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Condor Call

April - May 2014



Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties

IN THIS ISSUE: We tackle fracking, back good politicians, track SoCal trails and celebrate Earth Days, Gaviota and WBC's success.

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**NEW
FEATURE****CLICK ON BUTTONS
TO GO TO STORY****WHAT'S INSIDE?**

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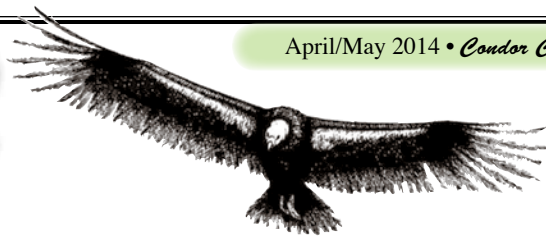
Politicians discussing Global Warming (art piece by Issac Cordal in Berlin)



Sadie Iverson, Surfrider's Plastic Bag lady at Earth Day

COVER PHOTO

Self portrait of Pete Scifres 'hanging ten' on Angel's Landing, known earlier as the Temple of Aeolus. It's a 1,488-foot tall rock formation in Zion National Park.



Judge slakes thirst for creeping developments

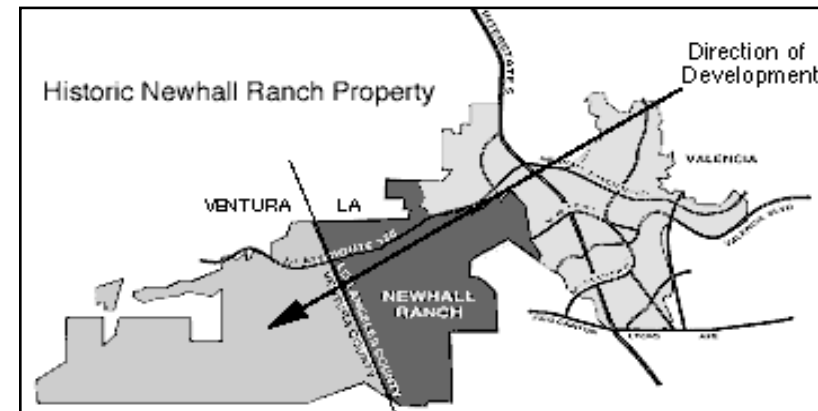
A Los Angeles Superior Court Judge has ruled against the Sierra Club, Friends of the Santa Clara River and others in their lawsuit against Los Angeles County's approval of Landmark Village, the first phase of the massive Newhall Ranch project along the Santa Clara River on the Los Angeles/Ventura county line.

Since water for the approved 20,000-plus homes, and 1.5 million square feet of golf courses, commercial and retail development was a major issue, the judge ruled on Feb. 7 that the

water supplier of record, Valencia Water Company, had proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the water for this massive project can be obtained using the ranch's existing agricultural water rights in the alluvial aquifer of the Santa Clara River.

This is the second assault in a week against the environment regarding water rights on the Santa Clara River. Previously, United Water Conservation District – which owns and operates Lake Piru and Piru Dam -- indicated it would seek relief from Endangered Species Act

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Help elect our best candidates

The June 3 election is primarily for executive posts for the state, county and school districts, along with some state Assembly, supervisorial and city races. The Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club is only endorsing candidates at some of these levels for environmental reasons. Please help reelect these fine candidates who have a proven track record. Profiles are on pages 5 & 6.

LOIS CAPPS
Rep. 24th District

JULIA BROWNLEY
Rep. 26th District

DAS WILLIAMS
37th Dist. Assembly

JANET WOLF
SB Supervisor

LINDA PARKS
Ventura Supervisor

Here's our new ExCom leaders

The Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club was formally re-established with the election of an Executive Committee during the election held at the scheduled meeting of the Steering Committee on March 27.

Three at-large seats were filled for 2-year terms by election; they are: Fran Farina, David Gold and Mike Stubblefield. These members join the other at-large members who are Stephen Dougherty and Jim Hines.

Group representatives are also members of the Executive Committee. Currently these are: Jerry Conner (Arguello Group),



"Let's go there over yonder," Alisse Fisher seems to say. She's one of the key leaders of the chapter's Wilderness Basics Course which concluded in March. See two pages of photos and a story on pages 21-23. (Photo by WBC student Amy Gome)

Robert Bernstein (Santa Barbara Group) and John Holroyd (Conejo Group).

See the Condor Call directory on page two for their contact numbers and email.

INVITE
a friend to join
sierraclub.org

Coast access is give and take

By Marc Chytilo

Advocates working to preserve the Gaviota Coast have been extremely busy, with a number of active development proposals in play along with blocking and granting coastal access. At the same time, an EIR is in preparation for the Gaviota Coast Plan, but the draft isn't expected for another year.

The current projects include:

~ **Paradiso del Mare (formerly Makar)**

A hedge fund (Farallon Capital) owns two large (65 & 78 acre lots) and 25 small Naples townsite lots, which are not part of the Santa Barbara

Ranch project, about 1/2 mile west of the Bacara Resort.

Farallon hired Orange County developer Brooks Street to pursue development, and on February 4, the Board of Supervisors approved two massive residential compounds on the two larger lots. The Gaviota Coast Conservancy, Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Audubon Society and Peter Howorth have appealed the County approval to the Coastal Commission, and two of the groups have also filed a CEQA lawsuit challenging the County's approval.

The developers have blocked a well-used coastal access trail and

will build a house on top of the trail. The development was approved despite sacrificing the most successful recorded white-tailed kite nest tree in county history (six kites fledged in 2013) and having direct impacts on a seal rookery and haul-out area immediately below the massive coastal residence.

The County allowed piecemeal development, so the EIR did not examine either the impacts of developing their 25 Naples lots or consider alternative project configurations that could have avoided impacts. The developer even signed

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Come celebrate Gaviota's beauty

A two day event called "Visions of the Gaviota Coast" that will help fund efforts to preserve the Gaviota Coast from leap frog development features fine art paintings, photographs, music and other events on Friday & Saturday, April 18 and 19, at the Bacara Resort & Spa.

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy and the Naples Coalition – of which the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter is a member -- joins with Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) and Reeve Woolpert, fine art photographer to conduct this annual fundraiser.

Admission is free to the exhibition of over 100 works of art, much of which celebrates the unique Gaviota Coast area. Those who do RSVP at gavcoast@silcom.com will get a free glass of wine at the reception. SCAPE artists will donate 40 percent of sales to the coalitions. Also, this is a juried show and prizes will be given to the artists.

An auction will be part of the first day from 1 to 8 p.m. for items from \$60 to \$900 to priceless with an artists' reception and music at 5 p.m. Saturday hours are from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. with screenings of a film by Beezhan Tulu entitled "Selma Rubin and Community Life" and Shaw Leonard's trailer of his newest film "Gaviota, the End of Southern California." A Q+A with the filmmakers will follow the screenings at 11 a.m., 1 and 4 p.m.

Auction items include a kayak adventure, organic produce subscription, original art, a stay at El Capitan Canyon Resort, among many others. There will also be a raffle for a free night's stay at the Bacara.

"This will expose our community to the beauty of the Gaviota Coast, and Naples in particular, as seen through the eyes of artists," says Phil McKenna, President of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy. "These talented artists are adept at capturing the emotions of being there, and their inspiring works will offer us the opportunity to own beautiful representations of the places which make our community worth living in. Through their art we see what is at stake."

The Gaviota Coast includes the coastal watersheds between Coal Oil Point in Goleta to Point Arguello on



"Second Spring" © on the Gaviota Coast, by Reeve Woolpert, a fine art photographer featured in the "Visions" event. See more of his extraordinary shots at www.thegaviotacoast.com.

Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the remainder of Vandenberg's coast to Point Sal. The portion down-coast of Point Conception contains about 50 percent of SoCal's remaining rural coastline.

SCAPE is a group of about 200 artists and is dedicated to help raise money to protect open spaces, to increase public awareness of environmental issues, and provide education for artists.

To get involved, contact either the Conservancy (gavcoast@silcom.com) or the Naples Coalition at (www.SaveNaples.org).

Bacara Resort & Spa is located at 8301 Hollister Ave, Goleta.

Gaviota update...

continued from page 3

a recorded covenant limiting them to two houses on their entire holdings as a condition of getting utility access across neighboring lands, but the County ignored this and the developer is expected to return with application for a new development.

The Coastal Commission will consider the preliminary question whether the appeals present a "substantial issue" at a hearing during the April 9-11 Commission hearings at the Hyatt Santa Barbara. For updated information about the hearing, check www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org.

Meanwhile, persons that have walked on or used the Makar/Paradiso parcels for recreational activities are encouraged to complete a survey of public use that can be downloaded at www.savenaples.org and mailed to the Conservancy.

~ **Naples/Santa Barbara Ranch**

The bank that owns the Santa Barbara Ranch development (located on the "Naples townsite") has reportedly again taken the property off the market recently. The Naples Coalition, EDC and Surfrider have continuously battled development on these lands for well over a decade, and

are committed to continuing efforts to protect this important gateway to the Gaviota Coast. In the meantime, the land is open to the public as a result of the Bank filing a notice allowing public use. Leave all gates as you found them, and do not disturb the cattle. Use at your own risk.

~ **Las Varas Ranch** is west of Dos Pueblos Creek, and has applied for a subdivision to create additional ocean-front residential lots on a working ranch. A revised EIR was circulated last year and is expected to be considered by the Planning Commission in the next two months.

EAVESDROPS

"We care because the condors are freakishly wonderful birds with scrotum-like faces and 10-foot wingspans."

~Angry Poodle columnist Nick Welch of the **SB Independent**, writing about a bill (AB 711) that banned lead bullets throughout the state, strongly opposed by the powerful National Rifle Assn., which Nick says is using wet-your-pants rhetoric. Ironically, a Pentagon report says the "green" copper bullets are better for killing game.



"Rural Sprawl," © not only shows photographer Reeve Woolpert's keen eye, but also his sense of humor.



Lois Capps

Since her first election to Congress in 1998, Lois Capps has earned the Sierra Club endorsement in each succeeding election cycle. The reason is quite simple. Lois provides a voice for our concerns to protect this spectacular area and to prepare the country for a future focused on climate disruption and renewable energy.

Sierra Club has worked with Lois on the new Central Coast Wilderness bill that will add 200,000 acres of wilderness and eight rivers into the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) plus create a scenic area status for LPNF lands overlooking the Gaviota Coast.

Because of her leadership and the support of her colleagues, a Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience is now a reality. She is drafting legislation on ocean acidification to strengthen federal research.

Lois is on record to President Obama opposing the Keystone XL pipeline. She also wrote to the Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency calling for a moratorium on offshore fracking in federal



Julia Brownley

We urge you to support Rep. Julia Brownley for Congressional District 26. The seat is in a highly contested electoral battleground district, and she is certain to face a wave of SuperPac funding by the pollution lobby.

Julia has worked alongside Los Padres activists on many issues, and her environmental waters off California's coast, until a comprehensive environmental review is conducted.

She communicated her opposition to new coastal oil development on Vandenberg Air Force Base. She's urged the Navy and shipping industry to work together to help reduce whale strikes in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Under the new California election process, only the top two vote-getters in June will move on to the November ballot regardless of party affiliation. With eight opponents in this race, every vote for Lois is important.

For additional information or to help with the campaign, visit www.cappsforcongress.com.

Our favorites for June 3 election



voting record has been among the best in Congress, as it had been when she served in the state legislature.

Recently she has pushed to increase funding in the NASA budget for the cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Lab, and has been pursuing a comprehensive cleanup that proceeds as quickly as possible. The Santa Susana site was home to multiple partial nuclear meltdowns, and has been polluted by a stew of heavy metals, PCBs and other toxic chemicals.

Rep. Brownley is a co-sponsor of the Arctic Wilderness Act, the Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act, and the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act, among many others.

Working with Los Padres leaders, she helped lead the fight to stop the LNG installation off the coast of Oxnard, and to stop the installation of the Oxnard electricity peaker plant.

She has battled to prevent

STATE ASSEMBLY



Das Williams

Das Williams continues to be a leader in the expansion of renewable energy.

Representing portions of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in what is now Assembly District 37, Das supports the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative. That would aim to create one-third of all energy produced from renewable sources by 2020, streamline siting for renewable energy projects, and provide financial support for investment in energy efficient technologies. This approach ensures a greener future both environmentally and

drilling off the California coast, advocated for rebates and other economic incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy sources, and worked to protect the purity of California's drinking water.

She will face a tough battle, and we urge you to support her in any way you can.

To learn how you can help, call (805) 330-1070 or visit <http://juliabrownley.com>.

economically.

In addition, Das continues to fight to increase "distributed generation" that allows for localized energy production.

Das is also at the forefront to keep green waste out of landfills. His legislation (AB 1594) would encourage using green waste as compost because putting it in landfills produces methane as it decomposes and adds to greenhouse gas emissions. Compost also enhances soil quality and reduces soil erosion.

We at Sierra Club look to Das Williams for protecting our environment from extreme oil and gas extraction techniques such as hydraulic fracturing, acidization and cyclic steam injection. Das has always been a leader in protecting our coast from offshore drilling. Now more than ever we need legislators who can stand up to the oil industry.

For additional information or to help the campaign, visit www.daswilliams.org.

EAVESDROPS

"It's not about the pipe. It's about what the pipe would carry."

~ Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director, explaining that the Keystone pipeline would carry Canadian tar sands oil which is heavier (needs heating) and more toxic than normal crude oil. Plus it's intended to be exported to other countries from the Gulf.



**S.B. SUPERVISOR
Janet Wolf**

**VENTURA SUPERVISOR
Linda Parks**

Since receiving the Sierra Club endorsement for her 2010 election, Supervisor Janet Wolf has continued her support for the environment representing the County's 2nd District.

Janet has a record of opposing the loss of open space, funding continued ocean water testing, supporting the Gaviota planning study and climate action strategy, and updating the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan. She's secured monies to replace the aging sewer lift station and replace the bridge at Goleta Beach Park. Similar facilities upgrades at Arroyo Burro County Park are in process.

On the energy front, Janet advocated for the solar project at the Calle Real County campus and supported the adoption of countywide fracking regulations. Recently, she voted to require a tighter Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions threshold for the Santa Maria Energy Project, making her a target for defeat by the oil companies.

We have watched Janet Wolf through challenging economic

The Sierra Club proudly endorses Linda Parks for re-election to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, District 2 because she has been an environmental leader throughout her time in office.

Occupying what has long been the Board's crucial swing seat, she has been a key ally for the Club, helping to win many important victories.

A founding supporter of the Save Our Agricultural Resources (SOAR) controlled times balance budgets, increase reserves, and still find money to improve open spaces and parks. She is a thoughtful, responsive public official who once again has earned the Sierra Club endorsement.

Her district runs from western Santa Barbara through eastern Goleta Valley and into an increasing portion of the City of Goleta.

For additional information, or to help with the campaign, visit www.JanetWolf2014.com.

Artists celebrate wilderness

All artists are invited to go outdoors in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act this year during two "paint-outs" sponsored by SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for growth initiatives; she provides an important voice as the county moves toward the key vote on the extension of SOAR. She has consistently worked to block the frequent efforts to water down SOAR.

Supervisor Parks' long-time leadership on open space issues recently resulted in her election as chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. She immediately set to work pushing for construction of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor, to help protect numerous threatened species, including bobcats and mountain lions.

Linda has also pushed for better regulation of fracking, and more openness about the wastewater chemicals that result. She has also helped lead the fight to adequately monitor the water and soil around the Boeing-Rocketdyne Santa Susana Field Lab where perchlorate and TCE have been found.

With regard to air pollution control, her work on transportation planning, and as Vice Chair of the Air Pollution Control District has been vital.

For more information or to help with her campaign, log on to: <http://lindaparks.com>

the Environment).

The first paint-out on April 5 takes you to Figueroa Mountain and the second led by the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club on June 21 will be at the lovely Piedra Blanca (White Rocks) area behind Ojai.

Artists can do their own paint-out, but it all culminates in an exhibit celebrating our wilderness areas on Sept. 19 - 21 in Santa Barbara's wonderful "Funk Zone" at the Santa Barbara Arts Foundry. The Friday night reception will be hosted by the Sierra Club and the SCAPE art group, with 40 percent of sales going to the Sierra Club. Chosen paintings will hang the whole month.

Landscape painter and instructor John Iwerks will lead a morning demonstration at Rangers Peak overlooking the San Rafael Wilderness on the April 5 paint-out. Check in with a SCAPE member at the Figueroa Fire Station, 12 miles up Figueroa Mtn. Rd. where you'll receive a map of pull-out spots and a free day pass at check-in.

On Saturday, June 21, the Los Padres Chapter hosts the Piedra Blanca event, with Outings Chair Mike Stubblefield showing painters the best locations for art work.

For any details, go to: <http://www.s-c-a-p-e.org>.

You can also call or email Bonnie Freeman at (310) 869-7072 or bonniegoleta@cox.net.



Judge slakes...

continued from page 3

requirements to release water from Piru Dam to protect endangered steelhead trout.

In regards to the Newhall Ranch project, the company also owns significant acreage in Ventura County and in theory could be another site for development. According to the Friends' website (www.fscr.org) "Newhall Land and Farming owns 15,500 acres in Ventura County which it has removed from the Land Conservation Act - an action often linked to development. The EIR for Newhall Ranch does not address the effects of this growth nor provide any mitigation for these effects."

The environmental community is not giving up. Friends, SCOPE, Ventura Coastkeeper and the Center for Biological Diversity recently filed in federal court against the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency for Newhall Ranch permits under the Clean Water Act.

By itself, the Newhall Ranch project would impact 5 ½ miles of the Santa Clara River, with nearly 20 million cubic yards of fill placed in the river and its tributaries. Another project which concerns the Sierra Club, SCOPE and Friends is Vista Canyon (1100 planned homes), which is also being litigated.

The Sierra Club's lead on the Newhall Ranch issue is the Angeles Chapter in concert with the Friends and other groups.

-- From Jim Hines and Ron Bottorf

To us Earth Day is every day...and then some

Editor's Note: Every day is Earth Day to the Sierra Club. But most of the big Earth Day events are the weekend of April 26 and 27 but Thousand Oaks and Oxnard celebrate early on April 5 this year. The 'official' Earth Day is always April 22 according to the Farmer's Almanac and

www.EarthDay.org

The Los Padres Sierra Club will have a presence at the Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Ventura events. Following are the celebrations that we know of in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

SB COUNTY



Santa Barbara

This is the Big One, and the oldest in the Los Padres region (since 1970), attracting thousands every year (35,000 last year) thanks to the Community Environmental Council. It's at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara Saturday and Sunday, April 26 & 27.

This year the CEC is promoting "the power of grassroots action in

protecting the environment, with specific resources around CEC's five core issue areas: drive less, go solar, choose electric, ditch plastic and eat local."

It attracts scores of vendors, non-profits, educational booths, green car show, music, farm-to-table dinner, kids' corner, you name it. For details and shuttles, go to: <http://sbearthday.org>

The Santa Barbara Group would like volunteers to have fun at our table in two-hour shifts. The pay is Sierra Club hats and T-shirts to keep. "Tabling is a great way to meet people who share your interests in and concern for our environment," said Christine Nivet. Contact her now at nivetc@aol.com

Solvang

Celebrate Earth Day on April 16 from 3 – 7:30 p.m. at the Wildling Museum. Free admission and family art activities.

Starting at 3 p.m. learn more about the environmental programs and outdoor activities offered by Sedgwick Reserve, Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden, NatureTrack, Return to Freedom, WE Watch, Santa Barbara County Green Business, and more. At 5 p.m. join a free workshop on Green Building for Your New Home or Remodeling Project presented by Allen Associates Construction.

This local celebration of Earth Day will conclude with a wine reception from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The museum is at the corner of Mission and 5th St., 1511-B Mission Drive, Solvang.

VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura

This is the best Earth Day celebration in Ventura County, an award winner that's located on the Promenade next to the beach, stretching from the stub of California Street to Surfer's Point.

It's happening Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Again this year, the event will host two live entertainment stages, an interactive Education Pavilion with scavenger hunt, and a Green Auto Expo among around 100 displays with a wide variety of green exhibitors, interactive educational opportunities for children and adults and non-profits, notably the Ventura Sierra Club.

Eco Fest is sponsored by Ventura Charter School of Arts

and Global Education and the City of Ventura. Proceeds support extracurricular activities and classes for children K - 8. For details, go to:

www.venturaearthday.org

Ojai

It's "Earth Play" day on from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 19 at Ojai's Oak Grove School, 220 W. Lomita with the theme of "Wishes for Our Watershed."

In celebration of sustainable living, global awareness, and the joy of nature, five Ojai-based organizations team up to host this free community : [Food for Thought](#), [Oak Grove School](#), [Ojai Valley Green Coalition](#), [Ojai Valley Land Conservancy](#), and [Once Upon a Watershed](#). The day will include live entertainment, world

food, environmental presentations and exhibits, art, field play, yoga, community involvement, and great ideas for our world.

Oxnard

The City of Oxnard's Earth Day is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 5 at Plaza Park, located at the corner of Fifth and "C" St. This increasingly popular free event encourages each person to act locally, while thinking globally.

Thousand Oaks

The 17th annual Arbor/Earth Day Celebration is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 5, located at the Conejo Creek Park North, 1379 E. Janss Rd. behind the library. For details go to

www.toaksgogreen.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

~ Usually meets the fourth Thursday of every month in Carpinteria. Email Chair Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

ARGUELLO GROUP

~ Board meets first Monday of most months often with a program. All information on this North County Santa Barbara Group from Jerry Connor, 928-3598 or email: Connor.gd2@verizon.net Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.

CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this southern Ventura County Group from John Holroyd, 495-6391 or backpacker2@earthlink.net. On the web: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org/conejo/index.html>

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ Get the latest updates on events and issues of this South Coast Santa Barbara area at www.SBSierraClub.org; also join our email list by contacting Stephen@lospadres.sierraclub.org

VENTURA SIERRA CLUB

~ Up-to-date information about the northern Ventura County group at www.VenturaSierraClub.org

VENTURA SIERRA CLUB

Join us to support protecting wildlife

The Ventura Sierra Club and its friends will be there when the California Fish and Game Commission meets in Ventura April 16 with an agenda that includes debate on offshore resources, hunting contests, fishing regulation and protection of wolves.

The day before that meeting, the Club and Center for Biological Diversity presents noted wolf biologist Amaroq Weiss speaking about the important role which wolves play in the natural ecosystem and why it is important for us to protect them. The presentation is open to the public and free at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 at the Ventura City Corp Building, 77 N. California St.

The commission's meeting begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel, 450 Harbor Boulevard in Ventura, and generally goes all

day; however, the first business will be wolf protection.

Join the Ventura Sierra Club which will conduct a rally for wolf protection outside the state hearing at Crowne Plaza between 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. before the commission begins its work.

For details and/or questions, contact Jim Hines at jhcasitas@gmail.com.

SANTA BARBARA

HAVE FUN and get goods helping us at

**Earth Days
April 26 & 27**

**Contact Christine:
nivetc@aol.com**

Fracking threats detailed by club rep

By Robert Bernstein

Sierra Club California Coastal Organizer Mike Thornton made the case to impose a moratorium on fracking to a packed audience at the Santa Barbara Library on March 17, thanks to Katie Davis who put the event together on short notice.

I explained before introducing Thornton that we would not have to deal with these issues if we had good sustainable transportation and energy policies and that we need to rally for positive programs as well as against harmful ones.

The process of hydraulic fracking is very energy intensive and, most important; it generates a large supply of very dirty carbon-based fuel at relatively low cost. Compare it to dumping your trash in the street and not having to pay for it.

Thornton explained that fracking in California is mostly about releasing “tight oil” from Monterey Shale. It features sand, water and chemicals forced into a well to fracture surrounding rock which can contaminate both water and air, but the so-called “Halliburton exemption” excuses fracking from air regulations.

Thornton related numerous stories, such as oil companies in North Dakota reporting more than 1,000 accidental releases of oil, drilling wastewater or other fluids in 2011. In 2008, a Kern County farmer was awarded \$8.5 million in compensatory damages for groundwater contamination from oil industry wastewater.

As reported on NBC News: “Earthquakes were triggered by



The Sierra Club is dogging the fracking issue as never before, as shown by these signs people left outside the room in Ventura to attend DOGGER's public hearing on what should be analyzed in the required environmental impact report. The club supports a new moratorium bill, see adjacent story. (Photo by John Ziv)

fluid injection shortly after the injection initiated — less than two weeks,” says researcher Won-Young Kim, a seismologist at Columbia University.

Yet some settlements forbid future investigations, and some spills simply go unreported if the contamination is not noticed.

Thornton also claimed that jobs from fracking are largely a myth as it employs few workers and most jobs are temporary. Also, fracking's demand for water drives up prices farmers pay.

Then there is offshore fracking. About half the platforms in the

Santa Barbara Channel are dumping fracking waste. The oil industry has federal permission to dump more than nine billion gallons of wastewater a year directly into the ocean off California's coast.

The industry argues that fracking has gone on for decades. Thornton said it is like comparing the Wright Brothers' plane with the Space Shuttle. Current fracking uses pressures and chemicals that are unprecedented.

There is now a bill (SB 1132) calling for a moratorium on fracking until the risks are studied.

continued to page 9

OIL NEVER SLEEPS

Oil-gas projects fought at many levels

By Fran Farina

Since my last report in December, it should come as no surprise that there has been additional activity on the oil front. Let's start with some good news.

Fracking Moratorium

Sierra Club California worked for months with other environmental organizations drafting text for a statewide fracking moratorium and identifying the appropriate

authors. In February, SB 1132 was introduced by State Senators Holly Mitchell and Mark Leno.

Our local representatives, State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assembly member Das Williams are being added as co-authors.

In its current form, the bill would provide a moratorium on the onshore and offshore use of hydraulic fracturing, acidization, and other well stimulation treatments unless and until it is demonstrated that these treatments won't risk or impair public health or the environmental and economic sustainability of the state. The Governor could only lift the moratorium if an independent scientific study demonstrates that existing regulations are sufficient to protect against

those risks. (See related story on Page 8)

Offshore Fracking

Did you know that oil companies have been using hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and other forms of well stimulation from platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel for twenty years? Not even federal and state regulators knew until recently; in fact, at the Feb. 12 meeting of the California Coastal Commission, its staff revealed that information to them for the first time.

Fortunately our local Environmental Defense Center used the Freedom of Information Act to review and analyze records that revealed this dirty secret.

That's why the Assembly Select Committee on Coastal Protection is meeting in Santa Barbara on April 11, 2014 to learn more about offshore fracking. You can, too. Panels of state regulators, industry, and non-governmental organizations will provide a comprehensive look at what's going on in our coastal waters.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Santa Barbara County Administration Building, 4th Floor, 105 East Anapamu St. Come early to get a seat.

Sierra Club's goal is to support interagency cooperation, both federal and state, to ensure protection of California's marine resources.

Greenhouse Gas

After our success at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on the Santa Maria Energy Project, our next step is to secure funding during the annual budget process for development of a Greenhouse Gas Threshold Ordinance. This will provide a uniform GHG threshold and we won't have to fight each individual project.

Venoco Lease

The State Lands Commission was scheduled to consider the Final EIR in February that would revive Venoco's Lease 421 (two wells on two piers) when the item was suddenly pulled from the agenda.

The City of Goleta had been negotiating with Venoco regarding processing the oil at the Ellwood Onshore Facility, a non-conforming use in an area now zoned for open space and recreation. While no one supports processing oil on the piers located in the surf zone, Sierra Club wants to avoid any action that extends the life of this non-conforming use. The project is currently scheduled for approval on April 23rd.

Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in three counties.



The beautiful Channel Islands could be impacted by the oil industry due to fracking operations or spills. Meanwhile, Sierra Club California has a series of six island hopping trips planned: April 12-14, May 4-6, June 8-10, July 20-22, August 24-26 and September 14-16. Contact Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email: jholtzln@aol.com. (Photo by Karen Abel)

Frack threats...

continued from page 8

Recent polls show 58 percent of registered voters in California want a fracking moratorium.

Linda Krop of the Environmental Defense Center told the audience its Freedom of Information Act request on fracking revealed at least 15 fracking "incidents" in the past 20 years. Some happened near the Marine Sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Park.

Another speaker, Rebecca Claassen from a new group called Santa Barbara County Water Guardians, fully supports a full ban on fracking and called for supporters to gather signatures. Go to its website for details:

www.sbcountywaterguardians.org.

Many people wanted to know how to help, and supporting the proposed ban (SB 1132) is of prime importance since the legislature last year rejected all the moratorium bills. Also get on the Sierra Club and

EDC email lists to keep apprised of action items.



EAVESDROPS

"May the Forest be with you."

~ Yoda, Jedi master.

MR GORE I PRESUME?**Liz Lamar's African adventure**

Editor's note: One of our members from the Ventura Sierra Club, Liz Lamar, attended Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Training in Johannesburg, Africa. Here is her account.

By Liz Lamar

Travelling to Africa has always been a dream of mine and I was finally able to make it come true in March by attending the Climate Reality Leadership Training in Johannesburg.

Unfortunately, my plans were met with adverse reactions from people who I had previously loved and admired. "Why are you going there?" someone asked. "To meet Al Gore," I replied. "He's not still spewing that global warming nonsense is he?!"

This was from a retired teacher. I would not let them detract me.

Sure, I found it questionable to travel over twenty hours on an airplane just to be schooled in the havoc that excess carbon dioxide is creating on our planet. I tried to take comfort in the fact that the organization would be offsetting the carbon created by the event as well as making sustainable choices where possible.

The conference itself was an amazing experience. I was treated to lectures by revolutionaries like Kumi Naidoo and Jeunesse Park, I participated in a 700 people drum circle, and I interacted with people from all over the world. What was most meaningful to me

was meeting people from Africa. As an American woman with no ties to her African heritage, it was like coming home to a place I never knew existed.

The Leadership Training took place over the course of three days. At the end of the training we were ready to take the information we had learned and share it through slide show presentations.

The first day we were treated to a speech by the legendary activist and Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Kumi Naidoo. He drew comparisons of the current struggle for climate change legislation with the American Civil Rights movement. At the end of his speech, he had the crowd on their feet singing an African song.

On the second day, former U.S. Vice President and chair of the Climate Reality Project, Al Gore, gave us the presentation that resulted in his 2006 film "Inconvenient Truth." His message was clear: we must stop treating the earth's atmosphere like an open sewer line. Ninety million tons of CO2 are put into the atmosphere every day and that pollution traps the same amount of heat as the energy from 400,000 Hiroshima atomic bombs going off every 24 hours!

Gore carefully went over every one of the 1500 slides to explain the science behind them and why they were included. He emphasized that we could choose to include or exclude as

many slides as we like in our own presentations.

The third day we heard from Jonathan Deal, a man who has been fighting fracking in the Karoo, a semi-desert region in South Africa loved for its

EAVESDROPS

"What Would Nature Do?"

~ T-shirt slogan.

agriculture and wildlife. He had no formal training in grass roots organizing but threw himself into saving the land he loves from the horrors of fracking. He received a Goldman Environmental prize for his work.

After the conference, I was able to participate in the Trees for Homes program. We went to the historic Alexandra township to plant fruit bearing trees in front yards. This was an amazing experience and I would like to implement something similar in my community where food insecurity is a growing problem. Promoting self-sufficiency is always a good cause, no matter what the socioeconomic condition of an area may be.

I am so grateful for Food and Trees. Yes, planting the trees was very important but the interaction with the residents was extremely meaningful as well. The more we realize how alike we are, the more committed we are to the fight for social and economic justice. Viva Africa!



Ventura Sierra Club activist Liz Lamar (fourth from left) participated in the Trees for Homes program in the historic Alexandra township of Johannesburg. (Photo by Mike Ter)

Sierra Club directors vote due by April 16

The deadline to receive your vote for up to five Board of Directors of the national Sierra Club is at noon April 16, and it is best to vote via the internet.

All Sierra Club members eligible to vote (life members and members who have renewed at least once) should already have received election materials by mail or email. If you believe you are eligible to vote and have not received a ballot, contact membership.services@sierraclub.org.

Questions and answers from the candidates for Director are in the online candidate forum. Just go to www.SierraClub.org and type in "board election" in the search box.

If you have any questions about voting online, contact Election Services Corp. by email at sierraclub@electionservicescorp.com or call toll-free 1-866-720-HELP (4357).

The Board has the responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Club, to establish the Club's conservation priorities and internal policies. Their strong leadership and dedication are critical to the ongoing effectiveness of the Sierra Club.

EAVESDROPS

"Soon, the Earth Day to May Day days of action, sponsored by the Alliance for Global Justice, will sweep the country, putting thousands of people in the streets and raising national awareness about this growing problem."

~ Carl Gibson, writing in Reader Supported News that "climate movement is making historic ground, and that climate activism works." He is co-founder of US Uncut, featured in the documentary "We're Not Broke."

'Hiking crazies' do at least 100 peaks in So Cal

By Mike Stubblefield
Chapter Outings Chair

When I first met Pat Jump, longtime leader of the highly popular Monday Morning Walk and one of our longest serving hike leaders, I was amazed to discover that she was *also* a longtime member of a pretty elite group of hiking crazies who call themselves the "Hundred Peaks Section."

It's fair to say that the HPS peak list, which currently includes 275 peaks of at least 5000 feet altitude, is the largest and most comprehensive reference tool of its kind on the internet for Southern California hikers. Hundred Peaks is one of many special-interest sections in the Angeles Chapter, our giant neighbor (over 40,000 members!) to the south. Really big chapters like

EAVESDROPS

"Singing songs around the campfire do not count."

~ Los Padres Forest Ranger Heidi Anderson, detailing all the hours you can accumulate to get a free Adventure Pass to National Forests for a year. Totting up 100 hours can be for trail work, visitor center, surveys, driving time to projects, training, LPFA meetings and report writing. Accumulate 250 hours and you get an inter-agency pass.

Angeles have groups just like us, but they also have special activity "sections," catering to Club members who engage in specific activities like



backpacking or peak bagging. Angeles has 35 sections.

I'd been bagging peaks in the San Gabriels and the San Bernandinos for years before I discovered HPS. Now I regularly refer to its online peak descriptions (just search for "Hundred Peaks Section"), which provide clear and useful information on driving routes to get to trailheads, hiking routes, round trip distance, altitude gain, estimated time on the trail for each route, and pretty accurate and detailed descriptions for navigating the trail – "go two miles to the fork and take the right fork," etc.

You don't have to join HPS to use its resources. But if you decide that you want to join in the fun, here's how it works: You sign up (www.angeles.sierraclub.org/hps) when you have already have climbed at least 25 of the peaks on the HPS list. When you reach 100 of them you are recognized as being one of the

rare breed who has actually achieved this difficult feat.

One of our own local members, my hiking buddy Catherine Rossbach, who banged out 25 of the listed peaks last year and joined HPS, invited Terry Wong and me to come as her guests at the annual banquet in Monrovia. All three of us were astonished when we realized that not only had many current HPS members climbed a hundred peaks on the list, but some of them had climbed a hundred peaks multiple times.

One HPS member, Mars Bonfire (those of you who already spend Sundays atop local peaks know who I'm talking about because you've seen his name entered, often multiple times, in the summit logbooks) has done . . . *21 lists!* That's right, *2100 peaks!*

And how ironic, in his youth, Mars Bonfire also wrote some songs that old folks know well, like Steppenwolf's *Born to be Wild*.

Speaking of local peaks, you don't *have* to drive all the way down to the LA area to bag 5000-foot-high peaks; there are 15 HPS peaks in Santa Barbara County and 18 more in Ventura County. Any 25 of those will qualify you for membership in HPS.

As a somewhat more casual peak bagger than Mr.



There are 33 peaks over 5,000 feet in Ventura and Santa Barbara, all eligible for the 100 peaks award. Here are two of them: at top, the deteriorating lookout on Cuyama Peak (Photo by D. Stillman) in Santa Barbara County and below is Paul Chinn's photo atop Topa Topa in Ventura County.

Bonfire, I hope someday to complete *one* 100-peak list before my aging body quits on me. This spring and summer, when the weather is good, I'll

be leading a bunch of hikes up challenging peaks on the HPS list.

I invite you to join me. See you on the trail!

Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

Updates at <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

Panoramic photo by Robert Bernstein

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

April 3
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call

TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)
April 4
LA JOLLA VALLEY LOOP WITH A CAR SHUTTLE: 7 miles with 2169 cumulative elevation gain - moderate hiking pace 2.5mph. Start out going up the Chumash trail into the La Jolla Valley then looping around and coming back the overlook trail and ending up in La Jolla Valley via the Ray Miller trail. From this hike you get to see pretty much all of the La Jolla Valley and much of its surroundings. Meet at the Ventura car pool at Seaward and Harbor at 8am so that we can have an 9am start after doing the car shuttle in Malibu. Park along Harbor Blvd. 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 (VEN)**

SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate 7-8 mrt hike with 1200' elev. gain. Hike Rising Sun and Upper Sostomo Loop Trails. See tropical terrace, oldest stone building in Malibu and 150' waterfall (seasonal). Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. **LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)**

April 5
PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3000' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8:30am (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). **JIM 447-1876 / 644-6934 (SB)**

HIDDEN VALLEY OVERLOOK - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 6 mrt hike with approx. 800' cumulative elev. gain and

views of Hidden Valley and the Santa Monica's. Bring water and lug-soled shoes. Meet at Satwiwa parking lot (entrance on Via Goleta on Lynn Road next to Dos Vientos in Newbury Park) at 8:30am **JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)**

April 6
PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)**

continued next page

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.



Temporarily swallowed by a Cozy Dell Trail pothole, Bill Brenden along with a crew of volunteers filled it back up with dirt and brushed the trail. Photo is by Ranger Heidi Anderson, who conducts trail maintenance projects on the first Saturday of every month. To help out, contact her at 646-4348, ext. 309 or handerson@fs.fed.us

Outings...continued

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE (NATIVE) ROSES! Morning people wanted for easy hike around upper trails of Arroyo Verde Park. Moderate pace with short breaks to identify native plants. Total distance 1.1 mi; el. change 240 ft. Bring water, snacks, wear closed toe shoes. Ages 7-17 welcome accompanied by parent/guardian. Parking fee \$2 per hour, max of \$5. Meet at 8:30am at the Redwood Glen BBQ area (all the way at the end of the road inside Arroyo Verde Park). Rain cancels. Questions? Contact leader NINA 901-1679. (VEN)

April 7
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Ojai and Los Padres National Forest to do Cozy Dell Trail. For more info, call PAT 643-0270 (VEN)

April 9
WESTLAKE VISTA - PENTACHAETA TRAIL: Moderate 4.4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Hike Pentachaeta and Westlake Vista trails with views of Triunfo Creek Park. Look for the Pentachaeta lyonii that blooms in April. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 5pm at the trailhead. From 101 Freeway, exit on Lindero Canyon Road, drive 1.7 miles south to the junction with Triunfo Canyon Road. Turn left and go 0.1 miles to the trailhead on the right and park alongside the curb. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

April 10
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission

San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

April 11
UPPER NEWTON CANYON - CASTRO PEAK: Moderate 8 mrt with approx. 1700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling or before third tunnel on Kanan Road at 8:50am LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

April 12
INSECT HIKE: Learn about the most abundant form of life on the planet - insects - on this interpretive hike. Easy/Moderate slow paced

hike. Please note that exact trail will be determined 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 12-13
CAR CAMP/DAY HIKE - FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN: hike in Figueroa Mt. area. Car camp at Figueroa Campground Sat. night April 12. Sunday April 13 moderate day hike on Catway Road towards Zaca Peak, about 10 mrt, on graded dirt road. Beautiful views of San Rafael Wilderness, and hopefully there will be wildflowers galore. Figueroa Campground is located off Figueroa Mt. Road, in the Los Padres National Forest, about 12 miles NE of Los Olivos. No water(you'll need to bring your

continued next page

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Santa Ynez Valley a real treat in spring

By Jim Hines

A complex array of ecosystems lies right in the middle of the Los Padres Chapter region: oak woodlands, riparian river, and chaparral covered hills all



surrounded by high mountains in the Santa Ynez Valley. Spring has arrived in the valley, and what more beautiful place to spend time exploring our great outdoors than in the many natural areas there. Also, one "unnatural" place, Lake Cachuma, formed by Bradbury Dam that attracts bald eagles and anglers, except that because of the drought, its water level is reduced considerably.

A short drive out of Solvang on Alisal Road takes us to one of

the central coast's most accessible seasonal waterfalls, located in Nojoqui Falls County Park. It's a short hike through the oak canopy to view and spend time enjoying this beautiful peaceful area. But a visit this year had better be soon, as the falls will quickly dry up the longer we go beyond our early March rains.

The Santa Ynez Valley is noted for its picturesque stands of native oaks which are inhabited with bushy tailed red tree squirrels and grassy meadows filled with deer herds grazing peacefully.

At the eastern end of the valley is one of the most popular outdoor recreation areas in Santa Barbara County, the Santa Ynez River Recreation Area, part of the Los Padres National Forest, also known as "Paradise" because of the same named road you take to riverside campgrounds, popular hiking trails and one of the gateways to the



One of the best places to see extraordinary blasts of blooms is Figueroa Mountain; in fact, Ranger Helen Tarbet has wildflower updates at www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf (Photo by Dianne Soini)

majestic San Rafael Wilderness.

There is plenty to enjoy in this area where the Santa Ynez River dominates the landscape, notably a tire swing over one of the deeper pools. (NOTE: this area is slowly recovering from last year's fires).

At the western end of the Valley lies an often overlooked natural area owned by the state of California, La Purisima Mission State Historical Park. While the centerpiece of this park is the historic Spanish mission, the park is over 2000 acres of meadows, seasonal creeks and oak woodlands. There are close to 12 miles of hiking trails including several along the seasonal creek and the park has a picnic area. It's a wonderful place to spend a day learning about early Santa Ynez Valley history and our natural world.

Then there is the towering peak which dominates and overlooks the Santa Ynez Valley, Figueroa

Mountain. It is THE place to see the spring flowers. Tap into wildflower updates from forest Ranger Helen Tarbet at www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf.

This beautiful high country area is part of the Los Padres National Forest. A trip up to Figueroa Mountain can easily be a day trip by enjoying short hikes among the conifer forest and a picnic by the 4500-foot peak while overlooking the Santa Ynez Valley below. Or your visit to can turn into a long weekend by camping at one of the national forest campsites and spending several days backpacking and exploring the Siskiyou National Wild and Scenic River and the vast San Rafael Wilderness areas.

The wildlands of the Santa Ynez Valley are a great place to enjoy and appreciate one of the great natural areas of our chapter region.

And oh yes, they grow a lot of grapes there.

Outings...continued

own), vault toilets. Happy hour Sat. night with shared potluck dinner. Sunday morning begin hike at 8am, lunch on trail, return to cars mid afternoon and drive home, stopping in Solvang for Danish pastries. Dog friendly trip. Rain/fire cancels. For more details and to sign up (you must sign up ahead of time), contact leader SALLY at 689-7820. (SB)

HOT SPRINGS AND COLD NIGHTS IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT: We'll be visiting a Trego Hot Spring in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Exact itinerary will depend on Playa conditions (it's drivable as of January but that can change). We may end up staying at the one spring with good all-weather access. Leader is very familiar with the area. Easy. Primitive camping, sorry, no RV's or trailers but see outing on 5/24-26. Dogs on leash OK. Bad weather cancels. Signup 3/29 - 4/8, DAVID 775-843-6443 (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Comm)

April 13
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. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

JUST FOR FUN! Join us for a hike in central Ventura. We'll start from the trailhead at the Botanical Gardens behind the Ventura city hall. (Plenty of free parking.) From there we'll complete the new trail and continue down Kalorama to visit the pier. Then we'll head back into town for a stop at the Busy Bee. After the Bee, we'll head to city hall and back to our cars. Rain cancels. Approx. 5 miles. Meet at

9am at trailhead. TED 985-8963 (VEN)

MT. WILSON (5710 feet): Sierra Club hikers have been climbing Mt. Wilson in the mountains north of Pasadena for a century. We'll be doing one of the classic Mt. Wilson approaches from the southern side of Wilson, beginning at Chantry Flat above Arcadia. This is a strenuous, eight to nine hour, 14-mile-round-trip hike with – depending on which route we take – 3300 or 3900 feet of elevation gain. To study the route, Google "Hundred Peaks Section," click "Peak List," click "Mt. Wilson Area" and click Mt. Wilson. To view the trailhead and routes, refer to the Angeles Front Country Trail Map (Tom Harrison Maps). Plan on an early start: We'll meet at 6 am at the Camarillo Park and Ride (southeast corner of the 101/Las Posas intersection) to ride share. Please do not show up at the Park and Ride without calling me first. I will be screening all applicants; experienced hikers only. Call MIKE at 216-2630 (cell) or 988-0339 (home). I will brief you on what to bring when you call. RAIN CANCELS. (VEN)

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 14
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza or 9am at Casitas Springs under freeway to walk under the bridge and to the Ventura River. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 16
WILDWOOD PARK - SANTA ROSA TRAIL TO HILLS ABOVE CLU: Moderate 6.3 mrt loop hike with 700' elev. gain. Hike upper Santa Rosa Trail with great views of the mountains and Santa Rosa

Valley. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 4:30pm at the west end of Avenida de Los Arboles. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

April 17
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

NATIVE HERITAGE**Book celebrates Charlie Cooke**

An inspiring new book about Charlie Cooke, a Native American who worked to preserve the land and heritage for over forty years, tells how his dedication and integrity helped educate generations of children and adults to appreciate the outdoors and to establish parks.

A well-known figure in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, his effectiveness was literally on the ground as he led educational hikes for decades in the Santa Monica Mountains. In fact, after a front page story in the Los Angeles Times, a thousand people came. He passed away in September of last year at the age of 77.

The book, by Mary Contini Gordon, is entitled "*TIQ SLO'W: The Making of a Modern Day Chief.*" Pronounced "teek slo," it means "eye of the eagle," an apt name for a person who repeatedly said, "Listen to the land. It will tell you what to do with it."

In the 1990s, developers wanted to give him land so they could build

April 18
OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 6 mrt hike with approx. 1000' elev. gain. Great views of the mountains and valleys. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at the parking lot by Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park at 8:30am. Rain cancels. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

April 19
MIDLAND - HIGH COUNTRY LOOP: This is a 6 mrt moderate loop hike on Midland School property adjacent to Figueroa Mtn. We'll utilize portions of the Grass Mtn, Cabin Cutoff and High

continued next page

EAVESDROPS

"Both groups were prepared with the appropriate level of food, water, and personal survival gear. A cell phone and an emergency satellite beacon were key communication devices that were helpful in locating the backpackers."

-- Senior Sheriff's Deputy Don White about the March 2 "rescue" of 15 Hikers from Sespe River - Tar Creek area where high river and creek waters during the storm blocked their exit.

a casino on it, "but his focus was on the heritage, not the casinos, so in all cases he declined," Gordon wrote.

His journey went from being a cement truck driver in the 1970s for a firm in Santa Paula, to a highly respected Native American leader and outdoor educator. "As the driver of a cement truck, Cooke realized he was unwittingly contributing to the changing landscape and obscuring his heritage. He then became an advocate for acquiring open space and guiding development," Gordon writes.

He worked with Sierra Club leaders, among others, to create the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the Native American Cultural Center and loop trail at Satwiwa (aka Rancho Sierra Vista) off Big Sycamore Canyon Road and the Chumash Indian Museum in Thousand Oaks, among many others.

"Charlie had the inclusive idea that the Santa Monica Mountains should be a teaching tool ... so

that all could have a connection to the land," said Bill Anderson of SMMNRA.

For his long volunteer career, Cal State Parks presented him with a rare award in 1992, the Superior Achievement Award for his service for the Santa Monica Mountains, founder and leader of Satwiwa and work on the Native American advisory council.

Similar to what the Sierra Club offers, his outings were legendary and well attended. Joan Genter of Friends of Satwiwa said, "He would draw you in, lead you on a journey back in time to what Native American culture was and still conveys what it is today."

Those he worked with talk of "Charlie's way," a fond and friendly description in which "he operates based on deeply thoughtful, deeply held principles."

The book is available on Kindle, various book stores and through www.ampubbooks.com.

~ By Condor John Hankins

Wildling has wild exhibits

Our friends at the Wildling Museum in Solvang are seriously celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Here's the highlights:

~ "On Nature's Terms," the paintings of Thomas Paquette commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Exhibition run extended until May 26.

~ "Everett Ruess: Into the Wilderness" is on view through July 14. He spent the last four years of his brief life exploring the West's wilderness areas and creating art, but he disappeared at age 20.

~ "Earth Day Fair" hosted by the Wildling on April 16 from 3 – 7 p.m.

~ Annual Wildling Barbecue on Sunday, April 27 at Orella Ranch.

~ Nature Photography Competition, entries are due by April 30, with the theme "At Home in the Wild."

~ Ken Burns' "Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit" shown on May 30 at 7 p.m. This is a documentary film produced to honor the 150th anniversary of the landmark federal act signed by Abraham Lincoln that preserved Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. This act, the first time a government set aside land for public use and enjoyment, gave birth to the idea of national parks.

The Wildling is located at 1511-B Mission Drive, Solvang; details are at www.wildlingmuseum.org.



water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

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

April 28
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza or 9am at Foster Park under freeway to walk to dam and new trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 1
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

May 2
LOWER NEWTON CANYON - BUZZARD'S ROOST: Moderate 9 mrt hike with 1400' elev. gain. Visit waterfall (seasonal). Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

May 2
HOWARD CREEK TRAIL TO NORDOFF PEAK AND BACK VIA COZY DELL TRAIL WITH A CAR SHUTTLE: 10.36 miles - 6,372 cumulative elevation gain - not for

that can be made far in advance. Weather will be cool in evenings and comfortable in the day. The service will be in removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on the Plain, and the recreation will be determined by the wishes of the group. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670 (CNRCC Desert Committee)

April 20
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to meadow. Easy 3.5 mrt. Optional 1.5 mrt steep hike from the meadow to Gibraltar Road, by way of either the trail or the creek bed. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

April 21
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza or 9am at Loon Point for 9:55 low tide beach walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 23
DOS VIENTOS LOOP: Moderate 5 mile loop hike with approx. 350' elev. gain and 900' cumulative gain. Enjoy wonderful views of Boney Mountain, the surrounding hills, Pacific coast and Camarillo plain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 5:30pm at the Dos Vientos Community Center parking lot, Borchard Road entrance. Rain cancels. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

April 24
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to

the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

April 25
BULLDOG TRAIL - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike up Bulldog Trail. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

April 26
COLD SPRING, FORBUSH FLAT TO GROTTO: Hike down Cold Springs Trail from E. Camino Cielo to Forbush Flat campground. Hike approx 1.5 miles further to natural grotto. Bring lunch and water. Strenuous 6 mrt. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 682-8290 (SB)

SYCAMORE CANYON - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Easy to moderate 4.5 mrt hike with 800' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at Rancho Sierra Vista Satwiwa parking lot in Newbury Park at 8:30am. From the 101 Fwy. take Lynn Road south towards ocean; turn left on Via Goleta before Dos Vientos and drive to the end parking lot. MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773, WALT ZABRISKIE 497-1775 (CJ)

April 27
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and

continued next page

Outings...continued

Mountain trails to get to a high point with great views of the Santa Ynez Valley and Zaca Peak. As this is a Winter hike, bring layers as the weather can be quite changeable. Note that there is a 40 minute drive to the trailhead. If you are coming from North of Santa Barbara, contact me for a map that locates the trailhead. Note that you must sign-in using the form supplied at the outdoor kiosk at Midland School. Bring a light lunch and water. Rain cancels. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY, 964-5411, gching@cox.net. (SB)

BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy to moderate 6 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Hike along the beach, up to the bluff and down to tide pools if tide permits. Tide 1.05' at 9am and 1.26' at 11:30am. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

ROMERO LOOP: Strenuous 11 mile loop with 2400 gain in Montecito. Enjoy beautiful views and lunch on a water tower. Moderate pace. Bring food, at least two quarts water and lug sole boots. Meet at 7:30am at Carrows sign off Seaward 101 exit in Ventura for carpooling. LYNN LIVELY 256-4106. LLively@aol.com (VEN)

April 19-20
CARRIZO SERVICE AND FLOWERS: This outing combines a day of service in the Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of sightseeing and/or hiking. If there are winter rains, wildflowers can be spectacular, although this is not a promise

Outings...continued

beginners. This is just one of many ways to get to Nordoff Peak but will get us plenty of views of the surrounding area and both sides of the Nordoff ridge. We will climb up Howard Creek trail to Nordoff Peak then go down the Pratt trail and connect with the Cozy Dell trail and back to Hwy 33. Meet at the Ventura car pool Seaward and Harbor at 8am so we can shuttle up to Ojai and get on the trail by 9am. Park along Harbor Blvd. 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 (VEN)

May 3
LOST VALLEY - CASTLE ROCK: Hike from Nira Campground up the Lost Valley Trail. Primitive trail access to Castle Rock. Have lunch on top of this great massif. Strenuous 9 mrt. Bring plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 682-8290 (SB)

HORN CANYON: Scenic canyon walk near Ojai! Trail crosses Thacher Creek several times in forest, and then climbs higher for great views. Our destination is the Pines Campsite, about 5 miles round trip, 1800' gain/loss. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, and other 10 essentials. Meet at 1pm at Thacher School trailhead. Dinner afterwards at Boccali's. Rain cancels. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

May 4
SADDLEROCK - HOT SPRINGS - COLD SPRING LOOP: Hike on parts of seven trails in a moderate loop of about 5 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on

upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

May 5
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza or 9:30 am at Bates Beach for low tide beach walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 8
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

May 9
LA JOLLA VALLEY - MUGU PEAK - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:

Moderate 8 mrt hike of leader's choice. See results of the Spring's fire and possible regrowth. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at intersection of Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park not later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

May 10
OSO VALLEY TRAIL: A loop hike to a ridge between Lower and Upper Oso campgrounds. This area was burned in the Memorial Day White fire and is just starting to recover. This 3mrt hike is short but steep (700' elevation gain in less than a mile). Bring sun protection, a light lunch and water. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

May 11
URBAN HIKE TO FRANCHESCI PARK: Start near the Mission,

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

FIVE PEAKS (MAYBE SIX!): There aren't many places where you can bag five, maybe even six, peaks in one day! We will start at Eaton Saddle trailhead, then climb San Gabriel Peak (6161 feet), Mt. Disappointment (5960 feet), Mt. Deception (5796 feet), Mt. Markham (5742 feet) and Mt. Lowe (5603 feet) and, time permitting, Occidental Peak (5732 feet). This is a strenuous hike, about six hours (for the first five peaks), and a couple more (if we add Occidental Peak), with about a 3900 foot elevation gain. To study the route, Google "Hundred Peaks Section,"

click "Peak List," click "Mt. Wilson Area," then click each of the peaks above. To view the trailhead and route, refer to the Angeles Front Country Trail Map (Tom Harrison Maps). Plan on an early start: We'll meet at 6 am at the Camarillo Park and Ride (southeast corner of the 101/Las Posas intersection) to ride share. Please do not show up at the Park and Ride without calling me first. I will be screening all applicants; experienced hikers only. Call MIKE at 216-2630 (cell) or 988-0339 (home). I will brief you on what to bring when you call. RAIN CANCELS. (VEN)

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

continued next page



There's nothing like approaching peak altitude to change your attitude. Here, Hugh Warren anticipates reaching the peak near Bishop Pass. (Photo by Pete Scifres)

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EDC's coastal gala June 8

The Environmental Defense Center's annual benefit event, "Green & Blue: A Coastal Celebration," is happening from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, June 8 at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, 304 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta.

The event has been named Green & Blue to honor the Santa Barbara Channel and the coastal lands that help define California's south central coast, which EDC serves. Green & Blue will include a presentation of our environmental hero awards to Citizens for Goleta

MT. PINOS AND SHEEP CAMP HIKE: Enjoy the Jeffrey pine forest near Mt. Pinos; you'll think you're in the Sierras! Moderate to strenuous trail starts at 8,300 feet. Our lunch destination is Sheep Camp, near a couple of springs. Trip is about 9 miles round trip, about 1800' gain/loss. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, and other 10 essentials. Adventure Pass needed for cars. Meet at 8:30am at Fillmore Starbucks. Rain cancels. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

May 24-26
BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS: Several hundred people will be meeting for a variety of tours, activities, and speakers in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. We'll probably have a Dutch Oven cook-off, kid's activities, tours to various areas, and expert speakers on the history, geology, and activities of the area. Leader is very familiar with the area. Camping location TBD; RV's & trailers OK, but there are no facilities. Dogs on leash OK. Bring your HAM Radio, there will be lots of HAM activity. Contact David KD7YIM for area repeater info. For

Valley and the Goleta Valley Land Trust. This ENVI Award was given to the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club last year.

All are invited to join us for a lovely afternoon of great food and local wines, a silent and live auction, and environmental art work for sale from prestigious Oak Group artists. There will be a special guest appearance by the homegrown band, Toad the Wet Sprocket.

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

more info, visit blackrockdesert.org. Sign ups, DAVID BOOK, 775-843-6443. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

May 25
TEA GARDEN HISTORICAL EXPLORATION: An easy, moderate or strenuous hike up to the top ridges of this old Montecito estate and looping back down Chelham Canyon. About 2, 4 or 5 mrt and 500, 700' or 1350' altitude gain, respectively, whichever is chosen. Meet either at the old gatehouse (680 East Mountain Drive at Cold Springs Junction) or at the B of A on upper State St. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

May 26
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza or 9am at Ojai Land Conservancy trailhead on Rice Road to do trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 29
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About

1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

May 30
OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Visit waterfall (seasonal). See new growth in the Springs Fire burn area. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Wendy Drive trailhead at intersection of Potrero Road in Newbury Park no later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

May 31
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. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

June 1
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)

TED'S FAMOUS BEACH HIKE AND STEAK FEED: Join Ted for a leisurely paced, easy to moderate 7 mile round trip along the beach from Rincon to Carpinteria. Then cook your own steak, chicken or fish at The Palms. Meet 1:45pm at Ventura carpool lot or 2:30pm
continued next page

Outings...continued

May 12
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza or 9am at Oakview Community Center to walk north on trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 15
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

May 16
BULLDOG TRAIL - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike up part of Bulldog Trail. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

May 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)

HUENEME LIGHTHOUSE HIKE: Join us for a pleasant hike in Hueneme to the beach and lighthouse. The hike is easy, about 5 miles. We start at Hueneme Library parking lot, 510 Park Ave. in Port Hueneme at 9am. The lighthouse is open for tours on this day. At the end of the hike, we'll go for a great lunch if you choose. Rain cancels. TED 985-8963 (VEN)

May 18
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

May 19
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Shelf Road (up and down) or 9 am at trailhead. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 22
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

May 24
ALDER CREEK/FRANKLIN TRAIL: Long car pool to Juncal Campground. Hike past Jameson Lake then up a long canyon to the ridge overlooking Carpinteria. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Moderate - strenuous 12 mrt. Early Start time at 8am. Call hike leader for details. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy to moderate 6 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Hike along the beach, up to the bluff and down to tide pools if tide permits. Tide 3.2' at 9am and 1.3' at 11:30am. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)



The VCS Outdoors team (from left, back row) Brett Johnson, Cheri Carlson, Arlene Martinez and Stephanie Snyder, (from left, front row) Carol Lawrence, Juan Carlo, Donna Meese, Wendy Pierro, and Joe Curley. (© Photo by Karen Quincy Loberg, Ventura County Star)

VC Star creates outdoor section

The Ventura County Star has launched a new emphasis and online section on the outdoors with trail guides, maps and news created by a team of its reporters and photographers.

Online it's at www.vcstar.com/outdoors. It is also on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

That online presence is the point, according to Star Editor John T. Moore, who wrote that the printed edition will have basic stories but, "subscribers who go to our website or our mobile or tablet apps will find much more," such as interactive maps, many more photos, rain charts, videos and links to sources and how to get involved.

From his window at the Star, Moore wrote that many workers are "caught gazing wistfully through the pane, wishing we were outside."

He defined the Feb. 2 launch as, "a new focus on coverage and information about the Ventura County outdoors, for all of us — regardless of whether you are the dedicated outdoorsman, or the wannabe staring

out the window."

The first VCS Outdoors story was by Cheri Carlson on the long-term impacts of the 2013 Springs Fire on the Santa Monica Mountains. Following that, the Star has written about trail safety, hydration packs, fresh water fishing, rip currents, rebuilding the Conejo Trail, and groups joining together to enhance Santa Clara River watershed.

It also offers updates, such as "an injured sea lion found on Hueneme Beach is "responding well to treatment..." and the Star's live beach cam was relocated to the outdoors site.

Moore hopes the public will get involved in its coverage, such as inviting any hiker to report on the conditions of trails or any outdoor issue, "and our team will look into the issue."

The editor and team leader of VCS Outdoors is Donna Meese who can be reached at 437-0221 or dmeese@vcstar.com. She rides a mountain bike and hikes with her husband and dog.

Outings...continued

at Bates Beach/Rincon parking lot. Rain cancels. TED 985-8963 (VEN)

June 6
ROMERO CANYON: LOOP - 2 hikes

Phil: Longer hike: 11mrt, 2400ft gain in a figure 8 loop - moderate pace (2.5mph)

Lora: Shorter hike: 5mrt, 1100ft gain in a one-way loop - slower pace (2.0mph)

For both hikes the trail begins with a steep uphill through a shaded canyon above Summerland/Montecito, just SW of Santa Barbara. It crosses a fire-road midway up, which is where the shorter hike turns inland for its loop. The longer hike continues up to the water tank 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. Because of limited parking on Bella Vista Drive, we suggest carpooling from Ventura. Meet at the Ventura carpool site at Seaward and Harbor at 8am so we can shuttle up to the trailhead for a 9am start. Park along Harbor Blvd. Required: 10 essentials, hiking/trail boots, 3qts of water, and snack/lunch. Hiking poles, sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat (above 85F) cancels. PHILIP & LORA 218-2103. (VEN)

June 19-22
ESCALANTE BACKPACK: This a moderate 3 night/4 day backpack into one of the unique places of the desert southwest. Cottonwoods and some pines line the river.



Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment and Fine Art Photographer Reeve Woolpert

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"POP" - photograph by Reeve Woolpert

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Favorite forest hikes revealed

It was a raucous and entertaining evening in Ventura during this year's Wilderness Basics Course as two wanderers of the backwood tag-teamed a fast-paced presentation detailing their "Sweet Six" routes in the Los Padres National Forest.

The speakers were local cartographer (and Condor Trail director and LPFA executive director) Bryan Conant and local trail guide author Craig R. Carey discussing their favorite local backpacking routes.

The trips presented were grouped into three categories: the quick overnighter or kid-friendly trips, three-day backpacks, and "epic" week-long backcountry treks into seldom-visited stretches of the wilderness.

Both week-long treks are deep in wilderness and for part of their routes follow the proposed Condor Trail. One of them, the Sespe-Mutau-Fishbowls Loop, is a great option for ambitious backcountry souls. It is a 40-mile loop through the Sespe

Wilderness, and is ideal for those who enjoy a good backcountry soak.

The first day leads from the Piedra Blanca trailhead eastward along the Sespe River Trail, an easy 10 miles along the abandoned road to Willett Springs (with plenty of opportunities for swimming and wading en route). Take advantage of the hot springs a half-mile above camp and – if it's available – enjoy the appointments of the old Lagomarsino cabin, one of the few remaining structures of what was once a large collection of buildings.

Go along the Sespe the next day and then a mile up Hot Springs Canyon to Sespe Hot Springs, reputed to be the hottest in Southern California. Several guerrilla camps can be found along the canyon, but their personal favorite is beneath the fire-scarred palm trees. Camping in this canyon is all about cold water

access.

On Day 3 you'll double-back to the Johnston Ridge trail, a former motorcycle route, and ascend a steady six miles to Mutau Flat, where things will level out and the old roads will lead you to the Half Moon car camp. When Grade Valley Road is closed in the winter and spring, you'll likely have this beautiful pine-dotted campground all to yourself.

Day 4 sees you continue west — first along the Forest Road and then along the Fishbowls trail — to the unique Fishbowls formation and trail camp. As this is your last night on the trail, enjoy it by soaking in the sandstone pools situated beneath towering conifers.

Day 5 you'll climb to the Cedar - Pine Mountain Lodge connector trail, climb up and over the saddle into Pine Mountain Lodge camp (an ideal lunch spot), and then descend a toe-pounding six-miles along Piedra Blanca Creek back to your vehicle.

Other recommended routes will appear in future "Soaring" columns.

To the hills!

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

~Bryan Conant is a backcountry cartographer (www.bryanconant.com), VWR, Executive Director of the Los Padres Forest Association, and Director of the Condor Trail Association at www.condortrail.com



Cool off in the Fishbowls along the 40-mile loop through the Sespe Wilderness. (Photo by Craig R. Carey)

Face of Forest dies

Over the course of three decades, visitors to Los Padres National Forest were often greeted by Joe Pasinato. In many respects he was the face of the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest personnel and the public that knew him were devastated by the news of his death Feb. 16 in Santa Barbara. He was 63.

He knew the Forest like the back of his hand, and offered advice on camping and hiking spots that enriched many visitors' experiences. During fire emergencies, Joe answered calls at the Forest's information center and worked with television, radio, and print reporters to keep the public apprised of the firefight. Following a 28-year career, Joe retired March 31, 2012.

An overflowing crowd packed a Buellton restaurant in April 2012 for Joe's retirement celebration. The Forest Service presented Joe with the traditional farewell gifts, while

co-workers and friends bestowed so many plaques, hats, and other tokens of appreciation on him that his truck couldn't hold them all. It was truly a special moment honoring Joe's remarkable career.

A public memorial service for Joe is tentatively scheduled for early May in Santa Barbara.

EAVESDROPS

"Both the environmental challenges we face today and some of their solutions are increasingly sophisticated, and Earth Day is one way to make space in our lives for this."

~ Sigrid Wright, Associate Director of the Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council which will focus this year "to solutions that are rooted in local action."



Fiery Gasland sequel a story of corruption

By John Hankins

If Josh Fox's Gasland documentary on the dangers of fracking for petroleum shocked you, Gasland Part II will really blow your socks off.

"The industry is in denial mode and attack mode at the same time, and they refuse to come to the table," Fox said.

With all the fracking going on locally, it was fitting that the Ventura Film Society opened its season with the documentary on Feb. 11 and included a number of local speakers, including moderator Jan Dietrick of the Ventura Citizens Climate Lobby, Supervisor Steve Bennett, John Brooks of CFROG (Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas) and Katie Davis of the Climate Reality Project in Santa Barbara and representing the Sierra Club.

"You can't watch that movie and not be frustrated, due to the power of money corrupting our

democracy," Bennett said, adding that "money doesn't buy legislation; it blocks legislation until the damage is done and people give in."

The footage was disturbing in so many ways, from Talisman Energy publishing a kids coloring book with a friendly "Fracosaurus" dinosaur, to a man who flicked his lighter next to a spout and the fire nearly burned off his eyebrows. (NOTE: Fracosaurus was pulled after comedian Stephen Colbert colored it with satire; see it on YouTube.)

Brooks told the audience there is over 12,000 wells in Ventura County and over 450 of them have used hydraulic fracking to coax more oil out of the ground. "Who inspects them?" he asked, emphasizing citizen awareness and action needs to fill in for lack of government oversight.

The documentary also shows Director Fox being arrested as he attempted to film a Congressional



Gasland I and II documentary director Josh Fox is arrested for doing his job outside a Congressional hearing on fracking impacts that he wanted to film for posterity. (Photo contributed)

hearing on the controversial natural gas drilling technique, on grounds he didn't have the proper credentials (ABC also could not film it because it "hadn't given notice in advance").

So much for democracy and open government.

"It's an attack on science," Fox said afterward, as the hearing was the first time the EPA had a strong case (from Wyoming) that fracking contaminated water.

Davis made a strong pitch for renewable energy sources: "there is hope, we can power the state with renewables. The oil companies have the money and we have to raise the army to fight it." She also noted in Santa Maria "deadly acid and steam injection" has been used.

Moderator Dietrick also strongly advised the audience that "we need the political will to figure this out."

We'll soon see if that happens when the California Legislature faces a new bill (SB 1132) that would ban fracking.

'Cooler Heads' more like 'Dunder Heads'

In the last issue we printed a list of groups to join that address climate change, but one of them, Cooler Heads Coalition, was mistakenly included while some other bonafide groups like Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and Organizing for Action were not.

Call it sins of omission and commission, and thanks to Jan Dietrick of the CCL we stand corrected and embarrassed.

Cooler Heads is in fact a right-wing coalition whose website is GlobalWarming.org, which is paid for and maintained by the Competitive Enterprise Institute. CIE's members include American Conservative Union, Eagle Forum, Heartland Institute, John Locke Foundation (what, not John Galt?) and Americans for Prosperity.

Heads "is focused on dispelling the myths of global warming by exposing flawed economic, scientific, and risk analysis," according to the website.

But it really is rather wishy-washy, judging by its Global Warming 101 article that says, "Global warming may or may not be a problem. Man may or may not be driving it."

It adds that "global regret may apply if we divert too much of our global wealth to solving what may be a non-existent or trivial problem ... On the other

hand, we may also regret not doing anything if man-made global warming does turn out to be a problem."

Its parent organization, CEI, delves into other issues, and one that caught our eye was entitled, Celebrating Whisky's Marketplace Journey, and the first paragraph is: "Whisky is more than God's greatest creation. It symbolizes the spontaneous order of free markets and the unplanned innovations they yield."

Now you know, whisky is God's greatest creation, not a climate suitable for life as we know it.

-- Condor John Hankins



EAVESDROPS

"The only thing that matched the degree of extreme weather we saw this past winter was the extreme amount of climate denial that arose in response."

~ Lindsay Abrams in Salon, noting that the reasons for climate deniers include that they don't understand science, Big Industry is pulling their strings, they hate government regulation especially the EPA, they are unable to grasp the big picture, and they just don't want to believe it because it is so terrifying.

FOLLOW FRACKING

Sierra Club California:
www.california2ws.sierraclub.org

Climate Reality Project:
www.climaterealityproject.org

Citizens Climate Lobby:
<http://local.350.org>

CFROG:
www.cfrog.org

Gasland II activism
www.Gaslandthemovie.com

Crafting our wilderness course takes talent & outdoor savvy

By Teresa Norris
WBC Chair

We've just wrapped up another session of the Wilderness Basics Course, and it was our best one ever. We had a large and enthusiastic group of 43 students from many different cities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

We'll be showing up with our tents at some Earth Day events, Wheeler Gorge open house, and the July 4 Green Block in Ventura. See you there or on the trail!

Offering the class so that people can enjoy the outdoors more with knowledge and take on a spirit of adventure was our reward, along with meeting new friends and having a blast outdoors.

Here's why WBC was in concert with the Sierra Club's motto: *Explore, enjoy and protect the planet:*

~ Day hike leaders **Jim Duliakas** and **Stephen Bryne** led hikes to two different destinations from the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the Fossil and Creek trails, assisted by **Lars Yahr** and **Tim Grant**.

~ We camped for a weekend at Sage Hill group camp in the Santa Ynez River valley, and had a Saturday morning of navigation

practice, followed by a tent tour, talks on trail etiquette, hiking and camping resources, water filter practice, potluck salad and dinner, wrapping up with a campfire program and music.

~ Sunday morning, day hike leaders **David Peacock**,

**WBC photos
next 2 pages**

Phil Clarke, Jim Duliakas and Alisse Fisher led hikes to four different destinations in the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) near Sage Hill: Red Rock, Aliso Loop, 19 Oaks and the Snyder trail, assisted by **Lars Yahr, Tim Grant, Lora Clarke and Teresa Norris**.

~ Our backpack leaders **Sally Foushe, Alisse Fisher, Marc Hertz and Teresa Norris** led six backpack trips, assisted by **Dan Kronstadt, Jim Danza, Lars Yahr, Marc Hertz and Denise Powell** to La Jolla Valley in Point Mugu State Park, to The Pines camp in Horn Canyon, Murrieta and Middle Matilija camps in the LPNF near Ojai, to the Sespe Condor Sanctuary (hiking corridor) in the LPNF north of Fillmore, and to Hell's Half Acre in the LPNF near Santa Barbara.

Whew! And that was what we did outdoors; here's

the people who shared their expertise indoors:

~ The enthusiastic class was treated to speakers from local businesses and non-profits sharing their expertise. Thanks to **Dennis Dempsey** and **Bernie Thomas** from Newbury Park Physical Therapy, **Joey Duddridge** from Mountain Air Sports, **Dave Kanarek** from Real Cheap Sports, **Carol Day**, volunteer wilderness ranger and Thomas Aquinas College instructor, **Craig Carey**, author; **Bryan Conant**, cartographer; **Matt May** from 4Points Expeditions.

Also, **Bruce Livingstone** from Patagonia, **Matt Dolkas**, a NOLS certified instructor, **Kathie Hoxie** from the NOAA, **Suzanne Swedo**, author and guide, **Andy Van Sciver, Dave Musgrove** and **Ron Mazotto** from Ojai Search and Rescue, **Heidi Anderson** from the Los Padres National Forest, **Jim Hines**, conservation chair of our own Los Padres Sierra Club, and **Nancy Mathison**, international Sierra Club outings leader.

~ Our WBC staff speakers included **Jim Duliakas, Alisse Fisher, Stephen Bryne, Condor John Hankins, Tim Grant, Marc Hertz, Chrissy Magee, Lora and Phil Clarke, Cara Peden** and **Teresa Norris**.

~ Many other WBC staff helped in important ways to help



During a WBC Car Camp, students check out their surroundings. (Photo by David Peacock)

the class run smoothly: **Gerry Connor, Alisse Fisher, Condor John Hankins, Marc Hertz, Ellen Maves** and **Teresa Norris** served on the WBC board.

Ellen Maves was our Finance Chair, wrote checks and balanced our books.

Alisse Fisher chaired the Course Content committee, helped by **Chrissy Magee** and **Denise Powell**. **Alisse** also did half of everything else.

Condor John Hankins headed the Publicity committee, helped by Facebook master **Cara Peden**, webmaster **Jim McComb**, and many other staff who distributed brochures and helped publicize the class.

Irene Rauschenberger helped with publicity and coordinated our class snacks, obtained donations from Trader Joe's and donated snacks herself.

Annette Klaus headed the Registration committee, assisted

by **Heather Maves**, gmail account, **Kathrine Heinzman, Ellen Maves** and **Lars Yahr**.

Jim Duliakas was our WBC Outings Chair, coordinated all the outings and also made our hiking maps. **Tim Grant** headed our room setup and cleanup operations, assisted by **René** and **Mario Ramirez** and **Lars Yahr**.

Lars Yahr and **Chrissy Magee** emceed the class, **Cara Peden, Jim Duliakas** and **Denise Powell** operated the laptop and projector, and **Irene Rauschenberger, Therese McKenna** and **Denise Powell** timed the speakers.

And WBC student **Christine Dzialo** coordinated the donation of a large format HP printer/plotter to WBC.

It was so much fun we're going to do it again next year.

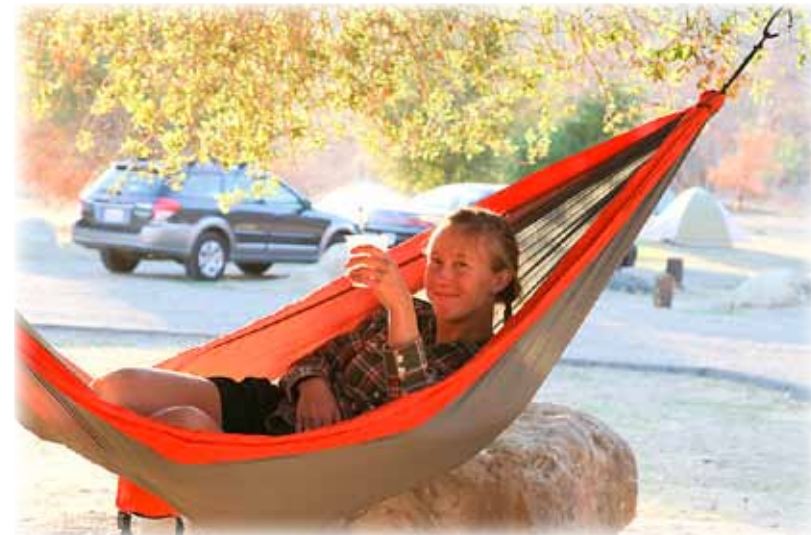




Camp break By Jennifer Bunde



Squaw Flat camp By Russell Sharman



Hammock dweller By Caren Peden



The view's worth the hike By Kristin Powell



Snakes-on-a-trail By Kristin Powell

**WBC
2014**

NORTH FORK MATILDA
LOWER CAMP 2 MILES
MIDDLE CAMP 3 MILES
UPPER CAMP 4 MILES
HWY 33 12 MILES



Carol Day shows water purifiers By Condor John



Coffee & eggs in 1 pot By Kristi KirkPatrick



Backpack demonstration By Condor John Hankins



Capping off a great day of hiking & learning with stories, music and laughter By Russell Sharman



WBC Chief Teresa Norris & Craig Carey shamelessly promoting his excellent hike book By John Hankins



Ojai Valley view near a campsite By Andy King



Marc Hertz map demo By David Peacock

WBC 2014



building bridges
to the outdoors



Fireside
music By
Cara Peden



Find your way with map & compass By Cara Peden



Helping hand By Amy Gome



Backpack group By Andy King



Laughs by the water purifier By Cara Peden



Tent & Gear By Jennifer Bunde

