

Condor Call

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



February - March 2013



© Photo by Denise Dewire

Gaviota . . . Tarred! . . . Legacies . . . Muir . . . Condors

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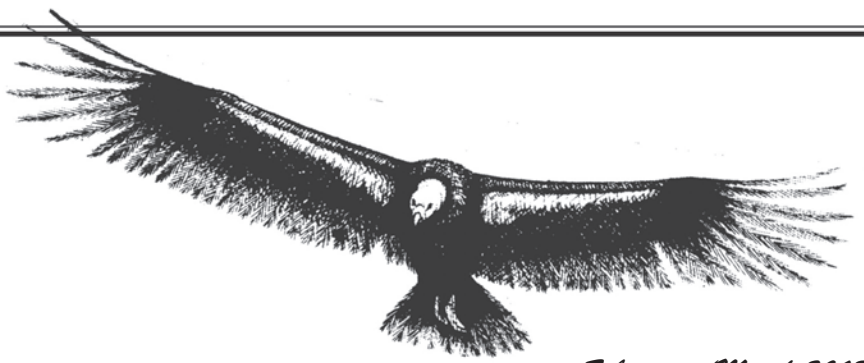
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Condor Call

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



February - March 2013

Club breaks policy endorsing protest against tar sands

The Sierra Club Board of Directors has approved the one-time use of civil disobedience for the first time in the organization's 120-year history.

"We'll be following in the hallowed footsteps of Thoreau, who first articulated the principles of civil disobedience 44 years before John Muir founded the Sierra Club," said Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director.

Recognizing the imminent danger posed by climate disruption -- including record heat waves, drought, wildfires and the devastation of super-storm Sandy -- the board has suspended a long-standing Club policy to allow, for one time, the organization to lead a group of environmental activists, civil rights leaders, visionaries, scientists, and other high-profile individuals in a peaceful protest in February against the effort to extract oil from dirty and dangerous tar sands.

The action will be by

EAVESDROPS

"The PR campaign ... aims to greenwash the pollution at the (Rocketdyne) site, declaring the Santa Susana Field Laboratory an asset to the community."

~ Michael Collins, writing a feature entitled "Greenwashing Rocketdyne" in the **Ventura County Reporter**, asserting that "puff pollution pieces" are being sent out to "erase SSFL's infamously polluted past." The media campaign was exposed after a secret document, created by a company called Make Over Earth Inc. for Boeing, was posted online,

invitation only and is being co-sponsored by 350.org.

"For civil disobedience to be justified, something must be so wrong that it compels the strongest defensible protest," Brune argued. "We are watching a global crisis unfold before our eyes, and to stand aside and let it happen -- even though we know how to stop it -- would be unconscionable. As the president said in his inaugural address, 'to do so would betray our children and future generations'."

"The Sierra Club has refused to stand by. We've worked hard and we have had great success - helping establish historic fuel economy standards for cars and trucks, stopping more than 170 coal plants from being built, securing the retirement of another 129 existing plants, and helping grow a clean energy economy."

"But time is running out, and the stakes are enormous. We can't afford to lose a single major battle. The burning of dirty tar sands crude is one of those major battles. That's why the Sierra Club's Board of Directors has for the first time endorsed an act of peaceful civil disobedience," said Brune.

"The recent decision made by the Board is not one we take lightly," said Allison Chin, Sierra Club President. "As a nation, we are beginning to achieve significant success in the fight against climate disruption. But allowing the production, transport, export and burning of the dirtiest oil on Earth now would be a giant leap backwards in that progress."

"The Board is answering the urgency of this threat with our decision to engage, for one time, in civil disobedience."



Devereaux Vista is one of Alan Freeman's amazing water colors that he's been compiling for years of Central Coast vistas. The Lompoc resident now has the best of his works in a 100-page book that also includes a few pen and ink drawings. You can contact Alan at 736-4549.

Your input needed for new Gaviota Coast plan

What's going to happen to the Gaviota Coast?

That's the question that drives the draft Gaviota Coast Plan, now out for all to read and respond.

A series of meetings on different aspects -- projects, parks, agriculture, access, etc. -- starts Feb. 6 and may end on March 2. GavPAC is asking for public reaction, and may adjust the draft before a final is ultimately up for adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

You can access the plan at the [Draft Gaviota Coast Plan Website](#).

"The role of the GavPAC will be to receive community input, review and comment on planning issues in the Gaviota Coast Plan area, which will be used by County staff to draft the Gaviota Coast Plan," according to the Long Range Planning Division on its website.

The tentative GavPAC schedule is below. Staff will email

a flier to interested parties a week before each meeting; get on the list via its website by emailing hallen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

~ Feb. 6, 6 p.m.: Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium, 9467 San Julian Rd., Gaviota, 93117. Topics are visual and transportation, energy & infrastructure.

~ Feb 13 6 p.m. Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium. Topics are land use, parks, recreation and trails.

~ Feb. 20, 6 p.m. Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium. Topics (from Feb. 13) continued.

~ Feb. 23, 10 a.m. P&D Planning Commission Hearing Room, Engineering Building, 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara. Topics are agriculture and resources stewardship.

~ Feb. 27 6 p.m. Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium. Topics (from Feb. 23) continued.

~ March 2 10 a.m. (if necessary), P&D Planning

Commission Hearing Room. Topics to be determined.

The county's staff contact is Heather Allen; phone (805) 884-8082, email:

hallen@countyofsb.org or go on the web: <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/> ...And even Facebook! [facebook.com/longrange.sbcounty](https://www.facebook.com/longrange.sbcounty)

Decide who runs Club

Who are these people who want to run the Sierra Club?

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is in April and while members can get materials in the mail, electronic delivery and voting is preferred.

The Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. For that information including an online forum, visit the Club's election website at: www.sierraclub.org/bod/2013election

COVER PHOTO

A feeding frenzy occurred in December near the Ventura Pier attracting a flock of pelicans and other birds above the water and dolphins and seals underwater all day long. Denise Dewire witnessed the lunch bunch; see more of her excellent shots at www.Flickr.com and www.500px.com



Owen Bailey lent his skills to the Sierra Club for a decade, and now he's Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Center, which is the Los Padres Sierra Club's preferred law firm. (Photo contributed)

Owen Bailey named EDC exec director

By John Hankins

For a decade, Owen Bailey was an effective Sierra Club activist who helped defeat the LNG project off Ventura County's shores, helped save the Del Monte Forest in Monterey County and had a national profile with his "green tips" videos.

Now he's been appointed as the Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Center, replacing David Landecker who retired last August.

"Owen brings us a variety of critically important skills," said Peter Schuyler, President of the Board of EDC. "He has

spent his entire career at the intersection of environmental advocacy, community outreach and organizing, politics and fundraising."

"He's exactly the kind of person EDC needs," commented Mike Stubblefield of the Los Padres Sierra Club, noting that EDC has had a close relationship with the chapter for many years in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

"During the LNG fight, he was instrumental in organizing and integrating the Sierra Club with the community, which was

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Jim Higman's legacy lives on

Jim and Sue Higman have been a force for the environment and major Sierra Club activists for years, but on Dec. 20 Jim passed away at the age of 98.

In an earlier event reported in the Condor Call, Sue brought her trusty Sierra Club cup, which her father Art Batt found in a stream years ago. She recounted how she and Jim met in the Sierra Club, and just as importantly said, "Don't let the Sierra Club ever die out!"

Both of them shared a

EAVESDROPS

"Sometimes we live long enough to see the fruits of our labor."

~ Comment from a reader of Elder Bill Deneen's "Enviro-Inclined blog," in response to Bill's comment that in 1962, "I had a tough decision to make: should I go to New Zealand or stay here?" He went to Point Sal to think about it and the location inspired him to stay and teach at Hancock College. "Over the years I fought at Point Sal (against) supertanker port, offshore oil rigs, housing developments, power plants, even an OHV park. I am proud to say Point Sal remains exactly like it was in 1962."

And now Bill's son Steve leads hikes there, call 801-8439.

national "special services" Sierra Club award in 1993 and locally there was the Higman Civic Award for their neighbors on the Santa Barbara Mesa. The Higmans supported many other organizations, notably the Santa Barbara Presidio and the Trust for Historic Preservation.

"Jim and Sue's life together was a continuous demonstration of their deep love and support for the natural environment, their local community and the Sierra Club, which Jim's family had been involved with since the beginning of the 20th century," according to an obituary in the Santa Barbara Independent.

"They were inveterate backpackers, and never missed an opportunity to sleep out under the stars. Their unfailing and resolute support, inspirational, financial and organizational, assured the success of the campaign to acquire and protect from development the Wilcox Property, now the Douglas Family Preserve."

Jim and Sue were also honored by the Sierra Club Foundation for their outstanding philanthropy. The long-time members of the Santa Barbara Group created a generous endowment for the club's William E. Colby Memorial Library, located at UC-Berkeley, which holds one of the largest collections of environmental and mountaineering literature in the U.S.

In fact, a library official told Condor Call she doubted the



library would exist without the Higman's generous contribution, which was matched dollar for dollar.

Jim came to Santa Barbara in 1954 and married Sue in 1958. Jim was a machinist and engineer by trade and worked on many ships, such as an engineer on the super-secret vessel, the Hughes Glomar Explorer, eventually revealed as a CIA vessel, whose mission was to recover a sunken Soviet submarine. Locally, he did custom work for many of the companies that pioneered deep sea development and he completed a one-eighth scale Pacific locomotive, which he ran just weeks before his death.

Jim is survived by his wife Sue and extended family members. Donations in Jim's memory can be made to the national Sierra Club or the Los Padres chapter, or The Trust for Historic Preservation.

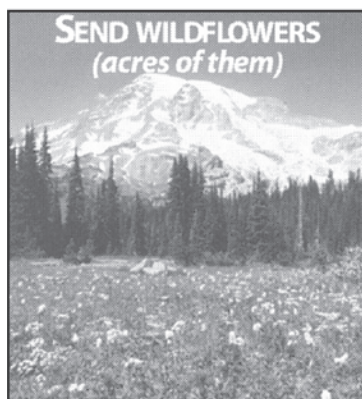
Reed Smith; an advocate for wildlife

A strong advocate for wildlife conservation, Reed Vernon Smith of Ventura passed away last October and a memorial honoring him was held in January.

Smith was a Sierra Club member and a lieutenant in the California Department of Fish and Game, retiring in 1994. He was dedicated to the protection and monitoring of two endangered species, Western Snowy Plovers and California Least Terns and he served on the board of directors of the Ventura Audubon Society for decades.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Ventura Audubon Society; P.O. Box 24198, Ventura, CA 93002 or

www.venturaaudubon.org.



SEND WILDFLOWERS (acres of them)

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

Bailey directs EDC...

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ultimately a huge success," Stubblefield added.

For that work, Bailey was honored with a National Sierra Club Special Achievement Award and won commendations from politicians and jurisdictions. Lately, he's been the Club's "entertainment industry liaison," convincing well-known people to use their star power for the good of the environment.

Yes, he's the man who enlisted "James Bond" (Pierce Brosnan) to fight against the LNG project.

He's also a practical man who "invites you into his shower," according to a Sierra Club pitch, when he was doing videos that showed the public how to save water, energy and eat well, which are still available on the web.

Bailey has lived for years in the Encino area with his wife Laurie, a photographer, and their two children, Benjamin, 9, and Nicola 5.

"They're the reason I do what I do ... it's all about leaving the earth in better shape," he said.

As for leaving Encino for Santa Barbara: "There is so much richness here, so we are very excited," Bailey said. For now, Laurie and the kids won't relocate until school is over in June.

"I'm brand new here, but the first goal is to bring people together," Bailey said, and that means re-connecting with the LNG coalition people, community leaders, EDC clients and politicians.

Speaking of politicians, he has worked on Barbara Boxer's campaign in California, and in

his home state of Connecticut he was active in Ned Lamont's battle against Joe Lieberman, who then switched to being an Independent.

"He is the right person to build upon David Landecker's successes, engaging supporters for our work and providing leadership in EDC's advocacy for the local environment," said EDC's chief counsel, Linda Krop.

As for Bailey, he holds the EDC in the highest regard, mentioning a Santa Barbara Independent feature that asked what it would be like if EDC did not exist. He believes it can do even more by "finding new people to work with us, expanding EDC's reach."



Laud Landecker

Help celebrate the success of David Landecker who retired in August after five years as the Environmental Defense Center's Executive Director.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. on March 6 at the Soho, 1221 State St. #205 in Santa Barbara. Cost is \$50 to benefit the EDC. You should reserve a space by Feb. 22 by calling 963-1622 Ext. 103 or visit the website: www.environmentaldefensecenter.org



Dubbed the Los Padres Tree Lobster by Jack Elliott, this *Hericium* mushroom was harvested in our backcountry and, "when sautéed in butter and olive oil it tastes remarkably similar to lobster," he says. Sure it wasn't the butter Jack? Check out Jack's backcountry ramblings and photos at www.yankeebareno.com

Club cut solar rates

Citizens throughout California have Sierra Club volunteer Kurt Newick to thank for his years of work in successfully reducing solar power permit fees.

He recently was given the Sierra Club California's John Zierold Award, which is given to individuals who have served the club through legislative advocacy.

The February 2011 issue of Condor Call highlighted Newick's work via his survey of Ventura jurisdictions in which he found a wide disparity in permit fees, notably "sky high" fees in Camarillo. Newspapers in Ventura and Santa Barbara

picked up on the story and helped encourage reform.

His surveys in Ventura and other counties confirmed that such fees were inordinately high in many places and without any standards, and subsequent legislation lowered fees and streamlined permitting for solar systems throughout California.

"Whew, lots of work since there are 89 jurisdictions to survey and gathering the survey data is lots of work!" Newick told the Condor Call two years ago.

For details of his work through the Loma Prieta Chapter, go to www.SolarPermitFees.org

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



Yosemite Valley is dusted with frost and enhanced by water and the color of the trees in this sylvan photo captured by Denise Dewire. See more of her excellent shots at www.Flickr.com and www.500px.com

February 9
STEVENS PARK - JESUSITA TRAIL: Hike across meadow and up wooded area to an inspirational view of Santa Barbara. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

February 10
COLD SPRING TRAIL TO THE MONTECITO OVERLOOK: Experience the best of Santa Barbara's Front Country hiking trails in an exhilarating three mile loop-hike. In just three miles we will hike through the riparian woodland of Cold Spring Creek. After crossing the creek a couple of times we will ascend up into the some coastal sage scrub and then live oak woodlands before arriving at the Overlook and its magnificent view of Montecito, East Beach and much of Santa Barbara. On the return we will pass briefly through true chaparral before descending back down to the trailhead on

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.LPFforest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

Mountain Drive. Moderate 3 mrt hike with a 1,000 ft elevation gain. This hike is a great way to discover one of Santa Barbara's most popular power walks. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind the Bank of America at 9am or at the Cold Spring Trailhead at 9:30am. STEPHEN 574-9445

February 11
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Miramonte, do loop, creek road and back. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 15
OJAI VALLEY (LORA) - HORN CANYON TRAILHEAD TO THE PINE CAMP: Moderate-to-strenuous hike up beautiful Horn Canyon, 5 miles round trip, with 1750 feet of elevation gain. Allow 3 hours. Carpool at 8am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride Lot on intersection of HWYs 150 and 33. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snack (lunch for longer hike) required. RAIN CANCELS. For more info, call LORA 218-2105 (VEN)

OJAI VALLEY (PHIL) - HORN CANYON TO THE PINES TO GRIDLEY TRAILHEAD VIA NORDHOFF RIDGE FIRE

ROAD. Strenuous and fast-paced 18.5 mile hike with 3800 feet of elevation gain. Both hikes will carpool at 8am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride Lot on intersection of HWYs 150 and 33. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snack (lunch for longer hike) required. RAIN CANCELS. For more info, call PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

February 16
HUNEME LIGHTHOUSE HIKE: We will tour the Hueneme Lighthouse and learn the early history of the Hueneme beach, pier and dock area. Then we'll head for the beach pier and the memorial to the Alaska Airlines plane crash. After the hike, we'll head for a great Vietnamese lunch nearby. Meet at 9:30 am at Seaview and Ventura Road (parking on Seaview is free). Or, carpool from the Vons parking lot on Seaward in Ventura at 8:45 am. For more info, call TED at 985-8963 (VEN).

SAN MARCOS FOOTHILL PRESERVE: This is an easy-moderate 4 mrt hike across the San Marcos Foothill Preserve, part of our County Parks system. We'll explore the parts of the

current trail system. Bring water and a light lunch. Sun protection is recommended as there is limited shade. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

SANTA PAULA CANYON CLEANUP - Trash bags and tools provided by the USFS. Volunteers must wear closed shoes and be able to hike 4-5 miles on uneven terrain with several stream crossings. Rain cancels. Meet in the Museum of Ventura County parking lot (between Main and Santa Clara across from the Mission in Ventura) at 7:30am or at the entrance to Thomas Aquinas College at 8:30am. STEPHEN 794-1150 (SB)

February 17
SAN ANTONIO CREEK: Beginning at Tuckers Grove County Park, we will walk on a creek side trail that meets up with Hwy 154. A short walk on this busy highway will link us to a return via San Antonio Creek Road. Easy, 2 mrt. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave. & State St. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

February 18
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am to carpool to Lake Casitas and walk to ????? For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 18-20
GOLD BUTTE, NEVADA CAR CAMP: Join Vicky Hoover in exploring this beautiful and remote area in SE Nevada (about 3 hours NE of Las Vegas). Contact vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or (415)977-5527 (CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

February 23
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. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

February 24
HOWARD CREEK TRAIL TO NORDHOFF PEAK: Strenuous 10 mrt hike with 2400' elev. gain/loss. The hike starts from the Rose Valley Road right off of Highway 33 and takes the Howard Creek Trail up to Nordhoff Ridge Road, then continues on to Nordhoff Peak for some great views of

Lake Casitas, the Ojai Valley, and the Los Padres backcountry. Wear hiking shoes/boot, bring lots of water, snack, lunch, and proper clothing for the weather conditions. Meet at 9am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 447-1876 / 644-6934 (SB)

February 25
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk new trail to the cross (Ventura). For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 1
OJAI VALLEY: KENNEDY RIDGE TRAIL IN VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE: Moderate 4-to-6 mile-round-trip hike to the picnic table lookout point on the Kennedy Ridge trail in Ventura River Preserve. If group wants to, we will continue up another mile to the higher ridge after a rest at the picnic table. Meet at 9am at parking lot for the Oso Ridge Trailhead in Ojai Land Conservancy (North end of Rice Ave at the end of Meyer Lane). Trail is easy, but elevation gain of about 800 feet makes this a moderate level hike. Water, snack, hiking boots required. Hiking poles, sunblock, sun hat and 10 essentials recommended. May stop for lunch after hike at local eatery. RAIN CANCELS. For more information, call LORA at 218-2105 (VEN)

March 2
SAN YSIDRO FIVE TRAILS: Hike up San Ysidro, over to Cold Springs, down to Hot Springs and the bamboo tunnel of doom and then down the Bud Girard and McMenemy trails. Bring Lunch and at least two liters of water. Strenuous 11 mrt. Prepare for an all-day adventure. This hike is not suitable for beginners or people with health issues. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

March 2-3 (March 1 & 4 optional)
DEATH VALLEY TOUR: Meet in Shoshone, south of Death Valley at 8am Saturday morning. Tour will take us to Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, and Artists Drive. Short hikes and lunch stop along the way. Camp Saturday night at Texas Springs (fee). Sunday we drive to Zabriskie Point, and then stop at the newly renovated visitors center before heading on to Salt Creek, home of the rare Salt Creek Pupfish. Then on to hike the Mesquite Flats Sand Dunes. Monday option includes camping in the park and a morning hike up Mosaic Canyon. The Friday option includes camping near Tecopa and an afternoon hike at China Ranch. Trip details available at desertreport.org (outings), or contact leader for questions and to reserve a space. CAROL WILEY, desertilly1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 3
LOON POINT BEACH WALK: We'll start just south of Summerland and walk the beach to Santa Claus Lane Beach. Return via Padero Lane. Great views of the SB Channel and elegant beach estates. Easy 4
continued on page 5

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.

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.

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Gaviota coast is special

By Jim Hines

A wild and windswept land ... mountain peaks with breathtaking views of land and sea ... a rugged coastline and a protected marine sanctuary ... a land of history. This



is the special place known as the Gaviota Coast.

Named after the bird which still soars over the coast today, the 1770 Portola expedition called this land Gaviota, the Spanish word for seagull.

The wildness of Gaviota allows us an escape from our busy urban world. Camping, hiking, biking and nature study abound in the land of Gaviota. You can experience a quiet

beach walk at El Capitan State Beach, a bike ride on the bluffs overlooking the ocean at Refugio State Beach to a more strenuous hike up to the highest point above the coast, Gaviota Peak at 2500 foot elevation. Yes, the views are truly breathtaking, and what better completes a day hike to the top than a refreshing dip in Gaviota Hot Spring on the way back down.

The Santa Ynez mountain range towers above the Gaviota coast, much of it within the Los Padres National Forest. A land of diverse ecosystems, high mountains and protected watersheds for El Capitan, Gaviota and Refugio creeks flowing from the mountains to the sea, future congressional legislation could create the Condor Point National Scenic Area in the national forest overlooking Gaviota.

Clear days offer beautiful views of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz islands offshore, part of Channel Islands National Park. The marine waters offshore of Gaviota are also protected as part of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, one of the most diverse ocean ecosystems on our planet.

Yes, as La Gaviota flies over this most beautiful and diverse land as it did when General Portola first saw the land over 200 years ago, we are all reminded that this special wild place deserves to be preserved and protected for future generations.

See you on the trail.

Editor's note: A plan for the Gaviota Coast's future is underway; see story on page 1. To keep up with what's happening, go to: www.SaveNaples.org.



The Gaviota Coast has some good public access, such as El Capitan and Gaviota State beaches, but nevertheless is threatened by urban development. See the article on page one for hearings on Gaviota's future. (Photo by John Hankins)

Outings...*from page 4*

mrt. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

March 4

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 7

Anacapa Island \$54.00 Island Packers. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 9

ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree/rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate hike with some rock hopping, 4-5 mrt. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

March 10

PARMA PARK LOOP: A pleasant four mile morning hike through Santa Barbara's largest and least used park. Dirt roads and primitive trails, sometimes steep. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

March 11

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Ojai to do Shelf Road. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 15-17

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE OUTING: Meet Friday, 1pm at Sunrise Rock primitive campground. Hike that afternoon to Teutonia Peak (4 mi rt). Saturday includes a trip to the Hole in the Wall Visitors Center and a 6 mile hike on the Barber Peak Loop Trail. Potluck dinner Sat. night. Sunday we will enjoy hiking the Kelso Dunes. For those wanting to stay another night we will camp at Granite Pass (primitive) and visit Amboy Crater. For details or to sign up contact CAROL WILEY at desertlily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 16

COLD SPRING TRAIL TO GORILLA ROCK: Hike down to Forbush Flat onto an off-trail hike under strenuous conditions to rock formations in a remote canyon. Difficult/strenuous 8 mrt with over 1500 elevation gain/loss. Rock scrambling, bush whacking involved. Wear long pants and shirt. The hike will begin headed down hill and end headed up hill. Prepare for an all-day adventure. Call hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

March 16-17

GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA: Come with us this St. Patrick's Day weekend to

a beautiful desert landscape near Death Valley to visit the ghosts and leprechauns of California's colorful past. Camp at the historic ghost town of O'Ballarat (flush toilets). On Sat, do a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal O'Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Later we'll return to camp for a special St. Patty's Day Happy Hour and potluck, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard where we'll hope we don't get pinched by a fairy. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous O'Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372; (760) 868-2179. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 17

SUNDAY BRUNCH WALK: Join us for an easy hike to Carpinteria for brunch. We will meet at the Carpinteria Bluffs parking lot at 8:45 am. The parking lot is located at 6145 Carpinteria Avenue, next to the S and S Seed Company. The hike is about five miles round trip. We should be done before 1 pm. The hike is easy. The views of the ocean, Channel Islands and mountains are fantastic! Carpool from Vons parking lot on Seaward in Ventura at 8 am. For more info, call TED at 985-8963 (VEN).

ENNISBROOK: Morning walk through this Montecito area with large trees and plants near San Ysidro Creek. Flat, slow paced 2-3 miles. Children welcome, bring water and meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

continued on page 6

Join club's adventures to islands

Join the Sierra Club for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to Channel Island National Park.

This great adventure is offered on six dates this year: April 7-9; May 5-7; June 2-4; July 21-23; August 25-27 and September 15-17.

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions and so much more. Or, just relax at sea.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truht.

The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest, and present evening programs. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to 'Sierra Club' to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

For more information call or e-mail the leader 626) 443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.



A hiker on one of Robert Bernstein's adventures called the "Five Trail Montecito Loop" kicks back on the rocks. The hike attracted locals and visitors from Minnesota and Tucson. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Nap on the rocks Join the Club

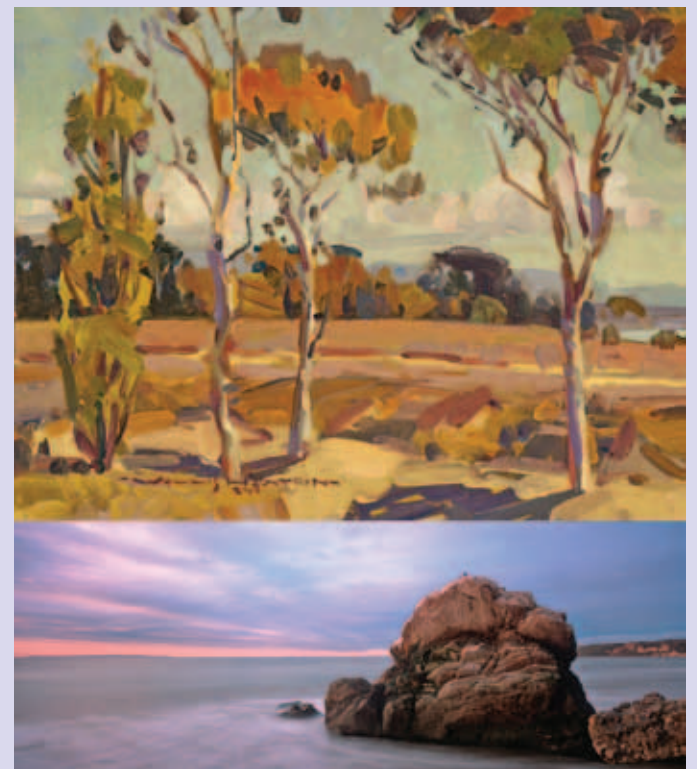
"Visions of the Gaviota Coast"

is an art event to benefit the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Naples Coalition; free admission.

Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) and photographer Reeve Woolpert will present their art focused on this pristine coastline.

Come on Friday, March 29 from 1 - 7 p.m. (reception 5-8 p.m.) or Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bacara Resort & Spa, 8301 Hollister Ave. Goleta.

Information at SaveNaples.org or GaviotaCoastConservancy.org



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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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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

Outings...continued from page 5

March 18

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Ojai to do Cozy Dell Trail uphill. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 20-24

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK - SPRING WEEKEND: Visit Death Valley National Park when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. We will explore areas both outside and inside the park with hikes planned to visit water falls and stunning desert canyons. We will also tour Scotty's Castle. Hiking may be over rough ground and rocks. High clearance vehicles are recommended, but there will be car pooling options. We are staying in a developed private campground which includes flush toilets, showers, camp fire rings and picnic tables. Cost is \$60 per person and includes 4 nights of camping and tour of Scotty's Castle. \$25 deposit required. Group size limited to 19 people. Contact leader for reservation information. Leader: RICH JURICICH, raj082806@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181 (CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

March 22

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN ROAD RECREATION TRAIL: 10-mile one-way hike follows a 2600 foot ridge along Sulphur Mountain. Car shuttle required. Group size limited to 14, including leaders. MUST CALL Phil or Lora by 8 pm on Thursday, April 4th to secure a place. Weather permitting, the hike across the ridge offers gorgeous views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands, Oxnard plains, Topa Topa Mountains and Ojai Valley. 1500 feet of gain/loss on the west side near Casitas Springs. We will meet at 8:30am in Ventura to carpool to shuttle sites. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snacks/lunch required. RAIN CANCELS. For more information, call PHIL at 218-2103 or LORA at 218-2105 (VEN)

March 23

CHORRO GRANDE: Strenuous 12 mrt hike with 3200' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. The hike starts at

4000' and climbs steadily for 6 miles to 7200', ending up on the Pine Mountain Ridge near Reyes Campground. Wear hiking shoes/boot, 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 8:30am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 447-1876 / 644-6934 (SB)

March 24

UCSB LAGOON: Stroll for an hour or so around the Lagoon and over the Bluffs at the University. Children welcome, bring water, slow paced 3 miles or so. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

March 25

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Ojai to do Sulphur Mountain trail, uphill. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 29 - 31

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY WITH NEEDLES BLM: Join our annual Sierra Club service trip with the Needles BLM Field Office to help wilderness -- this season's task will be to document the wilderness characteristics of an area adjacent to wilderness that has not been recently studied--exact location still to be determined. We enjoyed similar work last spring just west of the Old Woman Mountains. Car camping with optional central commissary, usual exorbitant fee. Contact VICKY HOOVER, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or 415-977-5527. (CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

March 30

MORE MESA: Morning loop walk around this extensive coastal bluff. Children welcome. Slow paced 2-3 miles or so. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State Street at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

March 30 - 31

MODERATELY EASY BACKPACK: White Ledge campground, up Sisar Road near Ojai. Saturday 2 1/2 mile pack

March appeal is coming soon

Soon you'll be receiving a March Appeal letter from the Los Padres Sierra Club, asking you to support the incredible work our volunteers are doing in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

That includes hundreds of free outings per year and first-class activism keeping our air and water safe from threats like fracking, off-shore oil drilling and unrestrained development.

We only ask once per year,

unless there's a special need, and we never ask something for nothing as the Sierra Club and our allies have a long history of accomplishments, which are chronicled in the Condor Call every other month.

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 \$150. 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 in March, or simply send your contribution to: Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241.

To support our effective action programs (not tax-deductible), make a check out to "Los Padres Sierra Club" and for a tax deductible donation, make it out to "Sierra Club Foundation."

into cool, shaded site. After lunch day hike further up Sisar Canyon, fantastic views of Topa Topa Bluff and Channel Islands. Return to camp for happy hour. Sunday pack out, perhaps looking for Easter eggs along the way. This trip is suitable for first time backpackers. For more information or to sign up, contact leader SALLY 689-7820. Rain/fire cancels. (SB)

March 31

ROMERO CANYON TO CAMINO CIELO: Walk all the way up this mostly tree shaded trail to the top. Great views of back country. Moderate-strenuous 9 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

April 5

CHORRO GRANDE, LOS PADRES 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)

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)

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 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: desertilly1@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)

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

EAVESDROPS

"John Muir is a most passionate lover of nature. Plants and flowers and forests, and sky and clouds and mountains seem actually to haunt his imagination. He seems to revel in the freedom of this life, a man of strong, earnest nature, and thoughtful, closely observing, an original mind."

~ Joseph LeConte, in a letter about befriending John Muir, and both of them became instrumental in creating the Sierra Club.

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

April 19

PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE CAMP VIA GENE MARSHALL-PIEDRA BLANCE 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)



It may look like Doc Caballero is lost, but he isn't! Instead, the Doc is checking out new areas to map, as he's been treading the local trails, marking down their features and providing anecdotes for years. He recently updated his "Mileage Hiking Maps" on CD, consisting of 158 detailed day hikes covering over 1,000 miles of local trails. Call him for a copy (485-0160) and then "just click, print and hike." (Photo contributed)



The Backbone Trail is 65 miles long and you can do it all in seven days during the annual trek beginning on May 4. (Photo by Dave Edwards)

Hike length of Backbone

A rare opportunity for a guided hike of the entire 65-mile Backbone Trail across the Santa Monica Mountains is offered during the 12th annual Backbone Trek beginning on May 4.

The seven-day hike with all meals provided and camping gear transported by volunteers, offers a unique wilderness experience, starting at the western end of the trail just off Pacific Coast

Highway in Ventura County until arriving on May 11 at Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades.

The yearly trek is sponsored by The Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council; a \$350 fee covers meals, campgrounds, equipment transportation and insurance. For more information, call 657-2984, email: backbonetrek2013@yahoo.com



Don't get *LOST*, use my
"Mileage Hiking Maps"
by Dr. James R. Caballero

158 Detailed Day Hikes over 1,000 Miles of Local Trails
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A condor calls from atop his perch. To see the biggest bird on earth, see the article below and adjacent. (© photo by Dean Zatkowsky)

Where to see condors

In southern California the best public place to see a condor is from Cerro Noroeste Road between the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge sign and the Los Padres National Forest sign in southern Kern County.

You can access Cerro Noroeste Road from Highway 166, west of Maricopa. From the south exit I-5 at Frazier Park for a scenic drive down the mountains as the road name changes from Frazier Mountain Highway to Cuddy Valley Road to Mil

Potrero Highway and then Cerro Noroeste Road.

California condors are at both Pinnacles National Park and in the Ventana Wilderness of the Los Padres National Forest in central California. Many people have seen the condors along Highway 1 in the Big Sur area south of Andrew Molera State Park and north of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

For details, tour and volunteer opportunities, contact www.FriendsOfCondors.org.

Condor recovery aired

Find out the latest news and history about the condor recovery program from an expert from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who is coming to Ventura from Sacramento.

John McCamman is the former director of the Service and is now the condor Recovery Coordinator. The program is from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Foster Library in downtown Ventura.

The program is sponsored

by Friends of California Condors Wild and Free, which also conducts tours and provides updated information; website is: www.FriendsOfCondors.org.

The Recovery Program is a complex partnership of public, private and non-profit groups, including the Service as leader along with zoos, tribes, universities and government agencies in California, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Idaho and Mexico.

Population taxes planet

Civilization started on this planet about 10,000 years ago with five million Homo sapiens, about the number living in L.A. right now.

In 1800 we managed to reach our first billion. At the time I was born (1925) we reached our second billion. The number of Homo sapiens since then has soared to seven billion: 5,000,000,000 more people in just my lifetime.

This is called a Population Explosion and occurs in nature (lemmings). The birth rate and death rate of a species should be equal. Excessive births over deaths results eventually in a Population Collapse. We are ripe.

We call ourselves Homo sapiens meaning "man wise" but I see little indication of this "wise" condition. To get the birth rate and death rate in balance we have to either lower the births or increase the deaths. I prefer the former as I enjoy being alive.

When I came to Santa Maria in 1960, it had the highest teen pregnancy rate of any city in the entire industrialized world. I taught about contraception when teaching at Santa Maria High School and I introduced at

Hancock College a course in Human Sexuality, which became very popular.

I have always supported Planned Parenthood locally, even when opponents attempted to burn it down. A group daily prays against PP; I counter-demonstrate with my "CONDOM" sign. I suggest all rest rooms (especially high schools) have contraceptive dispensers.

~ Bill Denneen, Nipomo

Editor's note: to learn what the Sierra Club is doing about population, go to: www.sierraclub.org/population

Fire alert

Los Padres National Forest officials are conducting several prescribed burn projects over the next several months to eliminate piled brush on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District, notably adjacent to Pine Mountain Club, Frazier Park, and Lake of the Woods.

Prescribed burns are also happening on about 2,100 acres near Pine Canyon Road and Horseshoe Spring Campground on the Santa Lucia Ranger District, about 15 miles east of Santa Maria.

Look out to Sierra Madres

By Craig R. Carey

One of the many attractions of the Condor Trail's southern section is its proximity to Cuyama Peak, the 5883-foot promontory just north of the Dry Canyon section of the through-trail.

Cuyama Peak has in the last few decades been home to one of the few remaining lookout towers in the southern districts of the Los Padres National Forest. Sadly, the tower's cabin here has finally succumbed to age, collapsing in early 2012.

Built in 1934, the Cuyama Peak lookout featured an H-braced 20-foot tower with a 14' x 14' cab; in this regard it is nearly identical to the Thorn Point lookout. And like Thorn Point, the Cuyama Peak lookout was also accompanied by an Aircraft Warning Service cabin during the World War II years. (The Cuyama cabin has in recent years also collapsed after more than a half-century of wind and weather, leaving Thorn Point as one of the few pairs still standing.)

In the 1990s and 2000s, the Cuyama Peak lookout had been used as a vantage point for those studying the local condor population; the peak's proximity to the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge as well as the nearby Sierra Madre ridge makes it an opportune point from which to view the endangered birds.

But because Cuyama Peak is also accessible to automobile traffic, the immediate area was often (and remains) littered by the detritus of lax target shooters and people indifferent to the litter they leave behind. The danger of such micro-trash to condors is well documented, and the Los Padres

ForestWatch organized a micro-trash clean-up here in 2008.

Now with the cab collapsed, the Cuyama Peak lookout's deterioration is sure to only

as at Nordhoff and Topatopa Peaks.

If you've not seen one of the historical lookouts in the Los Padres, go now ... only a handful of the old guard remain.



accelerate, and in time only the tower superstructure will remain,

Craig R. Carey is a frequent wanderer of the Los Padres backcountry and author of Hiking & Backpacking Santa Barbara and Ventura (Wilderness Press, 2012). You can read his idle musings at www.craigrcarey.net



The Cuyama Peak lookout's cabin (above) survived until just last year when it collapsed. It was built in 1934 when all the materials were hauled up to the site, as shown in the bottom photo. (Top photo by David Stillman, bottom from LPNF archives)

DICK SMITH WILDERNESS

New features in updated map

By Craig R. Carey

With the dawn of the new year also comes a new map – one for those who explore the Los Padres will be eager to add to their map cabinet.

In January, Bryan Conant released a new edition of his Matilija and Dick Smith Wilderness map. An ambitious update to his 2008 map, this new edition not only details the namesake wilderness areas, but also covers the Santa Barbara and Montecito front country as well as the Santa Ynez Recreation Area, making it a hugely useful tool even to those who prefer the relaxing fern-clad routes along Romero or Cold Spring Canyons to the thorn-choked and blood-letting trails in the Dick Smith.

A Santa Barbara-area cartographer, backpacker, volunteer wilderness ranger and leader of the effort to establish the Condor Trail, Conant is that rare mapmaker who actually hikes the routes he's plotting (something neither Trails Illustrated nor even the USGS can claim in these days of remote and data-based mapping).

New to this edition, the map is jam-packed with historical photos, anecdotes and summaries detailing the major routes and destinations. The back side also features a series of cleverly-rendered trail profiles and coordinates for notable trail camps in the backwoods. Useful websites and QR codes round out the helpful extras featured on this map.

With federal maps riddled

with errors and grossly outdated, Conant's maps (also the adjoining San Rafael Wilderness) fill a notable gap in our region's cartographic coverage.

When he started, "all the maps of the area were rather old and lacking many of the cartographic qualities that were common in most high-end hiking maps. I felt like our

mountains were deserving of a new-look map," Conant says. Pursuing the project enabled him to "dive into the backcountry with a purpose."

The new map retails for \$10.95 and is printed on water-resistant paper. Both of Conant's maps are available at numerous outdoor outfitters and at www.bryanconant.com



The steep and narrow ridge often buffeted by high winds can stop some hikers from getting to the summit of Hines Peak in Ventura County. See story back page for an account of this "little stroll" of 18 miles round trip with a 4854-foot height. (Photo by Catherine Rossbach)

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Smug about living in 'paradise'

By Mike Stubblefield
Chapter Outings Chair

As I write on a fine Monday I can't help but feel smug about how lucky all of us are to live in Santa Barbara or Ventura County and to have literally hundreds of outings available on our own or through the Sierra Club.

My wife Janis and I began a long outdoor weekend on

EAVESDROPS

"In many places on the coast, violating the Coastal ACT is just the cost of doing business. For me that is a crying shame."

~ California Coastal Commissioner Mary Shallenberger, noting that budget cuts have left enforcement at a low point.

Friday by hiking the La Jolla Valley-Ray Miller Trail loop, which offers spectacular views of Boney Ridge, Sycamore Canyon and the Channel Islands. We timed it just right so that we could watch the sun go down behind the Channel Islands as we descended the Miller Trail.

On Saturday we walked miles along the Pacific Ocean at Ormond Beach.

Sunday, after a delicious breakfast of fish tacos at the Channel Islands Farmers Market, we took another leisurely walk along the ocean at Hollywood Beach.

On Monday I joined hiking buddy Catherine Rossbach, legendary outings leader John Wilson (aka Pinetar) and veteran hiking leader Philip Clarke for what Pinetar calls

"a little stroll" (18 miles round-trip, 4854 feet of elevation gain from the trailhead) from Sisar Canyon out to the north face of Hines Peak. By the way, Hines Peak is named after a distant relative of our own Jim Hines, who writes our "Greetings, Friends" column every issue.

When we got there I stretched out to take a nap while Catherine, Phil and Pinetar headed for the summit, which requires traversing a narrow ridge with steep flanks and sometimes disconcertingly high winds, followed by a steep slope of talus and scree just below the summit. That final approach, still covered with ice and snow from recent cold weather, was dangerously slippery, so they decided to come down and return when the conditions were better.

Such common-sense decisions are never easy to make, but rash decisions often result in tragic outcomes. So despite mild disappointment, it mattered little this day. Here we were, in the Topa Topa Mountains, in January, at 6000 feet, on a bright and glorious sunny day with a breeze just brisk enough to keep all of us in our comfort zones. Besides, we can always come back in a month or two, because, like you, we are smart or lucky enough to be living in what my wife often calls "Paradise."

With our Mediterranean climate, the Santa Monica

Mountains National Recreation Area, State Parks, miles of Pacific Ocean beaches, the Channel Islands National Park and Los Padres National Forest in our backyard, we can be outside almost every day of the year.

See you on the trail.

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The annual Topa Topa buffet made some participants stand on their heads after a long hike to the summit behind Ojai. Lots of food and fun were the order of a beautiful day in January. (Photo by Bardley Smith)

Next issue of

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DEADLINES:

Editorial: March 22

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