

IN THIS ISSUE: Looming projects, big solar day, river trail awarded, mountain trail built, art in the wild, mammals in the sea, action in the halls and wilderness calls.

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August - September 2014

Condor Call



Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties

© Photo by Kurt Preissler

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Condor Call

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**NEW
FEATURE**

**CLICK ON BUTTONS
TO GO TO STORY**

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Super moon (July 13) over Sequoia. Did you see it somewhere? (internet)



No paddling Piru, story pg. 8 (internet)

COVER PHOTO

Club member Kurt Preissler's eye has caught many great scenes during his media career and here he travelled to the Channel Islands to photograph a vista that to us evokes mystery, adventure and rugged beauty (note marine articles on page 3, 4 and 9). Kurt also builds rolling raised garden beds. Check out his talents at: www.preissler.net



Condor Call

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Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



Contrasting issues frame Chapter

Big solar array okay in Cuyama

By Katie Davis

The first major solar project up for approval in Santa Barbara County drew extensive public comment at a Planning Commission meeting on July 22 in Santa Maria and it passed unanimously 4-0. The recommendation now goes to the Board of Supervisors for a final vote.

Farmers, unions, businesses, environmental groups and community members all showed

Editor's note

It struck us that two game-changing projects are on either edge of our chapter border. At the northern edge, Santa Barbara County's largest solar project ever won wide support. At Ventura's border with L.A. lies the ever contentious Newhall Ranch project (Dickens' "Bleak House"?).

21,000 homes at Ventura line tested

By John Buse and Ron Bottorff

In a case that promises to test the scope of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Supreme Court has agreed to review a petition filed by several environmental groups challenging a recent appellate court decision allowing the 21,000-home Newhall Ranch project to proceed under a permit granted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The Court will address whether CEQA supersedes other state statutes that prohibit the taking (killing) of "fully protected" species and thereby allow such a taking if it is incidental to a mitigation plan developed under CEQA. The Newhall Ranch project proposes the capture and relocation of the unarmored threespine stickleback, a fully protected fish.

The Court will also decide whether CEQA allows a public agency to ignore comments submitted after the close of the

up in force to speak in favor of the Cuyama Solar Project. Many speakers referenced the risks of climate change and need to transition away from fossil fuels to cleaner sources of energy.

The 40-megawatt project would be located in the Cuyama Valley on low-quality agricultural land that lies some distance from usable water supplies. The project would generate enough power for 16,000 homes, reduce 30,000 tons greenhouse gas emissions, not use any water, and reduce groundwater use from an over drafted groundwater basin. It will create hundreds of jobs, 70-90 percent of which would be local, and improve grid reliability, particularly on hot days when brown outs can occur at times when farms are all running pumps in their fields.

The Los Padres Sierra Club Chapter endorsed the project and encouraged

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Artists have been painting the wilderness in preparation for a Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club fundraiser Sept. 19 (PLEASE COME ... See details on page 5). Here, John Rowbottom, Santa Barbara SCAPE artist, captures a vision in the Piedra Blanca wilderness during a recent paint-out. (Photo by Bonnie Freeman)

WOW! Marine campaign breeches

An email to activists to protect marine mammals from oil activities in the Santa Barbara Channel started out small and local, but went viral when it was picked up by the National Sierra Club.

"WOW!" wrote Jim Hines, Ventura Sierra Club's Conservation Chair and the one who started the emails. "The total comments sent into the National Marine Fisheries Service as the result of the (Sierra Club) national action alerts was 63,017. I never dreamed we would even get close to that number. And national said that 1500 of the comments were sent in by new

supporters." ExxonMobil wanted this to stay quiet, Hines said, and even though "we may not win, we are sure going to let officials know of our discontent."

At issue is a National Marine Fisheries Service permit that would allow "Incidental Harassment Authorization" to ExxonMobil to harm, injure and/or kill marine mammals during underwater construction to take place at Platform Harmony off the coast of Santa Barbara.

"I have had numerous conversations with the Fisheries

Service and Department of Commerce officials, and we simply do not see eye-to-eye on this issue; they continue to downplay the harm, injury and death to marine mammals."

Hines started out sending an alert to his own email list, and about 400 people responded that they opposed issuing the permit.

The National Sierra Club found out about it and asked him to write an email alert that would go to members and activists throughout the U.S. "I prepared the alert based on my personal feelings about the



Speaking of marine issues, there's a gathering movement afoot to get Congress to declare a new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. It would encompass an area from Goleta Creek to Cambria, filling the gap between the marine sanctuaries established for the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay. The Sierra Club supports it with the lead chapter at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org. Learn more and lend your support at: www.chumashsanctuary.com



Marine campaign...

loss of marine mammals in the SB Channel and selected a beautiful photo of a sea otter to use," Hines said.

National staff formatted everything into a beautiful looking alert complete with a sample letter of comment and a tab for people to click on to send their comments.

In the meantime, Hines informed the local political reps, and testified at the July 9 Coastal Commission meeting. He said the commission was unaware of the issue and asked its staff to report back on the possibility that it will oppose the permit.

Hines also was asked to be a featured speaker at the Celebration of Whales in Avila Beach on August 16. "I have accepted and will be given 30 minutes to talk about the



21,000 homes...

public comment period on a draft environmental impact report, but many months before the project's approval. It will further address whether an agency may avoid analyzing the significance of a project's greenhouse gas emissions by comparing the project to a hypothetical project that emits even more greenhouse gases.

This action is the latest in a string of legal challenges to the project that go back to the late 1990s. For example, in 2000 the Los Padres Chapter was among the plaintiffs winning a major CEQA victory against the project regarding issues of water supply, floodplain constriction, wildlife corridors, traffic analyses and general plan non-conformance.

Newhall Ranch, situated just east of the Ventura County line, will impact almost six miles of the Santa Clara River main stem and 20 miles of tributaries. The project involves 200 million cubic yards of grading and will have major impacts to Native American sites as well as numerous animals and plants.

This phase of the dispute began in 2011, when environmental and Native American groups -- including the Center for Biological Diversity and Wishtoyo Foundation -- sued CDFW after it approved what is known as a Stream Alteration Agreement for the project. The groups claimed the department had failed to protect endangered plants

and animals by performing a substandard environmental review.

In 2012, a state judge granted the plaintiffs' petition for a writ of mandate ordering CDFW to set aside its approvals of Newhall Ranch and suspend the project until deficiencies in its process were corrected. However, a state appeals court panel later reversed that ruling, following which the plaintiff's filed a Petition for Review with the California Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's grant of review supersedes the appeals court's ruling.

Other plaintiffs include the California Native Plant Society, Friends of the Santa Clara River, and Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment.



Big solar...

the Commission to approve it, commenting, "Santa Barbara County faces a stark choice in terms of future energy development. We have plenty of wind and sun and could be clean energy leaders, but we also have some of the most polluting and emissions-intensive heavy oil in the world."

"We need to protect our precious environment, incredible biodiversity and water and air resources by rejecting extremely risky oil extraction, but at the same time, we recognize the need to pursue new energy sources. The CEC did a study in which they found that Santa Barbara County not only could produce as much clean energy as we use, we would actually save money by doing so.

EAVESDROPS

"They (utility companies) feel their role is to send electrons to you and your role is to send money to them ..."

~ John Farrell of the Democratic Energy Program, quoted in Sierra Magazine's recent feature entitled "The Utility Industry's Greedy Campaign to Snuff Out Rooftop Solar."

The Cuyama Solar Project is the kind of clean energy development we should be encouraging."

Kyle Fischler, speaking on behalf of the Water Guardians -- the organization behind Measure P which would ban future high-intensity oil extraction, fracking, acidizing and steam injection in the County -- emphasized both the environmental and economic benefits of solar.

"There are currently 47,000 solar jobs in California alone. There are only 12,000 in oil and gas extraction in Kern County, which accounts for 80 percent of oil," said Fischler, "Clearly, the best choice from both an economic and environmental standpoint is for our County to pursue more clean energy."

The Solar Array site is located on 327 acres of agricultural land southeast of the town of Cuyama, at 596 Kirschenmann Road.

Third District Commissioner Joan Hartmann had the last word at the hearing before the vote: "As many speakers have pointed out, global warming is upon us," she said, explaining the benefit of clean energy projects. She referenced the 57 letters they received in support of the project and how proud she was to be able to approve it.



Artists raising funds for club

A major outdoor painting exhibit and sale of local artwork celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act will benefit the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club.

All members and friends are urged to come and support the endeavor during the Friday, Sept. 19 opening at 3 p.m. and reception from 5-7 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Art Foundry and Gallery, 120 Santa Barbara St., in the hip Funk Zone between the Pier and the 101 freeway.

The full exhibit continues through the weekend, Sept. 20-21st, with selected paintings showing through Oct. 4th. There will also be prizes, and “in a unique good fortune, we are excited to announce that our guest juror is a long-time wilderness conservation advocate and artist, Patti Jacquemain, founder, Director Emeritus of the Wildling Art Museum,” said Bonnie Freeman, SCAPE coordinator.

The event is hosted by SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment), which conducts “paint-outs” in the outdoors. It held three paint-outs in preparation for the exhibit-fundraiser, the last one held on June 21 at the Piedra Blanca area of Rose Valley sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club.

“We are also fortunate to have the Santa Barbara Art Foundry and Gallery provide a substantial gift towards our rent of space enabling more of the sales of paintings going to the great work of the

Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter. They recently awarded the chapter as their September Charity of the Month as well,” Freeman added.

“Everyone had fun and created a lot of beautiful art (at Piedra Blanca),” said our Outings Chair Mike Stubblefield. “About a dozen artists came down from Santa Barbara and Amy Cherot and my wife Janis attended and took lots of photos to work off at home.”

The Sept. 19 reception will include members of the Sierra Club, Los Padres District Foresters, and the Los Padres Forest Association, along with maps and educational information for camping, hiking,

and recreational opportunities for the whole family. There will also be a raffle, refreshments and entertainment, with an independent wine bar.

“While many artists have been painting in wilderness areas for several months, there’s still plenty of time for artists to create paintings for the show,” Freeman said. Call for details at 683-1878 or go on the website:

www.s-c-a-p-e.org.

To read more about the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the National Wilderness Preservation System go to:

www.wilderness50th.org

Bill closes oil loophole

The Los Padres Chapter and Sierra Club California are part of a large contingent which supports a bill to close a loophole that could lead to oil drilling within the Santa Barbara Channel’s Marine Protected Area.

The bill (SB 1096), is authored by State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson who said, “since 2003, an oil development proposal has been pursued by Sunset and Exxon. Their proposal would tap into the Tranquillon Ridge reserves from an onshore location at Vandenberg Air Force Base.”

Jackson’s bill would permanently close the loophole and protect the MPA which “represents a tremendous environmental resource for the region with its diversity of marine life providing critical economic, recreational,

and educational opportunities locally,” states a letter of support signed by the club.



Club’s solar deal

You can reduce California’s carbon emissions by the equivalent of taking your car off the road for 20 years, simply by going solar.

When you go solar with Sungevity, a company that is a trusted Sierra Club partner, you get a special discount of up to \$1,000 and at the same time, it sends funds back to Sierra Club California. It’s a win-win-win!

To get more details and/or a free quote go to:

SIERRACLUB.ORG/SOLARHOMES

Walk with the Wildling

The Wildling Museum is sponsoring “Natural History Field Classes with Fred and Larry” on the third Saturday of the month, September through May.

What’s unique is it includes trips to two private ranches located in the Santa Ynez Valley and two on Santa Barbara County’s South Coast, all led by local naturalists Dr. Fred Emerson and Larry Ballard.

Both share their extensive knowledge about plants, birds, geology and more in a warm and friendly way that is easily understood by budding naturalists.

For more information call 686-8315 or log on to:

www.wildlingmuseum.org

Schedule for 2014

~ Sept 20 - Rancho San Carlos de Jonata

~ Oct. 18 - Birds of Las Cruzitas Ranch

~ Nov. 15 - Fall Color: Kinevan Road

~ Dec. 20 - Urban forest: Trees of Solvang

Schedule for 2015

~ Jan. 17 - Coal Oil Point

~ Feb. 21 - Natural History of Arroyo Hondo Preserve

~ March 21 - Wildflowers of Lisque Canyon, Sedgwick Reserve

~ April 18 - Fire-followers and Fire Ecology, Aliso Canyon

~ May 16 - Santa Ynez River Estuary

Ventura speaker series a success

The Ventura Sierra Club's speaker series is really drawing interest to the benefit of the club and the environment.

Hosted by Jim Hines, Ventura Conservation chair, there was a record 150 attending the June 11 event entitled "Chimpanzees: In Their World," featuring Nancy Merrick, Ventura medical doctor and Sierra Club member who has worked alongside of Dr. Jane Goodall.

Merrick's book, "Among Chimpanzees," is now on the newsstands nationally and in Kindle format, and the event attracted a feature article in the *Ventura County Star*.

"What was great about the chimp event was that all these people representing local endangered species and animal rescue attended," noted Ventura Sierra Club Chair Jon Ziv.

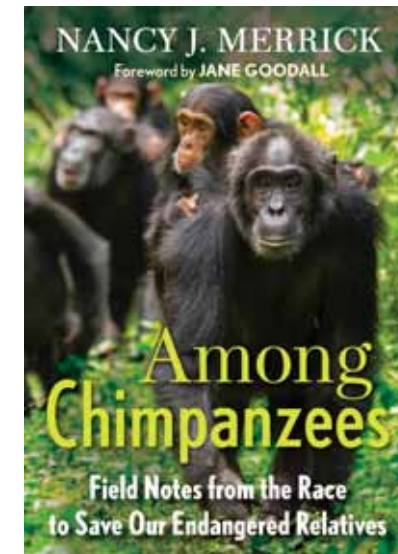
In April, the club hosted Dr. Amaroq Weiss, noted wolf biologist, and about 100 people attended, followed by perhaps 300 people showing up in support of wolf protection at a state fish and game commission hearing in Ventura.

Another success was on June 16 featuring a celebration of the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary with Sierra Club legend Vicky Hoover, the club's Wilderness Committee Chair. In his talks in this and other presentations, Hines is using a beautiful story board created by Club Board member Nina Danza.

"The speaker series not only gives the public a chance to see and hear about many different conservation issues, but during the first 10 minutes,

I speak to the audience about the Ventura Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter and the Sierra Club in general centered around our founding in 1892 by John Muir and his great work. These events are also great outreach and exposure for the Sierra Club here locally," Hines said.

Coming up in the fall, Hines will host presentations on the Santa Cruz Island fox and Los Padres forest mountain lions.

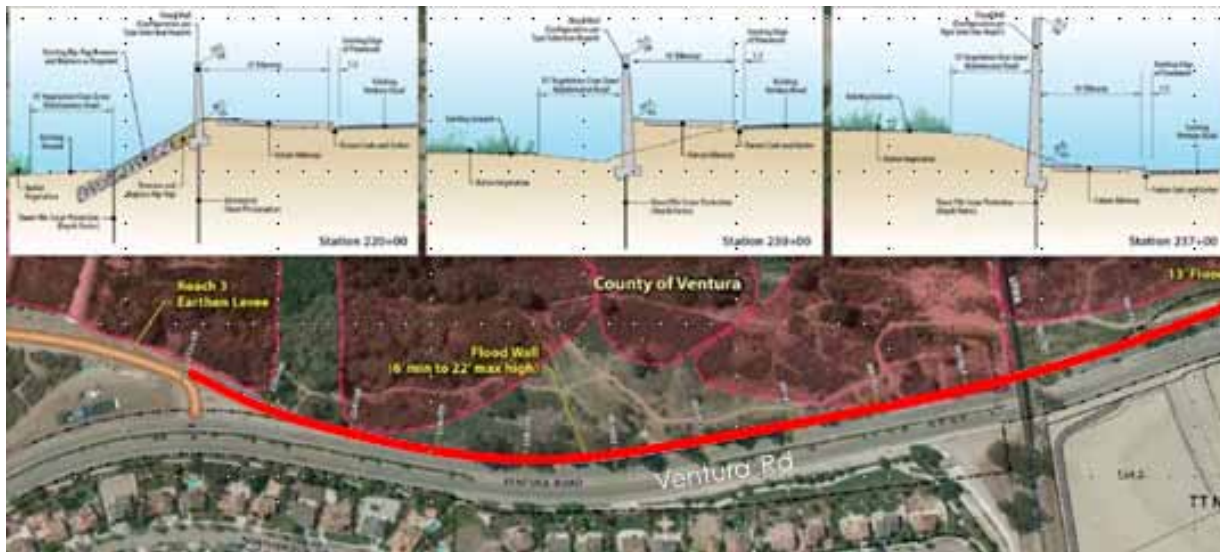


Author Nancy Merrick is a Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club member and here's her new book, available online and in local bookstores.

EAVESDROPS

"Polls have found that most Americans are worried about global warming except for one group: tea party conservatives."

~ Doyle McManus, writing in the LA Times about "the GOP's climate change dance."



Santa Clara River's in a quandary

By Nina Danza

Should the Santa Clara River be confined with concrete walls and earth berms for flood control as a county agency proposes? Or should there be a parkway to provide flood control, as well as natural habitat and recreation?

In June, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District announced its proposal to put high concrete walls along the Santa Clara River from Hwy. 101 to Victoria Avenue, measuring from six to 22 feet high.

In the meantime, the Santa Clara River Parkway -- conceived 15 years ago and in the land acquisition phase -- is a much smarter approach to flood control. The Parkway would create a continuous trail on the Santa Clara River from the mountains to the sea and would be a tremendous asset to the region.

The Parkway owns land for floodplain preservation as well as agreements on additional lands where farmers will allow flooding on their agriculture during high storm

events.

The district's proposal for concrete walls are right at the endangered species habitat (see adjacent graphic), a huge ecological resource supporting incredible biodiversity from the presence of small mammals and reptiles to fly overs from large raptors. The immediate area is a well-established, but increasingly scarce riparian plant community. The corridor is one of the top priority areas for steelhead trout reproduction and recovery (2012 National Marine Fisheries Service).

Indeed, buying land to prevent building on the floodplain is a very important tool under the umbrella of watershed management. Another watershed management tool that fits this situation is upstream detention. There are large, now-closed gravel mines close to the river in the El Rio area that may be suitable for receiving a portion of the larger storm flows. Perhaps the mine pits could become detention basins to temporarily hold water, have a slow

controlled outlet and at the same time provide infiltration to allow for increased groundwater recharge.

Why isn't the parkway or upstream detention incorporated into the County project? Both are major techniques that can decrease flood water elevation at the proposed wall project. Watershed management is more environmentally responsible and fiscally superior to single-purpose concrete wall construction. What other alternatives has the County proposed instead of walls along the endangered species habitat?

Also, why can't the eco-friendly Parkway and District's flood control project be done in tandem?

Find out more and support smarter flood control. The County wall project is in pre-Environmental Impact Report phase and will soon issue a Notice of Preparation which allows for public input.

Contact Nina at info@venturasierraclub.org to get involved. To learn more go to www.vcwatershed.com/levee.

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

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

Annual breakfast is 'toast on the coast'

Join the Santa Barbara Group for its annual "Beachside Breakfast" and have your toast on the coast.

This annual picnic breakfast is a cheerful tradition, and for good reason, as it is held at the picturesque Shoreline Park, the menu boasts favorite handmade breakfast treats and an optional beach walk tops it all off.

You can connect with old friends and meet new ones at the event, starting at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 17 in the middle of Shoreline Park off Cabrillo

Boulevard in Santa Barbara.

Santa Barbara Group and Los Padres Sierra Club leaders will be on hand to answer questions or hear what you like or don't like, so this is a great time to find out more about what is happening in your local Club.

Bring friends and enough food to share, as well as your own reusable dishes and utensils. We provide coffee and orange juice.

After breakfast, those interested can join a beach walk. Don't miss this opportunity to share your favorite breakfast treats while enjoying one of Santa Barbara's most picturesque locations and become part of our annual tradition.

Ask a friend
to join

www.sierraclub.org



HIP: Hike In Peace, Art Benkaim

One of the key players in Los Padres Chapter's history, Arthur Benkaim, passed away of kidney disease at home on July 8 at age 91.

He created the Santa Barbara Trail Guide, published in 1986, by measuring each trail with a wheel back in the mid-1980s. He donated all of the proceeds from the book to the chapter. Although out of print, the Trail Guide has been revised and extended by hike leader Tony Biegan and is now online.

Art was a long time resident of Santa Barbara and a hike leader for many years, introducing the public to a wide variety of local trails from easy walks to strenuous hikes and the flora and fauna along the way. Every year on his birthday he hiked La Cumbre Peak until he was in his late seventies.

He also volunteered for the Friends of the Santa Barbara Library, Cottage Hospital and for the local

recycling center.

"From conception until publication, I think he did the guide in less than two years. Until then, no one had ever done an accurate guide to the local trails," said Robert Bernstein, chair of the Santa Barbara Group. "He got a bit of help with the maps and with the graphics, but otherwise he did almost all of it himself, including getting it sold in local bookstores."

"Art was a wonderful and giving person," commented John Hankins, *Condor Call* editor. "I always liked to chat with him when I delivered a stack of *Condor Calls* to his house, using his own mailing system. We'd talk about the outdoors and the issues and we'd exchange anecdotes. I



The inimitable Art Benkaim, a pillar of our Los Padres Chapter for many years, shown with his family (background). Photo contributed.

respected him immensely."

He was a Penn State graduate and WWII veteran, earning the Bronze Star. Art is survived by his son Michael and his daughter Shelly.

ARGUELLO GROUP

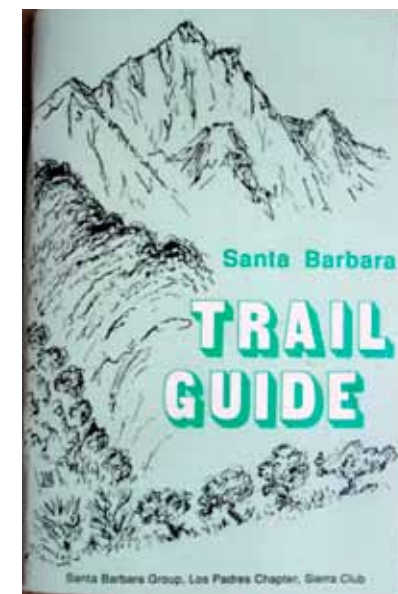
Attend 'outstanding' geo event

The Arguello Group is hosting an animated Power Point presentation by Kathleen Gerber, VAFB Civil Engineering, covering the geological past and present configuration of the California Central Coast region from the mountain tops above us to the depths below us.

"This is a truly outstanding presentation on local geology that I was able to preview in a meeting at Vandenberg. It is science, and with immediate practical applications to various clean-up programs, long-

ago spilled rocket fuels, etc.," said Jerry Connor, Arguello Group Chair. "The conclusions we may draw apply to many of our surface and deep underground issues of interest across the environmental spectrum."

The public is invited to the event at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 15 at the Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley in Lompoc. For questions, contact Jerry at 868-3680.



The classic and historic first SB Trail Guide authored by Art Benkaim. Got one? Condor John does.



The winds & wild around the lake

By Jim Hines

One of the best locations for wildlife viewing and bird watching is the Lake Casitas area. Recently on an early morning visit I watched 16 deer grazing in the grasslands just north of the lake. One Bobcat bounded across Santa Ana Road in front of me. And it is common to see golden eagles perched atop trees watching for prey. There are numerous nesting blue herons at this time of year, as well as white egrets, brown bitterns, and fish-eating birds such as Kingfishers and Ospreys.

And the native wildflowers and spring blooming shrubs are in color right now. This is a must see environment at this time of year.

The open space lands north of the recreation area are as wild as they were a hundred years ago. The Lake Casitas area is truly a special place for me.. My father's family owned a 20,000 acre landholding from the mid -800s until 2005. In the mid-1950s the federal government purchased over half of our property for what is now the lake and surrounding recreation area. I was born in a 100 year old ranch house on a hilltop that is now Picnic Area No. 11 at the recreation area.

There is much history in the Rancho Santa Ana (as our ranch was known) area. It was originally a Spanish land grant and Rancho. My family acquired Rancho Santa Ana when the Americans entered what is now California.

The major stagecoach route from the Pueblo of Los Angeles to the Presidio of San Francisco ran through part of our ranch property.

The notorious Mexican bandit Joaquin Murrietta held up the stage many times over the years and raids into the small town of San Buenaventura. It is said that he hid his bounty in the area. He was killed on what is now Santa Ana Road and his ghost still haunts the area today.

One of the last grizzly bears in southern California was killed not far from the family ranch house along Santa Ana Creek. The bears would feed on large steelhead trout runs in the creek. There was also a large Chumash village in the area; in fact Casitas means a village of small huts.

It is hard to imagine the transformation which has taken place on Rancho Santa Ana. The land is now in a federally protected wildlife preserve. It was wonderful growing up on what seemed like endless amounts of land, riding horses up the creeks and across the mountaintops.

We would often ride up the ridge to the west of us, where Ventura and Santa Barbara counties meet. The views were spectacular and the waterfalls at the headwaters of Coyote Creek were so beautiful, it was an ideal swimming area in summer and I have memories of many great picnics.

Though the area remained rural over the years, in the 1960s the late country singer Johnny

Cash lived in the area and dreamed of seeing many small ranchos where country stars would live, something of a "Nashville West", but it never happened.

I often visit the area walking and hiking on our former land and even visit my former home site, which after the move from the future recreation area was atop one of the highest hills in the area, giving us views of the surrounding valley, the Ojai Valley to the east and the tall mountains of the Los Padres Forest to the north.

The Lake Casitas/Santa Ana Valley area really gives us a chance to explore and enjoy one of the great natural areas of Southern California. But for me great history and personal memories abound.

See you on the trail ...



No whitewater below Piru

The ongoing drought conditions have stopped whitewater recreation downstream from Lake Piru.

The decision was made by the United Water Conservation District, which is required to notify the public and members of the whitewater boating community of proposed water releases.

There will not be a water release this fall.



Lake Casitas dramatically changed the area when it was finished in 1959, but our Ventura Conservation Chair Jim Hines remembers how it was before then. Running about three miles long and two miles wide it has 32 miles of shoreline. (Photo by Lin Calderon)

CALL 'EM:

"Ventura Monica Mountains"

People often think of the Santa Monica Mountains as belonging to Los Angeles County. But did you know that one third of that mountain range is within the Los Padres Chapter, Ventura County?

Also, 65 percent of the National Park Service land holdings are in the Ventura County portion of the Santa Monica Mountain range. Great preserves such as Circle X Ranch, Deer Creek Canyon, Rancho Sierra Vista, Cheeseboro Canyon and Palo Comado Canyon are all in Ventura County.

The Sierra Club has been involved in protecting the Santa Monicas for over 40 years and the

club was a major early supporter of Congress creating the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in 1978.

Lately, the Sierra Club's Santa Monica Mountains Task Force has officially endorsed a new trail being developed there, called the 'Coastal Slope Trail, running along the coastal bluffs and for the most part parallel to the Pacific Coast Highway from Temescal Canyon Gateway Park (just north of Santa Monica) to Pt. Mugu State Park in Ventura County. The use of state coastal funds has helped purchase critical parcels of land for this trail recently.

~ Report by Jim Hines

Pack of cubs enrich the forest

By Craig R. Carey

This past April, a hearty crew of 8- and 9-year-old Cub Scouts from Pack 3179 in Ventura braved stormy weather and freezing temperatures for a service project in the Chumash Wilderness.

Eight young wanderers of the wood – accompanied by parents and a trio of Volunteer Wilderness Rangers including Kim Coakley and Bardley Smith – broke into three teams to improve trail conditions of the North Fork Trail (22W02) along Lockwood Creek.

One team improved tread along a long stretch of trail between North Fork Falls and Lily Meadows trail camp, leveraging pick-mattocks and McLeods to reopen the trailbed and clear out debris. A second team brushed along the stream crossings and other sections of trail where willow and wild rose obstruct the route, and a third team worked to reinforce a washed-out section of trail, filling in a crevice with hundred of pounds of granite cobbles.

“This was really fun,” said Jack “Trailmaster Cobra” Carey, one of the Cubs who worked as part of the rock team. “Everybody should come help the Forest.”

It had snowed and sleeted the previous evening and into the morning, and so as the day progressed, the project turned into a muddy good time of hard labor. This project was the first of a larger program the Dens’ leaders have launched to engage their young Scouts in performing service across public lands.

Trevor Jackson, one of the Scouts leading the project, echoed the boys’ sentiments. “Introducing these young boys to the value of volunteering their

time to serve and help protect our wilderness -- all while having fun -- is a true blessing. It’s our hope as leaders that we can press upon these Cub Scouts the importance of a strong work ethic and willingness to get outdoors and do our part to ensure these routes remain intact for all to enjoy.”

The boys’ hard work was rewarded with a great night of camping at Lily Meadows ... marking the first backpacking trip for all but a few of the participants (parents included!).

Temps dropped to 22F that night, but the Cubs were kept comfortable with full bellies, fuzzy socks, and a well-tended campfire.

To the hills!

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



Morning on the Chumash Wilderness, where a pack of cubs had a great time without electronic gear. (Photo by Craig Carey)

Join the coast watchers, hang out on the beach

Sierra Club California’s Coast Campaign is looking for a few skilled volunteers to join the team that advises our staff.

Called the Local Delivery Team (LDT), volunteers help the staff and others push for preserving coastal natural areas and access to those areas, establishing a new National Marine Sanctuary along the San Luis Obispo Coast, and protecting California’s coastal regions from fracking and other extreme oil extraction.

LDT members are well connected to California’s coastal communities, and use their grassroots knowledge, issue expertise and connections to inform the campaign and help craft strategies and tactics that

ensure the campaign’s success.

The LDT meets about six times a year, usually by telephone conference calls. This is a volunteer position. Your pay is the satisfaction of being part of an important effort to protect California’s incredible coastal environment.

Current team volunteers are smart, respectful of diverse opinions, informed, and willing to go the extra mile to help achieve the California Coast Campaign’s goals. If this sounds like you, please apply.

If you are interested, contact Mike Thornton at (916) 557-1106 or email: michael.thornton@sierraclubcalifornia.org.



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Communities Network Event

Frack ban on ballot

A ballot measure that would ban fracking in Santa Barbara County will be on the November ballot, thanks to a petition drive that garnered over 18,000 signatures, 5,000 more than needed.

The county Board of Supervisors called a special meeting in oil-friendly Santa Maria in June on Friday the 13th, drawing a standing-room-only crowd to determine whether or not to vote it into law immediately or put it on the November ballot.

Most of the environmentalists arrived early, including Sierra Club's Jerry Connor, so that all seats and even the overflow area were full before busloads of oil industry workers arrived, most of them wearing identical work jackets. The Santa Maria Fire Marshall came in and announced that the fire code did not permit the standing crowd, so the overflow went into the courtyard where TV and sound were provided.

The crowd was estimated at 400; about 90 spoke, including Connor, other Arguello Group members, and Fran Farina from the Santa Barbara Group. No more than 10 were in favor of fracking and opposed to what is now Measure P.

The speakers were cut off after midnight. The supervisors spoke very briefly and agreed unanimously to place the initiative on the November ballot, officially known as Measure P, the Healthy Air and Water Initiative to Ban Fracking in Santa Barbara County. Staff was directed to analyze the legal aspects of such a ban, which would likely end up in the courts if passed by voters.

The measure would not only prohibit hydraulic fracking, but also

other "high-intensity" petroleum extraction methods such as cyclical steaming and acid well stimulation.

To support the measure, go to:

www.VoteYesOnP.org

Join climate march events

On September 21, two days before the United Nations' Climate Summit, hundreds of thousands of activists are expected to join forces and travel through the streets of New York, poised to be the biggest climate march in history.

Spearheaded by 350.org, but organized in collaboration with the Sierra Club, the diversity of participants should be impressive, from members of the faith community to sex workers. The reason is simple: No one is safe from climate disruption.

Can't make it to the Big Apple? Consider writing a letter to the editor at your local paper, urging for stronger limits on carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas responsible for global warming. Give up eating beef, which leaves a huge carbon footprint after production; stage a play at the beach dramatizing the rising sea levels or create your own idea; however you chose to act up on climate, just do it!

Organizers are encouraging people who live within 300 miles of Manhattan to take part in the demonstration and there is an Amtrak trip planned from the West coast.

~ By Elisabeth Lamar



There's an oil boom in our chapter region and the Sierra Club and others want to ensure it doesn't harm the environment. Here's a line of "grasshopper rigs" within the Hopper Mountain Refuge, a center for the Condor Recovery Team. (Photo by John Hankins)

SB CLIMATE

Revisions in the air

The Santa Barbara County APCD is proposing to update its Environmental Review Guidelines to include guidance for evaluating the significance of the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from new or modified stationary sources.

A stakeholder meeting has been requested by the Western States Petroleum Association at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 7 at the APCD office, 260 N. San Antonio Dr. in Santa Barbara. Members of the public are invited.

Also, the period for providing written input was extended to August 15. Send comments to Molly Pearson at CEQA@sbcapcd.org

For more information on

this project, view the web page at [Greenhouse Gases and CEQA](#).



EAVESDROPS

"For the most part, these meetings have been exercises in futility ..."

~ New York Times editorial for Earth Day bemoaning the world summit meetings of 190 nations which will meet on the subject again next year. It cites three new ominous studies that will require much more work to reduce greenhouse emissions, many of which are politically difficult (Ex: Carbon taxes).

EAVESDROPS

"There are still a lot of people who don't know what fracking is. Half of them think 'fracking' is either a bad word or part of the vocabulary on *Battlestar Galactica*," whose sci-fi characters use 'frack' as a substitute for the F-word."

~ Dan Jacobson of the nonprofit Environment California, quoted in *The Nation*.

Plover rules close beach

Vandenberg Air Force Base closed Surf Beach to the public until Sept. 30 because too many people violated measures to protect the endangered snowy plover during the nesting and fledging season.

The restrictions are enforced on Wall, Minuteman and Surf beaches March 1 through Sept. 30.

"Seasonal beach violations are limited to 50 for Surf Beach, 10 for Wall Beach, and 10 for Minuteman Beach. Entry into any posted closed area counts as a violation," VAFB said via a press release in late June.

VAs of late June, more than 50 violations were committed at Surf Beach, leading to the seasonal closure.

Col. Keith Balts told the press that, "we know how important beach access is to the base and the community, but as the land manager here, I have a responsibility to uphold our obligations under the Endangered Species Act. Closing Surf Beach is necessary to ensure the proliferation of this threatened species during its most vulnerable moments."

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

August 6
LYNNMERE WILDWOOD CANYON EAST LOOP: Moderate 5.5 mrt hike with 800' elev. gain. The hike explores the east end of the Lynnmere Wildwood loop. Bring water, food and wear lug soled shoes. From the 101 Fwy. in Thousand Oaks, exit on Lynn Road and drive north to Avenida de los Arboles and turn left. Meet at Wildwood parking lot on the west end

of Avenida de los Arboles at 5:30pm
EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

August 8
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)

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)

MALIBU SPRINGS TO NICHOLAS FLAT: Moderate 7 mrt with 1500' elev. gain. We'll have lunch at the dried up pond. Bring water, lunch and wear lug-soled shoes. All newcomers must be screened by the leader for fitness at least one day prior to the hike.

Meet at 8am at Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks for carpooling. CYNDEE ZAHORIK 492-1453 (CJ)

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 11
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Ventura city hall to do new trail and on to Cross. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 12
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, & then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, contact SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

August 13
TRIUNFO PARK WHITE HORSE LOS ROBLES LOLLIPOP: Moderate 4.3 mrt hike with 800' cumulative elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear sturdy shoes. Meet in the parking lot of Triunfo Park at the end of Tamarack Street at 5:30pm. HUGH WARREN 341-6295 (CJ)

August 15
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.

EAVESDROPS

"I went for a hike the other day and my kids asked me how long I'd be gone. I said, "The whole time."
~ Stephen Wright

Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at intersection of Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park not later than 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

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 16
LIGHTHOUSE WALK: Take an easy, flat, less than 5 miles round trip stroll along the promenade at

continued next page

Ongoing Outings

Ventura Every Monday Morning

EASY WALKS: Join Pat Jump at 8:30 a.m. every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 643-0270.

Ventura Every Wednesday

URBAN EVENING HIKE: Weekly hike in Ventura meets across the street from the Mission at 6:45 p.m. for a 4 1/2-mile walk up to Father Serra's Cross for spectacular scenic views of Ventura, the Channel Islands and the sunset. It continues across the hillside, down to the ocean, to the end of the pier, then along the promenade looping back to the Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER 643-5902. (VEN)

Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends

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

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

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

Monthly Programs

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

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

Outing Notes

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

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

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

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

Outings...continued

Port Hueneme Beach Park to the lighthouse, with a commentary on the history of the Hueneme beach and harbor area along the way. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be available to conduct tours of the lighthouse, and those who are interested may climb the ladder to the top for a great view of Hueneme Harbor, the Navy base, and the Channel Islands. Then walk back along the promenade to see the memorial to the Alaskan Airlines flight that crashed near Anacapa Island in January 2000. Lunch afterwards at Pho Saigon Restaurant and an opportunity to spend the afternoon at the Hueneme Beach Festival (free admission). Children over 8 years of age are welcome if accompanied by a parent. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are also welcome but are not allowed in the lighthouse. Meet at 9:30am on Seaview Street near Ventura Road in Port Hueneme (one block south of Hueneme Rd). Bring good walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen, a jacket, sunglasses, and water. Also bring money for lunch. For more information, call CAROL at 984-3590 (VEN)

MOUNT PINOS DAY HIKE: Moderately paced 5 mrt hike from the Mount Pinos parking lot to the crest of Sawmill Mountain. The route travels through a beautiful pine and fir forest with great views. The elevation is nearly 8000' with a total elev. gain of 900'. Bring water, lunch and lug soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

August 17
SHORELINE PARK PICNIC AND WALK: Share a potluck breakfast. Bring food to share. Coffee and fresh squeezed orange juice provided. Meet in the middle of Shoreline Park at 9am. Beach walk follows. (SB)
PEDAL PUSHERS – HALFWAY 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 9am at mile zero on bike path at Estuary informational sign (just west of Surfer's Point parking lot). Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

TWIN PEAKS: Sierra Club hikers have been climbing MT WILSON (5710 feet) in the mountains north of Pasadena for a century. We'll be doing one of the classic Mt. Wilson approaches from the southern side of Wilson, beginning at Chantry Flat above Arcadia. This is a strenuous, eight to nine hour, 14-mile-round-trip hike with – depending on which route we take - 3300 or 3900 feet of elevation gain. Time permitting, we'll also bushwhack over to nearby OCCIDENTAL PEAK (5732 feet). To study the route, Google "Hundred Peaks Section," click "Peak List," click

"Mt. Wilson Area" and click Mt. Wilson. To view the trailhead and routes, refer to the "Angeles Front Country Trail Map" or, for a close-up view, the "Mt. Wilson Map" (Tom Harrison Maps). We'll meet at 6am at the Camarillo Park and Ride (southeast corner of the 101/Las Posas intersection). Please do not show up without calling me first. I will be screening all applicants; only experienced hikers need apply. Call MIKE at 805-216-2630 (cell) or 988-0339 (home). I will brief you on what to bring when you call. RAIN CANCELS. (VEN)

August 18
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9:00 am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Loon Point. Low tide 10:49am. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

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

August 19
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, & then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, contact SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

August 20
DOS VIENTOS RANCH: Moderate 5 mrt loop with approx. 900' elev. gain. Enjoy wonderful views of Boney Mountain, the surrounding hills and the Camarillo Plain. Bring water, food and wear lug soled shoes. Meet at 5:30pm at the Dos Vientos Community Center parking lot, Borchard Road entrance. EUGENE

BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

continued next page

EAVESDROPS

"The fee foes have always been focused on opposing a fee to access the undeveloped backcountry. Nobody disagrees that there shouldn't be reasonable fees at developed sites, where people have to clean up the trash and toilets and fire-pits."

~ Alasdair Coyne of Keep the Sespe Wild, long-time fighter against the "Adventure Pass" fees imposed on National Forests like the Los Padres. Such fees were struck down by a federal court earlier this year.



There's nothing like cavorting in the local wilderness, and we can show it to you for free. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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The qualities of the local chaparral may surprise you, such as this blooming stalk. Learn all about chaparral at the Sept. 3 event (details below). (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Outings...continued

August 21

JESUSITA TRAIL, INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOORS!: Join us for an easy, slow-paced hike around 3.6 miles long with 600 ft. of elevation gain. We will travel along San Roque Creek (if there is any water) as it meanders through avocado trees, meadows, riparian habitat, and stunning views. Emphasis will be on getting outside, moving (with some stretching), and the local flora and fauna. We will be stopping for plant identification. Rain does not cancel, and the pace kept will welcome conversation. Ideal for children, people who are not in the shape that they want to be, or people recovering from injury. Please bring water and wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dogs welcome if pre-arranged with me. Max number of hikers 15. Meet at 6pm at the trailhead by the water filtration plant on Las Positas (San Roque). For more info, contact MELISSA at melissabeaugrand@gmail.com. (VEN)

August 22

BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy to moderate 6 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Hike along the beach, up to the bluff and down to tide pools if tide permits. Tide 4.1' at 8:30am and Tide 4.0' at 10:54am. 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)

August 23

ARROYO VERDE PARK EXPLORATION: Easy hike, many stops over 3 miles, some pretty steep climbs & about 300 feet total ascent. Explore this important hillside environment on the edge of Ventura, where I have learned a lot running there for 22 years. Meet at the first restroom at 10am. Fee for parking or park on Poli St. Bring water, it gets hot back in the canyon, good hiking shoes (it's very dusty on the trail). No

reservation needed and no limit. KIM HOCKING 983-2147. (VEN)

JOURNEY THROUGH A SECRET GARDEN: Sierra Club has permission this date to explore privately held land, which is part of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. There may be two river crossings. Approximate distance 3 mi with 500-1000' gain (maximum). Bring water, snacks, sun protection, and a desire to preserve the largest natural river ecosystem left in the region. Under 18 welcome accompanied by parent/guardian. Meet at 10am at the south end of Mission Rock Road at the gate posted with The Nature Conservancy sign (126 E to Briggs Rd, right on Pinkerton, left on Mission Rock Road and go straight to gate). Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 3.5 mrt with 1000 foot elevation gain. Bring some water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

WESTLAKE VISTA PENTACHAETA TRAIL: Moderate 4.4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Hike Pentachaeta and Westlake Vista trails with views of Triunfo Creek Park. Bring water, food and lug soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead. From 101 Freeway, exit on Lindero Canyon Road, drive 1.7 miles south to the junction with Triunfo Canyon Road. Turn left and go 0.1 miles to the trailhead on the right and park alongside the curb. WALT ZABRISKIE 497-1775 MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773 (CJ)

August 24

ROMERO CANYON TO BUENA VISTA BENCHES: Short but steep 3MRT morning walk to hidden benches. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9AM. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

August 25

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

August 26

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

August 27

SANTA ROSA LOOP - WILDWOOD PARK: Moderate 4.5 mrt loop hike with 600' elev. gain. Hike upper Santa Rosa Trail with great views of the mountains and Santa Rosa Valley. Bring water, food and wear lug soled shoes. Meet at 5:30pm at the west end of Avenida de Los Arboles. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

August 28

JESUSITA TRAIL, INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOORS!: Join us for an easy, slow-paced hike around 3.6 miles long with 600 ft. of elevation gain. We will travel along San Roque Creek (if there is any water) as it meanders through avocado trees, meadows, riparian habitat, and stunning views. Emphasis will be on getting outside, moving (with some stretching), and the local flora and fauna. We will be stopping for plant identification. Rain does not cancel, and the pace kept will welcome conversation. Ideal for children, people who are not in the shape that they want to be, or people recovering from injury. Please bring water and wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dogs welcome if pre-arranged with me. Max number of hikers 15. Meet at 6pm at the trailhead by the water filtration plant on Las Positas (San

continued next page

Special event brings best chaparral expert

The Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club is a co-sponsor of an important event on our native chaparral and fire safety on Sept. 3.

The main thrust will be how to conserve chaparral as a public resource and eco-system while also addressing fire safety in our fire-prone region.

The event is at 7 p.m. Sept. 3, at 7pm at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Main speaker is Rick Halsey from the

California Chaparral Institute, along with a panel of scientists, conservation groups, property owners, and fire agencies.

Sponsors include the Environmental Defense Center and Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Halsey's book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*, was awarded the 2008 Best Nonfiction-Local Interest Book by the San Diego Book Awards Association.

Good gear versus gadgets: What do you really need?

By Mike Stubblefield
Chapter Outings Chair

Outdoor recreation stores stock an embarrassment of riches designed to make you want to buy stuff.

Shelves and walls are crammed with attractive, brightly colored, well-designed, well-made gear, most of which functions well in any kind of weather and lasts for years.

They also stock an ever growing variety of gadgets: altimeters, GPS, heart rate and exercise monitors, emergency locator transmitters

(ELTs) and solar charging units (!) for those electronic devices you “need” on the trail – all of which drives gear junkies and tech mavens wild.

But focus first on getting good gear before you get into gadgets.

Besides a backpack, hiking apparel is the first gear you will buy. Since the Seventies the quality and function of outdoor clothing has improved radically. Back then we wore cotton T-shirts, undies and shorts, wool shirts and socks, and

heavy leather hiking boots with lug soles. Outdoor clothing has evolved into a wide range of cooler/warmer, lighter, more rain/wind resistant, faster wicking, technical clothing using polyester and other exotic synthetic fabrics.

Modern hiking boots are perhaps the most important gear you will buy. If your feet hurt, your day is ruined. So boots must not only be well-designed; they must fit correctly. Once you find a pair that fit, you won’t think about them all day on the trail. That’s when you know you’ve got the right boots.

Hikers once wore really clunky, heavy leather hiking boots. I bought a pair of Lowa mountaineering boots that took me down the John Muir Trail three times. Eventually, I had them relined and resoled. The new linings made them too tight, so they sat in my gear locker for decades. I decided to give them away at a Wilderness Basics Course class. There were no takers; I couldn’t give them away. Why? Because boot technology has evolved so much that you can wear a pair of affordable, comfortable and supportive hiking boots that weigh scarcely more than trail running shoes.

When I first bought a pair of hiking poles decades ago, hardly anyone but legendary mountain climber Reinhold Messner used them. After pounding my medial meniscus in each knee to mush, I had to quit running, and had resumed hiking. When I noticed a pair of sticks at an outdoor store, I bought a pair, hoping they’d help cushion the shock loading on my knees during tough descents. They did, and I’ve



Do you really need hiking poles? The author does, and they sure are safer navigating a slippery creek, such as these students who enjoyed going through our Wilderness Basics Course held every February. But often they are not necessary, depending on your hike. (Photo by Mock Suwannatata)

used them ever since whenever my knees start to hurt on steep descents.

Younger hikers with good knees regard sticks as a useless gadget. But older hiking buddies with bad knees are desperate enough to try my sticks, and are inevitably so impressed that they are loathe to give them back!

Good lighting is essential gear because you can be caught out, far from the trailhead, in the dark. Fifteen years ago you had to haul

serious bulk and weight to pack a flashlight. Now, headlights are tiny, powerful and reliable. I’ve used my pocket flashlight – about the size of a pen – to find my way up the Whitney Portal trail at 4 a.m. in the morning.

As my mom used to say: “A fool and his money are soon parted.” So if you’re new to this game, stick to the basics and buy the actual gear you need before wasting your money on gadgets that you can live without.

Outings...continued

Roque). For more info, contact MELISSA at melissabeaugrand@gmail.com. (VEN)

August 29
SADDLE PEAK FROM STUNT HIGH ROAD: Moderately strenuous 8+ 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)

August 30
RED ROCK TO GIBRALTAR DAM: Hike up the road to Gibraltar Dam, then back past a popular swimming area. Moderate-strenuous 6.5 mrt. Bring swimsuit, wading shoes, lunch and plenty of water. Optional side trip to old mercury mine adds 4 miles. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

MUGU PEAK LOOP: 9 miles and 1800 feet. Get the elevation gain over immediately, and then enjoy a beautiful ramble of La Jolla valley. Moderate pace due to heat. Meet at Chumash trailhead on PCH opposite the Navy firing range at

8:30am. Bring three quarts of water, food, and wear lug sole boots. LYNN LIVELY 644-9668. LLively@aol.com (VEN)

August 31
TEQUEPIS: Hike up to West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Cachuma Lake and the Pacific Ocean. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

BEARTRAP BLUFF (6160 feet): Beartrap is the newest member of the Hundred Peaks Section list of 280 peaks over 5000 feet in Southern California. It was first scaled and named by HPS members Peter and Ignacia Doggett in January 2014. This will be the first organized Los Padres Chapter ascent of Beartrap as far as I know. To study the route, Google “Hundred Peaks Section,” click “Peak List,” click “Ventura County” and click Beartrap Bluff. To view the trailhead and routes, refer to Bryan Conant’s “Matilija & Dick Smith Wilderness map”. Meet at Camp Scheideck, which is located just south of Lockwood Valley Road, near Highway 33, at 8

continued next page



Ever wonder what's above Highway 101 at the Gaviota tunnels? Take one of our outings there and you'll see the Gaviota Caves. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Outings...continued

am. Please do not show up without calling me first. I will be screening all applicants; only experienced hikers need apply. Call MIKE at 805-216-2630 (cell) or 988-0339 (home). I will brief you on what to bring when you call. RAIN CANCELS. (VEN)

September 1
CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs 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. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 9:00 am to carpool to Bates Beach. Low tide 7:48am. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 2
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, & then walk down through scenic

Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, contact SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

September 3
WHITE HORSE CANYON TRAIL - WESTLAKE VILLAGE EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy 3.5 mrt hike with 500' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug soled shoes. Meet at the trailhead at 5:30pm. Take Westlake Blvd. south to East Potrero Road and turn right, go 0.4 miles and turn right on Trafalger Place, then an immediate left on (Potrero) frontage road. Go one block to Margate Place and park along curb. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

September 4
JESUSITA TRAIL, INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOORS!: Join us for an easy, slow-paced hike around 3.6 miles long with 600 ft. of elevation gain. We will travel along San Roque Creek (if there is any water) as it meanders through avocado trees,

meadows, riparian habitat, and stunning views. Emphasis will be on getting outside, moving (with some stretching), and the local flora and fauna. We will be stopping for plant identification. Rain does not cancel, and the pace kept will welcome conversation. Ideal for children, people who are not in the shape that they want to be, or people recovering from injury. Please bring water and wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dogs welcome if pre-arranged with me. Max number of hikers 15. Meet at 6pm at the trailhead by the water filtration plant on Las Positas (San Roque). For more info, contact MELISSA at melissabeaugrand@gmail.com. (VEN)

September 5
SADDLE PEAK from STUNT HIGH ROAD: Moderate 8+ mrt hike to Saddle Peak surprise. Bring water, food to share and wear hiking boots. Meet near Freddy's on Hampshire Road before Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

September 6
LANG RANCH LOOP: Moderate 5 mrt loop hike with 750' elev. gain. Nice views of Simi Hills and the ocean. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead at northern end of Westlake Blvd., corner of Oak Valley and Autumn Ridge Drive at 8am. Rain cancels. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

September 7
CATHEDRAL PEAK: Start up Tunnel trail and branch off onto Jesusita connector trail. Continue up primitive trail, steep and rocky in places, to Cathedral Peak. Lots of boulder hopping. Strenuous 6 mrt. Some agility required. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

September 8
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at the corner of Park and Bard in

Point Hueneme to walk to beach and lighthouse. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 9
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, & then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, contact SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

September 10
SANTA ROSA TRAIL LOOP - WILDWOOD PARK: Moderately

paced 4.5 mile loop with 600' elev. gain. Views of both the Conejo and Santa Rosa Valleys. Bring water and lug soled shoes. Meet at 5:30pm at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)
September 11

JESUSITA TRAIL, INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOORS!: Join us for an easy, slow-paced hike around 3.6 miles long with 600 ft. of elevation gain. We will travel along San Roque Creek (if there is any water) as it meanders through avocado trees, meadows, riparian habitat, and

continued next page

CAMPER COMMENTS

Editor's Note: These are actual comments left on U. S. Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

- "A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."
- "Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."
- "Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."
- "Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."
- "Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."
- "All the mile markers are missing this year."
- "Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse."
- "Trails need to be

reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."

- "Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."
- "Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter."
- "Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."
- "The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."
- "Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."
- "Need more signs to keep area pristine."
- "A McDonald's would be nice at the trail head."
- "The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."
- "Too many rocks in the mountains."

Outings...continued

stunning views. Emphasis will be on getting outside, moving (with some stretching), and the local flora and fauna. We will be stopping for plant identification. Rain does not cancel, and the pace kept will welcome conversation. Ideal for children, people who are not in the shape that they want to be, or people recovering from injury. Please bring water and wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dogs welcome if pre-arranged with me. Max number of hikers 15. Meet at 6pm at the trailhead by the water filtration plant on Las Positas (San Roque). For more info, contact MELISSA at melissabeaugrand@gmail.com. (VEN)

September 12
UPPER NEWTON CANYON - CASTRO PEAK: Moderate 8 mrt hike. Do something great for your body. Bring water, food and wear lug soled shoes. Meet near Freddy's just before Shell Station on Hampshire in Thousand Oaks for carpooling not later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

September 13-14
BACKPACK LEADER TRAINING: Two day training in how to lead wilderness backpacks (OLT 201), while participating on an overnight trip near Ojai (3-4 miles each way and 750 ft gain). Required qualifications: Sierra Club day hike leader certification, first aid, and either Wilderness Basics Course completion or experience on backpack trips. Contact leaders to enroll: TERESA at teresahnorris@earthlink.net or ALISSE at alissefisher@gmail.com. (VEN)

September 13-14
SHEEP CAMP BACKPACK: Moderate backpack to Sheep Camp in Chumash Wilderness, Mt. Pinos Ranger District. Camp among the Jeffery pines in a designated wilderness area. Saturday backpack in about 5 miles, about 500 ft. net elevation gain/loss, set up camp and

day hike to Mt. Abel, additional gain of 1,500. Return to camp for happy hour. Sunday pack out back to cars. Hikers should be in good condition, because of the high elevation (up to 9,000 ft) and some steep pitches in trail. There is a spring at camp site - but in this drought it may be dry, so we may have to carry in our water. Dog friendly trip. For more information, and to sign up contact leader SALLY at 689-7820. (SB)

September 13
MIDDLE MATILIJA CAMP: Moderate

EAVESDROPS

"Just look at what we did, together! We all should be proud of that."

~ What "we" did was save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, time and time again, said Sierra Club Director Michael Brune, who visited the area recently and "marveled at wilderness at its wildest."

8 mrt along stream, mostly shaded, to Middle Matilija Camp. There are at least 17 creek crossings, but we will have no problem rock hopping across. Bring at least 3 liters of water, sunscreen, and good pair of hiking shoes/boots, and hat. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

September 14
URBAN HIKE TO FRANCESCHI PARK: Start near the Mission, walk through the Riviera, then up the "1000 steps" to a great view of the city and harbor. Return via Las Tunas Rd. Some steep sections. Moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

BOOKS AND BAUBLES SWAP: Bring some, take some! Clean off your

shelves, clear out your jewelry box & trade with others. Donation \$5 per family to participate requested, 100% proceeds benefit Sierra Club Santa Clara River Campaign. All types of books and magazines, and all types and styles of jewelry welcome. 10am - 1pm Location: Santa Clara River pocket park at North Bank Road and Rio Grande Street, Ventura, 93004. Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

September 15
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Small Boat Center on Harbor Blvd. to walk to harbor and settling ponds. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE NOW: Group outings chairs should send 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. Send to Gerry at gching@cox.net

September 16
VENTURA HILLS: Get a good mid-week hill climb workout up to the cross and another couple of hills, & then walk down through scenic Ventura to the beach. About 1.5 hours, 3.5 miles, total gain about 300 feet. Bring water. Meet at 5:30pm across from the Mission San Buenaventura in downtown Ventura. For more info, contact SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

September 17
CONEJO MOUNTAIN in DOS VIENTOS: Moderate 5 mrt with approx. 550' elev. gain. Enjoy wonderful views of Boney Mountain, the surrounding hills and the Camarillo plain. Check out the recovery from the fires. Bring water, food and lug soled shoes. Meet at 5:30pm at the trailhead by the white fence on Via Ricardo. Turn right off of Borchard Road on to Via Ricardo before the Dos Vientos Community Center parking lot. The trailhead is on Via Ricardo just passed Via Pisa. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

September 18
JESUSITA TRAIL, INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOORS!: Join us for an easy, slow-paced hike around 3.6 miles long with 600 ft. of elevation gain. We will travel along San Roque Creek (if there is any water) as it

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meanders through avocado trees, meadows, riparian habitat, and stunning views. Emphasis will be on

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Blue Point Camp may expire

The U.S. Forest Service wants your opinion about allowing nature to take back the 14-acre Blue Point Campground and Day Use Area on upper Piru Canyon Road, north of Piru Reservoir in Ventura County.

The 2008 Ranch Fire burned through the closed campground destroying most of the facilities, and besides it's been closed since 2000 to protect endangered species.

The campground would be "decommissioned" and then "rehabilitated with mechanical equipment," meaning removing the cement creek crossing and rock bank protection, 0.6 miles of asphalt road,

42 campsites, and five bathrooms.

"I welcome your comments or questions, whether you have specific concerns with the proposal or simply want more information," said Resource Officer Irvin Fox-Fernandez. He will be hosting a site visit on August 8 or 9, depending on interest; call 646-4348, ext. 312.

Otherwise, public comments are due by Sept. 4, to Ojai Ranger District; Attn: Irvin Fox-Fernandez, 1190 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023. Or email him with "Blue Point Campground Decommissioning Project" in the subject line to: ifernandez@fs.fed.us



Should we let nature take over the ravaged Blue Point Campground? Forest Service says yes, what do you think? (Photo by Panoramio)

Outings...continued

getting outside, moving (with some stretching), and the local flora and fauna. We will be stopping for plant identification. Rain does not cancel, and the pace kept will welcome conversation. Ideal for children, people who are not in the shape that they want to be, or people recovering from injury. Please bring water and wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dogs welcome if pre-arranged with me. Max number of hikers 15. Meet at 6pm at the trailhead by the water filtration plant on Las Positas (San Roque). For more info, contact MELISSA at melissabeaugrand@gmail.com. (VEN)

September 19
LA JOLLA VALLEY LEADER'S CHOICE POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike of leader's choice. Meet great hikers and enjoy good conversations. Bring water, food and wear lug soled shoes. Meet at Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park not later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

September 20
COASTAL CLEAN UP DAY AT SANTA CLARA RIVER GATEWAY: 9am-12noon NEW SITE! Be part of the biggest grassroots environmental event held year after year. Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy are partners at a never before opened location on the Santa Clara River at Hwy 101. All supplies provided, wear sturdy closed toed shoes. Families welcome; unaccompanied ages 16 to 18 allowed with waiver signed by parent or guardian. (Waiver on the Ventura Sierra Club FB page 'notes' here <https://www.facebook.com/notes/ventura-sierra-club/youth-participant-waiver-english/788718651140480>) Parking Location: Gateway Shopping Center Johnson Dr and Northbank Dr, Ventura, 93003 Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

option. "Getting up to something and building a proper trail are two different things," he explains.

Workers built a crib wall—a shelf, in some spots several feet high—then filled it in to create a trail. The series of rock steps took six or seven mornings to complete. "We put a lot of care into this area to make it just right," Bisaccia says.

This section has earned the title "The Stairway to Heaven."

Remarkable vistas await at the top of the trail (at Foothill Trail), including views of five other trails. Perhaps one of the most stunning sights is that of Luci's companion, Fox Canyon Trail, zig-zagging its way up the opposite side of the canyon.

The trailhead is located on Shelf Road, about 100 yards east of the Fox Canyon Trailhead. One way at a leisurely pace takes about 40 minutes. The trail is closed to horses.

~ Reprinted by permission from the
Ojai Valley News



continued next page



It took a lot of hard work to carve in some steps creating Luci's Trail (who wants to remain anonymous), adding another mile to the Valley View Preserve in Ojai. It already has a nickname: "Stairway to Heaven." (Photos by Perry Van Houten)

New Luci's Trail creates loop

By Perry Van Houten

Exactly one year to the day since unveiling two new trails north of the city, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy will opened its latest on June 15th.

Luci's Trail is named for a friend of the Conservancy who came up with the idea for the new tread. It adds another mile of trail to the Valley View Preserve and creates a loop with the Fox Canyon and Foothill Trails.

Work on Luci's Trail began last December under the direction of Preserve Manager Rick Bisaccia. Volunteers (mostly) worked every other Monday morning for about five hours each day. The trail took 11 days to build, most of the time

spent on a difficult section requiring dozens of rock steps.

To lay out a path through the brush, Bisaccia called upon a volunteer with an amazing talent for route-finding, Ojai geologist Rob Young. "One of my great, stalwart trail volunteers, along with Mike Gourley. Those two are like a two-man trail crew," Bisaccia says. "If it's thick, you just send Rob in there."

From the trailhead on Shelf Road, Luci's Trail climbs steeply up the spine of a ridge, with many switchbacks, past an old metal water tank. Bisaccia got help from employees of Patagonia in Ventura.

One hazard encountered

during the trail's construction was a 7,000-pound boulder. The rock had to be moved, but volunteers were worried it would roll all the way to Shelf Road, hundreds of feet below. Bisaccia was sure it wouldn't. "When we finally moved it, the rock rolled about 40 feet and stopped," he says.

The upper portion of the trail was the most challenging to construct. Usually, workers could build 200 to 300 feet of trail per morning, but for this section, it was a fraction of that. Bisaccia was forced to decide between simply climbing over a substantial rock wall, or skirting it on a steep hillside. He took the more labor-intensive

Outings...continued

downtown Ventura. For more info, contact SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

September 25

JESUSITA TRAIL, INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOORS!: Join us for an easy, slow-paced hike around 3.6 miles long with 600 ft. of elevation gain. We will travel along San Roque Creek (if there is any water) as it meanders through avocado trees, meadows, riparian habitat, and stunning views. Emphasis will be on getting outside, moving (with some stretching), and the local flora and fauna. We will be stopping for plant identification. Rain does not cancel, and the pace kept will welcome conversation. Ideal for children, people who are not in the shape that they want to be, or people recovering from injury. Please bring water and wear appropriate hiking footwear. Dogs welcome if pre-arranged with me. Max number of hikers 15. Meet at 6pm at the trailhead by the water filtration plant on Las Positas (San Roque). For more info, contact MELISSA at melissabeaugrand@gmail.com. (VEN)

September 26

BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy to moderate 6 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Hike along the beach, up to the bluff & down to tide pools and to Paradise Cove, if tide permits. Tide 5.0' at 9:30am, High Tide 5.4' at 10:46am. Peace will flow into you with the waves. Bring water and food. Meet near Freddy's on Hampshire Road just the before Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

September 27

JOURNEY THROUGH A SECRET GARDEN: Sierra Club has permission this date to explore privately held land, which is part of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. There may be two river crossings. Approximate distance 3 mi with 500-1000' gain

(maximum). Bring water, snacks, sun protection, and a desire to preserve the largest natural river ecosystem left in the region. Under 18 welcome accompanied by parent/guardian. Meet at 10am at the south end of Mission Rock Road at the gate posted with The Nature Conservancy sign (126 E to Briggs Rd, right on Pinkerton, left on Mission Rock Road and go straight to gate). Contact: NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

September 28

TED'S FAMOUS BEACH HIKE AND STEAK FEED: Join Ted for an easy 6 mrt walk along the beach from Rincon to Carpinteria. Then cook your own steak, chicken, or fish at the Palms before the return hike. Meet at 1:45pm at the Ventura carpool lot (Harbor Blvd & Seaward between Carrow's and Chase Bank) or 2:30pm at Bates Beach parking lot. Exit PCH at the county line, left under freeway, then right into parking lot. Meet at picnic tables (restrooms available). Today's tide should allow our entire return hike to be along the beach, finishing as the sun sets behind us. On the way there, some will go half way along the beach while others may prefer the upper route, before we will all join together up top for the final stroll to the Palms. Rain cancels. TED 985-8963 (VEN)

September 29

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

September 30

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

VENTURA RIVER TRAIL

Trail gets national recognition

The major artery of the Ventura River Parkway, the Ventura River Trail, has earned the prestigious designation of a National Recreation Trail.

Announced a few days prior to the annual National Trails Day (June 7), the designation gives the trail a higher profile and a national presence as it will be listed on all federal NRT maps and brochures which are printed by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Also, some federal funding for trail expansion and maintenance are possible.

"We are so proud to have this wonderful natural resource and public recreation area be recognized at the federal level. The NRT designation was a project of the Friends of the Ventura River Coalition," noted Jim Hines, who is the Sierra Club's representative at the Friends group.

The Ventura River Trail is the now the third NRT in our chapter region, the other two are on Los Padres National Forest lands: Piedra Blanca/Gene Marshall NRT (Ventura County) and Aliso NRT (Santa Barbara County). The Condor Trail, which is within both counties crossing through the Los Padres forest, is proposed for NRT status in HR 4685, the Central Coast Wild Heritage Protection Act now pending in Congress.

"These trails provide easily accessible places to get exercise and connect with nature in both urban and rural areas," commented Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "They promote our goal of encouraging all Americans,



The dream for the Ventura River Trail has always been increased access to the river for recreation, and here you see a rider and hikers enjoying it. (Photo by John Hankins)

especially youth, to play, learn, serve, and work in the great outdoors."

Over a hundred people attended a celebration event at Ventura Hillside Conservancy's Big Rock Preserve. The Friends of the Ventura River singled out Patrick Johnston from the National Parks Service as "our hero" obtaining an assistance grant "and mastermind behind our fabulous foldout Ventura River Parkway Trail Guide."

During the June 7th event, Johnston brought the first National Recreation Trail logo marker posted at the Big Rock Preserve and REI gave an \$8000 grant to the Hillside Conservancy to continue its river restoration work.

The official description of

the trail from the American Trails organization reads:

"The 16.5-mile Ventura River Parkway Trail includes two major trails: the Ventura River Trail and the Ojai Valley Trail. From the Ventura River Estuary to the City of Ojai, the contiguous corridor of pedestrian and cycling trails, river crossings and public access points reconnects people in city neighborhoods and rural communities to the river. The trail links diverse neighborhoods to nature to give health and fitness benefits to both youth and adult populations."

For more information on the NRTs, go to: www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails





Photos by Larry Older and John Hankins
July 4th 2014, Ventura Street Fair

