

Condor Call

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



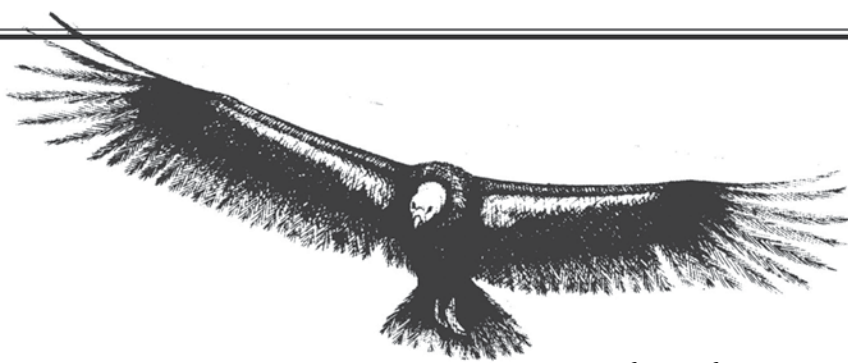
June - July 2013



Wild . . . Wet . . . Award . . . Wonders . . . Wildfires
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Condor Call

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



June - July 2013

Some progress for local wilderness

BULLETIN: After a long, public campaign, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar endorsed the top Sierra Club priority for Southern California: The creation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System. Rep. Judy Chu of San Gabriel will now work to get passage in the House and U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer will sponsor the Senate bill.

By Jim Hines

Here's our Sierra Club, working to protect the wild from the middle of the urban jungle during a meeting in Los Angeles of the club's California National Forests Committee meeting held in May. Issues ranged from a new trail in Carpinteria to potential bills to increase wilderness areas locally. They include:

~ Budget cuts due to the federal sequester have really affected the Forest Service (FS) nationwide. Here in SoCal, there have been staff and visitor service

Map guides river play

Friends of the Ventura River has released a printed guide map of the recreational opportunities along the River corridor from the ocean to Matilija Dam. The parkway features the 17-mile bike path which connects numerous parks, open space, and trails.

The maps will be available at the group's annual Picnic at the River event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, at the south side of the Main Street bridge. The event will feature exploring the Ventura River on the Ventura Hillside Conservancy's Willoughby Preserve, on which much work was done to restore the river, along with a trail system.

The maps are also available at outdoor retailers, visitor centers, and local bike shops in Ventura and Ojai. For details and to keep apprised of future plans, go to: friendsofventurariver.org



The Green Car exhibit at the July 4th Street Fair is always one of the most popular at the Ventura Sierra Club's "Green Street" on Oak Street downtown. Shown is Timothy Rodgers' all electric Tesla from last year. See story on page 2. (Photo by Larry Older)

reductions, and basically no law enforcement in regards to illegal off-highway vehicle use.

~ In the Los Padres National Forest, a major trail project headed by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara and Friends of Franklin Trail is being developed which will allow hikers to walk from the beach in Carpinteria all the way over onto forest trails along the Santa Ynez River and beyond.

The first trail section behind Carpinteria High School should open for public use later this summer.

~ We (Sierra Club and other groups) have met with the staff of Rep. Lois Capps about putting together a wilderness bill to introduce into Congress this fall. It would expand existing Los Padres wilderness areas and add several Los Padres rivers to the national wild and scenic river system.

~ The club challenged in court two years ago the lack of FS protection of what are known as Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) on the four SoCal national forests.

The Club won the suit and the court ordered the FS to reopen the Land Management Plans for public comment, which closed on May 15th. The FS received about 8500 written comments about protecting IRAs throughout SoCal, most of which (6500) were form letters from groups and the rest were from individuals.

The Los Padres Sierra Club officially sent a personalized letter on the 12 IRAs in the southern Los Padres, commenting that the FS should manage them as potential wilderness areas, until such time that Congress makes a final decision.

The FS said its review of comments and release of final recommendations will come sometime in early 2014.

~ A big High-Five to all of the people and groups who have taken the lead in these lean budget times to improve and protect your public lands.



Fran Farina (Sierra Club), Karen Krause (EDC), Linda Krop (EDC) and Mike Stubblefield (Sierra Club) cheer as Mike mentions folks in the audience who have helped the groups in conservation issues. (Photo by John Hankins)

ENVI award honors our actions

By John Hankins
Editor, Condor Call

The Los Padres Sierra Club has been "a stalwart partner for 36 years," said the Environmental Defense Center's lead attorney, Linda Krop, in announcing the center's ENVI award to the chapter.

"You name it, they've been there for us," she added, ticking off a list of issues: Gaviota Coast, Ormond Beach, Ellwood, petroleum projects, fracking and LNG battles, to name a few. Also, the club's outings are a key part of introducing the public to areas that need saving, she noted.

Sustained applause for the Sierra Club and its newsletter Condor Call greeted her remarks at EDC's "Celebrating Paradise Saved" event on June 2 at Rancho La Patera in Goleta. EDC also honored the Oak Group of artists and its co-founder Erika Edwards for an ENVI award. The Oak Group typically conducts exhibits of our local landscapes and shares proceeds with conservation groups.

Fran Farina of Santa Barbara and Mike Stubblefield of Ventura Sierra Club accepted the award for our dual county chapter.

"I'm standing on the shoulders of giants," Stubblefield said, noting that it was three women from the 1980s - Cynthia Leake, Roma Jean Armbrust and Jean Harris - who inspired him and so many others to fight to reclaim and save the Ormond Beach and wetlands from encroaching urbanization.

He also gave strokes to Sierra Club officers from Santa Barbara - Chair Gerry Ching, Fran Farina and Stephen Dougherty - "who have their own environmental issues to worry about" but nevertheless have supported funds for Ormond Beach. Trevor Smith, conservation chair of the Ventura Sierra Club;

The text of the Environmental Defense Center's ENVI award to the Los Padres Sierra Club reads:

"The Los Padres Sierra Club has played a critical role for thousands of residents of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. EDC is thrilled to present an ENVI Award to an organization which has demonstrated ongoing commitment to environmental advocacy, engaging the community in the process of protecting open space, fighting polluting projects and leaving an environmental legacy for future generations.

"Among the many critical projects which embody the Los Padres Sierra Club's leadership, we wish to single out two separate areas of significant achievement.

First we honor the many years of tireless effort spent in protecting the critical Ormond Beach Wetlands in Ventura County. We also celebrate their work on offshore oil, including the Mobil Clearview project, the Venoco Paredon project, and ending oil barging off the California Coast. Both areas epitomize the ability of the Los Padres Sierra Club to engage the grassroots on critical environmental issues for the betterment of our communities."

Janis McCormick, Mike's wife and president of the Environmental Coalition of Ventura, and Ormond Beach Task Force leader Peter Brand were also singled out for their tireless work.

Final praise was saved for EDC attorney Karen Kraus, who at first helped the Sierra Club defeat the offshore LNG terminal proposals. Also in that fight was Owen Bailey, who was a key LNG activist and organizer from Sierra Club's national office and just this year took over as Executive Director at EDC.

Kraus won "a huge and historic CEQA lawsuit against Orange County developer Hearthside homes," which had proposed over 1500 homes on prime agricultural land next to the Ormond wetlands. The suit also affected a second project of industrial uses.

Fran Farina's remarks were much shorter but no less important. An attorney who came from Monterey Bay, she has become one of the club's experts on petroleum development in this area, along with being our co-political chair to support conservation-minded

candidates (see page 7).

"I don't know if you fully appreciate the EDC," she told the audience, "but we are eternally grateful." She added that "these guys (petroleum producers) won't go away," and it is vital that EDC and the Sierra Club continue monitoring that industry.

Jim Hines, who is the chapter's forest expert, later said it was, "indeed a fulfilling afternoon spent among people who care."

"I have never been so proud of the Los Padres Sierra Club and all we have done to preserve and protect the great natural wonders of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties as I was this afternoon," he concluded.

COVER PHOTO

The Community Environmental Council came up with a unique way of emphasizing the need to keep plastics out of the ocean (and the land) as part of its "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" ethic, shown here at the Santa Barbara Earth Day festival. After all, who wants to surf in plastic? (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

LAST CALL FOR CONDOR CALL

Next issue will be by email...NOT printed on paper

From now on, we will only print occasional issues on paper, so you should send us your email to ensure you get future issues (starting Aug/Sept).

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

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL SO YOU WON'T MISS US

Email it and phone number to CondorJohn@gnusman.com

Painting nature naturally the Chumash way

By Al Thompson

The titles 'instructor' and 'naturalist' fit Karen Osland quite well, but I'm rather fond of calling her an 'ethobotanist' because her knowledge of Chumash history and how these Native Americans used plants is extensive. However, at the April meeting of the Arguello Group, a bit of geology entered the picture as well. Rock Art was the topic, and Osland was fully prepared to illustrate and discuss the topic. Not only did her power-point inform the interested assemblage of people, but the following hands-on interlude clinched the evening's presentation.

This writer was already familiar with the four main hues used by the Chumash in coloring their rock art in the Central California area and how they were obtained, but lacking was the knowledge of how the actual pigments became paint. It all became clear before the evening was over.

Osland had set her table well with the pigments, their materials of their origins, but then the answer came. The four main pigments of the Chumash for their rock art -- black from charcoal, white from diatomaceous earth or shells, yellow-ochre from limonite and red tones from heated limonite -- become paints when mixed a binder such with water, plant juices or animal fats.

After Osland's presentation, Arguello Group members crowded around the tables, each taking in hand a flat rock and proceeded to paint their own pictures with pigments Osland



Karen Osland mixes "paint" from natural materials as she watches Sierra Club members do the same at a special event by the Arguello Group. Osland said that rock art reaches back in time far longer than most people imagine, perhaps a hundred thousand years. (Photo by Al Thompson)



had premixed with water. A hands-on activity can really bring home an educational experience.

Osland has been involved in archeology, basket weaving, and as a consultant in a small woman-owned business relating to helping people further their goals in connecting to their environments.

Rock Art, whether Chumash or aboriginal from other parts of the world as Osland illustrated, reaches back in time far longer

than most people imagine. There is positive evidence of rock art being done as long ago as a hundred thousand years. In comparative recent history, Chumash rock art, especially in Santa Barbara County, is quite extraordinary. Lastly, the question arose at the Arguello presentation: "What were the reasons for rock art?"

In a sense it was a form of

messaging with strong overtones of religious and spiritual connotation, the hunt and just maybe a possible hint of esthetic sensibility. Whatever one may wish to believe about rock art, it cannot be denied that there is an ethereal beauty in its existence, and for the experienced local Sierra Club hiker, original rock art is not far away.

Help 350.org campaign

By John Hankins
Editor, Condor Call

There is now a grassroots 350 group in both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, campaigning with other locals throughout the globe to reduce earth's atmosphere to at least 350-plus parts per million of CO₂, which scientists consider a safe limit for humanity

Unfortunately, the planet hit the 400 ppm mark on May 10, 2013.

"We're in new territory for human beings. It's been millions of years since there's been this much carbon in the atmosphere. The only question now is whether

the relentless rise in carbon can be matched by a relentless rise in the activism necessary to stop it," said Bill McKibben, an author who is one of the key creators of the campaign.

The Sierra Club is part and parcel of the movement and has partnered with 350 locals throughout the nation, notably against the Keystone pipeline that would tap into dirty tar sands oil in Canada and go through the U.S.

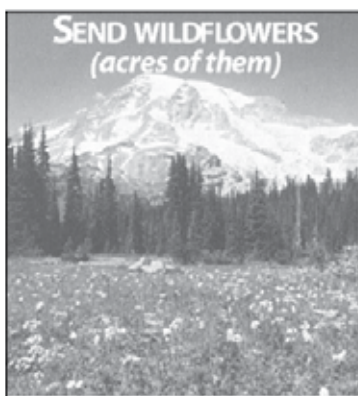
Ventura350 screened the campaign's "Do the Math" video on Earth Night attracting 70 people, a number of whom participated in forming the local group via an action committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura. The video is available for house or group parties.

Volunteers are sought for an interim steering committee with a liaison from the Sierra Club. To do so, contact Jan Dietrick at 643-3640 or email: jdietrick9@gmail.com.

The Santa Barbara350 group has been active calling for a moratorium on fracking, which is also a focus of Ventura. It got help on June 1 from Shannon Biggs of Global Exchange to coach activists on how to get an ordinance passed that puts community rights above the rights of corporations.

The leadership of the newly formed Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (www.cfrog.org) should also create a powerful synergy with local 350 groups and the Sierra Club, currently challenging Ventura County Planning Department approval of new drilling applications.

To tap into any locality, go to www.350.org.



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



EAVESDROPS

"We also need to rethink and streamline our regulatory procedures, particularly the California Environmental Quality Act."

~ One of only two lines about the environment uttered by Gov. Jerry Brown in his State of the State address in January, but it has CEOs and many developers "delighted," according to George Skelton writing in the Los Angeles Times.

Sewers up at Rincon

After 15 years of wrangling, lawsuits and permit obstacles, the waters off of Rincon Point will be a lot cleaner and surfers and swimmers healthier now that final approval was given May 7 for the septic to sewer project.

"Could this really be over?" said Hillary Hauser, Heal The Ocean's Executive Director, during its recent meeting.

Way back before 1998, surfers and swimmers were constantly complaining they were getting sick in the water, which was the impetus for the creation of Heal the Ocean that year by Hauser and Jeff Young, a Santa Barbara attorney who is now the Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The early years were spent gathering proof that Rincon homeowners' sewers were part of the problem. There were also jurisdictional issues as homes are on either side of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

If the bid to do the multi-million dollar project happens this summer, Hauser promises "a massive celebration" of all who made it happen.

Key among those are Manager Craig Murray of the Carpinteria Sanitary District Board of Directors, the majority of Rincon homeowners "who funded lawyers and myriad costs, which were significant," and the many donors and HTO activists who never gave up.

Surf's up!

We're back for July 4 Green Block

The Ventura Sierra Club will be again be hosting the Green Block, as part of the City of Ventura's 4th of July Street Fair.

Oak Street in Ventura, from Main to Santa Clara, is reserved for exhibits focusing on protecting and enjoying our natural world, from the Wilderness Basics Courses to the special car showcase.

A popular highlight, the show features electric and hybrid cars, as well as high mileage diesel cars, electric charging stations and battery assisted bicycles. The all-electric Tesla sports car has been a major attraction and is back this year.

As the industry moves to support more fuel efficient transportation, the car show, coordinated by Michael Chiacos from the Santa Barbara based Community Environmental Council, continues to showcase those advances.

The Green Block will also feature groups working to improve our environment in other ways, including the Friends of the Ventura River which is working to restore the river, vendors showcasing ways to grow organic foods, and information about such politically important issues such as fracking.

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



A bobcat that scampered to the top of a saguaro cactus in Gold Canyon was likely running from a mountain lion that was stalking it, explains photographer Curt Fonger. "Gold Canyon Bob" darted up the 40-foot saguaro, apparently without drawing blood. To Curt, it was a "career defining moment," who has over 40 years of photography

experience.

"I've never had the luxury of seeing a bobcat on top of a saguaro," he says.

"Just a beautiful creature, he was displaying himself proudly, kind of looking around, probably trying to see if mister mountain lion was still around."

"After about six hours, he descended down about five feet, turned around and leaped into mid-air ... came down on all fours, shook himself, looked around and then headed into the Superstition Mountain Range."

To see more incredible photos by Curt, go to www.visionsofthewest.com or email curtfonger@msn.com.

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
ROMERO CANYON LOOP - 2 hikes

Longer hike: 11mrt, 2400ft gain in a figure 8 loop (Phil)

Shorter hike: 5mrt, 1100ft gain in a one-way loop (Lora)

For both hikes the trail begins with a steep uphill through a shaded canyon above Summerland/Montecito, SW of Santa Barbara. It crosses a fire-road midway up which is where the shorter hike turns for its loop. The longer hike continues up to the watertank using switchbacks to reach the top, where you have stunning 360 degree views of the area. Romero Canyon Road is just under a half mile from the Bella Vista Drive trailhead. It follows along beside the creek for about a mile, crossing from one side to the other a few times. It is moderately steep and has much smooth and firm tread, but it is very rocky in sections and has some near vertical drops of 20' or more into the creek at the edge of the trail. Because of limited parking on Bella Vista Drive, plan to carpool from Ventura. Meet at 8am in the Carrows parking lot off Seaward and Harbor Blv. Park along Harbor Blvd. (Or meet at 9am at the trailhead on Bella Vista Dr.) Hiking/trail boots, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Extreme heat cancels (above 85F). PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 & 218-2105 (VEN)

June 15
HOT SPRINGS VIA SADDLE ROCK: Hike to Montecito's Hot

Springs past Saddle Rock, up to the Peace Sign with panoramic views of Montecito, and then down to the Hot Springs. There isn't enough water for bathing at the spring, but the ruins of an early 20th century resort makes for an interesting destination. We'll return via the recently opened creek route. Moderate 3 mile round trip with a few steep sections. Bring a snack and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

SHEEP CAMP HIKE: Enjoy the Jeffrey pine forest near Mt. Pinos! Trail starts at 8300', climbs to 8800' and descends to about 8300'. Our lunch destination is Sheep Camp, near a couple of springs. Trip is about 10 miles round trip, 1000' gain/loss. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Adventure Pass needed for cars. Meet at 7:45am at Fillmore Starbucks. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

June 16
FIR CANYON/ WILLOW SPRING LOOP: Car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to a junction trail to Willow Spring. After a lunch break, we'll hike down Willow Spring trail looping back to Fir Canyon trail. Moderate 7.5 mrt. Bring lunch and 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)

MT. SAN GORGONIO: This is the highest peak in Southern California. We will drive out to Redlands on Saturday afternoon and get cheap motel rooms, have dinner together, then get a good night's rest. Early Sunday morning, after breakfast, we'll drive out Highway 38 to the Valley of the Falls Road, then park at to the Vivian Creek trailhead and head for the summit. This hike is strenuous, with an elevation gain of 5420 feet. It will take about seven to eight hours. This is an excellent training hike if you're planning to spend some time peak bagging in the High Sierras this summer. I have a permit for eight, with three confirmed, including me. So there are only five spots left. For more info call MIKE. 216-2630 (cell); 988-0339 (home); or email: motodata@roadrunner.com. RAIN CANCELS. (VEN)

June 22
MONTECITO PEAK - ANNUAL SUNSET HIKE: Celebrate Summer Solstice with a late afternoon hike up a steep peak for a panoramic view of the South Coast. Enjoy a sunset supper. Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lots of water, supper, flashlight. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 4:30pm. DIANE 682-6818 (SB)

June 23
GAVIOTA CAVES: Hike up about 500 feet from Gaviota beach and explore the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above and proceed to overlook. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Light colored long pants are recommended. Moderate 4 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)

June 29
VENTURA SUMMER PICNIC: The Ventura Sierra Club will hold its annual summer picnic from 3-7pm at Camp Comfort near Ojai. Around 6pm, veteran Sierra Club hike leader Pat Jump will lead an easy walk near the park to help picnickers work off their dinner. Each attendee or couple should bring a dish to share with four or five other guests, plus appropriate serving utensils. If your surname begins with the letters "A" through "G," bring baked beans or another vegetable dish; "H" through "M," bring a dessert; "N" through "R," bring hors d'oeuvres; and "S" through "Z," bring a salad. To help defray its costs, the Club is requesting a \$7 donation per adult and \$4 for each child under 12 years of age. Because the park charges \$4 per vehicle for parking on weekends, partygoers are urged to carpool. All Sierra Club members and their friends are cordially invited to attend. For more information, call CAROL MARSH at 984-3590, or contact her by E-mail at CleoCAM1776@aol.com. (VEN)

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)

June 30
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. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

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)

continued on page 5

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 Valley	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>

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.

Outings...from page 4

VENTURA STREET FAIR – Sierra Club has a whole “Green Block” on Oak Street all day long. Come see the new ‘green cars’ and so much more.

July 6

EL CAPITAN CYN: Join us for a 4mrt loop (600’ elevation gain/loss) for an overlook hike of El Capitan Cyn. We’ll use the trailhead just outside of the Ocean Meadows campground. We’ll head down into the canyon and take the short Selma Rubin trail to the organic gardens, then hike to the Paradise Picnic area on the eastern ridge. From there, we’ll follow the Bill Wallace trail, looping back to the canyon bottom. Crossing the creek, we’ll continue up the Bill Wallace trail to the western ridge and eventually back to our starting point. Bring a water, a light lunch and sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

July 7

TEQUEPIS : Hike up to West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Cachuma Lake and the Pacific Ocean. Moderate-strenuous 8 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)

July 13

HENDRY’S BEACH/DOUGLAS FAMILY PRESERVE: Morning stroll along the beach then up the steps and back through the park completing the loop. Children welcome. Bring water and a snack. Slow paced 2 to 3 miles. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

July 14

CATHEDRAL PEAK: Start up Tunnel trail and branch off onto Jesusita connector trail. Continue up primitive trail, steep and rocky in places, to Cathedral Peak. Lots of boulder hopping. Strenuous 6 mrt. Some agility required. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 682-8290 (SB)

July 20

SAN YSIDRO TO THE FALLS: Hike past a favorite rock climbing location to a seasonal waterfall, then return to a pool for lunch. Easy 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

SESPE CREEK HIKE: Water crossings will cool you off! Experience the beauty of the Sespe while rock hopping, viewing birds and beautiful scenery, as we hike to our lunch destination of Devil’s Gate. Trip is about 6 miles round trip, 400’ gain/loss. Progress will be slower than usual due to lack of a trail. Rain or recent heavy rain cancels. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, 10 essentials, and plan to get your feet wet. Meet at 9am at Fillmore Starbucks. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

July 21

ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree/rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate with some boulder hopping and agility required, 4 mrt. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

July 26-29

EASTERN NEVADA WILDERNESS SERVICE: Once again we partner with ranger John from BLM in Ely for a scintillating Wilderness service project in eastern Nevada. We’ve worked in the Mt. Grafton Wilderness south of Ely, the Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park, and the Becky Peak Wilderness in the Schell Creek Range north of Ely. Where will it be this time? Sign up and find out. We do know – it will be useful, enjoyable, hard work for wilderness with pleasing camaraderie in a wild, scenic area. Central commissary offered for usual exorbitant fee, contact VICKY HOOVER, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. (CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

July 27

COLD SPRING TRAIL: We’ll take the less frequently hiked Middle Fork trail above Tangerine Falls, past an abandoned homestead and continue up to Camino Cielo. Return past Montecito Peak via the more usual Cold Spring Trail. Strenuous 10 mile round trip. Bring lunch and at least 3 liters of water. There are a few steep sections, and it is a long way to hike on a warm day, so only experienced hikers please. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

July 28

FISH CREEK: Long car pool to Nira Camp, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to nice waterfalls. Moderate 9 mrt. It can be very hot in July, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, and swimsuit. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

July 31

TOUR OF BARD ESTATE: Take a docent-guided tour of the historic Thomas R. Bard Mansion and botanical gardens at Naval Base Port Hueneme. Lunch before the tour at Pho Saigon Restaurant, 826 N. Ventura Road, Port Hueneme. The tour is free; lunch under \$15. This outing is limited to 15 people, and reservations are required by July 5. All participants must undergo a military security check. Call CAROL MARSH at 984-3590 for details and reservations. (VEN)

August 3

MONTECITO –SUMMERLAND/ORTEGA HILL TRAIL LOOP: continued on page 6



While parts of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area were burned to the ground during the Springs Fire in May, it will come back naturally and wow us with its backcountry beauty, such as this shot called “Painterly Wildflowers.” The photographer specializes in landscape photography and often conducts workshops. Find out more at www.TomGamache.com. (© Photo by Tom Gamache)

Fires change forest landscape

By Mike Stubblefield
Outings Chair

Since the Los Angeles County Fire Department began keeping track of fires in the coastal mountains now known as the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) back in 1925, there have been 343 fires, big and small, some as small as an acre, some encompassing tens of thousands of acres. The last big

fires, the Old Topanga (16,302 acres) and Green Meadow (38,478 acres), were in 1993.

The latest big one was fire number 344, “The Springs Fire,” which began along the Conejo Grade on Highway 101 near Camarillo Springs on May 2. It was a perfect day for a fire: Santa Ana winds and high temperatures in the nineties. Thanks to quick action by firefighters, no homes near the fire were lost, and California State University Channel Islands was also saved.

But the fire quickly burned through almost 14,000 acres of our hiking heaven in the Santa Monica Mountains - 12,000 acres in Pt. Mugu State Park alone, 1000 acres in the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and other lands totaling 24,000 acres. It was brought under control May 11 by a small army of firefighters and equipment from numerous agencies throughout the state.

As of Memorial Day weekend, I’d not yet had the time to visit any of my own favorite hiking areas in Point Mugu State Park, Sycamore Canyon or Boney Ridge. But I hope to get up there soon to assess the damage. And I urge you to do so as soon as you can. As *Condor Call* went to press, some popular hiking trails in the damaged areas were being reopened, but some remained closed until the Park Service could assess the

conditions in adjacent burned areas.

By the time you read this, even more trails should be open again. For updated information, call the Visitors Center at the Santa Monica Mountains National Park headquarters at 370-2301; or go to the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/samo>.

When you go hiking in these areas, the Park Service asks us to do three things:

~ **Respect the closures** – The Park service is already working hard to assess the conditions and even Santa Monica Mountains National Park Service personnel had to be accompanied by fire officials. Everything will eventually be reopened.

~ **Stay on the trail** – As we’re allowed back into each segment of the park, stay on the designated trails (*not* any new “trails” created by fire crews). And be sure to watch for, read and comply with all posted closure signs in order to protect wildlife and plant communities that survived the flames. Foot – and mountain bike – traffic tramples sensitive soil, vegetation, burrows and nests.

~ **Sign up to volunteer** – Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and State Parks officials will welcome volunteers who want to help when the time comes. To sign up, go to: <http://jotform.us/form/31276418383154>

Fox Canyon: A new trail

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is invites all to its grand opening of the Fox Canyon Trail on the new Valley View Preserve at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 15.

An optional hike of up to four miles on the new public trail is planned after brief remarks by the Conservancy, or you can go by yourself.

The new trailhead is located about 1/4 mile up Shelf Rd from the top of Signal St. Attendees are urged to either car pool, ride bikes or walk as parking is limited.

Later on Sunday, June 23, a community celebration is also planned from 3-5 p.m. at Libbey Park in downtown Ojai.

For questions call the OVLC office at 649 6852 ext. 6 or visit: www.ovlc.org.



Sierra Club “tattoos” (relax, they’re just paste-ons) were hugely popular at the club’s booths during various Earth Day celebrations. The belly belongs to Lia Barteet, daughter of Danielle Bushar who helped table at the Santa Barbara booth. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Have a tat habitat Join the Club

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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



Fire season has arrived early judging by the amount of fires breaking out starting in May in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Fire restrictions are in place throughout the forest and permits may be needed (call the ranger stations listed on page 4 or go to www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf for updates). Shown are hotshots at a fuel break during the Springs Fire in eastern Ventura County. (Photo courtesy of California Department of Forestry)

Outings... continued from page 5 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

Rediscover several of Montecito's neighborhood roads and trails. An easy-moderate 4 mrt on back roads and trails. We will start this loop hike from the Greenwell Preserve back of Summerland. We'll hike up a short trail to the hills above Summerland, meeting Ortega Ridge Road. We'll have a light lunch near the QAD plant. After lunch, we'll continue on the Ortega Hill Trail, then return via the Coffin Family and Summerland trails. Bring a light lunch and water. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

EAVESDROPS

"Compost: A Rind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste"
~ Anonymous from the internet

August 4
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. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 10
PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mrt hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike will be in the creek bed, so expect to get wet. It can be very hot in August, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit, hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM

Big win for beaches

Surfers, swimmers and friends of the coast in Ventura County scored a big win as popular beaches from Hobsons to Solimar will soon be both safer and cleaner.

This is due to a major victory announced by the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) requiring oil and gas companies to reduce polluted water that drained directly onto popular beaches and into the ocean. Polluted runoff from their drilling and fracking operations in the hills between Carpinteria and Ventura were brought to EDC's attention back in 2012.

Polluted runoff has been draining directly from the massive 4,236 acre Rincon Grubb

August 10 – 11
MODERATE BACKPACK in Mt. Pinos area. Saturday: Meet at trail head in ski patrol parking lot 8:00 a.m. Backpack about 4 miles to camp, climbing and descending a few hundred feet net from trail head (8,300'). Arrive in camp at around noon and set up tents and have lunch. Optional day hike after lunch towards Mt. Able, additional 5 miles with additional gain and loss up to 1,500'. Sheep Camp is similar to many of the trail camps on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District. The camp is located in the Chumash Wilderness under a stand of Jeffery pines. Hikers should be in good condition for this backpack because of the high elevation and steep pitches in the trail. There is a spring for water, which needs to be purified. Group potluck Sat. night, so bring something to share. Return to cars on Sunday by about 2pm. Trip limited to 10 backpackers. Call leader with questions or to sign up. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

August 11
WEST FORK COLD SPRING TO LOOKOUT AND BEYOND: Start on Cold Spring Trail, cross stream and hike west up to the Homestead. Moderate, but steep 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

August 17
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. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

oil field onto nearby, popular public beaches. With this new settlement, Vintage Production (a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corp.) will have to take significant steps to monitor and improve water quality in storm water runoff and to alert EDC any time it intends to frack in the oil field.

This settlement is a big win not only for a cleaner surf but also to know when fracking is taking place. The oil company has additionally agreed to contribute \$97,000 to the Northern Ventura County Coastal Watershed Fund which will be used to support environmental projects between Rincon Creek and the Ventura River.

August 18
SHORELINE PARK PICNIC AND WALK: Share a potluck breakfast. Bring food to share. Coffee provided. Meet in the middle of Shoreline Park at 9am. Possible hike down to the harbor and back. (SB)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2013 thru January 2014 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

Wilderness has a face(book)

The Sierra Club is in the process of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in Sept 2014, and it is sure to affect the Southern California forest areas.

The club has a Wilderness 50 committee with Jim Hines and Jerry Conner representing the Los Padres Sierra Club. Events are in the planning stages throughout the country, and to keep apprised, there is a Wilderness 50 Facebook page and now an official website: www.wilderness50th.org

"This is an exciting time to highlight the value of our great wild lands to the general public," Hines said. "While many deserving public lands throughout the U.S. are still trying to gain wilderness protection, we have in the chapter portion of the Los Padres National Forest over 700,000 acres of federally protected wilderness. Hurray for us. And we have the potential to add about 400,000 more acres."



A tip of the hard hat goes to the hardworking people who volunteer for trail work, especially in wilderness areas where power tools are generally banned (see story above). Here, two volunteers cut one of many downed trees along the Little Mutau Trail. (Photo by Sonia Lopez)

Terrific trail work

By Craig Carey and Bryan Conant

Trail work in the Los Padres National Forest can seem non-existent at times, an intermittent schedule compacted by limited resources, wilderness restrictions, and ever-dwindling funds.

Fortunately, a rag-tag army of trail workers – the CCC, the C.R.E.W., and Los Padres Forest Association-trained volunteer wilderness rangers (VWRs) help to fill the void.

And it's been a busy spring in the Los Padres and along the Condor Trail for volunteer trail efforts. Between efforts from the

Madulce Trail) clearing brush and fallen trees from the trail. The trail is currently in the best shape it's been in for decades.

Alder Creek

In early May, a small group led by USFS Ranger Heidi Anderson and VWR legend Mickey McTigue tackled over a dozen downed cottonwood, alder, sycamore and oaks along Alder Creek in the Sespe Wilderness.

The crew based out of Alder Creek camp for two nights, re-routing guerrilla trails back to their correct tread where applicable, removing trees and clearing brush along the way.

While the Alder Creek crew worked to clear the mile of trail between Alder Creek and Shady camps, another crew of VWRs were working the Little Mutau trail some 3,000 feet above along the McDonald ridgeline as part of a separate project, removing nearly 20 downed trees.

It's a never-ending struggle against erosion, fire damage, and the inexorable encroachment of brush and vegetation, but it's a labor of love for these dedicated volunteers.

A tip of the hardhat to them!

Editor's Note: Bryan Conant is a backcountry cartographer (bryanconant.com), VWR, and President of the Condor Trail Association at: 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.craigcarey.net.

See condors with Friends

The Friends of California Condors Wild and Free have again opened up a roadside education and outreach booth in an area where the condors fly.

It's the third year for the volunteers who support the Condor Recovery Program and also have occasional tours into the refuge that is not open to the public.

The booth will be open on the first and third Saturdays June through August from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located near the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge sign on Cerro Noroeste Road between Maricopa and Pine Mountain Club. Detailed directions are available from the group.

The Friends support refuges associated with the California Condor Recovery Program (Hopper Mountain and Bitter Creek) and meet once a month to discuss activities. The meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex office located at 2493 Portola Rd., Suite A, Ventura.

If you would like to attend events or be part of the group, email

FCCWF@Friendsofcondors.org or simply show up to a monthly meeting. To learn more about the group and possible to volunteer, go to: www.friendsofcondors.org

"If I was to create a flock of condors on this island, you wouldn't have anything to say."
 "No, hold on. This isn't some species that was obliterated by deforestation, or the building of a dam. Dinosaurs had their shot, and nature selected them for extinction."

~ Dialogue between John Hammond, creator of Jurassic Park, and the skeptic, Dr. Ian Malcom in the film "Jurassic Park."

Condor's recovery on an upward trajectory

By John Hankins
 Editor, Condor Call

Within a week after attending the "California Condor Recovery Challenge" talk in Ventura, I received my National Geographic issue with the cover story: "Reviving Extinct Species ... we can, but should we?"

In the condor's case, they never went extinct, but close, with only 22 living in 1982. They were all captured and put into zoo breeding programs. Now there are 400 of them, 232 of which live in the wild.

The Friends of California Condors Wild & Free sponsored the talk by John McCamman, condor recovery coordinator with the Fish and Wildlife Service, who said, "by any measure the program is on a huge successful trajectory."

If so, it's because of the intense dedication of those who are passionate about the condor, North America's largest flying bird with a wingspan nearing 10 feet across, and about a healthy habitat for all wildlife.

But the problems laid out in fiction such as "Jurassic Park"



John McCamman

notably in California based in the Ventura area up through San Luis Obispo, the Vermilion cliffs in Arizona near the Grand Canyon and in a remote area in Baja Mexico. Such refuges benefit all the wildlife within.

But we still have the hunters' habit of using lead bullets on wildlife that the condors eat – whether it be a deer which escaped wounded and died, or the gut pile left by the hunters which could contain lead fragments. That and "microtrash" are the major threats.

"If there were no deaths by lead (poisoning), the population can recover," McCamman asserted, adding that studies show lead "shatters all over the place in a carcass," up to 18 inches from point of entry.

Let that be a warning to those eating that venison.

The solution isn't to forbid hunting, but to convince hunters to use copper bullets instead, McCamman said. While that sounds reasonable, hunters who oppose that "believe it's another step in reducing their rights."

Even if licensed hunters all switch, there are poachers and numerous gun owners who don't need a license to kill coyotes, wild pigs, varmints and others, such as ranchers and farmers.

So the problems remain, habitat and habits. It might be slowly turning around with scores of agencies and groups like the Condor Friends working to make the habitat more healthy for all wildlife, because it isn't just the condors that are affected ...

... Such as bald eagles, the symbol of America.

NAFTA's faults are festering

By Jesse Swanhuysen

"We're not here to talk about NAFTA," Rep. Mike Thompson interrupted me. "NAFTA is the past." The Congressman, however, is mistaken.

The Sierra Club's general concern is that "free trade" agreements are consistently invoked to challenge environmental laws. The public can find out more by attending a meeting about "NAFTA On Steroids - Replacing Free Trade with Responsible Trade," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13 in the Santa Barbara Main Library's Faulkner Room.

NAFTA remains a powerful force in the economic, political and social lives of citizens, immigrants and governments in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. For example, NAFTA has twice been used to challenge California environmental laws designed to protect water and sacred Native American sites. More recently, Canada threatened California with a NAFTA suit over key parts of AB 32 that would have reduced the flow of tar-sand oil. Sadly, the threat worked and California responded by weakening the law.

Also, every U.S. "free trade" agreement negotiated since NAFTA has been constructed from the same blueprints, designed during the Reagan Administration to both promote their corporate agenda, and to constrain the ability of governments to enact environmental and worker protection laws.



Perhaps surprisingly, the current Administration is negotiating another "free trade" agreement from the same blueprints. The agreement, called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), is being referred to as "NAFTA On Steroids" because it would expand Reagan's vision to 11 countries around the Pacific Rim, including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Vietnam among others.

An example of effects includes a trade court recently ruling against U.S. protections for dolphins under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Similar challenges have succeeded against the U.S. Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act. Also, Canada recently lost a case in which Japan and the EU challenged a program designed to promote renewable energy and create green jobs.

Another is that the TPP free trade agreement paves the way for more fracking across the

country by facilitating natural gas exports.

The TPP allows multinational corporations and foreign investors to challenge federal, state and local environmental and worker protections, such as the U.S.-based multinational Lone Pine Resources initiating a \$250 million NAFTA suit against Canada, challenging a ban on fracking under the Saint Lawrence River.

The Club supports Responsible Trade as a substitute for corporate driven "free trade." Our work is to Protect the Protectors—to defend green policy space from the unreasonable constraints of Reagan's NAFTA blueprint, and to promote fair, green international trade relations.

~ Editor's note: Swanhuysen is the Chair of the Sierra Club's Committee on International Trade, Human Rights & the Environment

EAVESDROPS

"The rim of the Grand Canyon, for instance, would never be anyone's first choice for a wind farm."

~ Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune writing that while the Club is going full bore to encourage alternate sources of energy, "we need to be smart about where and how we access that energy." His example is the Antelope Valley Solar Projects in California that officially broke ground in April, "representing large-scale renewable energy technology at its best and its brightest."

and the new reality of cloning as laid out in NatGeo remain. Back in the 1980's when debates raged about plucking the condor from the brink of extinction, the Sierra Club's position was it would be useless to bring them back unless more attention was paid to what killed them off in the first place ... meaning habitat and habit.

So now we have thousands of acres set aside as condor refuges,



The concept of 'cute' is usually not attached to the condor, and yet the Friends of the Condor Wild and Free group has closed that gap with these, er, cute condor puppets on sale as a fundraiser during a recent event in Ventura. (Photo by John Hankins)

Help reelect SB candidates



Helene Schneider

Sierra Club has approved early endorsement for the re-election of Helene Schneider in November as mayor of the City of Santa Barbara because, even through tough economic times, she has provided the leadership showing that environmental protection can save money. What an idea!

For example, energy audits and retrofits in city facilities now save over \$400,000 annually in electricity costs. A new carpool sharing program has led to more efficient use of the city's fleet, fuel consumption has declined by 8 percent since 2009, and fewer replacement vehicles have been purchased.

Looking strictly from an environmental perspective, two bridge replacement projects in Lower Mission Creek replaced the concrete creek channel with natural habitat for endangered Steelhead trout and Tidewater Goby. New City building construction and major renovations like the Airport

Terminal are LEED certified. Eight electric vehicle charging stations have been installed in city parking lots and increased recycling services are now provided citywide using CNG vehicles to reduce air pollutants.

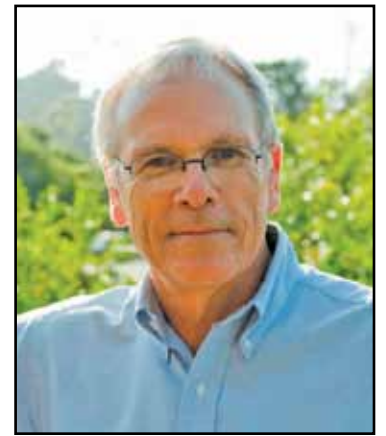
Also, the General Plan Update (Plan Santa Barbara) included the adoption of ordinances that give incentives to smaller units and rental housing over large, bulky buildings and facilitate the reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Helene is part of a City Council majority that understands and supports sustainability policies that are fiscally responsible and environmentally savvy. For more information or to help out in the campaign, contact mayorheleneschneider@gmail.com.

Bendy White

Sierra Club endorses Harwood 'Bendy' White for re-election to the Santa Barbara City Council in November due to his expertise in sustainability policy, which has continued from his fourteen years as a City Planning Commissioner.

Transportation, walkability and mixed-use development in the urban core are fundamental values for Bendy and are incorporated into the City's General Plan Update (Plan Santa Barbara). As Chair of the Council's Sustainability Committee, he helped oversee the construction of numerous energy conservation projects such as the new heating/cooling systems



at the Central Library and the photovoltaic array at the Airport Terminal car rental.

One of the most progressive accomplishments is the recent opening of the City's Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) facility. This joint venture with Marborg in conjunction with the new cogeneration plant at the City sewage treatment plant will add substantial new fuel to the facility while eliminating weekly trips to Bakersfield to dispose of the FOG. The CoGen plant will produce nearly enough electricity to power the sewage treatment plant, the City's largest electricity consumer.

Another innovative project is the resurfacing of the Mackenzie Park parking lot with permeable paving. This reduces toxic runoff and helps keep our creeks clean.

Bendy has proven his commitment to environmental stewardship and has earned another Sierra Club endorsement. For more information, or to help his campaign, contact him directly at:

harwood@harwoodwhite.com

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Get your feet wet on these wetland wonders

GREETINGS FRIENDS

By Jim Hines

The 70 mile stretch along the Santa Barbara-Ventura



county coast hosts some of Southern California's most scenic and ecologically important

wetlands.

Not only are these natural areas special places to visit and enjoy, but our coastal wetlands provide wildlife habitat for hundreds of wild species, many of which are endangered.

Visiting and exploring these wild places is one of the best outdoor adventures on the Central Coast. Imagine the thrill of watching whales offshore from one of California's largest coastal dune systems at Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, located just west of the city of Santa Maria.

The Guadalupe Dunes Complex is home to not only coastal marine life and sea birds, but habitat to many large mammals as well. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains several trails in the refuge, a small information center and seasonal guided tours.

The coastal wetland complex historically known as Goleta Bay and now commonly called Goleta Slough is still a rich estuary and



Just follow the rainbow to the Ormond Beach wetlands, where thousands of migrating (and local) birds hang out. Threatened by urban encroachment and industrial pollution, advocacy groups such as the Los Padres Sierra Club and state Coastal Conservancy, among many others, are determined to revitalize it into a world-class habitat worthy of being a tourist attraction. (Photo by Larry Wan)

coastal tidal basin. Generally located between the Santa Barbara Airport and UCSB, the state has recognized Goleta Slough with a special protected status of Ecological Reserve. It's a popular location for coastal bird watching, walking and biking on a network of bike paths. The county of Santa Barbara maintains Goleta Beach County Park, a perfect location to start your journey of exploration through the Goleta Slough.

A great day of nature study, bird-watching and the enjoyment of outdoor beauty is

the gem of a nature preserve at the northern end of the city of Carpinteria, the city-owned Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park. This special natural area makes a wonderful location to explore one of the last remaining coastal salt marshes in southern California. Guided tours are given seasonally.

Now for the Los Padres Sierra Club's high priority campaign, the massive Ormond Beach coastal wetland complex, located between the city of Port Hueneme and the naval base at Pt. Mugu in Ventura County.

It is the largest undeveloped

coastal wetland left in Southern California. Public land owned by the state of California and the Nature Conservancy allow some public use of this truly unique coastal ecosystem, though much of this special place is still privately owned. Several pending development proposals threaten the wetlands.

Next issue of
Condor Call
comes out 1st of August
DEADLINES:
Editorial: July 22
Advertising: July 24
Questions? Call 452-2885