

Vol.'15, No. 3 of 6

June - July 2015

Condor Call



*"Any way you could
Photoshop 'that thing'
off the planet?"
See page 2*

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

IN THIS ISSUE: The Spill, better energy ideas, deadly waters, lively river, Chumash culture, wild bill and Outings galore.

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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, \$20 per year. Contact:

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

Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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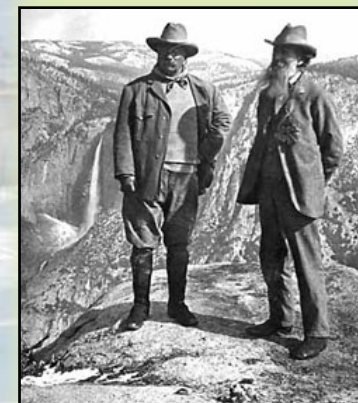
Typography and production by Dan Fuller

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EAVESDROPS

"I now challenge our current president to meet me on the very spot in Yosemite where Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir stood, to witness the impacts of climate change on the receding glaciers and parched earth and come together not just to save a few green patches within the United States, but to save the planet."

~ Sierra Club's new president, Aaron Mair, the club's first African American in that post.



COVER PHOTO

We've lived with offshore oil for generations, but when a Facebook friend of photographer Susan Bell saw her picture of an oil platform beyond the Ellwood Pier, she posted: "Gotta say I would absolutely love this image without 'that thing' in the center. Any way you could Photoshop them off the planet?" To see more of Susan's extraordinary photos – go to:

www.facebook.com/SusanBellPhotography

Next issue of
Condor Call
comes out 1st of August
DEADLINES:
Editorial: July 21
Advertising: July 24

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Beach off Sandpiper
By John Hankins

Spill may affect political climate

By John Hankins
Editor Condor Call

The Refugio Oil Spill has discharged more than petroleum, as the ripple effects on the political front just may have more impact than the amount of actual oil spilled, which is miniscule compared to the 1969 blowout.

It could also be the tipping point here for accelerating alternative energy, notably the Community Choice Energy movement in which locals can band together and buy electricity from cleaner sources, delivered by existing utilities (see story on page 6).

In any case, petroleum companies likely face even more scrutiny and regulation than ever before. Not the least of which sparked by the news that the Plains All American section of pipeline that ruptured was the only one in the county that did not have automatic shutdown.

That information, dug up by *Santa Barbara Independent* Editor Nick Welch, reported, "that's because more than 20 years ago, All American Pipeline (Plains hadn't bought it yet) took Santa Barbara County to court to restrict the

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Condor Call

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

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This painting-like view of the Gaviota Coast illustrates what we're fighting for to keep it from urban encroachment and oil spills – see a photo collage of the spill on page 22. Get involved through the Sierra Club, Gaviota Coast Conservancy and/or the Naples Coalition. (Photo by Susan Bell, www.facebook.com/SusanBellPhotography)

Refugio Oil Spill basics See photos page 22

~ Oil pipeline rupture occurred Tuesday, May 19 in the vicinity of Refugio State Beach; exact cause as yet unknown.

~ Owned by Plains All-American pipeline, it spilled at least 101,000 gallons of oil on the inland side of Hwy 101 of which about 21,000 gallons flowed into the ocean.

~ The spill was most severe at least seven miles down-coast, closing both Refugio and El Capitan State Beaches, among others.

~ Reports of oil sheen and tar blobs on the beaches were reported as far away as Carpinteria and into Ventura County beaches; unknown if it is related, but Plains sent clean-up crews just in case.

~ As of June 2, 82 marine mammals soaked in oil, 45 died,

and of 137 birds, 80 died. If any oil-coated animal is spotted, call the Oiled Wildlife Care Network at (877) 823-6926 or SB Wildlife Care Center (805) 681-1080.

~ Over 1100 workers are involved in the clean-up effort. "Due to the tremendous outpouring of community support and participation, all public volunteer positions have been filled," according to the [Cal Spill Watch](http://CalSpillWatch.com) website under the direction of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

~ Updates from the operator's point of view is at: Plains.update.com

Otherwise, the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Environmental Defense Center are key information outlets along with the county's Energy Division.

Deadly waters campaign goes national

"A gentle giant glides quietly through the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, feeding on nutrient rich plankton. All of a sudden, the calmness is broken as this majestic blue whale is struck by a massive 400,000 ton cargo ship."

That's the lead-in written by Jim Hines to promote the Deadly Waters Campaign, a crusade that was embraced by the National Sierra Club. Hines is the Conservation Chair for the Ventura Sierra Club and a member of the Los Padres Chapter ExCom.

"This campaign is getting much bigger than I could ever had imagined. Almost to the point of being overwhelming. In fact I have been notified of ten online/social media petitions about the "Take/Killing" issue," Hines said.

The club sent out a national action alert on May 17, which reaches at least 100,000 members nationwide. It also sent the alert to President Obama. During the recent California Democratic Convention in Anaheim May 15 -17 Sierra Club's activist team gave

out over 500 flyers. They also said that "hundreds" of people added their names to the 'Deadly Waters' campaign signup sheets.

"I was told that local, state and federal lawmakers, including Gov. Brown and U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein, took copies of the 'Deadly Waters' flyer," Hines reported.

Also, staff asked Hines to develop a "Thunderclap" campaign, which is technique in which the Club on one day 'tweets' to one federal official all day long to get

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This fellow at the Refugio Oil Spill protest did not oil his own pants, but instead tried to help clean up the beach before volunteers were banned unless they went through training and wore protective clothing. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Spill politics...

continued from page 3

county's legal authority to inspect X-rays of the pipeline welds. It won. The consequences of that victory appear to be bearing bitter fruit. Because the county was denied the regulatory authority to require that Plains equip its pipeline with an automatic shut-down valve ..."

Ouch.

On the local front, current proposals such as the Sunset/Exxon proposal to drill offshore Vandenberg and Venoco's project to expand oil development from Platform Holly are surely caught in this storm of public indignation. Also, a recent Environmental Defense Center (EDC) investigation found that between 2012-2014, Ventura County "unlawfully exempted 95 percent

of all oil wells – more than 400 wells – from discretionary review or application of modern County ordinances, including the new fracking and acidizing rules." (See story pg. 7)

The dominoes are likely to keep falling, especially since this became national news.

Peripheral issues such as the proposed Chumash Marine Sanctuary, the club's "Deadly Waters" campaign, the push for more solar and wind energy and the fight to keep urban uses from encroaching on the Gaviota Coast should benefit.

"We have had one message throughout this emergency: with accidents and the oil industry it is never a question of if, but of when," wrote the EDC in a public message (see EDC editorial on page 5).

It's déjà vu all over again for

EAVESDROPS

"So NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) approves thresher shark fishing and killing endangered whales, and USFWS (Fish & Wildlife Service) says whales and thresher sharks are endangered. Go figure that one out."

~ Our Ventura County Conservation Chair, Jim Hines, who is monitoring marine issues for us.

the Sierra Club. When the massive Santa Barbara Channel oil spill happened in 1969, spewing over 3 million gallons of oil (cf: Refugio spilled about 21,000 gallons into the ocean), the Sierra Club was the preeminent action organization, and its membership literally doubled.

A wave of local, state and national legislation quickly followed and literally built the modern environmental movement, notably affecting the Environmental Protection Agency, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, California Coastal Commission and California Environmental Quality Act ... and even Earth Day.

Local groups also formed, notably the one-issue Get Oil Out!, the practical Community Environmental Council and on the legal front, the EDC.

None of us are going away, in fact getting stronger with the next generation signing on.

But here's a piece of advice from the "world's best bureaucratic street fighter," the late Peter Douglas who was executive director of the California Coastal Commission:

"The coast is never saved. It's always being saved."

Deadly waters...

continued from page 3

our point across.

"The waters of the Santa Barbara Channel are ground zero for ship strikes on endangered blue whales and many other whale species and marine mammals," Hine said, and the club's campaign is aimed at getting federal agencies move shipping lanes outside the channel.

Another marine threat is the use of commercial nylon fishing nets

used to catch many species of ocean fish including Thresher sharks. These nets entangle and sometimes kill many marine mammals including whales, sea otters, sea lions and sea turtles each year off the California coast.

The club is working to convince the state to ban the use of those nets within the three mile limit. To learn more, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/Deadliest-Catch-report>



AT RISK!

Humpback Whales & Sperm Whales

The US Department of Commerce, at the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved an "incidental take" permit to accommodate the **California thresher shark/swordfish drift gill-net industry** along the California coast. Marine life of all kinds will be sacrificed to benefit these fishermen. **Endangered humpback and sperm whales will be entangled in the nets and drown.**

PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR OUTRAGE!

- Sign up to hear more on this marine issue of crucial concern (see next page).
- Contact Jim Hines at the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter (Ventura) and organizer of Deadly Waters: Protecting Marine Life in California at jhcasitas@gmail.com. Let him know that you are concerned and share your thoughts.
- We are now drafting a resolution to the California Democratic Party for the August 15 Executive Board meeting in Burlingame, near San Francisco Airport.
- Email U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker at TheSec@DOC.gov and demand that she rescind the "incidental take" permit that endangers our magnificent humpback and sperm whales. Remind her that drift gill nets threaten California's fragile marine environment.
- Go to <http://seaturtles.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ca-deadliest-catch-drift-net-report.pdf> and download the free report from the Turtle Island Restoration Network on the harm to whales from the drift gillnet fishery for swordfish and shark.

This is the flyer that the National Sierra Club sent out to thousands of people. The "Deadly Waters" campaign started here in our own Los Padres Chapter, thanks to Ventura Conservation Chair Jim Hines.

Spill rally offers solutions

By Robert Bernstein

Over a hundred people showed up on May 21 not only to protest the Plains All-American oil spill into the Santa Barbara Channel, but also to offer solutions, such as a transition to fossil free energy and the push for “Community Choice Energy.” Speakers and organizations at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse included Rebecca Claassen of Santa Barbara Water Guardians, Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Mayor Helene Schneider, Linda Krop of Environmental Defense Council, Chumash elders, Matt Renner of the World Business Academy, Gaviota Coast Conservancy, Get Oil Out (GOO), 350.org and Marc McGinnes who was here at the 1969 oil spill.

Carbajal and Schneider both emphasized the need to transition to sustainable fossil-free energy, a central Sierra Club campaign. Not only because of the local damage

done by oil, but also because of the global impacts such as climate change and international conflict.

Renner talked about plans for Community Choice Energy, creating the energy we need locally through solar energy which is also a top Sierra Club campaign.

Claassen and Krop called on Governor Brown to declare a moratorium on fracking and other extreme extraction methods that drive local oil extraction both on and off shore. They noted that this spill was caused by an on-shore pipeline failure that flowed into a culvert and into the ocean.

When Claassen was asked by a reporter if the Gaviota Coast deserves special protection, she said she grew up in Lompoc and Orcutt and those areas deserve just as much protection. “No place is acceptable for an oil spill.”

Transitioning to sustainable energy was the common theme of every

speech as well as many of the signs. The Chumash elders especially reminded us of the importance of planning many generations ahead.

I spoke to one sign holder who said that the cost of not transitioning is far more expensive: foreign wars, environmental destruction, global warming and oil industry subsidies.

After the event I rode my bike out to Coal Oil Point State Reserve and out several miles to remember what is at stake locally. As I paused a flock of pelicans flew over. The wind was blowing directly from Refugio toward Coal Oil Point.

CRUDE OIL

A chance to change courses

Editor's note: The writer is a Sierra Club member and lead attorney for the Environmental Defense Center, which usually represents our Los Padres Chapter on oil issues. With a long-time expertise battling the oil industry, here's excerpts from her first thoughts after the oil hit the beach.

By Linda Krop

It has been an emotional experience, standing on Refugio State Beach, overwhelmed and nauseated by the stench and facing the damage that crude oil has once again caused to our precious coastline.

It's not like we haven't been here before. But somehow, each time oil befouls a treasured beach or I see the dark sheen of oil floating toward the horizon, it hits me like a fresh punch.

I can't help but ask myself, why can't we learn from our past mistakes?

Of course, each disaster is



The Stand in the Sand rally on May 31st in response to the Refugio Oil Spill started in downtown Santa Barbara and marched to the beach. Some 500 or so people were involved, with Loa Tree organizing the event, which featured this long plastic pipeline while participants were urged to wear yellow, mimicking an oil boom. The Sierra Club California partnered with our own Los Padres Chapter and SB Group Chair Katie Davis made an impassioned speech for clean energy. (Photo by Darrell Clarke)

unique and there are questions that we need answers to in order to start to understand what went wrong with this Plains All American Pipeline disaster.

But while yes, each oil disaster is unique, it is never in fact surprising. Whether we are talking about a pipeline, a well bore, a train or tanker, a refinery or an offshore platform, we need to know that we are talking about incredible risk. There is no pipeline that cannot break, just as there is no train or tanker impervious to damage.

Over the five years that have passed since Deepwater Horizon or even the 46 years that have passed since the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, we have had many chances to change course, to prioritize the protection of communities and our environment and to begin to move away from oil. The looming shadow of catastrophic climate disruption gives us even more

reason to act. But instead, we find that we need to learn this lesson again, and again, and again.

So what can we do? At the Environmental Defense Center we have been fighting offshore and onshore oil projects for close to 40 years. We have stopped some projects, terminated some leases, and influenced policy and regulations. The best that we can do, however, to avert this type of disaster is to say “no” to more oil drilling. We need to say “no” to the Sunset/Exxon proposal to drill offshore Vandenberg and we need to say “no” to Venoco's proposal to expand oil development from Platform Holly.

My thoughts are with the whales (and other marine life) and with the emergency crews putting themselves at risk to clean oil off our coastline once again.



It wasn't just a protest against the Refugio Oil Spill two days after the Plains All American pipeline burst (on May 19), but an offering of solutions to be fossil free. Read the story above. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Cleaner energy possible now

By Mike Stubblefield

How would you like to get more clean energy at current or lower prices?

It can happen here through a system known as a Community Choice Energy (CCE), also known as Community Choice Aggregation.

“There is huge momentum in Santa Barbara -- both the city and county of Santa Barbara are poised to pony up funds for a feasibility study this budgeting cycle in June,” said Katie Davis, Chair of the Santa Barbara Group. She also noted a recent public forum – held only two days after the Refugio oil spill – attracted 175 people representing businesses, agencies and environmental groups.

“The oil crisis on the Santa Barbara coast is a call to action ... Our community is being called to lead the transition to a 100 percent renewable energy future. We have a unique opportunity to build a world-class energy system that can make this county fossil fuel-free in less than a decade,” said Matt Renner, Executive Director of

the World Business Academy, which sponsored the forum.

The system allows cities or counties to create a non-profit local power agency that bundles the purchasing power of residents and businesses to purchase electricity from current providers, which in our Los Padres Chapter is either Edison or PG&E. CCE buys the energy and sets the rates while Edison or PG&E continues to maintain the grid and do customer service. Both are closely regulated by state agencies to assure continuity of service.

The CCE can buy renewable energy on the market, offer energy efficiency services and incentives to customers, build or fund local energy projects, and set rates.

How much more ambitious could our renewable energy portfolio be if we were to create our own CCA for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties?

“Edison is at 23 percent (renewables) aiming for 33 percent and, as soon as we get set up and launch, we could be well over 50

percent aiming for 100 percent,” said Jan Dietrick, a Sierra Club member and CCA activist based in Ventura. Yet, “this is not so much about what forms of renewables are best or advisable. The big deal is that the decision-making structure is designed to be operated transparently and democratically to be responsive to the needs and resources of the community.”

It can be whatever turns out to make the best business sense. “As a bonus,” says Dietrick, “CCAs generate revenues that can be invested in a range of programs from energy efficiency to incentives for rooftop solar generation, or whatever makes sense according to the JPA.”

Since it was adopted by California in 2002, CCA has been growing quickly. In 2010, Marin Clean Energy became California’s first countywide CCE program. Since then, five communities have joined that system. Sonoma County launched its own CCA in 2014. In April, the city of Lancaster became the first stand-alone community to adopt CCE.

But unlike programs in Massachusetts, New York and Ohio, which focused on buying cheaper energy, the focus of California CCEs has been on green power.

Santa Barbara and Ventura counties might be next. Moves are already afoot to persuade a group of cities – Santa Barbara, Ventura, Ojai, Oxnard and Camarillo, for example – to band together to form a regional CCA. What will it take?

“It will require people like us,” says Dietrick, “explaining the benefits to civic and business leaders



Solar spills, wind spills, they are all so much more benign than an oil spill, and the new technique of Community Choice Energy (see adjacent story) may be one good solution. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

and letting the City Councils know that we want them to form a CCE agency.”

The Sierra Club is on board, so if you want to become a CCE volunteer or support the effort, here are some contacts:

~ If you live in Camarillo or Oxnard, contact Mike Stubblefield (motodata@roadrunner.com) or Elisabeth Lamar (elisabethlamar@hotmail.com).

~ In Ventura, contact Jan Dietrick (jdietrick9@gmail.com).

~ In Santa Barbara, contact Katie Davis (kdavis2468@gmail.com).

~ In Ojai, contact coordinator@OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.com

We’ll put you on our mailing list, keep you up to date on CCA activities and events in both counties, and maybe you’ll volunteer to help make it happen.

How CCE Works

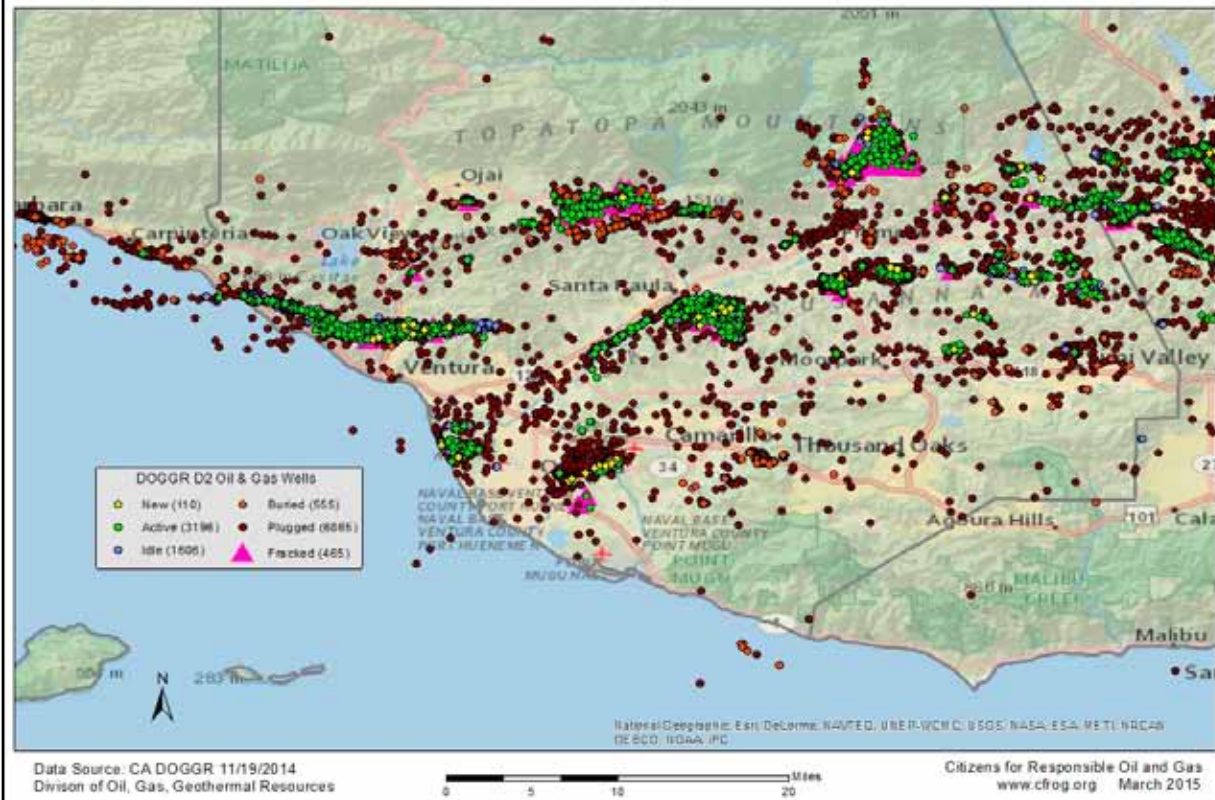


Adapted from Sonoma Clean Power



Our active Ventura Sierra Club member Liz Lamar (third from left) went to Anaheim as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention on May 17, notably casting her vote to divest fossil fuel stocks from public pension funds, among other “very exciting environmental resolutions..” By the way, Liz is the Ventura Sierra Club’s new chair.

DOGGR District 2
Oil & Gas Development



It looks like western Ventura and into eastern SB County has the pox, but those red dots are actually oil rigs, hundreds of which enjoy lax regulations. Well, guess that is a pox of some kind if it festers into our water and land.

Probe finds Ventura oil permits too easy

An Environmental Defense Center investigation has found that between 2012-2014, Ventura County “unlawfully exempted 95 percent of all oil wells – more than 400 wells – from discretionary review or application of modern County ordinances, including the new fracking and acidizing rules.”

This, despite an updated oil application process insisting that the industry provide more detailed information.

EDC sent a notice to the supervisors to fix this incongruity on behalf of the Los Padre Chapter of the Sierra Club, along with CFROG (Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas), Ventura Audubon Society and CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy).

When the Chapter signed onto the letter, Chair David Gold wrote, “Brian Segee (EDC attorney) has drafted a novel, inventive, and well-reasoned argument demonstrating that the County is misinterpreting the law, and in doing so has unconstitutionally forfeited its duty to protect the public from the consequences of unregulated oil drilling.”

The 400 exempted wells were drilled in 19 oil fields, located in both densely populated urban areas and largely undisturbed natural areas throughout Ventura County, including coastal

regions, the Oxnard Plain, the Ventura and Santa Clara River valleys, the upper Ojai Valley, the Simi Valley, and the Sespe-Piru region.

These aging oil fields operate under “antiquated” permits typically issued in the 1940s, 1950s, or 1960s, and an opinion by the County Counsel “has in essence permitted oil companies to drill as many wells as they want, wherever they want, in perpetuity, without additional discretionary review.”

As detailed in EDC’s letter, the County Counsel’s opinion “greatly overstates” the scope of vested rights, and unconstitutionally delegates the County’s duty to protect the health and safety of local residents.

“What we get is bad air, bad water, dangerous big rigs and even more dangerous train cars transporting dirty and volatile crude oil through our cities and county, with no real guarantees from local, state or national politicians that any of this activity is necessary, or healthy or safe. What could possibly go wrong?” questioned Mike Stubblefield, representing the Ventura Sierra Club.

EDC provided the County with a series of recommendations for how to amend this process, but is prepared to take legal action if insufficient changes are made.

Greenhouse gas victory is huge!

In what was categorized as a “huge win,” industrial polluters will be responsible for mitigating virtually all of the greenhouse gases that foul the air, thanks to a vote by the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors’ majority on May 14.

“The (Refugio) oil spill is terrible, but we did get some good news,” said Katie Davis, chair of the Santa Barbara Group, “when the supervisors voted on a 1,000 ton threshold (per year) for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.”

Just a year and a half ago, a 10,000 ton threshold was applied to the Santa Maria Energy project, which was fought by industry. Davis noted the

irony when, “amazingly, industry was there asking for 10,000 tons, which they said was terrible just a year and half ago ... goes to show how much progress we’ve made.”

County Energy staff estimated the new rule will affect virtually all greenhouse gases emitted by stationary sources (in contrast to vehicles). Speaking of which, Davis argued that if autos have to be smogged, industrial sources should also be under that rule.

If industries, notably oil and gas, can’t reduce or clean emissions down to that level, they must purchase pollution offsets or credits, which are negligible in the county, so must be

found outside local boundaries.

Alex Pujo, vice-chair of the Santa Barbara Group, gave Davis high marks: “You did an excellent job motivating a good amount of people, including myself, to take time to think, speak and be heard. The needle is moving forward. Congratulations!”

Davis returned the compliment to the Sierra Club members who testified in front of the board: “I want to recognize Gerry (Ching), Robert (Bernstein), Alex (Pujo), Katie (Mullen) and Eric (Hansen) who all spoke intelligently and persuasively. Thank you ... I was very proud of the Sierra Club!”

Grant starts hillside buys above Ventura

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy was recently awarded a \$1 million grant from the California Natural Resources Agency to purchase roughly 300 acres that represents its first major purchase of hillside land.

While the Conservancy has acquired seven properties totaling over 26 acres of land in the Ventura River watershed, this grant represents its largest acquisition yet.

The purchase is part of the Walker-Hearne Ranch property, located directly east of the Clearpoint residential community in East Ventura.

David Hadlen, managing partner of the property, spoke on behalf of the owners, the eight great grandchildren of William Sexton: "This is a solid first step toward the goal of a much broader Conservancy ownership and/or management and one that provides access by the public."



EAVESDROPS

"A sea otter to me once jeered,

We're just the species you feared.

We're cute, but rapacious, completely voracious,

And practice sex acts that are weird."

~ Biologist Milton Love of UCSB's Love Lab, revealing he's "not overly fond of sea otters."



A structure at Satwiwa, a re-creation of a Chumash village in the Santa Monica Mountains area, and Chumash cave paintings off San Marcos Pass in Santa Barbara County. They illustrate the scope of the area's original inhabitants. (Photos courtesy of National Park Service)

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Area rich in Chumash culture, artifacts

By **Jim Hines**

A great and gentle culture flourished in the region of the Los Padres Chapter for thousands of years. The Chumash Nation had numerous villages along the central coast region, gathered and hunted from our inland valleys to the coast as well as in the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel and on our offshore islands.

I have enjoyed learning about this fascinating culture by visiting sites which are open to the public and tell the story of the Chumash, the first people.



Let's begin our Chumash journey by viewing one of the best preserved Chumash cave painting sites:

~ Chumash Painted Cave State Historical Park: A 7-acre protected site which allows viewing through protective steel bars of a fascinating and highly preserved Chumash rock art.

This site is located half way up Painted Cave Road, off of Highway 154 above Santa Barbara. The views on a clear day of the Pacific Ocean below are amazing, a fitting location for the Chumash connection with the land and the sea.

~ Lang Ranch Park in Thousand Oaks has an outstanding Chumash Cultural Museum. This 450-acre park also has regularly scheduled events celebrating the Chumash culture with elders presenting educational talks. I have enjoyed several ceremonies which have been held at this beautiful park with outstanding nature trails. The park is located at: 3290 Lang Ranch Parkway.

~ Satwiwa ("The Bluffs") is the site of a Chumash village where the journey from the inland Conejo valley led to the Pacific Ocean at Pt. Mugu. Satwiwa is part of the National Park Service Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve.

Park staff and Chumash elders hold regular workshops, programs talks and art displays. Beautiful views of Old Boney (one of the highest peaks in the

Santa Monica Mountains range) which towers overhead and plenty of hiking trails. You can even walk the same trail which the Chumash used to reach the Pacific Ocean from Satwiwa down through Pt. Mugu State Park along Sycamore Canyon to the ocean.

Satwiwa is located at the junction of Potrero Road and Wendy Drive in Newbury Park, 4121 Potrero Rd.

~ The visitor center at Channel Islands National Park located in the Ventura Harbor also has great exhibits about the Chumash culture which existed on the islands.

~ Wishtoyo Chumash Discovery Village: This 4-acre site has the largest reconstructed working Chumash village on the central coast. Wishtoyo village is located in Nicholas Canyon County Park (33850 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu).

~ Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is sponsored by Chumash Councils and fully supported by the Sierra Club which has a campaign to help it become a reality. The goal is

to protect ocean and marine resources along the northern Santa Barbara county coast and San Luis Obispo county coast. If approved, the sanctuary will preserve not only the natural ocean and marine resources, but also the sacred sites (many which are now underwater) of the Chumash people.

For more information and how to help, go to:

www.chumashsanctuary.com

~ The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta Del Sol, has a permanent exhibit of Chumash life featuring its food, medicine, myths, games, dances, language, Tomol and cave paintings – not to be missed!

Chumash elders living in our area continue to carry on the traditions of their ancestors in such events as the Tomol (plank canoe) rowing out from the beach in Ventura to the Channel Islands, a proud tradition. The Chumash spirit is still among us, be still, be quiet when you visit these sacred places and you will feel their presence.

Kiwa'nan (Goodbye)



Together for a Blue Vision Ocean Summit in Washington DC, it's appropriate that most of these participants wore blue hues, including Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis (second from left). Learn more about the campaign from: www.bluefront.org

Ocean lobby efforts take on pirates, oil

By Katie Davis

I joined the National Sierra Club Marine Action Team on May 13, marking the largest lobby day on ocean issues ever held in Washington DC, a culmination of the Blue Vision Ocean Summit.

On that single day, hundreds of citizens and conservation groups participated in a 162 meetings with representatives and staff from twenty-five states and one territory.

I visited with both Senators Feinstein's and Boxer's staff and members of Congress from both parties, including Santa Barbara representative, Lois Capps, a long-time ocean advocate who may be the only person in congress with a marine ecologist on her staff.

We advocated for the passage of a bill to stop illegal pirate fishing which devastates ecosystems and takes around two billion dollars in revenue

away from the legitimate fishing industry. It seems the one thing both parties can agree on: we're all against pirates! We also asked representatives to oppose the dangerous expansion in drilling off the Atlantic coast and in the deep waters of the Arctic. I pointed out the inevitability of spills (this was before the Refugio Oil Spill of May 19).

At the final Ocean Awards Seminar, Enric Sala of the National Geographic, imagined two different future oceans in 2050. In one, it was catastrophic. But he also proposed an alternate future, one in which 50 percent of the ocean is set aside in protected areas.

Indeed, "action" was the theme throughout. One speaker, quoting philosopher Henri Nouwen, said, "You don't think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking."

Club has new president

On May 16, the Sierra Club elected Aaron Mair of Schenectady, New York, as its new president.

Mair brings more than three decades of environmental activism and over 25 years as a Sierra Club volunteer leader to his position as the Club's first African American president.

He became a member in 1999, following a decade-long battle that he led to shut down a polluting solid waste incinerator in an inner-city community in Albany, New York. His efforts ultimately led to a commitment by the state to shut down the facility and a \$1.6 million settlement award.

Mair was also a key figure in leading the fight and securing the Club's participation in the Clean Up the Hudson campaign, which resulted in a settlement between the EPA and General Electric to dredge toxic PCB sediments from the Upper Hudson River.

He has held more than three dozen leadership positions within the Club and was elected to the national



Aaron Mair, Club President

Board last year.

Throughout his tenure, Mair has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to grassroots action, environmental justice, and transforming the culture of the Sierra Club to make it -- in his words -- "a more welcoming environment to *all* people, regardless of their race or socio-economic status."

His day job is as an epidemiological-spatial analyst with the New York State Department of Health.

Gaviota project denied

By Phil McKenna

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission denied a Gaviota Coast subdivision and lot line adjustment of the iconic Las Varas Ranch on April 29.

A battle was won, but the war continues. The Las Varas project will now proceed to the County Supervisors for their final decision within two to three months.

The 1,700 acre ranch straddles Highway 101, just to the west of Dos Pueblos Canyon, and includes the sweeping views of ocean pastures, historic barns, orchards, and eucalyptus. The owners attempted to create additional lots on the ocean side of 101, and to gain approval to build upward of 14 houses on seven lots. The project would have significantly fragmented this working ranch, imperiling its agricultural viability.

The owners refused to provide easements for the protection of the environment and agricultural productivity. As one commissioner

EAVESDROPS

"It would be fair to characterize Diablo Canyon as California's largest marine predator."

~ Tom Luster, Coastal Commission staff scientist, who testified that 1.5 billion larvae are "entrained" every year through the nuclear plant's ocean cooling ducts, affecting sea life productivity along over 500 miles of the coast.

said, "approval of this project could set an unwelcome precedent for the Gaviota Coast." By a 3 to 2 majority, they voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors deny this ill-conceived project.

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy, which includes the Sierra Club, has consistently opposed this project since 2007, at every level of the permitting process. Our sincere thanks to Commissioners Hartmann, Brown, and Cooney, for their strong statements supporting denial of this project, and their clear understanding of the importance of protecting the Gaviota Coast.

One of the Commissioners cited the thousand letters that the Commission received over the course of the permit process as a strong influence on her decision to deny the project; your participation did make a difference!

To keep apprised of the project, go to our Facebook or website to get on the mailing list:

www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org

More than a clean-up as biologist tells of bad birds

Hands-on was the name of the game when over a dozen volunteers took out a half-ton of litter and junk during the Santa Clara River Gateway Puente Earth Day Clean Up.

"This spot is a bridge between Ventura and Oxnard, but it is also the bridge between urban and natural worlds and needs to be protected," explained Nina Danza, event chair.

Sierra Club hosted the event on about 300 acres of valuable ecosystem owned by The Nature Conservancy, at Johnson Drive and Hwy 101, on Saturday, April 25.

"Doing something that makes a big environmental difference in one day is why these folks came," Danza said. "About a half-ton of stuff that doesn't belong in riparian (stream-

side) habitat was taken out, including car parts, clothes, shopping carts, used food containers, and lots of plastic and paper waste."

The crew from near and far earned immediate gratification by cleaning up the land in just a few hours. Rio Mesa High and De Anza Middle School teens set a fantastic example of how their generation cares for the future. Employees of Sam's Club, wearing company logo T-shirts, showed how they work for the good of the community. And Stan Hakes -- chief of staff to Ventura County Supervisor John Zaragosa -- hauled bag after bag filled with trash to the transport truck.

Entries for 'The Most Unusual Item Found' competed for a prize basket of organic backyard produce. Entries included a lockable briefcase, princess costume, Garage Sale sign, family photos, empty wallet, broken umbrella, and car bumper. The winner was a dog bed! All participants received a potted tomato plant as consolation.

It turned out to be more than a clean-up.

A biologist for an on-site "invasive bird species eradication program" gave a short talk about it. He told us of the

cowbirds who are 'brood-parasites' that push eggs out of the nests of native species and use the nest to raise their own young. Removing them involves an aviary trap which houses decoy cowbirds, used during the April-September nesting season.

Also, critters were encountered, some by surprise and some not, such as a horned lizard who scampered underfoot after being scooped up and

shown around.

Danza emphasized that "the Santa Clara River is a vital natural resource in our backyard, a source of water to humans, farms, and to the animal and plant species we live with. We are here to help Sierra Club keep it a living, healthy ecosystem."

For photos and stories, go to:

www.facebook.com/SantaClaraRiverConfluence

Close encounters with our wildlife

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is sponsoring a talk about "Wildlife in our Backyard: The Urban Carnivore Project" at 10am Saturday, June 20.

Jenny McCarthy will cover the history of the Project at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, their current work and where the project is headed. She promises a fascinating exploration of the increasing challenges faced by mountain lions, bobcats, and coyotes due to urbanization.

She will share some of the highlights and pictures including the famous mountain lion (P22) who lives in Griffith Park and the siblings whose pictures recently went viral after safely crossing the 101 freeway.

The event is free to members and students and \$10 for non-members. Space is limited at the Conservancy's office, 370 W. Baldwin Rd. A-4, so reservations are required by contacting Marti Reid at 649-6852 ext.2 or

marti@ovlc.org



Volunteer crew takes a break from hauling a half-ton of litter, trash and junk from the 300-acre Santa Clara River Gateway, sponsored by and organized by Ventura Sierra Club's Nina Danza. (Photo by Nina Danza)

Wildling has arty birds, ocean adventures

Underwater adventures and birds in art highlight the summer exhibits and events at the Wildling Art Museum in Solvang.

The opening reception for Birds in Art starts at 5:30pm Friday, June 12 while the exhibit runs through Aug. 10.

It features innovative perspectives throughout diverse artwork by some of the world's most talented artists.

Moving to the ocean, a photographic exhibit by Richard Salas and a 4,000-mile underwater adventure is on view through Aug. 3 at the Wildling, in addition to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf. It is called "0 to 60: An Underwater Adventure from the Equator to Alaska."

Salas will also give a talk and show at the Wildling entitled

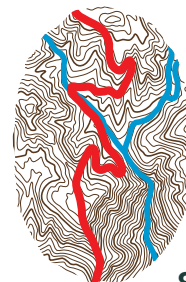
"41 Degrees: a Bone Chilling Ocean Experience in Underwater Photography" at 2pm June 28. He will share images from his latest book "Luminous Sea, the final installment of his Sea of Light photo book trilogy. Greet the author, buy the new book, and 50 percent of the profit will go towards ocean conservation.

For details on all exhibits and events, contact the Wildling at 686-8315 or: www.WildlingMuseum.org

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Big project lacks river connection...but should

By Nina Danza

A large housing and retail project off the Hwy 101 exit at Johnson Drive is adjacent to the Santa Clara River but contains no amenities to integrate or acknowledge the River's ecological value.

Proposed by the Ravello Holdings Company of Los Angeles, it envisions 10,000 square feet of retail space and 306 apartments (with no below-market units listed) at the corner of Johnson and N. Bank Dr. in East Ventura, now a vacant lot.

In fact, hundreds of acres of the River in the immediate vicinity are held by The Nature Conservancy with the intent of becoming part of the future public Santa Clara River Parkway. The Conservancy has been performing riparian and native plant restoration, endangered species recovery, and promoting sustainable environmental practices at this location for years.

How often does the city of Ventura have an international non-profit group like the Conservancy gifting a huge asset to them? It's more than puzzling that there is no city vision in the building project, it's a major failing.

The project is now being analyzed by the city planning staff, which should look at visionary planning that could include some amenities consistent with the River Parkway at this urban-nature interface. Obvious examples include:

~ Multi-purpose storm water detention basin and outdoor

amphitheater.

All new building projects are required to contain urban drainage to reduce water pollution into surface streams. In this location, the basin could be designed as a dry weather amphitheater and used for public education, nature programs, outdoor cultural festivals, or specialized sports events -- wouldn't this be a great location to start/end a bike race or hold a bird-a-thon? Revenue from events could support the facility maintenance.

~ Educational kiosks. Public kiosks highlighting the ecology of the River in the immediate area are the minimum inexpensive amenity in this urban-nature interface.

~ Eco-oriented commercial areas: seasonal or permanent. The project should expand on the adjacent existing bike path and linear park by incorporating areas reserved for small business such as a bicycle services, farm produce market or entertainment/refreshment vendors. Check out the LA River bike path which has a similar situation:

www.thefrogspot.org.

Most importantly, this is the ideal time to plan and provide consistent amenities between the proposed project and the Olivas Park Drive Extension. The two locations are extremely close to each other, are both River-adjacent, and have superb potential to add value to the environmental stewardship of the area. Let's have a non-vehicular route and Parkway-consistent amenities between the projects such as wildlife and



Opportunity is knocking for planning and providing a long-term vision on the Santa Clara River at the east end of Ventura. The developer's plan does not have any such connection with the river, but he should have and the Ventura Sierra Club is hoping to change that as it goes through the permitting process.

scenic viewpoints, picnic areas, educational kiosks and more.

Opportunity is knocking for planning and providing a long-term vision on the Santa Clara River at the east end of Ventura. To keep apprised of the project, check in at:

www.facebook.com/SantaClaraRiverConfluence

You may also contact the Ventura city planning department ("Community Development") directly (refer to Project #6811); go to: <http://www.cityofventura>.



Let's show our 'wares' during Farmers' Market

The Ventura Sierra Club and Wilderness Basics Course are invited to have a table any of the Farmers' Markets held every Thursday from 3-7pm. Kimball Community Park (906 S. Kimball Rd.).

This is a great opportunity to reach future members and many supporters for our local issues, so it's your chance to get a display prepared on your favorite issue or simply volunteer to staff the table.

Hundreds of customers pass through the market every week. A nominal fee of \$20 is being donated by Jim and Nina Danza for the first six weeks.

Here are dates in which volunteers are needed: June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6 and 13.

To volunteer, contact Nina at 901-1679 or: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com

Actions, outings, WBC attract people to our Earth Day booths

Earth Day is every day to the Sierra Club, but Earth Day is a celebration and a way to present the club's free outings, wilderness course and activism for local issues.

So the club had a presence in most local Earth Days. Here's reports from the field:

SANTA BARBARA

April 18 and 19 drew big crowds to Alameda Park in Santa Barbara with the theme "Stand Up for Climate," and so the Sierra Club booth gave a 3-question quiz.

Most people got the answers right, such as 98 percent of climate scientists agree that humans are causing global warming, and we need to change laws to prevent catastrophic and irreversible impacts.

To that end, 163 people then signed letters to SB County Supervisors asking them to set a "zero net increase" for greenhouse gas emissions from new industrial polluters (see story page 7).

Lots of people came by to get copies of our free outings, which also had a list of climate actions on the back. It was so popular, we had to go make more copies twice. You can find the hike list any time at:

www.sbsierraclub.org/hike-schedule

A big thanks to our volunteers: Stephen Dougherty, Jim Balter, Robin Hamlin, Alex Pujo, Katie Davis, Marika Davidek, Martha Sadler, Robert Bernstein, Katie Mullin, Claire Marie Zedelius, Dorothy Littlejohn and Bernard Mines.

VENTURA

Despite the sometimes rough winds and a brief rain, crowds were heavy and we got great traffic at the booth. Larry Older and helpers gathered several pages of names of people wanting to join, help out or get info. Quite a few people were interested in Wilderness Basics Course.

A large poster given by Nina Danza about the Santa Clara River got a ton of interest by visitors and many questions, prompting quite a number of expanded conversations about the other activities we do.

We also had a well-organized scavenger hunt from the event sponsor, Ventura Charter School. We had a ton of little visitors needing us to stamp their scavenger hunt sheets. This got their parents involved, and prompted more interest in the Club. It was a very successful day and we really appreciate the great

job that Larry continues to do in organizing this each year. Special thanks to Alisse Fisher and Bin Li of the WBC.

What more can we say about Nina? She continues to be a powerhouse of ideas and work output. In addition to prepping

EAVESDROPS

"We were mobbed by children."

~ At the Ojai Earth Day April 18, Ventura Conservation Chair Jim Hines organized a 'Magical World of Butterflies' display that was so popular, "organizers had to move us to a larger area." Club member Juliana Danaus, of Monarch ARC Waystation in Ojai, provided the knowledge and insects.

for this Earth Day, her 9am Santa Clara River Cleanup (see story on page 10) also involved her and Jim Danza getting there to set up.

It was also a big success with many school children there with parents, teens and older couples. Everybody had fun and a feeling of accomplishment.

OJAI

The Magical World of Butterflies was the theme of the Sierra Club booth at Ojai Earth on April 18, organized

continued to page 13



The Sierra Club was all over Earth Days in various locations. In the top photo, Larry Older and Bin Li were at our booth in Ventura, held along the promenade, and (bottom photo) Bin Li represented our Wilderness Basics Course. (Photos by John Hankins). In the middle photo we have Alex Pujo and Katie Davis fielding questions from the public at the large Santa Barbara event. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Ron Bottorff gets eco-award

Ron Bottorff, Chair of the Friends of the Santa Clara River and a long-time Sierra Club member, was given Ventura County's Earth Day Award by the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE) in April.

SCOPE is a coalition member of the Friends since Bottorff founded it in 1993. Among the achievements of this group is the restoration of the 230-acre Hedrick Ranch Natural Area that is helping to re-establish several endangered bird species.

The Friends is a non-profit, public interest organization dedicated to the protection, enhancement and management of the resources of the Santa Clara River. "He is widely recognized for his commitment to preserving California's biological diversity," according to SCOPE, and has also participated for 13 years on the Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan.

The Friends are currently working on a major habitat restoration project at the Hedrick Ranch Natural Area. For more information on the Friends visit the website: www.fscr.org

EAVESDROPS

"There's no such thing as a solar spill; we call that a nice day."

~ Matt Renner, Executive Director of the World Business Academy (See story on page 6)



Ron Bottorff

Earth Days...

continued from page 12

by Sierra Club's Jim Hines and joined by Juliana Dananus, a Club activist and founder of the Ojai Monarch Butterfly Way Station.

There were so many people at our table that we had to move to a larger area so people could gather around to view the butterflies and listen to us talk without disturbing adjoining booths. We were mobbed with children.

We talked about the importance of creating Butterfly friendly gardens and had plenty of Monarchs on hand for families to learn about the different stages of life. It was truly a magical day.



We applaud our donors...encore!

Contributions to our local chapter are still coming in since our annual March Appeal, and below is this year's list of generous donors ... so far, and it's never too late.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all those who contributed, whether or not through money or time.

The donations support the incredible work our volunteers

are doing in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, which includes hundreds of free outings per year and first-class activism keeping our air and water safe from threats like pollution, fracking, off-shore oil drilling and unrestrained development.

To add your name to the list, simply send your contribution to:

Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241.

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

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Wild bill revived

By John Hankins
Editor, *Condor Call*

Rep. Lois Capps re-introduced a major bill on May 26 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.

In concert, Sen. Barbara Boxer introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

Its official name is the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act and has the same wording as last year's bill that was not acted upon.

"Last week's oil spill (Gaviota Coast) is a tragic reminder of how important these special places are to our community and we have a responsibility to protect them for future generations," Capps said.

Of course, it still needs to get all the way through Congress this time, and the Sierra Club stands ready to help.

"I already have a number of public appearances scheduled throughout SoCal to get other organizations and people to help support passage of this legislation," said Jim Hines, Ventura County Conservation Chair for the Los Padres Chapter.

"On a personal note, much of the land within the proposed expansion of the existing Matilija Wilderness area west of Ojai is within former ranch land owned by my family and where I grew up. I am so proud that land I spent time in as kid and young adult, rode my horse through many times, (may be)

protected forever.

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

Reps Julia Brownley and Sam Farr are original co-sponsors of the bill.

"The Sierra Club will aggressively lobby for the bill's passage," Hines said.



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



The proposed wilderness areas haven't changed a bit from last year's bill, which was tabled until this year when Rep. Lois Capps brought it back. It was a long process to get this bill and all the stakeholders together, now all it will take is convincing Congress to just do it.

VENTURA SIERRA CLUB**Green Block on hiatus****By Larry Older**

The Green Block will not be part of the City of Ventura's 4th of July Street Fair this year.

Due to recently announced changes

CONEJO GROUP**Potluck & pics**

The Conejo Group is having a potluck and picture show featuring your food and photos, if you want; otherwise come and enjoy others.

The party starts at 7pm Friday, June 12 at the Cameron Center, 288 Greenmeadow Dr. Thousand Oaks.

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 and come early (6:30pm) to help setup.

If you have questions contact Hugh Warren at 341-6295. Note: See Outings June 12 for location directions.

in the costs and management of the event by the city, the Ventura Sierra Club (VSC) was not able to raise the funds or resolve the new management issues in time to meet the City's deadlines. For the past decade, the Green Block was an important part of the Fair. One entire block, managed by the VSC, was a showcase for the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Basics Courses. It also boasted environmental art, various other groups advocating environmental issues, and information on how we can protect and improve our part of the planet.

The Green Block also hosted the very popular block-long car show, featuring hybrid and alternate fuel vehicles, including Teslas, Volts, and even an alternate fuel school bus.

Until this year, the city assigned one block between Main and Santa Clara streets to the VSC without any charges other than insurance. The VSC then recruited the volunteers, artists, individuals who their own 'green' cars and the groups who came to help show ways we can make our city, county and country a better place to live.

They were able to provide their exhibits without any costs other than their time. Under the new requirements, the costs and management structure would become substantially the same as for any other group in the more commercial areas of the Street Fair.

Over the years the Green Block became a positive event for the City, showcasing not only the things people can do to protect the environment, but also Ventura's commitment to sustainability. It was also an event that many people cherished and it built up a following.

Given that we now have a year to plan, we hope to be able to return as part of the 2016 4th of July Street Fair.

grassroots structure. The Sierra Club's mission in Ventura County has been enormously enhanced by Dr. Ziv's vision and persistence."

"This is the legacy left by his leadership," said Mike Stubblefield of the Ventura Network, in which "an unproductive or troubled group ... could quickly be improved by simply picking good people," and Jon Ziv was that choice here.

A celebration of his life was held at Hollywood Beach May 2.

On his watch, the Ventura Network took on an "amazing scope of environmental projects," Stubblefield noted, including: saving the Ormond Beach wetlands, fighting construction of more power plants on our beaches, stopping new housing developments near sensitive areas, restoration projects along the Santa Clara River, the Ventura River and McGrath Beach State Park," to name a few.

His day job was as a dentist and his passion was the environment even from an early age as an Eagle Scout.

He is survived by his wife, Jayne, children Zak and Piper, his mother Sybil and an extended family.



Sierra Club members Mike Stubblefield and Fran Farina honor the late Jon Ziv at a memorial held at Hollywood Beach. (Photo by Gerry Ching)

Local, national club honors Jon Ziv

The local, state and national Sierra Club noted with sorrow the passing of Dr. Jonathan Ziv on April 26.

He was the Ventura Sierra Club's chair for about six years and proved himself to be the constant and consummate activist.

His rise through the leadership ranks of the Club was impressive, first being elected to the old Sespe Group Executive Committee (ExCom) in western Ventura County. He was soon elected to the Chapter ExCom and later appointed to the National Sierra Club's

prestigious Council of Club Leaders.

When the Sespe Group was reorganized as the Ventura Network (AKA Ventura Sierra Club), he was the first person appointed by National to lead the group in a rebuilding effort; later being the unanimous choice of his colleagues as their first Chair.

According to Greg Casini, Chapter Support Director based in Sacramento, his leadership "to rebuild the Ventura Network's activist base and community image ... now serves as a model of effective Sierra Club

Los Padres Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

STEERING COMMITTEE

~ Meets at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of every month, either in-person at the Carpinteria IHOP, or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

ARGUELLO GROUP

~ Board usually meets first Monday of the month at various locations and times. General meetings most months on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave., usually with conservation program 7 – 9pm or 6 – 9pm when there are potlucks.

~Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.

~ All information on this North County Santa Barbara Group from Jerry Connor, 928-3598 or email: Connor.gd2@verizon.net

CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net

~ On the web: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org/conejo>

~ For outings: <http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings>

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ Usually meets at 5:30pm on the first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast Santa Barbara area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at www.SBSierraClub.org or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub>

VENTURA SIERRA CLUB

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group in Condor Call on the Los Padres Chapter website. Address: PO Box 7301, Ventura CA 93006. Also on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Ventura-Sierra-Club>

~ Regular board meetings 1st Wed monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Call Nina Danza to confirm at 901-1679.

Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

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

Panoramic photo by Robert Bernstein

WELCOME HIKERS

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 are 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 the chapter's website:

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

Outings Schedule for publication June/July and Aug/Sep 2015 Condor Call

June 5
BULLDOG TRAIL - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike up part of Bulldog Trail. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

POTRERO JOHN - EXPLORE A HIDDEN CANYON: Our hike starts at 3,655', at the junction of Potrero John and Sespe Creeks, in the Sespe Wilderness above Ojai. We follow a

beautiful canyon 3 miles upstream, crossing the creek several times, winding through trees, and climbing 1272', if we can get all the way to the waterfall. Meet at 8:30am at Seaward carpool lot in Ventura (near Carrows). For info, call TERESA at 524-7170. (VEN)

June 6
BLUE PEAK: Plan 5-6 hours for this very strenuous 11 mile hike with 2700' elevation gain. We'll ascend by the 4 mile canyon trail to Romero saddle, make a 3 mile loop around and over the horn to the west of the saddle, then ascend Blue Peak. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

June 7
URBAN HIKE TO FRANCHESCI PARK: Start near the Mission, walk through the Riviera, then up the "1000 steps" to a great view of the city and harbor. Return via Las Tunas Rd. Some steep sections. Moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 966-6589 (SB)

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



It was very much a family affair during a recent outing to Tangerine Falls, and "the highlight was having four kids along ... they found a beautiful set of caves I never had seen hiking there," said hike leader and photographer Robert Bernstein.

June 8
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 9am to walk to Emma Wood and trail to beach. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270. (VEN)

June 10
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 5:30 P.M. at the west end of Avenida de Los Arboles. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

June 12
UPPER NEWTON CANYON - CASTRO PEAK: Moderate 8 mrt hike. 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 not later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

SUMMER POTLUCK AND PICTURE SHOW: The Cameron Center 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

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.

TRAVEL ALERT

If you are travelling around the country and want to find outings and activities of other Sierra Club chapters, go to:

<http://vault.sierraclub.org/activities>

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 27-28
MT. SILLIMAN BACKPACK (11,188'): Starting Saturday morning from Lodgepole Springs in Sequoia National Park, we'll enjoy a moderate paced 3.5 mile, 2000' gain day that will be mixed trail and cross-country, before a relaxing evening next to

continued next page

Outings...continued

dish and favorite drink for a Summer Celebration. Come early (6:30pm) to help setup. The party will start at 7pm. Directions: Go south on Lynn Road (over the 101 Freeway) to the traffic light at Greenmeadow Drive. Turn left, go to the end of street, turn left into driveway and follow to Cameron Center parking lot. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

June 13
LANG RANCH PARKWAY: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600' 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 5:30pm. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

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

June 14
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 455-4212 (SB)

June 15
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am behind Ventura city hall (upper parking lot) to hike on new trail, going to cross. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270. (VEN)

June 16-18
MOUNT SAN JACINTO BACKPACK: From top of Palm Springs Tram (elev. 8,600') pack in two miles to Round

Valley Campground (elev. 9,200') with piped spring water and pit toilets. There are many possible day hikes for Wednesday. Some of us will go 8 mrt to San Jacinto Peak (elev. 10,834'). Hike out to tram and drive home Thursday. Permits are required well in advance (\$5 per person). Call or email HUGH WARREN 341-6295, hiker@hkwarren.net (CJ)

EAVESDROPS

"Giving access to others is a fitting memory to him."
~ Karin Dron, wife of the late Boyd Dron, who recently donated an important easement that completes the final section of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Fuelbreak Road Trail.

June 19
ROMERO CANYON LOOP - 2 hikes: Longer hike: 11 mrt, 2400 ft gain in a figure 8 loop (Phil) Shorter hike: 5mrt, 1100ft gain in a one-way loop (Lora) For both hikes the trail begins with an uphill on a fire road with numerous overlooks of the Pacific Ocean above Summerland/Montecito, SW of Santa Barbara. The two hikes split when shorter hike drops down a shaded trail back to the start. The longer hike continues up the fire road to the water tank for lunch, where you have stunning 360 degree views of the area. The long hike then continues back downhill by trail to the same trail that the short hike took down the shaded canyon. Because of limited parking on Bella Vista Drive, plan to carpool from Ventura. Meet at 8am in the Carrows parking lot off Seaward and Harbor Blvd. Park along Harbor Blvd. Wear hiking boots, bring 2 to 3 liters of water, 10 essentials, and snack/lunch. Also sunscreen, hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat cancels

(above 85F). PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

June 19
LA JOLLA VALLEY - LEADER'S CHOICE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike to Simi Peak and beyond. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 19-24
COYOTE GULCH BACKPACK: Backpack 30 miles through some of the best of Utah's red rock, with sheer high-walled canyons and cathedral-like campsites. Trip starts with obtaining permits at the Escalante visitor center. 4-5 miles of travel each day. Most of the hike is moderate, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. One steep trail to bypass waterfalls. There are side trips so bring a small day pack. This is the warm season, but usually quite pleasant. Trip details and agenda available on sign-up. Limit 12. Leader: DAVID HARDY, email preferred, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826. (S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

June 20
FRANKLIN TRAIL: We'll hike to the Duca Family bench on the newly-opened phase 2 section. From this bench, we will have a panoramic view of the Carpinteria Valley. This is a moderate-strenuous 6.4 mrt with an elevation gain of 1260'. Very little shade on the trail so bring lots of water and sun protection plus a light lunch. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

June 21
MONTECITO PEAK - ANNUAL SUNSET HIKE: Celebrate Summer Solstice with a late afternoon hike up a steep peak for a panoramic view of the South Coast. Enjoy a sunset

supper. Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lots of water, supper, flashlight. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 5pm. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

June 22
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View at 9am to do circle hike to the creek and horse stables. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 26
SIMI PEAK - LEADER'S CHOICE: Moderate 8 mrt hike to Simi Peak and beyond. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 27
SAN ANTONIO CREEK TRAIL:

Birds in Art
On view June 13 – August 10, 2015

wildling museum
museum of art & nature
www.wildlingmuseum.org
805-688-1082
Corner of 5th Street and Mission Drive in Solvang

Shop local art and gifts

Blue Heron, Oil on linen panel by Frank LaLumia, 2014

Dry forest sparks fire restrictions

Due to extremely dry vegetation and an increasing fire danger, Los Padres National Forest officials announced that Level III fire restrictions are now in effect until further notice..

It means that all wood and charcoal fires (including cigarettes) are prohibited in all areas of the Forest except for designated campfire use sites. Permits are needed for those who use portable stoves and lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel. Those permits are available free at:

www.preventwildfireca.org

Other details are available at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf>

Emigrant Trail. Primitive camping, bring all supplies and a shovel for personal needs. Possible Ham Radio License Class. 7/3 is a legal holiday, can't waste a long weekend. Leader is very familiar with the area! Sign-up after 6/15. DAVID BOOK, 775-843-6443. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

July 4
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. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

July 5
MORE MESA: Morning loop walk around this extensive coastal bluff. Children welcome. Slow paced 2-3 *continued next page*

crocs). Ages 10+ recommended. No dogs please. Meet at south end of Mission Rock Road at the gate posted with The Nature Conservancy sign near Pick the Part, 936 Mission Rock Road, Santa Paula 93060 Directions: Hwy 126 E to Briggs Rd exit, right on Pinkerton, left on Mission Rock Road and go straight to gate. BE SURE TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE GATE WITH NO MORE TURNS. NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

June 29
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am in Port Hueneme, corner of Park and Bard to walk to the lighthouse. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270. (VEN)

July 3
TWIN FORKS SCENIC TOUR: Moderate 6-mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of about 700 feet. We'll hike from the Piedra Blanca trailhead (end of Rose

Valley Road, off Hwy 33), pass through majestic 100-foot-high white rock formations, then into the Piedra Blanca Creek watershed and on to Twin Forks camp. You'll see spectacular scenery and Chumash pictographs too! Bring at least 2 liters of water, hat, sunglasses, lunch and the other 10 essentials. Meet at 8:30am at Seaward carpool lot in Ventura (near Carrows). Adventure Pass needed for each car. For more info, contact TERESA at 524-7170. (VEN)

July 3-5
FOURTH OF JUPLAYA, BLACK ROCK DESERT: This will be a really busy weekend on the Playa as many Burning Man attendees use this as a shakedown for Burning Man. No specific plans but we'll probably meet in Reno Thursday evening and head up to the Black Rock and camp on the edge of the Playa. We'll probably visit area hot springs and the

Outings...continued

Silliman Creek. Early Sunday, we day hike up some granite friction slabs to enjoy a festive lunch on the summit after 3.5 miles, 2400' gain. We'll return to break camp and head back to trailhead to enjoy the Sequoias, earth's largest living things. Comfort with class 2 rock important. Email info w/recent experience to Ldr: MARC "ROADKILL" HERTZ at Marc.Hertz@Sierraclub.org. (VEN)

June 28
GAVIOTA PEAK/NICHOLS ADOBE SITE: Strenuous 8.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200. Eye popping views up and down the coast. We will ascend the fire road to the saddle and continue east along the top of the mountains toward the old Nichols Adobe site. We return via Trespass trail for the stunning views. Experienced and Intermediate hikers only. -18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks, sun protection, and personal first aid. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME. KRISTI, email: myomy.design@cox.net (SB)

SUMMER STROLL THE SANTA CLARA RIVER BANK TO BANK: 9am-11am. Cool your heels in the Santa Clara River on a hot summer day. We'll be hiking flat trails in a 1,000+ acre parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy along the Santa Clara River banks. This area is planned as part of the not-too-distant public Santa Clara River Parkway. Come learn how you can help make it happen sooner rather than later. Approximate distance 2.5 mi (total) with no elevation gain. Expect two shin-deep river crossings and some dusty hot trail areas. Bring water, snacks, sun protection, and wear supportive shoes. Water crossing shoes optional (such as rubber booties or



The fog initially made an outing up Rocky Pine ridge mysterious and cool ... that happens a lot on Sierra Club outings. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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New SB hike website debuts

Longtime local author and outdoor enthusiast Ray Ford has unveiled a brand new website that he describes as the most complete guide to getting outdoors in Santa Barbara County:

www.sboutdoors.com

“I’ve included pretty much everything I’ve ever written — day hikes and town walks, beach walks, mountain bike and road rides,” Ford said, “and the goal is to keep adding more every day.” Plans include adding backcountry overnights, trail runs and equestrian rides, among others.

The website has been in development for more than a year. “A really cool website caught my attention,” Ford remembers. “It was called *Hike Los Padres*, sponsored by the Los Padres Forest Association (www.hikelospadres.com) and the format was perfect for

what I was looking for.”

Ford called the author, John Ziegler, a local Carpinteria web designer. “I asked him if it would be possible to build a companion site to HLP that could focus on the stuff I’d put together over the years. The answer was yes, and SB Outdoors quickly began to take shape.”

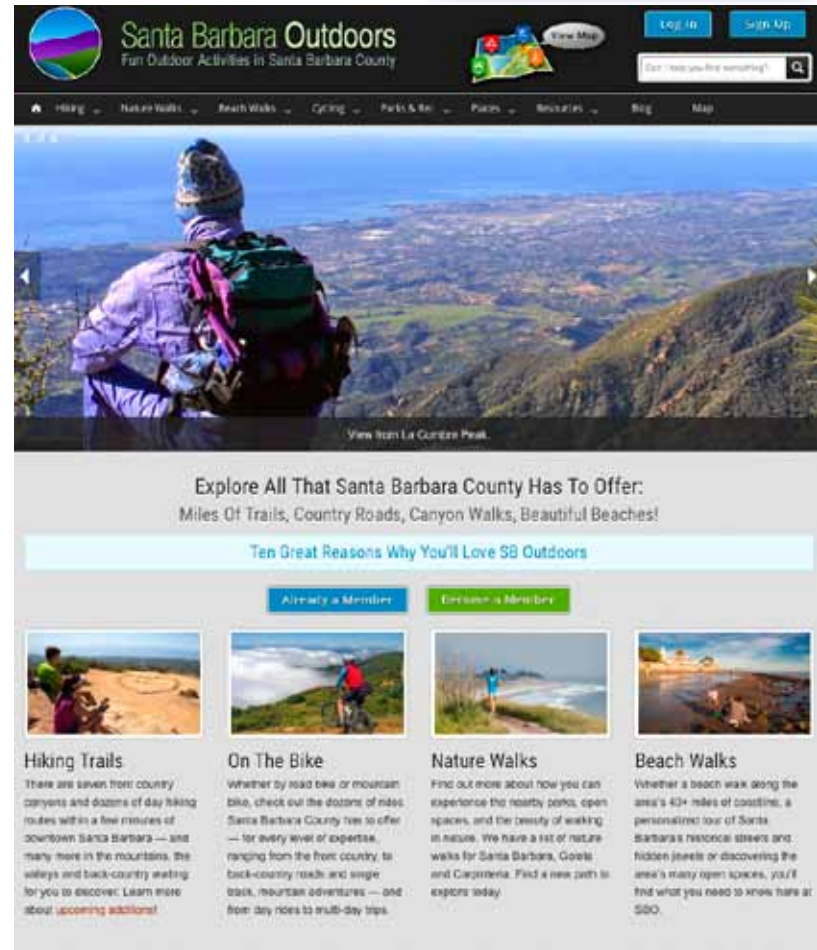
It turned out, however, that getting more than 200 hikes, rides and walks up on the site took a lot more time than anticipated. “We not only wanted to develop a dynamic site with really good tools to filter outings by type, region, difficulty or distance,” Ford said, “but there was a lot of information for each of the outings we needed to generate.”

The result is a useful library of resources for most anything outdoors in the County. The site provides two ways to access

information: through use of pull down menus by activity type; and a full-featured online map that allows you to zoom in and then click and go directly to any of the more than 200 outings and places, including mountain peaks, springs, wilderness camps and the like ... no small challenge to compile.

The map page is particularly useful because you can see what is available where you want to go. You can also choose from a variety of base maps and routes by activity type. One cool feature is that right-clicking on any spot on the map brings up its GPS coordinates.

Both Ziegler and Ford encourage users to let them know about any hits and misses. “There is still a lot we need to do and any feedback is appreciated,” Ford said. To check out the site go to www.sboutdoors.com



Outings...continued

miles or so. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State Street at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

July 6
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Bates Beach at 9am for long beach walk and some uphill. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270. (VEN)

July 10-13
NEVADA WILDERNESS SERVICE: Savor summer in eastern Nevada's scenic Highland Ridge Wilderness, just south of Great Basin National Park. We camped there among the aspens 3 years ago and once again partner with BLM's Ely office wilderness staff on useful service in

a fine mountain wilderness. Join us! Details on specific work later. Central commissary offered. Contact VICKY HOOVER, 415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. (CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

July 11
RINCON TO CARPINTERIA HIKE: We'll start from Rincon Beach Park, hike a bluff trail above the beach with great views of the Channel Islands. After crossing the railroad tracks, we'll ascend to the Carpinteria Bluff Trail, following it to the seal viewing overlook. Lunch at Tarpits Park. Return by the beach if the tide is favorable. 4mrt, easy to moderate. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

July 18
ROMERO CANYON/ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Strenuous hike up to a ridge line with the most gorgeous views in SB, Old Island View trail to an OHV road and Juncal, looping back to Romero, 12 miles rt, 3000' gain, about 5-6 hours at a moderate pace with several steep spots and some minor height exposure. Experienced and Intermediate hikers only. -18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks, sun protection, and personal first aid. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI, email: myomy.design@cox.net (SB)

July 19
McMENEMY TRAIL: Hike from San Ysidro trail to Saddle Rock overlook,

The home page of www.sboutdoors.com a labor of love for Ray Ford, a long-time outdoor writer, hiker, mountain bike rider and overall forest enthusiast. He decided to put all his work into a website, now open to the public.

then back by dirt road to starting point. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)
UPDATED OUTINGS FOR CONDOR CALL: Group outings chairpersons: please send any additional or updated outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

July 24
SOLSTICE CANYON - moderate hike in Santa Monica Mountains 8 miles rt with some good up and down elevation gain in a beautiful valley

just off the Pacific Ocean. Bring 2 to 3 liters of water and a lunch or snack for when we reach the top of the trail. Wear lug soled boots and bring the 10 essentials. We will be meeting at the Carrows parking lot off Seaward and Harbor Blvd at 8am. Sunscreen, hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat cancels (above 85F). PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

July 24-26
BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST: Escape the summer heat. Come

continued next page



Ranger Heidi Anderson's account: "Rainy and cold at Rose Valley today, May 8. On the way back to Ojai, these Matilija poppies caught my eye! Still a lot of flowers out on many of the trails."

Outings...continued

to the beautiful White Mountains to camp, hike and just relax. On Saturday, we'll visit the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, home to the oldest living things on Earth, to do a moderate 5-mile round trip interpretive hike, followed by a picnic lunch. At camp we'll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast and a campfire. Sunday head home. Trip open to Sierra Club members and non-members. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. (Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

July 25
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL CANINE HIKE: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 4 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 Bank of America parking lot at 3790 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)

VENTURA BEACH HIKE: 10am. 5 mile hike in sand from Channel Islands NPS Headquarters to area south of the Santa Clara River. Meet at Channel Islands NPS. Bring water and snacks. No reservation needed and no limit. KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (VEN)

July 25-26
SIRETTA PEAK BACKPACK (9977): Saturday morning we set out 1.5 miles, 500' gain, 700' loss in the Sierra National Forest, then Sunday we day hike cross-country 2.5 mi., 1300' gain to the Peak where we celebrate with lunch. Afterwards we hike back to our tents etc. & backpack out. Email info w/recent experience to Ldr: MARC "ROADKILL" HERTZ at

Marc.Hertz@Sierraclub.org. (VEN)

July 26
SAN YSIDRO MUTLI-TRAILS: Hike up San Ysidro, over to Cold Springs, down to Hot Springs to a primitive trail to Saddle Rock and McMenemy trails. Bring lunch and at least two liters of water. Strenuous 12 mrt. Prepare for an all-day adventure. This hike is not suitable for beginners or people with health issues. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

August 1
PARMA PARK LOOP: A pleasant four mile morning hike through Santa Barbara's largest and least used park. Dirt roads and primitive trails, sometimes steep. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

August 2
CATHEDRAL PEAK DRAGON BACK: Start at Tunnel Trailhead toward Seven Falls. Make steep climb to the base of the Cathedral Peak Spine. Moderate but difficult 4 Mile Round Trip. Possible 1200 foot gain with lots of boulder hopping. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

August 8
HENDRY'S BEACH/DOUGLAS FAMILY PRESERVE: Morning stroll along the beach then up the steps and back through the park completing the loop. Children welcome. Bring water and a snack. Slow paced 2 to 3 miles. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

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. Please do not come on this hike if you're not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

August 14-16
PERSEID METEOR SHOWER CAMPOUT IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT: New moon will mean great stars and meteor watching. We'll be camped mid-Playa about 102 miles north of Reno but with portable toilets. We'll probably visit hot springs, and the Emigrant Trail, among others. And watch out for Hams on the Playa, they'll be there too. Be sure to bring your radio. For more info and GPS location go to www.blackrockdesert.org. There'll also be a map and directions in the Friends of Black Rock Desert office

Outdoor trail guides: SB & Ventura

Hiking is such a popular activity in our Los Padres Chapter region (Santa Barbara and Ventura) that many sites offer information. They include:

www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf/

Official Los Padres Forest website details all kinds of recreation.

www.hikelospadres.com

Los Padres Forest Association's Trail Guide.

<http://santabarbaratrailguide.com>

The Sierra Club's official guide for Santa Barbara trails that includes our free outings, plus news, photos and club links. Established in 1986 as a book,

now online.

<http://www.independent.com/news/outdoors/day-hikes>

Newsy site for day hikes by the Santa Barbara Independent.

www.sboutdoors.com

Trails, news, photos written and compiled by Ray Ford.

www.santabarbarahikes.com

An interactive site and blog by Diane Soini.

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/vcs-outdoors/trail-guide>

Sponsored by the VC Star newspaper.

www.VenturaCountyTrails.org

Includes news and links by Steve.

EAVESDROPS
"Wolves are very resourceful. All they need to survive is for people not to shoot them."

~Bob Ferris, conservationist who helped bring wolves back to Yellowstone and Idaho.

on Main in Gerlach. DAVID BOOK, 775-843-6443. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

August 15
EL CAPITAN CYN: Join us for a moderate 4mrt loop (600i elevation gain/loss) for an overlook hike of El Capitan Cyn. We'll use the trailhead just outside of the Ocean Meadows campground. We'll head down into the canyon and take the short Selma Rubin trail to the organic gardens, then hike to the Paradise Picnic area on the eastern ridge. From there, we'll follow the Bill Wallace

continued next page

Outings...continued

trail, looping back to the canyon bottom. After lunch, we'll cross the creek and continue up the Bill Wallace trail to the western ridge and eventually back to our starting point. Bring a water, a light lunch and sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

August 16

THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock

EAVESDROPS

"The Pope's edict on climate change... is primarily political and economic rather than spiritual . . . I believe this perspective of the Pontiff debases his genuine authority by delving into popular notions of politicized junk science."

~ Andy Caldwell of the right wing CoLAB (Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business) writing in an op-ed in the **Santa Barbara News-Press**. CoLAB is active in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

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)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2015 thru January 2016 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

August 22

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)

August 22-23

NORTH MAGGIE MTN BACKPACK (10,234'): Join us for a casual ramble from Mountain Home State Park into the west side of the Golden Trout Wilderness, Southern Sierra. This is an easy-paced outing with opportunities for fishing and exploration. Saturday, we'll hike in to Maggie Lakes (4 miles, 1000' gain). In the afternoon we'll have leisure time to fish and explore Peck's Cabin. Sunday we'll head for a day hike up North Maggie Mountain (5 miles total, 3400') before breaking camp and packing out (4 miles, 1000' loss). Email info w/recent experience to Ldr: MARC "ROADKILL" HERTZ at Marc.Hertz@Sierraclub.org. (VEN)

August 23

URBAN HIKE TO FRANCHESCI



A wonderful vista of the coast up and down from Carpinteria and the islands are a just reward for those hiking up into Phase Two of the Franklin Trail. (Photo by Gerry Ching)

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)

Help EDC save coast

No thanks to the Refugio oil spill, it's more important than ever to attend the Environmental Defense Center's annual fundraising event, "Green & Blue: A Coastal Celebration."

It will be from 2 – 5:30pm on Sunday, June 7 at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, 304 N. Los Carneros Rd, Goleta.

For details, go to:

www.EDCnet.org



Beverly Ching takes advantage of the comfort afforded by the Ducas Family bench along the Franklin Trail, another portion of which has opened up recently. We have an outing going up the trail to the bench on June 20, details in the Outings list. (Photo by Gerry Ching)

Carp trail extended

By Gerry Ching

Phase Two of the Franklin Trail from Carpinteria to the Los Padres National Forest is now open.

The second phase was opened to the public in mid-May, adding over three miles to the initial two miles of Phase One, which was opened in November 2013.

The historic Franklin Trail is being reclaimed by a coalition of Santa Barbara County groups in three phases. The first two phases involved establishing easements through private land. The 2.7 mile third phase (not yet opened) involves opening up the original route through Los Padres National Forest land. This last phase is probably the toughest to accomplish as the original route was overgrown and all but impassable.

Phase Two begins at the gate at the end of Phase One where a water dish for your best four-legged hiking

companion has been placed next to the gate. The route travels about 3.5 miles up fire roads, gaining an additional 1060 feet of elevation. Hiking the two sections now totals 5.2 miles and over 1700 foot elevation gain.

Hiking the two segments involves a moderate-strenuous hike due to the cumulative elevation gain of almost 2400 ft. and a round-trip distance of 10.4 miles. Be sure to allow enough time (about six hours) and take plenty of water and sun protection as there is little available shade.

For those that would like a more moderate hike, consider a 6.4 round trip hike to the Ducas Family bench. A Santa Barbara Group hike to the bench is scheduled in mid-June.

More information about the Franklin Trail can be obtained at www.franklintrail.org



Where the oil met the ocean, vicinity of Refugio State Beach. © 2015, Reeve Woolpert, thegavitoacoast.com

REFUGIO OIL SPILL

MAY 19, 2015



Coal Oil Point was closed temporarily, Refugio & El Capitan indefinitely. Photo by Robert Bernstein



Big rally May 31 to SB beach emphasized alternate energies



Trained clean-up workers bagged oil in both SB and Ventura counties. © By Shaw Leonard www.GaviotaMovie.com



Before clean-up, oil spoiled beaches (above and below photos © By Shaw Leonard www.GaviotaMovie.com)



Huge clean-up efforts by nearly 1,000 people. © By Shaw Leonard www.GaviotaMovie.com



Oily bag toss at Coal Oil Point Photo by Robert Bernstein

