica Mtns. Area 370-2301
 Conejo Parks 381-2737
 Simi VGalley 584-4400
 Montecito 969-3514
 Channel Islands 966-7107

Local Hiking websites
 There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alert, trail work opportunities and much more. Here's a few:
<http://LosPadres.SierraClub.org>
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
www.LPForest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

April 6
JESUSITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT: Walk through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

TALEPOP - GRASSLAND TRAILS: Moderate 5.6 mrt loop hike with about 500' elev gain and good mountain views of Malibu Creek State Park. Bring water, lug-soled shoes and snack. Meet in parking lot just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road at 8:30am for carpooling, or at Juan Bautista de Anza Park at 8:50am. Rain cancels. This replaces the Vazquez Rocks outing originally scheduled because the new visitor center is way behind schedule. RICK KOPPEL 279-9697 (CJ)

April 7
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderate 5.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

April 8
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Casitas Springs to walk south on bicycle trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 11
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: \$54.00. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 13
INSECT HIKE IN ALISO CANYON: Learn about the most abundant form of life on the planet - insects - on this interpretive hike. A leisurely loop from Sage Hill campground on a marked trail alongside a stream. Easy/Moderate 3.5 mrt. Please note that location may change based upon weather conditions. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KENNY 692-2227 (SB)

April 13-14 (April 12 optional)
JUNIPER FLATS AREA TOUR: Come explore this beautiful area in the San Bernardino Mnts. Camp at Rock Springs Ranch (private). On Friday (optional) there is a 3 mi rt. hike to the boulder gardens. Saturday, a driving and hiking tour of the area (4-WD or high clearance vehicle recommended), including springs, waterfall, Cottonwood Spring ACEC and an oak glen area. Saturday evening campfire and dinner provided by the Friends of Juniper Flats. Sunday, a 6 mi hike to Deep Creek a proposed Wild & Scenic River. Contact CAROL WILEY for reservations at: desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. For more details of the area contact co-leader JENNY WILDER at: JensOasis@aol.com or 760-220-0730 (Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

SERVE AND EXPLORE IN THE CARRIZO PLAIN: This is an opportunity to visit and to assist in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. On Saturday, we will assist monument staff in the removal and/or modification of fences to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing or hiking as the group decides. The views from the Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may be blooming (if rainfall is sufficient); and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. Contact leader for information and sign-up: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, 310-477-6670, or craig.deutsche@gmail.com

Ongoing Outings
Ventura Every Monday Morning
EASY WALKS: Join Pat Jump at 8:30 a.m. every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 643-0270.
Ventura Every Wednesday
URBAN EVENING HIKE: Weekly hike in Ventura meets across the street from the Mission at 6:45 p.m. for a 4 1/2-mile walk up to Father Serra's Cross for spectacular scenic views of Ventura, the Channel Islands and the sunset. It continues across the hillside, down to the ocean, to the end of the pier, then along the promenade looping back to the Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER 643-5902. (VEN)
Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends
SOCIAL HIKE every Friday evening for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)
STRENUOUS 5-10 mile roundtrip evening hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; bring water and a flashlight, preferably head lamp. Hike is designed for conditioning. For details, contact BERNARD MINES, 722-9000.
MODERATE AND STRENUOUS hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at Bank of America at State St. and Hope Ave.
Monthly Programs
ARGUELLO GROUP offers slide shows, speakers and movies, the third Friday of each month. Call for details: 928-3598.
COMMUNITY SERVICE: Help keep Highway 1 beautiful. Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup from the Lompoc 'Wye' to the Base boundary. Meet at Vandenberg Village Shopping Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of odd-numbered months. Rain cancels. Contact CONNIE: 735-2292.

Our outings are local adventures

By Mike Stubblefield
Outings Chair

I'm continually grateful that I was lucky enough to move to this area 30 years ago. Whether you live in Santa Barbara or Ventura County, you and I have so many outdoor options that it's ... embarrassing.

Take advantage of exploring all these riches through the Los Padres Sierra Club's FREE outings. Our hike leaders are trained in first aid and wilderness skills and literally take thousands of people out each year on day hikes, backpacks, saunters and work projects, every weekend and some weekdays. We even have specialized outings that allow dogs and every year we teach backpacking through the Wilderness Basics Course (see story on page 6)

Our outings are rated from easy to moderate to strenuous, so take your pick (see our outings list starting on this page).

Another tip is if you're single, our outings are a great way to meet other people of like minds, or whatever your status you are sure to meet new friends. We once had a fellow who ran outings specifically for singles; it ended when he married one of the participants!

EAVESDROPS
"We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?"
 ~ Lee Iacocca, CEO/Chairman, Chrysler Corporation, 1979-1992
www.cnrcc.org (CNRCC Desert Committee)

April 14
PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3000' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8:30am (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 447-1876 / 644-6934 (SB)

OUTINGS NEEDED: Get your Jun-Sep outings to your Group *continued on page 5*

Outing Notes
 Key to outing locations (noted in parenthesis at the end of each listing)
 AR - Arguello Group (Northern SB County)
 SB - Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)
 VEN - Ventura Network (Northern Ventura County)
 CJ - Conejo Group (Southern Ventura County)
 LA - Los Angeles Chapter joint hikes
 The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study 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. Pets are generally not allowed. 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: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources.

Here's a simple checklist of where we go; please join us:

~ With 150 miles of coastline, we explore the untrammled beaches, and offshore there's the Channel Islands National Park, which has numerous day-trip and camping opportunities, notably the Sierra Club's trips that take in three or four of the islands.

~ Many of our outings explore the Los Padres National Forest, at more than 1.5 million acres the second largest national forest in America. It stretches 200 miles from Lake Piru all the way to Big Sur. The southern section, the most beautiful part of the LPNF, is the "backyard" of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The best way to experience this remote, rugged and breathtakingly beautiful mountain wilderness is on foot. Amazingly, even though most of us live near the coast, we can be at a trailhead high in the forest in less than an hour. From there we can summit a peak, have lunch, enjoy panoramic vistas and be home before dark.

The forest includes Sespe Creek, a 61-mile-long stream that's one of the last wild rivers in Southern California and part of it is designated as a National Scenic Waterway.

The forest is also home to Figueroa Mountain, mecca for wildflowers every spring.

~ The Santa Barbara Front Country is probably the most heavily used trail network in the region, starting at sea level and going all the way up to Camino Cielo. There are spacious fire roads and single track trails that take you to hot springs, cool pools, climbing walls and vistas overlooking Santa Barbara. At the Goleta end there is the amazing Gaviota Coast and above that a hidden rock and chaparral area appropriately called "The Playground."

~ Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which parallels the Ventura and L.A. County coastline for 50 miles, has over 500 miles of hiking trails. We can hike or run the La Jolla Canyon/Ray Miller Trail loop, or tackle the Mishe Mokwa/Backbone Trail loop on Boney Ridge, maybe take a little detour up to Sandstone Peak, at 3,111 feet the highest point of the Santa Monicas.

~ On any of our outings we might be lucky to see critters. The forest has about 468 species of wildlife, including California black bears, bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, mule deer, raccoons, jack rabbits, cottontail rabbits, peregrine falcons, barn owls, bald eagles, Tule elk, bighorn sheep, squirrels and about 400 California condors living in or near the Sespe Condor Sanctuary in the rugged high country north of Fillmore.

Truly, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are an embarrassment of riches for outdoor folks like us. So, on Earth Day, celebrate our outdoor wonderland by joining us on some of the hundreds of outings we offer all over both counties every year.

See you on the trail.

Outings...from page 4

outings chair soon. Be sure to include the first week of October in your schedule.

April 15

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Lake Casitas. Take the trail around the side of lake to bench. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 19

PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE CAMP VIA GENE MARSHALL-PIEDRA BLANCA NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL: 12.6 mile-round-trip and 2800 feet of elevation gain for this moderately strenuous, fast-paced hike in the Sespe Creek Wilderness Area. Beginning at the end of Rose Valley Road we will rock hop (bring extra socks or water shoes for crossing) across Sespe Creek and pick up the trail on the left heading towards Piedra Blanca camp 2.5 miles away. Continue 0.5 miles north to Twin Forks Camp and another 3.3 to Pine Mountain Lodge Camp, our turn around point. On the way back we will stop at the Piedra-Blanca formations to explore and rest before returning to our cars at Rose Valley. We will carpool at 8 am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride Lot (on HWY 150 at HWY 33 intersection). **ADVENTURE PASS REQUIRED** for all vehicles parking in Rose Valley. There is a 14.5 mile drive on Hwy 33 to Rose Valley turnoff and another 5.5 miles on the Rose Valley Rd to trailhead. 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snack (lunch for longer hike) required. **RAIN CANCELS.** For more information, call LORA at 218-2105 or PHIL at 218-2103 (VEN)

April 20

ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Outstanding view of the islands and the coastline are featured in this moderate 5 mrt hike. We'll start at Romero Saddle, hike down the Juncal Road a bit, then follow the motorcycle/ATV road to the start of the Island View trail (also known as the Romero Ridge trail). Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm, but bring a light jacket, just in case. This hike involves a long (45 minute) drive to the trailhead on mountain (paved) roads. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

April 21

INSPIRATION POINT: Hike up Tunnel Rd., then by trail to a point with beautiful views of the coast and mountains. Easy 3.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

April 21-27

UTAH SERVICE TRIP ESCALANTE RIVER CANYON: Come join us in eradicating invasive Russian olive along the Escalante River. We will assist the Boulder Community Alliance, a part of the Escalante River Watershed Partnership, in this ongoing program. Working with Bill Wolverton on private land 1 mile downstream from the Hwy 12 bridge, our job will be to do an initial thinning to clear the way for chain

sawing. We will be using loppers, small handsaws and herbicide. Participants will be required to meet work-clothing requirements, provide their own food, gear and travel expenses to the worksite and trailhead. Optional Central Commissary by Elaine Gorman. For more information, contact the leader, PAUL PLATHE at 209-476-1498. (Delta Sierra Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

April 22

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Oak View Community Center to walk north on bicycle trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 26-28

PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK CAMPOUT: Explore our newest national park (est. 2013) and close to SLO! It's 3 hrs. drive to the east entrance--location of the main visitors' center and most scenic trails. Enjoy two nights camping plus socially-paced hikes past spectacular rock spires and gorges, abundant spring wildflowers, talus caves, and critical habitat for California condors. There will be ample leisure time and a spirited campfire sing-along. Join us! You

EAVESDROPS

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"
~ Robin Williams

can arrive anytime after 3pm on Friday; departure by noon Sunday. Tents only; no RVs. Bring all needed camping gear and food plus entree for potluck salad on Saturday night. Fee covers group campground fees, parking, and Happy Hour drinks and snacks on Saturday evening. Children over 12 welcome with parents. Entrance fee of \$5 per car. Carpooling is essential due to limited parking. To reserve, send 2 self-addressed stamped envelopes, H and C phones, and check for \$40 (per person) made out to "Sierra Club" to Joe Morris, 533 Pismo St. #4, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Info.: 805-549-0355 Limit of 18, so reserve early. No refunds can be given for cancellations after April 19th if replacement not found. (Santa Lucia Chapter)

April 27

FORBUSH FLAT - BLUE CANYON: From East Camino Cielo hike down to Forbush Flat and then on through Cottam campground and the length of Blue Canyon. A car shuttle completes the loop. Moderate 7 miles. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

April 28

URBAN HIKE TO FRANCHESCI PARK: Start near the Mission, walk through the Riviera, then up the "1000 steps" to a great view of the city and harbor. Return via Las Tunas Rd. Some steep sections. Moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should ready their outings for the next Condor Call schedule, covering the Jun-Sep plus the 1st week of October. Questions? Contact Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

April 29

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to go to bus stop take bus to Santa Barbara walk to French restaurant by pond for inexpensive lunch. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 3

VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE - OSO TRAIL LOOP (OJAI). Moderately-paced eight-mile loop, takes about four hours. Starting at Riverview Trailhead, hike to Oso Ridge Trail to the Preserve highpoint (1,320 feet) then to Wills and Rice Canyon trails and back to Riverview trailhead. Approximately 1000 feet of elevation gain/loss. There will be some boulder hopping and stream crossings. Meet at 9am at Riverview trailhead located across from the horse stables on South Rice Road, just north of West Lomita Avenue, in Meiners Oaks. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, water, and snack/lunch required. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. **RAIN CANCELS.** For more information, call PHILIP at 218-2103 (VEN)

May 4

LOST VALLEY - CASTLE ROCK: Hike from Nira Campground up the Lost Valley Trail. Primitive trail access to Castle Rock. Have lunch on top of this great massif. Strenuous 9 mrt. Bring plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. **NOTE EARLY START TIME!** TONY 682-8290 (SB)

May 4-5

BIRDS, FENCES, HISTORY IN THE CARRIZO: This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. On Saturday, we will assist monument staff in the removal of fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming; and the monument is known for the

continued on page 6



It's not only humans who are drawn to the beauty and bounty of spring wildflowers now in bloom, as this sparkling green hummingbird can attest to, and taste too. (© Photo by Denise Dewire whose amazing outdoor shots are on flickr and <http://500px.com/denisedewirephotography>)

... the definitive guide to hiking and backpacking the southern Los Padres National Forest.
— Santa Barbara Independent

... the most detailed, complete and up-to-date hiking and backpacking guide covering [the area] currently available.
— Ojai Valley News

craigrcarey.net

Saturday, April 20
11-4 @ Oak Grove School
220 W. Lomita • Ojai

Four Ojai-based green organizations are teaming up again to host this free, once-a-year community event. Come for food, live music, play, and new ideas. Visit www.ojaiearthplay.org for all of the details. See you there!

food for thought • Oak Grove School • Ojai Valley Green Coalition • Ojai Valley Land Conservancy



Rock climbers on the face of Gibraltar in Santa Barbara were seen having fun during a Sierra Club outing recently. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org



Denise Dewire and friends often go on photo shoots and this copyright shot of aspens got a five-star rating. Her group often posts on Edhat, and to see more of Denise's work (play?), either go to flickr or <http://500px.com/denisedewirephotography>

We teach backpacking too

**By Teresa Norris
WBC Chair**

The Los Padres Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) has soared to success in the last five years, educating and bringing enjoyment and adventure to those who experience its magic. We have created a community of like-minded, knowledgeable and experienced hikers.

The annual course will continue next winter; in the meantime you can get on its mailing list (lospadresWBC@gmail.com) or visit the website at: www.LosPadresSierraClub.org/WBC

Its mission is providing training in wilderness skills and

outdoor ethics through a series of lectures, outdoor experiences and camaraderie.

You can meet some of the people who make up the WBC and check out some gear during Earth Day events in Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Ventura (see schedule on page ?). Also, WBC will be at the Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., located 8 miles above Ojai on Highway 33, at 17017 Mari Copa Hwy.

Here are some highlights of WBC success in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties:

~ WBC sessions are held over eight weeks each year and include evening sessions and

weekend hikes, camping trips, and backpacks. The class sessions have included 26-30 separate talks each year.

~ A total of 124 students have taken the course, 24 graduates have joined the staff, nine have become hike leaders and at least 44 people have volunteered over the past five years. Currently we have 27 staff: 6 board members, 14 planning and in-class volunteers, and 7 hike leaders.

~ We've had 30 day and 20 backpack trips in the Los Padres National Forest, Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Ynez Valley, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Our two-day Car Camp, where we stay in a campground usually in the Santa Ynez River Valley, included navigation practice, 7 mini-seminars on Saturday, and 3 day hikes on Sunday.

~ It takes a lot of planning to run the WBC and since February 2008 we've had about 50 meetings; we have six committees, including Planning, Course Content, Outings, Publicity, Registration, and Leader Training.

~ Our 45 speakers and various organizations have helped our students with their expertise, and it has also helped us develop a broad range of support from the local wilderness community.

Participants include people from our own Sierra Club and national outings, weather bureaus, national forests, national and state parks, local colleges, first aid education, trail associations, search and rescue, animal tracking, conservation organizations, local outdoor gear retailers, chiropractic care, and guide services.

Membership Sale \$15

The Sierra Club has a membership sale during the spring that includes a free backpack, so members tell your friends and non-members go for it.

The limited time offer is for only \$15 for a year's membership, if you sign up online.

Benefits include a free expedition backpack, automatic membership in the local Los Padres chapter (Santa Barbara and Ventura counties), subscription to Sierra Magazine and discounts on calendars, books and outdoor adventures ... plus the knowledge that you are helping the local and national ecology.

Deal is for a limited time only, so sign up now online at: www.SierraClub.org

Outings...continued from page 5
number and variety of raptors present. Contact leader CRAIG DEUTSCHE, 310-477-6670, or craig.deutsche@gmail.com. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

May 5
WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO TANGERINE FALLS: Hike along the trail then do some rock-hopping up the creek to the falls. Difficult 3 mrt. Some climbing and agility required. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

May 6
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Canada Larga Road to do a 4 mile walk there. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 11
SAN YSIDRO/COLD SPRING LOOP: Strenuous 10.5 mrt hike up San Ysidro trail to E. Camino Cielo Road for lunch. Return via Cold Spring trail, then connect back to San Ysidro via the Hot Springs Trail. Great views of the back country and the coastline. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 447-1876 / 644-6934 (SB)

May 11-12
BLACK ROCK DESERT HOT SPRINGS TOUR: Come explore the hot springs in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions will determine the exact itinerary. Be prepared for cool weather. We may meet in Reno Friday evening and we'll probably have a potluck dinner Saturday. Sorry, no RV's or trailers. Leader is very familiar with the area. Dogs OK w/ leash, be prepared to pick up after them. LNT. Call leader after 5/1 for details. Leader: DAVID BOOK, 775/843-6443. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

May 12
CANINE HIKE JESUSITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT: Hike through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderately strenuous 7 miles RT. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring lunch and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at

B of A parking lot at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME Hike limited to six dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. Call leader if in doubt. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

OUTINGS DUE: Outings for inclusion in the Condor Call are due NOW. All Group outings chairs should send their Jun-Sep outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 13
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am under freeway overpass Alesandro to do circle Vista Del Mar to Pierpont Blvd. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 18
ENNISBROOK-VALLEY CLUB LOOP: This 5 mrt moderate hike starts at the Ennisbrook trailhead. We will travel through Ennisbrook, mostly on roads, taking the old trail routes where possible. We will then take the Coffin Family/Valley Club trails to the Summerland Reservoir for a short lunch stop. Return will be via segments of the Valley Club trail, Sheffield Road and the perimeter Ennisbrook trail. Bring water and a light lunch. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State, at 9am. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

SESPE RIVER TRAIL: Water crossings will cool you off! Hike along the Sespe Creek to Bear Canyon at a comfortable pace, past deep pools and sandy flats, about 8.5 miles roundtrip, approximately 200 feet elevation gain/loss. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, 10 essentials and plan to get wet. Meet at 7:45am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride at intersection of HWY 150 and HWY 33. ADVENTURE PASS REQUIRED for all vehicles. RAIN, OR RECENT HEAVY RAIN, CANCELS. For more information, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

May 19
COLD SPRING, FORBUSH FLAT TO GROTTTO: Hike down Cold Springs Trail from E. Camino Cielo to Forbush Flat campground. Hike approx 1.5 miles further to natural grotto. Bring swim suit, towel, lunch and water. Strenuous 6 mrt. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

May 20
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to go to Matilija Canyon to do hike on trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 24
UPPER OJAI: SISAR CANYON TO WHITE LEDGE TRAIL CAMP: Moderate-to-strenuous 9-miles-round-trip with approximately 2200 feet of elevation gain/loss, about 5 hours at a moderate pace. Some stream crossings. Enjoy lunch in a shaded oak grove. Meet at 9am at trailhead parking (north side of Hwy 150 just east of Summit School - first mile will be walking Sisar Road to locked gate). 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 quarts of water and lunch required. Sunblock, insect repellent and hat recommended. RAIN CANCELS. For more information, call PHILIP at 218-2103 (VEN)

May 25
ALDER CREEK/FRANKLIN TRAIL: Long car pool to Juncal Campground. Hike past Jameson Lake then up a long canyon to the ridge overlooking Carpinteria. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Moderate - strenuous 12 mrt. Early Start time at 8am. Call hike leader for details. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

May 25-27
BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: This trip is a great way to experience the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada for the first time. This is a well-attended event, with lots of activities to choose from, including speakers, guided tours, kid's activities, visits to hot springs, a potluck dinner, raffles, and more. Trailers and RV's OK but no hook-ups. Dry camping only. Sign up will start on 5/16. For more information, call DAVID BOOK at 775-843-6443. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

May 26
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

May 27
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to

carpool to upper Ojai to do walk Sisar Canyon. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 1
PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

June 2
TEA GARDEN HISTORICAL EXPLORATION: An easy, moderate or strenuous hike up to the top ridges of this old Montecito estate and looping back down Chelham Canyon. About 2, 4 or 5 mrt and 500, 700' or 1350' altitude gain, respectively, whichever is chosen. Meet either at the old gatehouse (680 East Mountain Drive at Cold Springs Junction) or at the B of A on upper State St. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

June 8
RED ROCK TO GIBRALTAR DAM: Hike up the road to Gibraltar Dam, then back past a popular swimming area. Moderate-strenuous 6.5 mrt. Bring swimsuit, wading shoes, lunch and water. Optional side trip to old mercury mine adds 4 miles. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

June 9
GIBRALTAR ROCK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderately Strenuous 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB) ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

June 14
PT. MUGU STATE PARK - SERRANO VALLEY LOOP: Moderately-paced 8.5 mile loop hike takes you through some of the most scenic parts of the center of the Park. About 5 hours of hiking. Starts at Big Sycamore Canyon trailhead and climbs 1100 feet up Serrano Canyon. Along the way enjoy woodland foliage, a large expanse of chaparral and a variety of other plant forms. Park on PCH north of entrance to Big

Forest fee free to thee

June 8 is National Get Outdoors Day, so it's a fee free day in the Los Padres National Forest, followed by another fee free day on September 28, which is National Public Lands Day.

The "Adventure Pass" normally required has also been modified so that of 33 recreation fee areas of all National Forests in California, 23 of them will not carry fees. The general rule seems to be an undeveloped area may be free, but it's confusing, so the Forest Service has recently created a new website to clear the air:

www.fs.usda.gov/adventurepass

Sycamore Canyon, or inside the Park's parking lot (fee required). Meet at 9am on the old bridge near the parking lot's restrooms to walk to the trailhead. Hiking/ trail boots, 3 quarts of water, and snack/lunch required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. RAIN CANCELS. For more information, call PHILIP at 218-2103 (VEN)

July 4-7
INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND IN THE BLACK ROCK: This will be a very busy weekend in the Black Rock. No specific activities planned at this writing but it's a shame to waste such a long weekend so it'll probably be a car-camp. Possible amateur radio class on Sunday! After 6/15, call DAVID BOOK, 775/843-6443 for more info. Leader is very familiar w/ the area and can find plenty to do up there. Sorry, no RV's or Trailers. Dogs on leash, LNT. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)



There's a new trail that opened recently for the Ventura Botanical Gardens called the Demonstration Trail. It's the first step in the development of the Gardens planned at the city's summit. The trail begins behind City Hall and climbs gently for nearly a mile. It is six feet wide with a compacted surface, and its first majestic viewpoint is wheelchair accessible. The trail offers remarkable views overlooking Ventura and 180° vistas of the coastline. As you can see by the smile on Rodie's face that it's dog friendly, but not so for bikes. (Photo by John Hankins)

How do we do it? You!

By now, members should have received a letter asking for your financial help to protect some special places in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties from threats like offshore drilling, hydraulic fracturing and irresponsible development.

Thanks to your help last year, we achieved significant victories, leading to the coveted ENVI award given out by the Environmental Defense Center (see story on page 1). The award will be given on June 2 during EDC's "Celebrating Paradise Saved" event.

We accomplish what we do on a tiny fraction of what the other side spends, but we can only do it thanks to your contribution of \$35, \$50 or any other amount. With your help we can win many more victories together here at home in the coming year.

To contribute, use the appeal letter sent to you, or simply send

your contribution to: Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241.

Here's a snapshot of last year's victories:

~ Campaigns for coastal representation involved highly contested races for two congressional seats (Capps, Brownley) and two state senate seats (Jackson, Pavley), all of whom will be great protectors of the environment.



Steve Bennett's reelection as a Ventura County Supervisor was another important victory for our side as was Santa Barbara County Supervisor Doreen Farr's re-election. We also supported the Heritage Farmlands Initiative

in Goleta, which passed with over 70 percent of the vote.

This year we look forward to working with Congresswoman Capps on a new wilderness bill and protecting the coast from new oil activities.

~ Oil extraction issues remain high on our agenda, particularly in Santa Barbara County. Oil barging, an issue we've worked on since 1997, finally ended in 2012. Our focus is now on fracking and cyclic steam injection.

Projects on the horizon include a huge energy plan by Santa Maria Energy near Orcutt that is projected to emit 60,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Venoco is still looking for a replacement for its Paredon Project near Carpinteria and is pushing for reviving a lease in Goleta. Carone Petroleum proposes to drill more wells from Platform Hogan off Carpinteria and Chevron submitted an application to leave debris mounds in place from prior platforms.

~ Pressure to develop the Gaviota Coast persists. We work with the Naples Coalition to contain the "mansions" of this fragile area, preserve coastal access for the public, and promote trail preservation, maintenance and expansion.

~ We won a huge victory last October when a Ventura County Superior Court judge upheld our lawsuit challenging the City of Oxnard's approval for the huge SouthShore project (1545 housing units) – a project which threatens the Ormond Beach Wetlands.

The judge recognized Ormond as "one of the largest and most important coastal wetland, estuarine and dune complexes remaining in Southern California." It supports more than 200 species of migratory birds, and many rare plant and animal species. Any future analysis must include plans to mitigate the impacts to the wetlands.

In recent years, the California State Coastal Conservancy has been acquiring property to permanently protect and restore Ormond Beach in hopes of creating one of the largest preserved coastal wetlands in southern California.

We only ask for funds once per year, so please help us continue our award-winning activities.

in Ventura, Patagonia is a model for businesses as caretakers of the earth.

Held at Thacher School's Diamond Hitch Camp in Ojai from 2:30 to 6 p.m. April 13, it features a barbecue supper, music, nature walks and auctions. Call 617-4610 or go online for tickets: www.LPFW.org.

Raptor Open House

A unique and free opportunity for an up-close view of raptors is from noon to 4 p.m. at the Ojai Raptor Center's annual open house at its facility, 370 Baldwin Road in Ojai.

Usually the Center is not open to the public because rehabilitating wild birds of prey require minimal contact with humans for successful release back into the wild.

Hawks, falcons, eagles, and owls will literally be on hand to greet guests and pose for pictures. ORC takes in an average of over 1400 native birds annually from the Tri County area, focusing on birds of prey (raptors) of which, 60 percent are released back into the wild.

If you find a bird down, call the ORC at 649-6884 and at your leisure, check out its website at: www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org.

Upcoming attractions

Saving Paradise

"Celebrating Paradise Saved," the Environmental Defense Center's annual benefit event, will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at Rancho La Patera and Stow House in Goleta.

Join hundreds of other ecology-minded people for an afternoon of hors d'oeuvres, wine, music, silent and live auctions, and a short program featuring the presentation of EDC's ENVI Awards.

To help sponsor the event or for questions, contact Monica Intaglietta at 709-0595, or monica@cicsb.com or to purchase tickets go to www.edcnet.org.

Honor Chouinards

Los Padres ForestWatch's annual Ojai Wild! Fundraising event April 13 will be giving its Wilderness Legacy Award to Yvon and Malinda Chouinard for their lifelong commitment to environmental protection, along with their creation of Patagonia and Black Diamond.

A self-described "reluctant businessman," Yvon was a "dirt bag climber" churning out hand-made and revolutionary 'clean climbing' gear, which led to creating the two firms. Still based

Condor Call nears extinction

Well, at least the hard copy newspaper *Condor Call* is nearing extinction as we must transmute The Bird into an electronic version in the next few months ... so we need your name and email (include a phone number if there's a glitch).

We may have a couple of

hard copy issues in the future, but mostly for our elections or specials. The e-version is always on our website

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> every other month, but please sign up so you won't miss it by calling 452-2885 or better yet email:

CondorJohn@gnusman.com

Celebrate Earth Days

Editor's Note: Most of the big Earth Day events are the weekend of April 20 and 21 but Thousand Oaks combines it with Arbor Day on April 28 and Oxnard has it early on April 6. The 'official' Earth Day is April 21 with the theme of "The Face of Climate Change," according to www.EarthDay.org.

The Los Padres Sierra Club and our Wilderness Basics Course will have a presence at the Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Ventura events.

Following are the celebrations that we know of in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Santa Barbara – The original and biggest Earth Day event in our region -- last year it attracted about 35,000 people -- runs for two days, Saturday and Sunday, April 20 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and April 21 (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.) at Alameda Park, run by the Community Environmental Council and cosponsored by Loa Tree.

Of course the Santa Barbara Group will have a presence there, along with a big eco-marketplace, kids' corner, live music, free bike tune-ups, how to live a more sustainable lifestyle, a film fest, live music all day and scores of non-profit and agencies on display.

Environmental Hero awards will be given to Van Jones on Saturday and Bill Nye on Sunday.

Its Green Car Show has the reputation of being the largest collection of efficient and alternative-fueled vehicles between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and this year it features a "solar carport."

For a full schedule of events, go to:

www.SBEarthDay.org

Lompoc – The Village Farmers' Market Association has an Earth Night fundraiser at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the White Oaks Hotel in Vandenberg Village with short talks on how to improve the community, then at 7:30 p.m. the Live Wire Band performs until 11 p.m.

Then on Sunday, April 14 the Association sponsors Earth Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Vandenberg Village Farmers' Market on Burton Mesa Blvd. featuring seed exchanges, family activities and demonstrations. For details, go to:

www.villagegoesgreen.org.

VENTURA COUNTY

Camarillo – The Camarillo Community Gardens is not sponsoring Earth Day this year; instead the First Baptist Church is taking it on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the church, 1601 Temple Ave. Community Garden Tours, speakers and family events are planned. For details, go to:

www.earthdaycamarillo.com

Ojai -- Dubbed as "Earth Play," this fun event is on Saturday, April 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oak Grove School, 220 W. Lomita. It celebrates "sustainable living, global awareness and the joy of nature," and is sponsored by four Ojai-based groups: Food for Thought, the Oak Grove School, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and the Green Coalition. More details are at:

www.OjaiEarthDay.org.

Expect to hear live music, including school bands, exhibits, field play and informational booths. Free rides to the event via the Ojai Trolley (schedule at www.ojaitrolley.com).

Oxnard -- The city sponsors Earth Day on Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Plaza Park, corner of Fifth and C streets. Numerous exhibitors share educational activities and displays ranging from reducing water to gardening. Live entertainment and kid-friendly. For details, go to: <http://publicworks.cityofoxnard.org>

Thousand Oaks -- Arbor/Earth Day is Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Conejo Creek Park, 1379 Janss Rd. More than 100 vendors and exhibitors, animal shows, children's hands-on activities, mobile marine lab, entertainment, eco-friendly vehicles, tree and plant giveaways, and so much more are on hand. Sponsored by the city and Conejo Park District, find details at:

www.ConejoValleyGuide.com

Ventura City -- The award-winning Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest brings fun, entertainment, children's activities, exhibitors, and education to the oceanside Promenade Park on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each year this successful community event is attended by over 5000 people and 80 exhibitors. Come join and celebrate our environment at a beautiful beachfront park featuring live music, raptor show, kid education, green autos and vendors, free bike valet and over 60 exhibitors, including the Ventura Sierra Club and Wilderness Basics Course.

The Festival organizers are volunteer parents and faculty with the Ventura Charter School of Global Arts and Education, in cooperation with the city of Ventura. For details, go to:

www.VenturaEarthday.org.

Ventura State Beach – In honor of Earth Day, help clean up the state beach on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of Channel Coast State Parks. To volunteer, sign up at www.friendsofccsp.org or email Melissa Baffa at volunteer@FriendsOfCCSP.org

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Forest spring paints mind-boggling colors

By Bryon Conant
and Craig Carey

Does it get any better than springtime in the Los Padres?

Most people consider March, April, and May to be the premier months for exploring the mountains and trails in



Southern California. One of the main reasons is the abundance of wildflowers that make their annual pilgrimage to see the sun during our spring months. While wildflowers are not hard to find, there are certainly some places that historically provide the best mix of soil, sun, and slope for optimal wildflower viewing.

Figueroa Mountain

Potentially the most spectacular and easy way to view wildflowers in the southern Los Padres is doing the Figueroa Mountain and Happy Canyon loop.

The drive starts from Los Olivos by taking Figueroa Mountain Road up past Midland onto the slopes of Figueroa Mountain. At this time of year there is no hiding the bright colored hillsides that feature acres of golden poppies and purple lupine offset by bright green grasses.

While there are dozens of side trails and hidden nooks filled with flowers to explore, you can see world-class wildflowers from the comfort

of your vehicle with relative ease. Further along Figueroa Mountain Road you'll continue to see flower displays as you wind your way down toward Cachuma Saddle.

Looping back down Happy Canyon Road can take a good chunk of the day but you won't be disappointed. Bring a picnic and some friends and make a day of it. But don't forget your camera.

To tap into wildflower updates from forest Ranger Helen Tarbet; go to: www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf

Mt. Pinos

Meanwhile, over on the subalpine fell-fields along the Mt. Pinos summit area – the highest area in all the Los Padres – stands a unique botanical preserve above the 8500-foot line. This area makes for a great day hike from the Chula Vista parking area.

On the boundary with the Chumash Wilderness near the old condor lookout (with its expansive views of the San Emigdio Mesa and the Cuyama), the exposed terrain is home to ubiquitous and easily-recognized species such as Indian paintbrush, lupine, and various varieties of monkey flower. But this unique area also features mountain and MacKloskey's violets, corn lily, irises, penstemon, campion, and some less-common varieties of larkspur. While the colors may not be as vibrant as those along Figueroa Mountain, the variety



Here's the famed Figueroa Mountain wildflower slope, in bloom now. Go see it and much more up the mountain road before the hot summer melts them down. Other places to go are listed in the adjacent story and on page 2. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

is mind-boggling.

Get out there!

Bryan Conant is a backcountry cartographer (www.bryanconant.com), VWR, and President of the Condor Trail Association (www.condortrail.com).

Craig R. Carey is a frequent wanderer of the Los Padres backcountry, VWR, and author of *Hiking & Backpacking*

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Wilderness Press, 2012). You can read his idle musings at www.craigrcarey.net

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