

IN THIS ISSUE: Great hope for new wilderness bill;
summer potlucks & events; outdoor trips, training &
outings; frack fights; birds & biodiversity.
Come on in, the reading's fine.

Vol.'14, No. 3 of 6

June - July 2014

Condor Call



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

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Condor Call

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ADVERTISING: Contact Condor Call Editor

DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:

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

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members

Non-members, \$6 per year. Contact:

Editor John Hankins (see EDITOR address, phone and email above)

Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

**NEW
FEATURE**

**CLICK ON BUTTONS
TO GO TO STORY**

- 3 Lois Capps introduces Wild Bill
- 4 Condor Trail part of Wild Bill
- 5 Map of Hope & celebrations
- 6 July 4th Green Block, potlucks
- 7 We catch media's eye
- 8 Biodiversity! Damnation!
- 9 Mixed news on oil, fracking
- 10 Ventura Audubon on the fly
- 11 Nature photos too beautiful?
- 12 – 17 Outings for all kinds
- 14 Drink water or die
- 16 Backpack the Chumash
- 17 Lockwood Valley's charms
- 18 Hike training and WBC
- 19 Earth Day field reports
- 20 Club scrubs & classifieds

Next issue of
Condor Call
is all electronic so to get it
send your email to
condorjohn@gnusman.com
comes out 1st of June
DEADLINES:
Editorial: July 21
Advertising: July 23
Questions? Call 452-2885

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Condor Call

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



“Ah Wilderness”

Bill would expand protection locally

By John Hankins
Editor, Condor Call

Rep. Lois Capps has introduced a major new bill that would add over 245,000 acres of wilderness areas in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protecting wild and scenic rivers and designating a new 421-mile multi-use trail named after the condor.

SEE MAP PAGE 5

The Sierra Club and many other groups were ecstatic at the news, first revealed at the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens in mid-May and introduced May 20 as the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (HR 4685).

“Crafting this legislation has truly been a community effort, promoting both responsible use and long-term protection for our treasured public lands,” Capps said.

Of course, it still needs to get all the way through Congress, starting with the House subcommittee for Public Lands.

“We will need emails and phone calls to subcommittee members asking them to support the bill without amendments,” noted Jim Hines, Los Padres Sierra Club’s conservation chair for Ventura who has closely monitored its progress. He also

noted the club was the first group to endorse the bill and Capps acknowledged that during an April reception held to thank all the people and groups who worked hard on the bill over the last year.

Specific areas and details are available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/CappsWildernessBill>

Highlights include:

~ Create four new wilderness areas and expand nine existing ones covering three counties (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties). Examples include expanding wilderness areas of the Dick Smith, San Rafael, Santa Lucia, Sespe and Chumash.

~ Two new scenic areas (totaling 34,500 acres) in the Black Mountain area (San Luis Obispo County) and the Condor Ridge, which is the Gaviota Coast ridgeline along Hwy 101 from Hwy 154 to the Gaviota State

Park.

~ Wild and Scenic River status for portions of Matilija, Indian and Mono creeks, Sespe Creek, Sisquoc River and Piru Creek.

~ Establishing the Condor National Recreational Trail, a 421-mile multi-use trail that spans the

continued to page 4

EAVESDROPS

“The biggest problems of our time aren’t climate change and human-induced collapse of systems. Those are the symptoms of a world out of balance, of people disconnected from nature and each other.”

~ Sigrid Wright, who manages the huge Earth Day event in Santa Barbara for the Community Environmental Council, writing a blog entitled “Why Earth Day Matters More than Ever.”

Cover photo shows wild land

“Ah Wilderness” -- Jeff Jones’ photo truly captures the beauty of this proposed extension of the Matilija Wilderness, just one of many proposed by Rep. Lois Capps’ new bill (see story above and map page 5). Jeff calls it “Sunset Overlook of Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands & Lake Casitas.” See more of his excellent photos on “Preserving Santa Barbara’s Wild Lands” now through Sept. 15, at the Wildling Museum in Solvang (www.wildlingmuseum.org), on ForestWatch website <http://lpfw.org/our-work/promoting-wilderness> and of course his own: www.lumnos.com



The Big Fourth of July event for the Ventura Sierra Club is that it organizes a whole “Green Block” for the city’s popular July 4 celebration in which streets are blocked off to make way for displays, music, games, education, green car display and a parade (see story on page 6). You’ll be sure to see the Sierra Club show of Outings and our Wilderness Basic Course staff, explaining camping equipment, as seen here from a previous event. (Photo by John Hankins)

Meet new forest chief

Robert Baird has been appointed as the new Supervisor of the Los Padres National Forest, following the retirement of Peggy Hernandez earlier this year.

Most recently, he served in the Washington office as the Deputy Director for Fire and Aviation Management where he partnered with the California Conservation Corps to provide firefighting training for military veterans. A key task was to supervise the National Interagency Fire Center located in Boise, Idaho.

Before that he was a marine for 24 years, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and finished his career as the branch

head of the Center for Irregular Warfare in Quantico Virginia.

Baird graduated from the University of Maryland Naval War College with honors, and earned a Master’s degree from the Marine Corps University. Since joining the Forest Service, he attended the Executive Education in Forestry Program at Yale University and the Key Leadership Program for Senior Executive Service Candidates at American University.

He has also written a study entitled, “Profiles in pyro-terrorism: Convergence of crime, terrorism and wildfire unleash as a weapon on population.”

Wild bill benefits Condor Trail dream

By Brian Conant

May 19 marked an exciting time for the Condor Trail and the vision of a through-trail across the Los Padres National Forest appears more likely.

That was the date local Rep. Lois Capps formally introduced the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (HR 4685). This bill has evolved over the past few years and is centered on adding new Wilderness and Wild River designations across the Central and Southern Los Padres National Forest.

Included within the bill is the official designation of the Condor Trail (CT) as a National Recreation Trail (NRT). For those of you who are not up to speed on the Condor Trail, it is a 421-mile multi-use trail that spans the length of the Los Padres National Forest. The CT starts at Botchers Gap in the Big Sur Mountains near Monterey, and winds its way on existing trails across the forest to its southern terminus at Lake Piru near the

border of Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Think of the Condor Trail as the Los Padres equivalent of the Pacific Crest Trail or Appalachian Trail. The idea was born nearly 20 years ago and has been gaining momentum during that time thanks to a dedicated group of supporters spearheaded by the Condor Trail



Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

The inclusion of the CT within the National Recreation Trail system would be a huge step towards realizing the dream of a continuous through-trail across the Los Padres. By gaining NRT status, the CT is opened up to a much larger world of benefits and opportunities:

~ The NRT system provides an infrastructure of publicity and fundraising that would not otherwise be available to the CT.

SM Mountains plan victorious

Despite being outnumbered by paid attorneys at a recent Coastal Commission meeting over a critical land use plan for the Santa Monica Mountains, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups were overjoyed to receive a unanimous vote.

"I cannot over-emphasize the importance of the Commission's vote April 10th to approve the Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plan (LUP)," said Ventura Sierra Club Conservation Chair Jim Hines. "This LUP will protect one of the most important natural regions in our area by preventing slope and ridgeline

developments. It will strengthen and protect the wildlife corridors, prevent building along streams and create Endangered Species Habitat Areas (ESHAs) for the first time in the Santa Monica Mountains."

The Angeles Chapter was the lead for the Sierra Club since most of the mountains are in Los Angeles County, but 40 percent of them are in Ventura County, Hines emphasized.

With such success in hand, "the county of Ventura will start the process to create and adopt a LUP for the Ventura segment of the Santa Monica Mountains this fall," Hines reported.

~ The CT will be boosted by publicity and recognition as the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act gains steam in the coming months.

~ NRT will also help the CT gain leverage and legitimacy with the stakeholders and contributors needed to complete the CT. Some of these stakeholders include the Forest Service, private land owners, groups that support the Los Padres and of course the public who use the forest.

While the CT needs the bill to pass in order to achieve NRT status, the Condor Trail Association will continue to push for the trail to become federally recognized even in the chance that the Capps Bill falters.

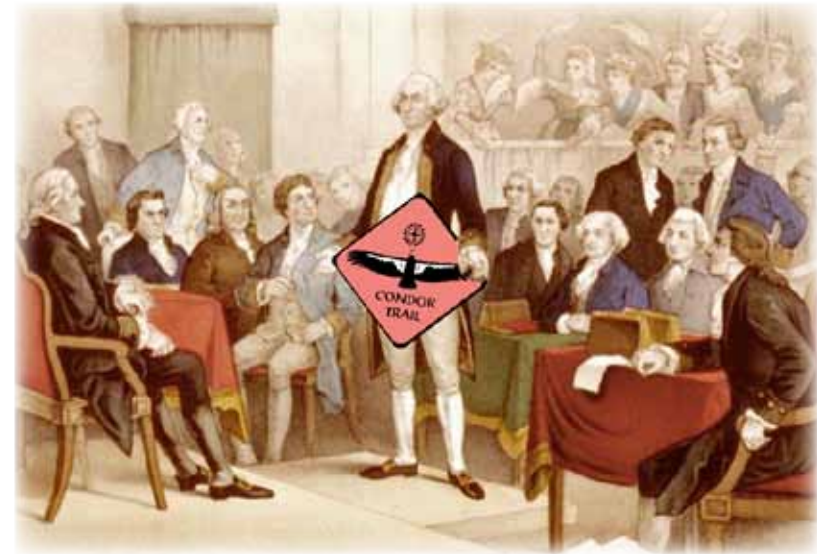
For more information about the Condor Trail please visit www.CondorTrail.com, www.Facebook.com/CondorTrail, or email info@condortrail.com.

~ Editor's Note: Bryan Conant is a backcountry cartographer (www.bryanconant.com) and President of the Condor Trail Association.

EAVESDROPS

"Despite our strongly felt kinship and oneness with nature, all the evidence suggests that nature doesn't care one whit about us."

~ Alan Lightman in the New York Times, thinking about the devastation that nature wreaks via hurricanes, floods etc., causing a "subtle emotion" of being betrayed by Mother Nature.



The new wilderness bill which includes the Condor Trail designation, is now in Washington's hands. Be sure to support it by writing to members of Congress, who are at: www.usa.gov/Contact/US-Congress

Ah Wilderness...

continued from page 3

length of the Los Padres National Forest. It entails building some new connections and realigning various existing trails. (See story this page).

~ A nod to off-road vehicles by having a study conducted to open up a new trail connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

There are two co-sponsors of the bill, Julia Brownley and Sam Farr.

Brownley said, "In addition to preserving Ventura County native plants and endangered species like the majestic California condor, this legislation will boost Ventura County's economy by promoting tourism and protecting the streams and tributaries that supply the Ventura and Santa

Clara River watersheds ..."

Farr gave most of the credit to "Congresswoman Capps, who did a wonderful job bringing all of the various stakeholders together to craft a bill that provides the right balance between long-term conservation efforts and the current needs of local communities."

Lastly, the Ventura Sierra Club's Hines brought it all into perspective: "It is only fitting as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the National Wilderness Preservation Act in 2014, that we have one of the most extensive federal wilderness protection bills ever introduced right here for our own Los Padres National Forest."

"The Sierra Club will aggressively lobby for the bill's passage," he promised.



MAP OF HOPE FOR NEW WILDERNESS

See story page 3

June/July 2014 • Condor Call 5

Come celebrate wilderness 50th anniversary June 15 & 16...

Join the Ventura Sierra Club for a special presentation as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Wilderness Preservation Act, which has allowed close to 600,000 acres of lands within our own Los Padres National Forest to be set aside as national wilderness areas.

The celebration is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, June 16 at the City Corps Building, 77 N. California St. in Ventura.

A highlight of the evening is a power point presentation given by Sierra Club Wilderness Committee Chair Vicky Hoover. There will also be local Sierra Club members speaking about the importance of wilderness areas in the Los Padres National Forest.

This is a great opportunity to meet a living legend of the Sierra Club, Vicky Hoover, who will also

preside over the club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee the day before, Sunday, June 15, at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the agenda are the San Gabriel Mountains Forever campaign and the new Central Coast wilderness campaign.

All interested wildland advocates are invited to both events. In Pasadena, attendees will receive a free Commemorative California poster for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Questions? Contact Vicky at vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or Jim Hines at jhcasitas@gmail.com.

The day after the Ventura presentation, Hoover will be at the Wildling Museum in Solvang, which is featuring the art of wilderness all year for the anniversary.

...And ENVI event 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. It will include a presentation of EDC's environmental hero award to Citizens for Goleta Valley and the Goleta Valley Land Trust. Known as the ENVI Award, it was given to the

Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club last year.

All are invited for a lovely afternoon of great food and local wines, silent and live auctions, 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.



Proposed Wilderness Areas and Wild & Scenic Rivers of California's Central Coast



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

Gala party potluck on June 22

On Sunday, June 22, the Ventura Sierra Club will hold a summer party potluck from 4 to 8 p.m. at the home of Delton and Margaret Johnson, 14 McKeveitt Heights in Santa Paula. All Sierra Club members and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

The Club will grill hot dogs for its guests and will also provide buns, condiments, lemonade, paper plates, cups, napkins and soda. Bring your own eating utensils and your own beer or wine.

Each attendee or couple should bring a dish to share with four or five others. If your surname begins with the letters 'A' through 'F' bring salad; 'G' through 'M' baked beans or other vegetable; 'N' through 'S' dessert; and 'T' through 'Z' hors d'oeuvres. Bring a cooler and ice if necessary.

Around 7 p.m., well known local historian and preservationist Judy Triem will lead a short walking

tour of the historic McKeveitt Heights neighborhood, built in the early 20th century. The Club will also hold a water-saving contest, with prizes for the best water-conservation ideas.

To help defray costs, we request a \$5 donation from each person; children under 12 are free. Partygoers are urged to carpool.

To reach the home take Highway 126 east to Santa Paula, exit at 10th St., go left under the bridge and then turn left onto Harvard Boulevard. Follow Harvard to 8th Street and turn right and go all the way through town. Where it ends at McKeveitt, turn left and climb the hill, veer left again at the first intersection with Teague Drive and right at the second intersection; park on Loma Vista.

Questions? Call Carol Marsh at 984-3590, or email CleoCAMI776@aol.com. Also contact Carol if you are willing to help with setting up the patio, cooking or cleaning up.

We've got the whole Green Block!

By Larry Older

The Ventura Sierra Club will again be hosting the 2014 Green Block during the City of Ventura's 4th of July Street Fair, focusing on the enjoyment and protection of the environment.

Formerly on Oak Street, it will be moving to Chestnut Street between Main and Santa Clara. Featured will be the Wilderness Basics Course, environmental activism and the eco-friendly Green Car show, among others. The day starts out with a parade down Main Street, which is blocked off for the day to make room for scores of booths and live music.

Always a popular highlight, the Green Car show features electric and hybrid cars, high mileage diesel cars, electric charging stations and battery assisted bicycles. The all-electric Tesla sports and passenger cars have been a major attraction and will be back this year along with the Nissan Leaf and the Chevy Volt.

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

CONEJO GROUP

Potluck and pictures

The Conejo Group is having a summer potluck and picture show at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12.

The Group's Chair, John Holroyd will speak and there will be shared slides from outings. The event is at the Cameron Center, 288 Greenmeadow Dr. in Thousand Oaks.

those advances. The CEC also is working to install charging stations throughout the tri-county area so EV drivers can 'fuel up' when they are at work or traveling.

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



Come learn about chimpanzees

Join the Ventura Sierra Club and ChimpSaver.org for an informative presentation by local Sierra Club member Dr. Nancy Merrick on her work with Dr. Jane Goodall on protecting chimpanzees in Africa.

Entitled "Chimpanzees: In Their World," this free family-oriented starts at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 11 at Ventura city hall's Community Meeting Room, 501 Poli St.

Merrick is the author of "Among Chimpanzees," which will be in bookstores nationwide starting June 17. She has worked alongside of Dr Goodall for many years in efforts to educate the world about the importance of protecting chimpanzees and their endangered habitats in Africa. Chimps are now extinct in four countries of Africa and teetering on the edge in 10 others, Dr. Nancy Merrick said.

To raise awareness of the issue, there is a multimedia website

that shares videos, photos, and information on why chimpanzees are so worth saving, and connects users to ways in which they can help save critical forests. Visit it at

www.ChimpSaver.org

Dr. Merrick also authored a piece about Dr. Goodall and the chimps in the the Ventura County Star. Find it by typing in her name at www.vcstar.com

EAVESDROPS

"... Heat-resistant breeds of farm animals will be essential to feeding the world as climate change takes hold."

~ Reporter Evan Halper in the LA Times, noting that "food scientists race to develop farm animals that can endure a warming planet," and meanwhile noting that industrial agriculture is a big contributor to that climate change.

Wolf issue merits pause

A decision that would protect gray wolves in California – if the species migrates back – was delayed by the California Fish and Game Commission meeting in Ventura in mid-April.

The commission delayed a decision for three months to mid-July, and your comments are welcome by going to fgc@fgc.ca.gov – type in ‘gray wolf’ in the search box. At issue is whether or not to extend protection to the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act.

It appears there is overwhelming support so far, judging from public comments through April: Of 7011 comments received statewide, only a dozen were opponents.

“Wolves play a well-documented and vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and for this reason the Sierra Club has a long history of advocating for the protection of endangered gray wolves throughout the United States,” according to Sierra Club policy.

At the hearing Ventura Sierra Club’s Jim Hines carried the club’s message representing its Wildlife and Endangered Species Team. The Center for Biological Diversity was also a major supporter and spoke at a public gathering the day before.

Also, proponents conducted a rally as commissioners walked into the meeting room.

“The real star of the day was Shawnee, the real life gray wolf we brought to the rally and to the hearing room,” Hines said. “He dazzled the audience, the news media and even the commission staff. And Shawnee even sat under my chair for a while.”

The commission had serious questions over the state Department of Fish and Wildlife’s recommendation to not protect wolves, which Hines said was “unusual for the commission; they generally just accept (its advice).”



We catch media’s eye

Compiled by John Hankins

The Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club is racking up a number of mentions in the local press, mostly due to our political activism, but also for our backcountry ramblings and calendar items for outings. If anyone sees similar publicity, tell me at condorjohn@gnusman.com. Here’s a short list:

~ Rep. Lois Capps’ introduction of a new wilderness bill in May (see story on page 3) attracted a lot of press coverage in Santa Barbara and Ventura newspapers on- and off-line, some of them mentioning that the Los Padres Sierra Club was not only a proponent, but the first group to support it.

~ The club’s moves to ban fracking were noticed by the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, *Ventura County Star*, *Ventura Breeze*, *Ojai Valley News* and *Edhat-Santa Barbara*. The club’s protest at a Ventura hearing over fracking included a feature story and photos in the *Star*. Member Kathie Marder of Oxnard, carrying a sign reading “Don’t be Fossil Fuelish,” was quoted: “We haven’t had enough research yet.”

In *Edhat*, Santa Barbara Group

Chair Robert Bernstein reported on the Sierra Club sponsored workshop in March, entitled: “Fracking: Driving California Backwards - The Case for a Moratorium.” It featured Michael Thornton of Sierra Club California with a list of reasons why. Here’s a link to the story: <http://tinyurl.com/FrackTalk>

The club’s help in pushing for a Santa Barbara County fracking ban was prominent in the *Santa Barbara News-Press* on May 16, when over 16,000 signatures were deemed valid in order to qualify for an initiative on the ballot banning “high intensity petroleum operations.”

~ Our chapter’s oil expert, attorney Fran Farina, was quoted in a *Santa Barbara Independent* feature on April 14 entitled: “Sweet Crude on the Seashore. The Past, Present, and Future of Goleta’s Oceanfront Oil Facility.”

Reporter Matt Kettman quoted her: “One hundred years from now, are people who live in Goleta still going to be looking at Platform Holly? That’s what we’re dealing with. Nothing in this state has an end date. When you see an estimated production of 20-30 years, it means nothing. It’s like getting rid of oil in



The “Hands Across the Sand” events in Santa Barbara and Ventura May 17 were a big success with scores of people joining hands as part of a national day of action to say YES to clean energy and NO to the dirtiest forms of fossil fuel.

The Santa Barbara picture (above, photo by Katy Davis of our SB Group) was profiled as the masthead of the Flickr feed.

A similar group of people were on the Ventura beach (below). Sierra Club member Jan Dietrick gave out literature and Bill Hickman of Surfrider provided information about the fracking moratorium bill (SB1132), which did not pass. (Photo by Ventura Don)

this community is impossible.”

~ A lecture by wolf biologist Amaroq Weiss informed the public why the gray wolf should earn endangered species protection, in anticipation that it will eventually migrate back into California. It was followed by a public protest and testimony by the Ventura Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity at a California Fish and Game Commission meeting, which earned a feature article with photos in the *Ventura County Star*. Ventura

Conservation Chair Jim Hines helped organize the lecture and rally.

~ On *Edhat*, hike leader Robert Bernstein is ubiquitous. He gives our chapter a good name by writing up short pieces on the hikes he leads to The Playground, Montecito Loop, Franklin Trail, Gaviota Caves, Gaviota Hot Springs, La Cumbre Peak and Mission Ridge -- and those are just from this year. He also includes pictures, truly a valuable asset to our chapter.

Solar deal this summer and Solstice

The solar company that the Sierra Club uses will be present throughout Santa Barbara's famed Solstice celebration June 20-22 at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara, and it has a special deal: If you go solar by June 30 you can get a special \$1,000 discount.

The deal is good throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and beyond, and when you sign up with Sungevity, it will also give \$750 to our Los Padres Chapter.

Getting started with solar is quick and easy; it takes less than three minutes. Request an iQuote from Sungevity to get started today at sierraclub.org/solarhomes or call [415-977-5668](tel:415-977-5668) to speak with the



Go to Sungevity's booth at SB Solstice and get a custom sun mask.



Sierra Club member Hiroko Yoshimoto's oil painting entitled Biodiversity #10 and others in the series were described as "unique colors and shapes to depict the fragile beauty of nature's infinite variety of life forms -- both in awe of its diversity and out of concern for its destruction." It was sold to another Sierra Club member.



Carnegie Museum Director Suzanne Bellah gave a private tour for guests at the fundraiser and reception, which featured a talk by Sierra Club's Frances Hunt, our Eastern Sierra Organizer and an expert in biodiversity. (Photo by Maria Villotte).

economy," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

Sungevity is a parade sponsor at the Santa Barbara Solstice Festival and will have a hospitality booth along the parade path on June 21; parade starts at noon on State Street, from Cota to Micheltorena Streets. It will

also have an information booth with games for kids at Alameda Park for the three-day festival, running from 4-9 p.m. Friday, June 20; from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 21 and from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 22. In the spirit of Solstice, custom masks will also be available.

Biodiversity and art meet for fundraiser

By Nina Danza

Fran Hunt, Sierra Club Eastern Sierra Organizer, spoke on protecting biodiversity at the Carnegie Museum in Oxnard May 7 where an exhibit of the same subject was in progress by local artist and Sierra Club member Hiroko Yoshimoto.

"The Inyo National Forest is considered a hotspot in the fight to protect biodiversity," Hunt declared, "and success here will set a precedent for the host of other National Forests in the U.S."

The audience learned that a wealth of natural recreation in the Sierra Nevada may help restrain short sighted economic activities such as logging and grazing, but threats are very real to the resources.

"Climate change is the top problem affecting biodiversity and that means habitat is shifting," explained Hunt. "We need to foresee these shifts and provide habitat, wildlife corridors and more." The upcoming Inyo National Forest Plan (required at all national forests periodically by law) is the opportune time for Sierra Club to be vigorously involved in speaking out for protection of biodiversity.

Contact Frances Hunt for more information at [\(202\) 675-2386](tel:202-675-2386) or fran.hunt@sierraclub.org

"This merging of fine art and environment into a Sierra Club event was experimental, but the Club took a leap of faith in hopes something good might come out of it, said Natalie Cherot of the Ventura Sierra Club. "It was so successful that national is talking about doing the same art show/environmental talk in San Francisco for its six figure and above donors."

Chapter Outings Chair Mike

Stubblefield was equally enthusiastic: "Hiroko's magnificent new body of work, which is so beautiful and vibrant that (wife) Janis and I, and several of our local Sierra Club buddies, purchased works from her current oeuvre on opening night!"

A special thank you goes to Amy Cherot for putting the program together and providing a refreshing reception afterward.

'Damnation' documentary starts here

Patagonia's film "Damnation" is hitting the movie screen throughout the nation, including Ventura, Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Barbara.

This film odyssey explores the evolution of Americans' views of dams, the politics of removing obsolete dams and how once-dammed rivers can bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right to return to primeval spawning grounds, even after decades without access

Patagonia will host the first one in our area at its courtyard on 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5, and it is "beer and wine approved." Address is 235 Santa Clara St.

Others in our region are hosted by ForestWatch:

~ Friday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's, 2901 Nojoqui Ave. in Los Olivos.

~ Saturday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the New Vic Theater, 33 W. Victoria St. in Santa Barbara in conjunction with the Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Mixed news on the oil front

By Fran Farina

Since the last Condor Call issue, there have been several oil developments of note, but let's start with some good news:

~ **Venoco Lease 421** -- We had a major victory at the California State Lands Commission with the unanimous support of the Goleta City Council concerning Venoco's Lease 421. This project seeks approval to re-commission coastal piers near Bacara and Sandpiper Golf Course for oil production.

We argued that the environmental document was deficient because it failed to 1) evaluate processing oil at Las Flores Canyon, 2) substantiate that the oil field was repressurizing, and 3) adequately address Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigations.

The unanimous decision by the Commission will require recirculation of the EIR and provide us with time to revisit the amortization process with the City of Goleta to retire Venoco's Ellwood Onshore Facility.

~ **SB fracking ban** initiative - The Santa Barbara County Water Guardians succeeded in securing enough valid voter signatures to qualify a proposed fracking ban on the November 2014 ballot. In addition to banning fracking, it would also prohibit cyclic steam injection and other forms of extreme oil well stimulation in unincorporated Santa Barbara County. The Board of

Supervisors will take the matter up at a special meeting on June 13 and could vote to adopt the initiative or send it on to the voters.

~ **Oil boom bust?** The amount of oil estimated to be recovered from California's Monterey Shale -- which often requires fracking -- has been drastically reduced by federal energy authorities.

It might deflate the potential of a "black gold rush" because the estimates were slashed by 96 percent, leaving a relatively small 600 million barrels of oil able to be extracted by existing technology. Previous estimates topped 13 billion barrels.

BAD NEWS

~ **Vandenberg oil** battle - On the bad news front, an "Opportunity Assessment" commissioned for Vandenberg Air Force Base concluded that onshore extended reach oil drilling opportunities exist in several locations on the South Base. Sierra Club provided comments that were recognized as raising valid concerns.

However, the justification for pursuing oil drilling and production is to realize the "highest and best use of this real estate." Translated: this is all about generating revenue for the Air Force. We'll be mapping out our next steps in an effort to protect over 44 miles of pristine coastline.

~ **Pollution threshold** - The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District has begun its own process to establish a Greenhouse Gas threshold. This is somewhat troubling in that Sierra Club has been supportive of the County Board of Supervisors' effort to formalize a threshold and avoid project by project battles like the one we had

with Santa Maria Energy.

~ **Fracking moratorium killed** (SB 1132) -- The fracking moratorium bill failed on the California Senate floor May 28 by a vote of 16 to 16, with several key senators abstaining.

Sierra Club California worked for months with other environmental organizations drafting text for a statewide fracking moratorium. It was introduced in February by Senators Holly Mitchell and Mark Leno and co-authored by our local representatives, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assembly member Das Williams.

While this was a major disappointment, Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips said, "We got this bill farther in the process than we ever thought," it drew national attention, and "allowed the public interest--not the oil industry interest--to recapture the debate about fracking in the legislature."

The Club is not giving up on this but instead will work to encourage local bans or moratoriums and lobby the governor to impose a moratorium.

"So fasten your seat belt and get ready for more fast and exciting rides as we work together to halt extreme oil extraction in California and whittle away at Big Oil's influence," she concluded.

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.



An amazing push by hundreds of volunteers over a month to gain 16,000 valid signatures in Santa Barbara County recently showed how much support there is to ban fracking for oil, noted Katie Davis of the Water Guardians group, who is also a Sierra Club member. Volunteers are shown with the petitions just before submitting them. (Photo by Corrie Ellis)

SB eyes frack initiative

The Santa Barbara Group is a key advocate supporting the voter initiative to ban fracking in Santa Barbara County and public comments are welcome before or at the Board of Supervisors' meeting at 9 a.m. June 13 in Santa Maria.

However, the meeting is shown on TV and via remote in the Santa Barbara board room.

Katie Mullin, the Group's Conservation Chair, drafted a letter of testimony with the following excerpts:

"We fully support the Initiative to prohibit the use of any land within the County's unincorporated area for High-Intensity Petroleum Operations (HIPO)."

"Last month the people of Santa Barbara County spoke loud and clear against increasing industrial oil recovery from shale here. The Santa Barbara County Water Guardians' initiative to collect enough signatures for a November ballot referendum was considered impossible by both supporters and the opposition. In just three weeks a ground swelling of

support and over 300 unpaid volunteers collected more than enough valid signatures."

"There are many reasons this initiative is of vital importance to the people of Santa Barbara -- the foremost include:

~ "Emissions will degrade our air quality and contribute to global climate change ...

~ "Our limited water supplies should be preserved for agricultural and municipal uses ... HIPO uses enormous volumes of water.

~ "Santa Barbara County cannot afford the risks of groundwater and surface water pollution ... the oil and gas industry refuse to disclose what chemicals they use during drilling/fracking ...

~ "Permitting high-intensity petroleum operations is not the way to grow a healthy economy ... latest estimates of estimated recoverable oil and gas buried in the Monterey Shale has been slashed 96%! ... It is not in the County's best long-term interests to promote a dying industry."

A rich variety of birds call Ventura home

By **John Hankins**
Editor, *Condor Call*

Ventura Audubon is usually in the top 20 of groups nationwide which spy the usual and unusual during the annual bird counts because of the wide variety of habitats here.

“We have a very rich variety of birds, that’s for sure,” said Karl Krause of Santa Paula, who handles the annual count. First off, Ventura’s variety includes “the mountains to the sea” for native birds which stay all year round, and lots of migratory birds “because of the shape of California, they stay along the coast.”

The migration is south during the fall and north in the spring. Often birds also come down from the mountains in spring. Krause said this has been “a great hummingbird year, I had six species in my yard alone.”

Kraus has been doing the annual bird counts for Ventura since 1980, and although he hasn’t noticed any species disappearing or fewer birds due to climate change, he has perceived “populations shifting north as the weather warms up.” For instance, at Pt. Mugu, a yellow crown night heron was spied “and you’d never see them above San Diego before.”

What fascinates him is that “no matter where you are, there will be birds. Go to the sewer plant (for

instance) there’s great birds there,” he quipped.

The chapter’s president, Bruce Schoppe, was at the Ventura River recently staffing a booth with his wife, Joyce, handing out all kinds of good stuff like a list birds you’re likely to see, a seed and feeder guide for your back yard, a “connecting people with nature” brochure and “pawsitive beach tips” ensuring your dog doesn’t bother nesting areas.

He and his wife “got hooked”

EAVESDROPS

“Perhaps the single biggest milestone for the California condor was the passage of California State Assembly Bill 711 which bans the usage of lead ammunition throughout the state.”

-- Outdoor writer James Wapotich from his blog “Songs of the Wilderness,” acknowledging the single biggest threat to the big birds’ survival since they ingest lead from the gut pile left by hunters. It is now law.

after reading about an Audubon program in the newspaper. “Joyce volunteered to be secretary, then I volunteered to be president and then we got into conservation.”

The chapter has grants that help them monitor the snowy

continued next page



Common Yellowthroat



Wrentit



Brown Pelican



California Quail



Allen's Hummingbird



Great Horned Owl



American Kestrel



Cactus Wren



American Robin

© Don DesJardin www.birdsdesjardin.com

Ventura Audubon is lucky to have photographer Don DesJardin, who has taken literally thousands of bird photos, many of them in short videos compiled on DVDs, all available on his website so you can see and hear the birds in action; visit www.birdsdesjardin.com



Ventura Audubon President Bruce Schoppe and his wife Joyce (Audubon secretary) are shown at the Ventura River Conservancy's recent tour of the lower Ventura River area, which is thick with bird life and other critters. (Photo by John Hankins)

Rich variety of birds...

continued from page 9

plovers and least terns at Ormond and Hollywood beaches, "and with grants from California Audubon and SoCal Edison, we will be working on the lower Ventura River to control the brown-headed cowbird so that least bell's vireos return to the habitat that is being restored by Ventura Hillside Conservancy," Schoppe said.

It also has a well-versed newsletter with "Notes from the Field" by David Pereksta. From his notes you can learn about "an exceptional number of Rufous hummingbirds ... uncommon species in the Ventura River drainage ... several new finds ... an unseasonal red-throated pipit ... (and) a colony of (rare) tricolored blackbirds ..."

Typically, the Ventura Audubon chapter is not as active in the summer, but Schoppe said last year it introduced a summer birding program "that was very

well received" and so it's happening again this summer.

The program is run by Allen Bertke "who also energizes the popular Beginners Bird Walks." He has planned seven destinations "that are educational as well as a lot of fun." They are on consecutive Mondays from June 9 to July 21 and include the Ojai Meadow Preserve (June 9), Canada Larga Canyon (June 16), Arroyo Verde Park (June 23), Carpinteria Salt Marsh (June 30), Surfer's Knoll (July 7), Ennisbrook Nature Trail in Montecito (July 14) and a surprise destination near Seaward Avenue (July 21).

Check out the local chapter at www.VenturaAudubon.org

And by the way, Sierra Club and Audubon are birds of a feather not only for their habitat ethic, but also by the names of our newsletters: *Condor Call* vs. *The California Condor*.

Is nature photography "too beautiful"?

Does Nature Photography Distort Environmental Realities?

The question is at the crux of a panel discussion organized by a local Sierra Club member and professor, Robert Chianese of Ventura, who pondered the answer in an essay he wrote for *American Scientist*: "Is Nature Photography Too Beautiful?" Read it at <http://tinyurl.com/toobeautifulphotos>.

The Audubon Society has also discussed the issue, quizzing its readers about whether or not a particular photograph is "legit," go to <http://tinyurl.com/photodebate>.

"Today, the digital revolution in photography results in natural scenery that never looked so alive, so vibrant and luminous, even transcendent, though many famous subjects we know are ecologically compromised, environmentally degraded, or simply destroyed," Chianese wrote.

Indeed, Audubon thought at first it had a photo winner one year until a judge noticed it had been altered to look better, so it was rejected. A National Geographic photo was also pulled and an apology printed due to too much Photoshop.

The panel discussion begins at 9 a.m. Friday, June 20 at the UC-Riverside California Museum of Photography screening room, 3824 Main St. Riverside, and includes audience participation.

Its mission is to talk about the impact of nature photography on public perceptions of the state

of the environment.

The panelists come from such fields as biology, ethics, photography, ecology, aesthetics, and the humanities, notably professional photographer Steven Kaye, a Sierra Club member. It is sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, during its annual meeting.

For questions, contact Chianese at 643-5034.



Ensure lead ban sticks

By Carol Langford

Recognizing the dangers of lead to our wildlife and environment, the Sierra Club championed the passage of a bill that banned lead ammunition for most uses, and now your input is needed to ensure it happens.

This bill (AB 711) is now a part of the California Fish and Game Code Section. Per the law this ban can be phased-in any time before January 2019 but must be in effect by then.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is seeking public input regarding development of the "phase-in" regulations for use of non-lead ammunition as required by the new law.

The first draft regulations proposed some use of non-lead ammunition in 2015 and 2016 with no further implementation until 2019. While the best option for our environment and wildlife



Is nature photography too beautiful? Do bears sit in the woods?

is full implementation of the law in 2015 it is understandable that a regulation that is "least disruptive" to hunters -- as stated by Gov. Brown in his signing comments -- could be full implementation of the law in 2016.

Please write your public comment using "Non-Lead Implementation" in the subject line before August 1, 2014 by emailing wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov.

You may also send comments to CDFW, Wildlife Branch, Attn: Non-Lead Implementation, 1812 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Please write now. Help restore the iconic California condor to the wild blue skies of California. You are a part of the solution to the long-standing problem of lead poisoning.



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

June 5
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 1.75 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300-400 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)

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 6
SADDLE PEAK FROM STUNT HIGH ROAD: Moderately strenuous 8.2 mrt hike with 1700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear hiking boots. Meet at Freddy's on Hampshire Road just

before the Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 7
LANG RANCH PARKWAY: Moderate 6 mrt hike with 800' elev. gain from end of Lang Ranch Parkway via fire road and Albertson Motorway. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at end of Lang Ranch Parkway off of Westlake Blvd. at 8am. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

June 7
GAVIOTA CAVES: Hike up about 500 feet from Gaviota beach and explore the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above and proceed to overlook. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Light colored long pants are recommended. Moderate 5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

June 8
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

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

June 12
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 1.75 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300-400 feet.

Forest Service restricts fires

How hot is it this summer? Hot enough to increase fire restrictions to Level III throughout the Los Padres National Forest until further notice, probably in the fall.

That means wood and charcoal fires are prohibited in all areas of the Forest except for designated campfire use sites; except that a person can apply for a permit to use portable stoves and lanterns outside those sites.

Also, recreational target shooting is banned throughout the forest, unless you have a permit or you have a hunting license. Smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle, building, or designated camp site.

Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

June 12
SUMMER POTLUCK AND PICTURE SHOW: The Cameron Center (see location on front page) will be the site of our potluck and picture show. Bring your favorite printed photos to share. For digital photos deliver a CD to Walt Zabriskie at least 10 days before the show. Bring your most tempting dish and favorite drink for a Summer Celebration. Come early (6:30 P.M.) to help setup. The party will start at 7pm. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391,

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 ½-mile walk up to Father Serra's Cross for spectacular scenic views of Ventura, the Channel Islands and the sunset. It continues across the hillside, down to the ocean, to the end of the pier, then along the promenade looping back to the Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER 643-5902. (VEN)

Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends

SOCIAL HIKE every Friday evening for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)

STRENUOUS 5-10 mile roundtrip evening hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; bring water and a flashlight, preferably head lamp. Hike is designed for conditioning. For details, contact BERNARD MINES, 722-9000.

MODERATE AND STRENUOUS hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at Bank of America at State St. and Hope Ave.

Monthly Programs

ARGUELLO GROUP offers slide shows, speakers and movies, the third Friday of each month. Call for details: 928-3598.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Help keep Highway 1 beautiful. Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup from the Lompoc 'Wye' to the Base boundary. Meet at Vandenberg Village Shopping Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of odd-numbered months. Rain cancels. Contact CONNIE: 735-2292.

Outing Notes

Key to outing locations (noted in parenthesis at the end of each listing)

- AR – Arguello Group (Northern SB County)
- SB – Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)
- VEN – Ventura Network (Northern Ventura County)
- CJ – Conejo Group (Southern Ventura County)
- LA – Los Angeles Chapter joint hikes

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources.

Outings...continued

JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

June 13
 LOWER NEWTON CANYON - BUZZARD'S ROOST: Moderately strenuous 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 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 13-16
 BLACK ROCK BACKPACK: Moderate paced backpack in the southern Sierras covering 25 miles over four days. Depart Thousand Oaks at 8am, Friday morning and return Monday afternoon. Prior backpacking experience, appropriate equipment, and leader approval required. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

June 14
 BARON RANCH TRAIL: A 7.5 mrt moderate hike on the Gaviota Coast. This trail leads us high into the foothills for great views of the coast and valley. We'll include the upper loop in our route. Although mostly on old ranch roads, the route starts rising steeply towards the rear of the valley, then transfers to a newly cut trail leading us to the 1200' high point. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Bring a light lunch and water (it can get very warm). If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call for instructions. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

June 14
 PEDAL PUSHERS - HALF WAY TO OJAI: Get fit on 2 wheels with an easy round trip bike ride on the Ventura River Bike Path from the beach to Foster Park. 500 ft elevation gain. Break at the park for refreshments. Bring water, snacks. MUST WEAR HELMET. Under 18 welcome accompanied by parent/guardian. Meet at 10am at mile zero on bike path at Estuary informational sign (just west of Surfer's Point parking lot). Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

June 14
 YELLOW HILL ROAD: Moderately-paced 8 mrt with 2400' elev. gain out and back hike with cool breezes and ocean views. Trailhead is located on Mulholland Highway just north of Pacific Coast Highway and across from Leo Carrillo State Park. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in the parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling or at 8:45am at the trailhead. If you need parking passes for Leo Carrillo parking lot, call leader in advance. CYNDEE ZAHORIK 492-1453 (CJ)

June 15
 RATTLESNAKE TRAIL CANINE HIKE: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 3.5 mrt with 1000 foot elevation gain. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at

B of A parking lot on upper State at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. Hike limited to five dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

June 16
 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Rite Aid at Miramonte to catch trolley (\$1.00) and walk back on trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 19
 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 1.75 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300-400 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) 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. Wading shoes will be needed as we will be constantly in and out of the river. Meet at the BLM Visitor Center noon Thurs west end of Escalante to get permit. The first day we will hike in about 6 miles. The next day we will explore a scenic side canyon with nice narrows and swimming holes. On the third we will move a couple of miles and do some more side hiking. Last day hike out. Route requires a car shuttle. Limit 12. DAVID HARDY, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702 875-4826, email preferred. (S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

June 20
 LA JOLLA VALLEY - MUGU PEAK - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderately strenuous 8 mrt hike of leader's choice. See results of the Springs 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 8am

EAVESDROPS

"There are some unhappy campers out there, but the key reason we did this is to keep people safe."

~ Yvonne Menard of the Channel Islands National Park, commenting about the Navy closing San Miguel Island to look for old bombs that were used as a testing range up until the 1970s. Once cleared, more public access to the island is anticipated.

for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 21
 MONTECITO PEAK - ANNUAL SUNSET HIKE: Celebrate Summer

continued next page



Atlas Shrugged and these Sierra Club hikers pitched in ... yet another benefit of our outings and actions. (Photo by Robert Bernstein at "The Playground")

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True tales of water failure

By Mike Stubblefield
Chapter Outings Chair

It was hot and we were feeling it while hiking up on the Devil's Backbone Trail to the summit of 10,064-ft. Mt. San Antonio ("Mt. Baldy") a few years ago.

But nothing like the sight of a teenager sitting on a rock by the side of the trail. He wore a T-shirt, shorts, sneakers, but no hat. He had no pack. He looked dazed and disoriented, and he was sunburned. I asked him if he was okay and he said he was thirsty.

We gave him some water and he downed about a liter. He said he hadn't brought water, but his buddies, somewhere farther up the trail, "had some water" and he was "trying to catch up." We walked with him until we caught up to them. They were laughing and having a good time. They didn't seem to have noticed that they'd left him behind.

In as even a tone as I could muster, I lectured them about the danger of leaving behind someone totally ill-equipped to even be on a trail like this, on a hot day, without water, at over 9000 feet. Moral: Everyone brings his/her own water.

More recently, I was on the summit of 11,499-ft. Mt. San Gorgonio on an exceptionally hot day. It had been over a hundred degrees in Redlands the night before, so in addition to my three-liter Camelbak I'd brought a couple of 0.6-liter Nalgene bottles as insurance.

Feeling pretty wasted from the trip up the hill, and wedged in an awkward position between two big boulders, I unscrewed the Camelbak lid and tried to pour in water from a back-up bottle. But the wet inner surface stuck together and the contents simply ran down the outside of my pack.

Not to worry, I still had that other back-up bottle. But when I let go of the Camelback to unscrew the second bottle,



There's water at Paradise Falls in Wildwood Park despite the drought, according to Doc Caballero who creates local trail maps with the slogan "Lost? Don't Be." But not in many other places. Moral: Drought or no drought, always carry more water than you think you need. (Photo by Doc Caballero)

it drooped over and spilled virtually everything. I sheepishly poured the other back-up bottle into my Camelbak and realized that I would have to make it last for the nine-mile trip back to the car. My two companions selflessly shared what little they could afford to give away, but this was the longest, toughest and driest nine miles I've ever done.

Moral: Don't spill your water! Treat it like the precious resource it is.

Even more recently, a young woman in the military asked if she could join us for a climb up 6704-ft. Hines Peak. A Seabee in her twenties, she convinced me that she could handle this tough hike. I told her to bring plenty of water, at least three liters. She did, but she drank all of it on the way up. The other three of us had to share our precious remaining water on, again, a very hot day.

Moral: Know how much water you consume and bring at least that much. Don't rely on other hikers to carry your water for you.

One reason folks take less water than they need, instead of more, for a

given hike of X miles, is that it weighs so damn much. A liter of water weighs about 2.2 pounds, so a three-liter Camelbak weighs 6.6 pounds. I agree, but sometimes you just have to suck it up and carry the extra weight because having enough water on a long and hot day is critical.

But here's a strategy I picked up recently from Peter and Ignacia Doggett, outings leaders on Hundred Peaks Section hikes in the Angeles Chapter: Stash the extra water for the trip back down the hill somewhere near the midpoint of your ascent, or up to the point at which the ascent turns seriously steep, for your return trip back down the trail.

All of us used this strategy recently when we bagged 8300-ft. Iron Mountain, which the Doggetts and other HPS members regard as the toughest hike in SoCal. Each of us stashed a liter or two about 3-1/2 miles up the trail. By the time we had reached the top, and started down, all of us were out of water, but happy when we reached our water stash.

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 2.4' at 8:30am and High Tide 3.8' at 11:04am. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 27-29
ALTA PEAK BACKPACK 11,204': Come climb a peak in Sequoia National Park. Bring your camera: we should see the famous yellow-bellied marmots and spectacular vistas of the Great Western Divide. We'll hike a short (5 -1/2 mile) but steep (2000' gain) trail to beautiful Alta Meadow where we'll set up camp. Next day we'll hike 2 miles & 2000' up a trail to the top. Sunday we'll hike out and you can stroll through the Giant Forest of sequoias, the earth's largest living things. MARC HERTZ, leader marc.hertz@sierraclub.org, assistant, STEPHEN BYRNE scbryne@gmail.com (VEN)

June 28
INDIAN CREEK: Long carpool to the trail head. Follow Indian Creek up a canyon and enjoy some rarely seen back country. The creek abounds with wildlife, especially frogs and the

continued next page

Warning signs of dehydration

If you notice you're urinating less than usual or if you don't feel thirsty very often, check the color of your urine. It should be the color of straw if you're properly hydrated. If it's much darker, it's a sign that you need more fluids. Other warning signs include dry mouth, decreased salivation, dizziness, sunken eyes, rapid pulse and a loss of skin elasticity. (From Johns Hopkins Medicine)

Outings...continued

Solstice with a late afternoon hike up a steep peak for a panoramic view of the South Coast. Enjoy a sunset supper. Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lots of water, supper, flashlight. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 5pm. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

June 21
Sat 6/21 PEDAL PUSHERS - SULPHUR MTN RD: Bike ride with a view! Tour the back country faster than on foot but greener than in a car. Round trip on dirt road. Gradual uphill first half of ride for total gain of 2000'. Total distance approx. 25 mi. Downhill return. Meet at 10:30am at gate at the end of Sulphur Mtn Rd (just past Girl Scout Camp Arnaz). Bring extra water, snacks. MUST WEAR HELMET. Under 18 welcome accompanied by parent/guardian. Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

June 22
SAN ANTONIO CREEK TRAIL: Slow paced morning walk through the park and by the creek, 3 miles or so. Children welcome, bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

June 23
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to walk the new trail at City Hall & the Cross. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 26
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the creek and another couple of hills, and then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.75 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300-400 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)

June 27
BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY



There are four more Channel Island cruises available this year to benefit the Sierra Club: June 8-10, July 20-22, August 24-26 and September 14-16. See "America's Galapagos Islands" up close via kayak, hiking or snorkeling. To get aboard or for queries, contact Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email jholtzhn@aol.com (Photo of Santa Rosa Island cove by Peter Freeman).

Outings...continued

western pond turtle. Bring a swimsuit if you're interested in taking a dip in the creek or relaxing in the Little Caliente hot springs at the end of the hike. Moderate terrain, but long 16 mrt hike. There will be many creek crossings, and you may get wet. Bring water shoes for the crossings. It can be very hot in June, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also, bring lunch, snacks, and a hat. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

June 28
TRIUNFO CANYON PARK - WESTLAKE VILLAGE: Moderate 6 mrt exploratory hike of leader's choice. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet in the parking lot of Triunfo Park at the end of Tamarack Street at 8am. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

June 30
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 9am to walk north on bicycle trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 3
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, and then

July 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 1.75 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300-400 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)

July 10-13
FOUR DAYS IN THE HIGH SIERRAS: From Onion Valley West of Independence in the Eastern Sierras we'll hike 8 miles and gain 2500' over Kearsarge Pass to the Kearsarge lakes. Day two we'll climb Mt Bago, 11,576', 4 miles and gain 1500'. Day three, we'll hike 4 miles along the John Muir Trail to Bubbs Creek and stunning Vidette Meadow. Day 4 we hike back to our cars. Possible alternative for one day: Hike 6 miles and gain 1500' to Glen Pass to view the jewel-like Rae Lakes basin. MARC HERTZ, leader, marc.hertz@sierraclub.org, assistant, JIM DANZA, danzajim@netzero.net (VEN)

July 12
POLO CLUB - RESERVOIR TRAIL LOOP: Join us on this 4mrt easy-moderate hike to the Summerland Reservoir. Mostly flat, but some steep sections. We'll start from the Polo Club trailhead on Toro Cyn Rd. We'll pickup the Edison Trail back of Summerland and connect with the Reservoir Trail to the reservoir where we'll stop for lunch. We'll return via the Reservoir and Polo Club trails. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

July 13
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)

July 14
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Channel Islands Blvd and Harbor Blvd in Oxnard for walk to the beach and circle back. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 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 1.75 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300-400 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)

July 19
HOT SPRINGS VIA SADDLE ROCK: We will hike from E Mountain Drive through the recently acquired Hot Springs trail area. After a brief stop for a view from Saddle Rock we will continue to the Peace Rocks mesa for an even more expansive view and then on to the ruins of Montecito's old Hot Springs resort. Not much of a hot spring flows these days so we won't be doing any bathing in the Hot Springs. 3 mrt with a few steep sections. If everyone is up for it we can add an optional 1.5 mile hike up to the Cold Spring Trail. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

July 20
McMENEMY TRAIL: Hike from San Ysidro trail to Saddle Rock overlook,

then back by dirt road to starting point. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

July 21
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet 9am at Mission Plaza to walk into Emma Wood & Bicycle trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 26
UCSB LAGOON: Stroll for an hour or so around the Lagoon and over the Bluffs at the University. Children welcome, bring water, slow paced 3 miles or so. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

July 27
FISH CREEK: Long car pool to Nira Camp, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to small swimming hole. Moderate 9mrt. It can be very hot in July, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, and swimsuit. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

July 28
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to carpool to the corner of Park & Bard in Port Hueneme for beach and lighthouse walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 2
HENDRY'S BEACH/DOUGLAS FAMILY PRESERVE: Morning stroll along the beach then up the steps and back through the park completing the

continued next page



GET A SPECIAL \$1,000 DISCOUNT THROUGH THE SIERRA CLUB

SEE SIERRA CLUB-SUNGEVITY DEAL ON PAGE 8



The author, Stephen Bryne, stands in front of the Chumash Spirit Tower during a Mt. Pinos trip. (Photo by Nina Danza)

Outings...continued

loop. Children welcome. Bring water and a snack. Slow paced 2 to 3 miles. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

August 3
JESUSITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT: Walk through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

August 9
PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mrt hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike will be in the creek bed, so expect to get wet. It can be very hot in August, so bring at

least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit, hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

August 10
MISSION RIDGE: Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we'll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we'll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

August 16
VALLEY VIEW PRESERVE LOOP: Join us on a hike in the new Valley View Preserve back of Ojai. This is a 4mrt easy-moderate loop encompassing portions of the Pratt, Foothill and Fox

Canyon trails. Great views of Ojai and its nearby mountains. Note that this involves a 1 hour drive to the Pratt trailhead. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY MEETING TIME! Bring a light lunch and water (it can get very warm). If you are coming from south of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

August 18
CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2014 thru January 2015 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

See amazing views, wildlife and history on Mt. Pinos backpack

By Stephen Bryne

It what may well turn out to be an annual trek, the Sierra Club's Ventura chapter participated in a backpack in mid-May from Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp in the Chumash Wilderness.

Hikers were rewarded with fantastic vistas, interesting animal and plant life, geology, Chumash heritage, points of historical interest, and good camaraderie. Most of them were from the club's Wilderness Basics Course and so were well prepared and equipped for the trip.

This area is about a 1 ½-hour drive north of Ventura on the border of Kern County. Daytime temperatures were in the 60s, but temperatures dropped into the upper 30s at night. Small

patches of snow were still present on shady, north-facing slopes.

Our alpine route left from the Chula Vista parking area at the Mt Pinos Nordic Base and proceeded west over Mt. Pinos (elev. 8,831 ft) and Sawmill Mountain (elev. 8,715 ft) to Sheep Camp. The trail passes through forests of Jeffrey pine, limber pine, and white fir. Open areas and meadows are vegetated with gooseberries or currants and spring wildflowers included Indian paintbrush and lupine.

The trail (#21W03) is named in honor of Vincent Tumamait, a Chumash elder and storyteller whose relatives still reside in Ojai. For the Chumash, *Iwihinmu* (Mt. Pinos) was the center of their cosmic world.

According to Alan Salazar, a Chumash descendant, Mt. Pinos is a sacred site used for rituals such as solstice observation ... coming soon!

Though the trip is not far as the crow, or condor, flies—only about five miles—this trip was rated as “strenuous” because of difficult terrain and high altitude.

Views from the wildlife observation point on the west side of Mt. Pinos included an almost a 360-degree panorama. To the south, Lockwood Valley can be glimpsed while Cerro Noroeste (elev. 8,100 ft), also known as Mt. Abel, rises to the northwest. Kern County -- including the Carrizo Plain, Temblor Range, and Central Valley -- can be seen to the

north. In the distance, the snow-capped Sierra Nevada loom. In truth, this area is as close to the Sierra as one can get in Ventura County because of its geology and vegetation.

Birdlife is ever present. While we hoped to spot a California condor, we were not fortunate this time. But we observed Clark's nutcrackers, ravens, Stellar's jays, cliff swallows, song sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, and chestnut-backed chickadees. We saw a coyote or bobcat along with gray squirrels, Lodgepole chipmunks, and deer mice. Norman Schiele left us early and later reported he saw a black bear.

Our destination, Sheep Camp (elev. 8,500 ft), lies on the southwest flank of Sawmill

Mountain. It was used by Basque shepherders, hence the name. A spring provides water, although the flow was reduced to a trickle at the time of our trip.

Three small camp areas are present at Sheep Camp, each with a fire ring and iron stove. A Boy Scout camp lies about six miles to the south. Sheep Camp lies in a canyon, which helps shelter it from wind. We hiked a short distance west to the rim of the canyon, and were awarded with views of Dry Canyon to the southwest and glimpses of the San Emigdio Mesa to the west.

Jim Danza, my co-leader, may make this an annual trip. Don't miss it, being there is way better than reading about it.





While searching for great shots of our local wilderness online in celebration of the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary, this shot of Sespe Wilderness Falls by Zack Abbey stopped the mouse in its tracks; had to have it in Condor Call. As a bonus, the wilderness is above Lockwood Valley (see adjacent story). Zack's got many other great shots at his website: www.zabbey.zenfolio.com

Members of the Sierra Club's Executive Committee were deeply concerned

Roger Aceves NOT supported

to receive a misleading last-minute mailer from Roger Aceves' Supervisorial Campaign which implied that he has the current endorsement of the organization.

"The Sierra Club has endorsed Janet Wolf for re-election to the Board of Supervisors," stated Fran Farina, Chair of the Sierra Club's Santa Barbara County Political Committee. "This last minute mailer is a blatant attempt to deceive the voters in Tuesday's (June 3) election."

"Janet Wolf has an impeccable record of standing up to special interests and protecting our environment. The organization did support Mr. Aceves in his race for the Goleta City Council four years ago,

but we have been disappointed with his recent record. For example, he says he supports preservation of open space and agricultural lands, but failed to support Measure G2012, the Goleta Agricultural Land Preservation Initiative. He supported efforts to amend the Goleta General Plan, leading to reduced environmental protections of our creeks and important wetlands."

"We are alarmed that his current campaign is being funded largely by big development and oil interests, particularly Santa Maria Energy which has fought for reduced air quality standards and has publicly stated that they want to drill up to 7,000 new wells. Big development and oil interests have spent over \$250,000 trying to buy a seat on the Board of Supervisors."

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Lockwood Valley surrounded by wilderness

Greetings Friends
By Jim Hines

The stillness of the fresh air among the pine groves is a refreshing welcome to the day. The gentle flowing Reyes Creek allows one to sit quietly by her side and ponder the wildness of this place.

Travel slow, take in the views, see a condor in flight, enjoy the beauty of our natural world and reconnect with yourself.

Lockwood Valley, located in the northern part of Ventura County. It's a place off the beaten path, mostly public lands (Los Padres National Forest, Mt. Pinos Ranger District) where one can enjoy life by hiking in such scenic areas as Reyes Creek, Thorn Meadows and Frazier Mountain. Or take delight in

a picnic at Mt Pinos towering over 8000 foot over Lockwood Valley and surrounding areas.

Camping among the pines at McGill campground along the road to Mount Pinos can refresh the mind, body and spirit.

For the more rugged among us, the wonderful backcountry campsite at Thorn Meadows is a place for a base camp to explore this beautiful region. Hiking in the Alamo Mountain area may even reward you with sightings of the small herd of Bighorn Sheep which inhabit this region.

Much of the Lockwood Valley area is surrounded by federal wilderness areas, Sespe and Chumash, wild protected lands but with nearly two dozen campsites.

The Lockwood Valley area is a land filled with history (one of the first backcountry homestead sites in Ventura County), a land once filled with grizzly bears, gold mining and robbers, who used the area to hold up the stagecoach which ran from Pueblo de Los Angeles to the farming town of Bakersfield.

Getting there is half the fun via the Jacinto Reyes Scenic Byway (Maricopa Highway), a 38-mile segment of State Highway 33, extending from the edge of the Ojai Valley to the junction of Lockwood Valley Road in Ventura County.

This land of mines, murders and grizzlies is quieter and tamer now, but holds a special kind of beauty, taking you back to what California was at another time.



Santa Barbara Group hailed Al Sladek (right, standing) in May because he's a great guy but also because he's been leading hikes every Friday at 6 p.m. since March 1974 -- Yes, forty years! He received a plaque of appreciation, framed group hike photo, sporting store gift certificate and a home-made cake baked by hike leader Bernard "let him eat cake" Mines. Al is almost 72 years old and still looks and acts like a kid. Hear his words of wisdom: "Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional." (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

TRAINING JUNE 14

Become a hike leader

The Los Padres Sierra Club will sponsor outings leader training on Saturday, June 14, in Ventura for hike leaders and prospective hike leaders.

From 8-11 a.m., we'll present Outings Leader Training (OLT) 101, which covers planning and conducting an outing, as well as Leave No Trace, conservation, safety management, hike publicity, screening hikers, and other related topics. We will also have time for questions from leaders about hike-related issues. OLT 101 is required every 4 years for all hike leaders.

Lunch is on your own, either brown bag or grab a quick lunch in Ventura. After that, Matt May, the owner of 4Points Expeditions, will provide four hours of wilderness first aid training, to fulfill the first aid requirement for hike leaders. This will last from 11:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. He will also provide first aid certificates for the participants. First aid training

is required every 4 years for all hike leaders.

Matt has run his own outdoor company since 2006, providing guide services for wilderness backpacking and kayaking. He has also been an instructor in Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responder and Wilderness EMT Upgrade since 2003. During that time Matt has taught over 300 courses. He is an EMT and certified Paramedic, and has over 10 years of professional firefighter and paramedic experience.

If people take this training, then we ask that they commit to either leading hikes or assisting on backpacks for the Club. After the training, you will need to post and lead a provisional day hike and have it be evaluated by an experienced hike leader. Once you successfully lead your provisional hike, you're good to lead other day hikes and assist on backpacks.

After class, WBC meets and greets

The Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) staff showed up with posters, gear, smiles and enthusiasm to promote WBC at several recent events.

Irene Rauschenberger organized a booth for us at the Oxnard Earth Day celebration on April 5. Then she, along with **Mario Ramirez**, **Annette Klaus**, and **Alisse Fisher** staffed the booth, talking with the interested public about WBC and collecting the names of possible students for 2015. They enjoyed good weather and many people came by the booth.

"There is a community out there wanting to get outdoors, and we see this at the Earth Day events. Attendees are drawn to the Sierra Club and WBC booths simply by the idea of outdoor adventure; we volunteers are happy to relate those adventures by the display of literature, camp equipment and photos of hike outings; as they say a picture speaks a thousand words. Yet, it's surprising to learn the number of young people who have no clue what the Sierra Club is, so being a volunteer is making a difference in people lives, and an opportunity to spread the mission of the Club. The popular WBC has proven the community is out there who value the outdoors," Irene said.

At the Ventura Earth Day event on April 26, **Therese McKenna** led the

The location will be at Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Ventura CA 93003, in the Agora Room. Arrive before 8 a.m. to sign in.

To enroll, send an email to Teresa Norris at teresahnorris@earthlink.net or you can call her at (805) 524-7170.

WBC effort at the Ventura Sierra Club booth. Assisting her were recent WBC grads **Heather Nicksay** and **Andy King**. They had a windy time of it, but held on. Therese reported, "It's a great way for us to be recognized, network and grow our class participation. Plenty of people were showing interest at the booths. It's a wonderful opportunity to talk and educate community."

Finally, the Los Padres Forest Association sponsored an Open House at the Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center on May 10, and WBC had a table there. **Therese McKenna**, **Alisse Fisher** and **Teresa Norris** enjoyed a beautiful day under the oak trees, talking with the folks who stopped by, networking with the other wilderness-oriented organizations like the ultralight backpacking rep and the pack goats, and collecting more names of interested people for next year.



EAVESDROPS

"WBC (Wilderness Basics Course) is a great group ... they are so active, easy to engage with and really care about our great outdoors. Alisse (Fisher) and Teresa (Norris) and their crew do a great job, so let's all give WBC a big 'Hi-5' for their efforts."

~ Jim Hines, Los Padres Chapter's Conservation Chair for Ventura County.



Our Wilderness Basics Course volunteers set up shop at a recent Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center open house and found this goat packing a lot of gear. It's one of Mike "Goatman" Smith's backpacking goats from Lompoc. Smith is a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger and trail crew leader. (Photo by Perry Van Houten)

High winds, hot sun, heart warming chats and chance of flowers

Earth Days are now part of our cultural fabric now, and while the Sierra Club believes every day is Earth Day, we also celebrate the celebrations every year, giving the local groups a chance to show what the club does through the thousands of free outings every year, the Wilderness Basics Course and our political activism. Here are reports from the field:

SANTA BARBARA

The Community Environmental Council, which sponsors the Santa Barbara Earth Day, was “proud to report that 37,364 people attended,” during the two day event April 26-27.

“It’s a beautiful thing when so many people can gather to share information, celebrate, and empower

one another,” said Lisa Hill of CEC who also noted literally thousands of people biked to the event or came by foot or bus. Also, “91 percent of the waste generated by the festival was diverted from the landfill,” thanks to Green Project Consultants and the California Conservation Corps.

The Santa Barbara Group had a well-attended booth decorated with a large photo montage created by Stephen Dougherty from Robert Bernstein’s hiking pictures.

“To all those interested in hiking we gave a small slip with the URL to the SB Hike List; often they also took the chapter/group business cards with people wondering what the Sierra Club was doing or just what it was,” reported Christine Nivet. “Many flipped through the Condor Call copies; some would have liked

to keep one but understood it was now on the Internet and that we were saving money and trees. Actually, only a few people seem interested in any paper handouts. We could have done well with fewer printed pamphlets on the table but more large illustrated posters on local issues,” she added.

The most heartwarming chats were with a number of UCSB and SBCC students majoring in Environmental Studies wanting to know what the club was doing or asking how they could become involved. Several were very interested when Dorothy Littlejohn explained about Inner-City Outings projects.

“A few people asked what our position was concerning water issues or why we were supporting



Welcome to Earth Day indeed! Santa Barbara’s celebration was, as usual, huge and full of excellent information. The Community Environmental Council has scores of photos for your enjoyment, see them at www.cecsb.org (Photo by Matt Perko)

Janet Wolf,” Nivet said. The booth also had the fracking moratorium-ban petition available to sign.

VENTURA

High winds gusting up to 45 mph did not keep the Ventura Sierra Club away from the annual Earth

Day event on April 26th held along the coastal promenade in downtown Ventura. Hundreds of people visited the booth to find out about outings and the many environmental issues.

Ventura Sierra Club board members were joined by volunteers from the Wilderness Basics Course. This year the club changed its presentation to a “paperless” booth. Instead of handing out flyers and brochures, copies of the Condor Call and brochures were available for reading on-site. Visitors were also given business cards with website and email addresses so they could follow up on their questions and interests. Dozens of people left their email addresses and contact phone numbers for more information. There were still some handouts available: The Sierra Club car window stickers were popular with the parents, and the temporary Sierra Club tattoos were popular with their children.

The booth was staffed by Jim

continued to page 20



Our State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson (second from left) came by the Ventura Sierra Club booth and was greeted like an old friend, which she is. (Photo by John Hankins)



Santa Barbara Supervisor Janet Wolf is up for reelection and the Santa Barbara Group booth was happy to oblige during Earth Day. (Photo by Olivia Uribe)

Club scrubs river bank for Earth Day encore

By Nina Danza

Grumpy the Disney doll was rescued out of the rocks and sand, pulled from what were surely wasted remaining days on this planet during the Ventura Sierra Club's first annual Santa Clara River Clean-Up Earth Day Encore.

Joining Grumpy were a variety of other human-caused debris and trash taken out of a stretch of the river on April 27. Nina Danza, Sierra Club leader and river specialist, opened the gates at N. Bank Rd. and Burnside St. and let a dozen tireless Earth Day enthusiasts get to work putting a couple thousand yards of the habitat back into the hands of the willow, primrose, endangered Least Bell's Vireo, and coyote.

"This location is midway between

other river properties already under ownership and earmarked for the future Santa Clara River Parkway," Nina explained to the volunteers, "it is county-owned now but you can connect the dots and start to imagine what a fantastic asset the river parkway will be for the community."

Especially exciting was the sighting of a horned toad by Jim Danza. This critter is not encountered often but makes a home in the dry sandy reaches of the river habitat. "It was lying on a dirty wasted T-shirt of the same color and there wasn't anyone nearby at the moment to show," Jim recalled, "I didn't want to disturb it and left the shirt to pick up later." Lucky his phone was handy for a photo.

A big generous thank you to



Happy to help, said Ryan Bertram during an Earth Day Encore cleanup of the Santa Clara River area. (Photo by Nina Danza)

the many new members who joined the clean-up including: Abbie Wiley (table assistant), David Wallenberg,

Nancy Settle, and Ryan Bertram. The satisfaction of doing something that makes a difference is all yours.

Condor Classifieds

Advertise your outdoor gear, trips or whatever in the Condor Call where you'll reach like-minded members. Just fill out adjacent form and mail it in with a check.

FIND YOUR SB HOME at www.SBHomeSearch.info.

Kevin

Berni Coastal Properties, and UCSB '80. Call (805) 564-3400 or www.sbre.com.

ACUPRESSURE MASSAGE, rest your back and feet. Call Paula, 687-4671.

USED CELL PHONES for sale as benefit for the Santa Barbara Group; only \$15 - \$35 for older cell phones with charger. Also chargers for older phones \$2. Guarantee: You have 3 days to get your cell phone connected; if for any reason you want to return it within that time, you'll get a full refund. Call 962-8415.

SAVE THE TOWN from demolition; go to SB city planning hearings, 630

Garden St. Gebhard room, agendas posted there or ast

www.SantaBarbara.ca.gov/abr or /sfdb, /hlc, /sho, /pc and city council. Very important Chumash burial grounds everywhere, don't add on to your house, no condos, no building. Go to the hearings or write comments and Save the Town!

SAVE THE OLD GROWTH redwood houses, shed and 1960s workshop at 1236 San Andres from massive condo project, also Val Verde. Call the SB City Planners at 564-5470, ask for Danny Kato. Tell your friends, call your legislators. Save all SB from demolition of similar historic houses throughout the city and Cottage Hospital. We need another Pearl Chase! Help now.

Earth Day reports...

continued from page 19

Hines, Jim McComb and Larry Older from the VLT, and by Andy King, Therese McKenna and Heather Nicksay from the WBC.

The Ventura Sierra Club also had a table on April 19 for Ojai's celebration, entitled "Wishes for Our Watershed." Jim Hines did a solo stint in Ojai and reported, "The sky was so blue, the hills were green and with the high mountains of the Los Padres National Forest at my back, I set up the Sierra Club table to celebrate Earth Day in Ojai. What an event, Ojai is so environmentally tuned in."

Oak Grove School is the prime sponsor in Ojai and it had the right attitude, calling it "Earth Play."

"This well attended annual

event is always a joy; Ojai people love the Sierra Club and since Ojai is my hometown, I also have the added joy of seeing many of my friends at the event," Hines reported. Two special guests were VLT member Nina Danza and her husband, who rode their bikes up from Ventura..

Mike Stubblefield and Janis McCormick handled setting up the Oxnard Earth Day booth on April 5. John Ziv and Jim McComb helped out. "A lot of people checked stuff out and although they weren't very engaging, they thought what we had was interesting. We did have a couple of people who signed up to learn more about the Sierra Club," McComb said.



Classified Ad Placement Form

A classified ad in the Condor Call reaches over 6,500 Sierra Club members in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Ads cost only \$6 for three lines, and 75¢ for each additional line per issue.

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