

Vol.'15, No. 5 of 6

Journal of Los Padres Charter Sierra Club

Condor Call

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties

© Photo of Tarn by Jinoak Chung, see page 6

October - November 2015



© Photo by Shaw Leonard www.GaviotaMovie.com

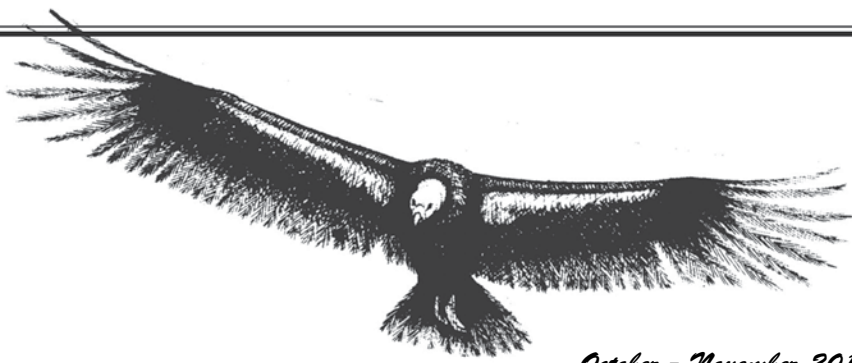
IN THIS ISSUE: Celebrate 2 ... Sneaky folk 3... Outings 4+ ... Gorgonio 6 ... Endorsements 7 & more



Have you seen these Condor Call issues? If not, we don't have your email address and you're missing out. Send it to Condor John, editor at CondorJohn@gnusman.com

Condor Call

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



October - November 2015

State of chapter is a busy slate

By John Hankins
Editor, Condor Call

Lately, the chapter's Executive Committee was busy working up a State-of-the-Chapter document for review by National, which includes questions on our major priorities and objectives, political actions and endorsements, partnerships with other groups, events and outreach.

Compiling a lot of input, the ExCom reiterated its major priorities of opposing oil and gas development in favor of alternative sources, additional protections for the forest and ocean, restoration of the Santa Clara River and Ormond Beach areas (Ventura County), opposing leap-frog development along the

Gaviota Coast (Santa Barbara County) and actively supporting and endorsing environmental candidates.

In the course of compiling the information, the ExCom noted the chapter has ongoing relations with at least 20 environmental groups and about a half-dozen with outdoor recreation organizations. These range from the legal arm represented by the Environmental Defense Center to wilderness groups, marine sanctuaries and climate change activists. Local organizations range from Audubon to SB-CAN in Santa Barbara County and the Environmental Coalition in Ventura County.

Actions taken over the summer represent such activism. Key votes included:

~ Approved a grant application to help maintain and repair three trails, the Condor, Backbone and Scenic Overlook trails. (See story on page 2)

The chapter also supported designating the Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains as a National Recreation Trail, which is an upgrade in status and potential funding.

~ Supported HR 3153, the Castaic Wilderness and St Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act of 2015.

continued on page 2

EAVESDROP

"This is a major victory in our efforts to protect the lives of our endangered marine mammals".

~ Referring to President Obama's directive that the Navy reduce sonar testing by 80 percent off the SoCal coast, a campaign that the national Sierra Club said was started right here in the Los Padres Chapter, notably by our own Ventura Conservation Chair Jim Hines. A petition begun here attracted 6 million signatures from around the nation.

To change everything, it takes everyone

The People's Climate Movement and environmental groups including the Sierra Club have designated October 14 as a National Day of Action ahead of international climate negotiations this December in Paris.

The motto is: "To Change Everything it Takes Everyone... Everywhere."

Hundreds of events will be organized by local grassroots climate advocates in cities and towns throughout the nation under the umbrella of the Movement, which coordinated last year's historic march of over 400,000.

So far locally on Oct. 14 is a Central Coast Sustainability Summit taking place at UCSB with many of the local environmental players. Keynote speaker is a retired Navy Rear Admiral followed by panel discussion hosted by Rep. Lois Capps (3:30pm). For details:

www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/centralcoastsummit

November 30 leading up to the December 11th Paris Climate Conference, there will be a range of actions and opportunities. Sign up for updates at: [#ActinParis](https://twitter.com/ActinParis)

The National Day of Action



Our new Outings Chair Stephen Bryne may sometimes be hard to find as he treks into the wilds on Hundred Peaks and Wilderness Basics trips, but that's his strength, passing on his expertise learned on the land to others. See his account about the "San Geronio Greats" on page 6. (Photo by Catherine Rossbach)

New outings guy got grit

Stephen Bryne is the Los Padres Chapter's new Outings Chair, but he rarely sits in one.

The Sierra Club's outings are perhaps the most popular activity, hosting literally hundreds of free hikes each year. Mike Stubblefield has done an amazing job as Outings Chair the past few years, inheriting it from Teresa Norris.

"Stephen Bryne has the complete package of skills -- intellectual, organizational, physical and professional -- that I've been looking for in a replacement," Stubblefield said.

"I cannot speak highly enough about this guy."

Stubblefield decided to step down "because of the increasing demands on my time imposed by an increasingly heavy burden working on air quality, fracking, water, Ormond Beach, and a host of related issues, both locally and with the statewide Sierra Club California Energy/Climate Committee."

Bryne took our club's Wilderness Basics Course and immediately assumed all sorts of responsibilities helping WBC, including leading WBC and chapter hikes. He also works maintaining trails in remote regions and is an avid bicyclist both on- and off-road.

An anthropologist by

training, he works as a cultural resources and environmental resources field worker for a large planning firm. He is out in the field on federal lands for days, even weeks sometimes, gathering data on desert tortoises or Native American burial sites.

He is a member of the Hundred Peaks Section of the Sierra Club and is one of the very few hikers who participates in "hybrid" outings that involve some mountain biking to remote trail heads where the hiking begins.

"Stephen and I are both looking forward to introducing these hybrid hikes to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to attract new outings participants," Stubblefield said.

website is:

<http://peoplesclimate.org>

Major Sierra Club events and engagements are planned throughout the nation; contact maura.cowley@sierraclub.org

COVER PHOTO

A straight-laced wave along the Gaviota Coast, lapping upon a land besieged by a recent oil spill and pressure from ongoing leap-frog development projects. Lately there's good news, the beaches are cleaned-up and the Las Varas project denied (story on page 3) ... and the Gaviota Movie is moving toward completion! (© Photo by Shaw Leonard www.GaviotaMovie.com)



See statements page 7

**WE ENDORSE
for November ballot**

SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL

- ✓ **ANDRIA COHEN**
- ✓ **CATHY MURILLO**

Oil's past and future a haunting, daunting task

By Fran Farina

Sierra Club continues to be actively involved with multiple oil issues both locally and in Sacramento. Here's the latest:

~ Three major bills that were introduced after the Refugio Oil Spill await Gov. Brown's signature.



Senate Bill 295 requires annual oil pipeline inspections by the State Fire Marshal. SB 414 seeks to make oil spill response faster and more effective. Both bills are by Senator Jackson. Assembly Bill 864 introduced by Das Williams requires an operator of an oil pipeline along coastal and ecologically sensitive areas to use the best achievable technology including automatic shutoff systems to reduce the amount of oil released

in an oil spill.

Also, SB 788 by Sen. McGuire to protect California's coast from new offshore oil development near Vandenberg Air Force Base died in an Assembly committee. However, McGuire promises to continue with this effort and -- perhaps because of the nationwide publicity about the spill last May -- VAFB has decided not to proceed with any oil exploration activity "at this time."

~ Summerland Beach was the first area in California with offshore oil drilling. Dating from the late 1880s and without any governmental regulation, over 400 wells were drilled and abandoned. These legacy wells have caused repeated problems with leaks that the State Lands Commission has addressed over time but never in a comprehensive manner.

During this summer, the episodes became more frequent

to the point where County Health Department closed the beach! We have been working with local residents to file incident reports that resulted in the Commission authorizing some preliminary funding to identify the location of one of the known wells and assess the cost of remediation, expected in October. Supervisor Salud Carbajal and staff were helpful in marshalling

continued on page 3

State of...

continued from page 2

The dam, built in San Francisquito Canyon north of present day Saugus, broke in 1928 and killed 431 people in the Santa Clara River Valley mostly downstream in Ventura County.

Submitted by Rep. Steve Knight (R-Santa Clarita), the major theme interpretation will be on the impact from one of the largest manmade disasters in California and on the Ventura county communities of Piru, Fillmore and Santa Paula.

It would also protect the 70,000 acre Castaic Wilderness area in the northern Angeles National Forest.

~ Actively supported funding a feasibility study for Community Choice Energy in the tri-counties area. Also backed tougher regulations on oil development. (See story on page 1 & 3)

~ On the marine front, supported limits on Navy sonar use off the SoCal coast and supported gill net ban. It also reiterated support for the proposed Chumash Marine Sanctuary, now under study.

~ Backed a bill (AB 1213) that would prohibit commercial trapping of bobcats and sale of their pelts statewide, instead of a current ban in only selected areas.

~ Supported Sierra Club California in its efforts for a complete ban on clearcutting for timber statewide.

~ Joined the Santa Barbara County Chaparral Coalition and saw its first victory in the county declaring an ecosystem in East Goleta Valley as an "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area."



While all good things like the Environmental Defense Center's TGIF come to an end (there's one more this season on Oct. 9) it's only seasonal; it'll be back again next year. Our Sierra Club helped sponsor two TGIFs this year. (Photo by Elisabeth Lamar)

Happy hours at TGIF

By Elisabeth Lamar
Chair, Vta Network

If you've never been to the Environmental Defense Center's TGIF event before, happy hour in the courtyard is truly a magical place.

Sept. 11th was my first time, and boy it was special: the Ventura Sierra Club proudly sponsored the event, which is held four times per year. The Los Padres Chapter also sponsored one of this year's TGIFs.

Beautiful trees dotted the urban landscape while activists and local politicians alike boozed and schmoozed under their shade. Music by the Montecito Jazz Proj-

ect tickled our ears and devoted volunteers served delicious pasta and bruschetta, wine and beer donated by local stores.

Many Ventura Network members were in attendance and charming EDC executive director Owen Bailey, was the EmCee. I took the stage to give a brief introduction of the club and Nina Danza spoke about the Santa Clara River.

There is one more TGIF left this season: Friday Oct. 9th, EDC Courtyard, 906 Garden Street from 5:30 to 7:30pm,

\$15, includes 2 drink tickets and hors d'oeuvres

Trail grants pursued

The Los Padres Chapter is supporting three trails within our region in applying for grants from the national Sierra Club.

The grants are part of the Club's Nearby Nature initiative that includes the Trails Connecting People with Nature campaign, which invites other groups to partner with the Club.

The chapter has supported grants for these trails:

~ Backbone Trail (SMMNRA) proposal by our Wilderness Basics Course Chair Teresa Norris with the Santa Monica Mountains Fund. It will contribute to restoring native habitat along the trail which will help stabilize and sustain it. It uses the "COCOON," a low cost, biodegradable "pot" that enables a tree or plant to grow in arid conditions without frequent watering.

~ Scenic Overlook Trail (Pt Mugu State Park) proposal suggested by Mike Stubblefield of the Chapter's ExCom, for critical maintenance on the Class 1 trail subject to high use. Repairs include replacing the stream crossing steps and reconstructing stairs and waterbars on the hillside.

~ Condor Trail proposal in concert with the Condor Trail Association. The Los Padres Chapter officially supports making the route a National Recreation Trail in our Central Coast Heritage Protection Act legislation currently before Congress. Repairs and signage would be enhanced by the grant.

See condors

To commemorate National Wildlife Refuge Week, Friends of Condors Wild and Free will be hosting driving field trips to the Hopper Mountain Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, Oct. 17, and the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge on the following Saturday, October 24.

Reservations for these tours are on a first come first served basis, and as space is limited for both events, reserve your place ASAP.

Full details with itinerary and travel arrangements will be emailed. However, as in the past, the Hopper Mountain group will meet at 8am in Fillmore, with the tour concluding at 3pm, and the Bitter Creek Group meeting at 10am at the junction of Hwy 166 and the Hudson Ranch Road, tour concluding also at 3pm.

Please RSVP with your email address and phone number via email to: tours@friendsofcondors.org.

Los Padres Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Executive 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 hkwarren.net
~ Web: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo
~ Outings: 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.

VENTURA NETWORK

~ 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: www.facebook.com/pages/Ventura-Sierra-Club/152441931434825
~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura
~ Regular board meetings 1st Wed monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Call Nina Danza to confirm at 901-1679.

VENTURA SIERRA CLUB

A must party Oct. 17

The Ventura Sierra Club will celebrate fall with an Oktoberfest party at Camp Comfort near Ojai on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 - 5pm. All Sierra Club members and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

The Club will grill hot dogs for its guests and will also provide condiments, drinks, paper plates, cups, napkins and plastic eating utensils. People who wish beer or wine should bring their own.

In addition to good food and good fellowship, the party will feature a program on monarch butterflies presented by Juliana Danaus, director of the Ojai Monarch Butterfly Way Station.

Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a raffle for some environmentally themed gifts. Any profits will support the Ventura Sierra Clubs environmental work.

Each attendee or couple should bring a dish to share with four or five other guests, plus appropriate serving utensils. German cuisine, such as sauerkraut or German potato salad, is encouraged but not mandatory.

If your surname begins with

the letters 'A' - 'G' bring a dessert; 'H' - 'M' bring hors d'oeuvres; 'N' - 'R' bring salad; and 'S' through 'Z' a vegetable dish. The Club will have a limited number of coolers available; bring your own if needed.

To help defray costs, the Club is requesting a \$7 donation per adult guest and \$4 for each child under 12 years. Because Camp Comfort charges \$4 per vehicle for parking on weekends, partygoers are urged to carpool.

To reach Camp Comfort take Highway 33 towards Ojai and look for the Camp Comfort sign on the right-hand side of the road just past Rancho Arnez and turn right onto Creek Road (not Old Creek Road) and follow it for about four miles to the entrance at 11969 North Creek.

For more information, call Carol Marsh at (805) 984-3590, or contact her by E-mail at CleoCAM1776@aol.com. Also contact Carol if you are willing to help with setting up before the party, cooking the hot dogs, or cleaning up in the evening.

This party should be a lot of fun! Please come and bring your friends.

New MeetUp a hit!

If you build it will they come? Well if it is a webpage offering nearby hikes, get-togethers, and environmental volunteering, yes they will ... and did. Ventura Sierra Club launched its official meetup group under new administration on September 15 and within 72 hours of opening over 100 folks signed up. You can to, at: <http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura>

Seems there was an unmet demand ... the meetup group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Ease

into fitness at beginner walks, get going on intermediate half or whole day hikes, or make new friendships on overnight backpacks.

Want to volunteer for the environment? Check out the service activities! There are beach/river clean ups, trail repair, native plant restorations and more. The Ventura Sierra Club covers the areas of Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Somis, El Rio, Port Hueneme, and all the little places in between. Try it, you'll like it!

~ By Nina Danza

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

Parties Oct. 18, Dec. 12

Mark your calendars for upcoming Santa Barbara Group events:

~ Harvest Breakfast, bring something to share at this free breakfast and guided beach walk at Shoreline Park starting 9am Sunday, Oct. 18.

~ Annual Holiday Party, potluck and speakers 6pm Saturday, Dec. 12 at Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara.

Keep apprised of events on Facebook or: www.SBSierraClub.org

Condor Call

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 805 area code

EDITOR: 'Condor' John Hankins, 452-2885

260 Pacos St. Ventura CA 93001 • CondorJohn@anusman.com

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 contact info above)

Photos, news, tips always welcome!

Sierra Club

• LOS PADRES CHAPTER •

Post Office Box 31241, Santa Barbara, Ca 93130-1241

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

Santa Barbara 965-9719 • Ventura 988-0339

Change of Address: Member Services P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

or address.changes@sierraclub.org or call (415) 977-5653

National Office: (415) 977-5500

85 2nd St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

Washington Office: (202) 547-5550

408 C St., N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002

• Executive Committee •

David Gold (Chair): 642-7748 x6, davidgold4@aol.com

Jim Hines (Vice Chair): 340-9266, jhasitas@gmail.com

Gerry Ching (Secretary): 964-5411, gching@cox.net

Fran Farina (at-large): 681-8822, ffarina@cox.net

Nina Danza (at-large): 901-1679, prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com

Michael Stubblefield (at-large): 216-2630, motodata@roadrunner.com

Jerry Connor (Arguello Group Rep): 928-3598, connor.gd2@verizon.net

Hugh Warren (Conejo Group Rep): 341-6295, mail@hkwarren.net

Katie Davis (Santa Barbara Group Rep): 451-4574, kdavis2468@gmail.com

• Group Chairs •

Arguello: Jerry Connor, 928-3598, connor.gd2@verizon.net

Conejo: Hugh Warren, 341-6295, mail@hkwarren.net

Santa Barbara: Katie Davis, 451-4574, kdavis2468@gmail.com

Ventura Network Liz Lamar, 667-7617, elisabethlamar@hotmail.com

• Club Services •

Forest issues: Jim Hines, 340-9266, jhasitas@gmail.com

Wilderness Basics Course: Teresa Norris, 524-7170, lospadreswbc@gmail.com

Air Quality: Michael Stubblefield, 216-2630, motodata@roadrunner.com

Conservation SB: Jerry Connor, 928-3598, connor.gd2@verizon.net

Conservation VC: Jim Hines, 340-9266, jhasitas@gmail.com

Legal: David Gold, 642-7748 x6, davidgold4@aol.com

Legal (Alt): Fran Farina, 681-8822, ffarina@cox.net

Media Coordinator: Jim Hensley, 794-0517, HensleyJim@roadrunner.com

Outings: Stephen Bryne, 794-1150, scbryne@gmail.com

Political SB: Fran Farina, 681-8822, ffarina@cox.net

Political VC: David Gold, 642-7748 x6, davidgold4@aol.com

Transportation: Michael Chiacos, 284-4179, mchiacos@gmail.com

Treasurer: Richard Hunt, 966-4157, richardhunt@cox.net

Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Oil caught thwarting own climate reports

By Katie Davis
SB Group Chair

On Sept. 9 when news broke that one of the key provisions of state climate bill SB-350 was being axed under pressure from the influential oil lobby, the Director of Sierra Club California, Kathryn Phillips, had this to say:

“The oil industry declared war on humanity more than a decade ago when it led efforts to deny climate change. This year, they have spent untold dollars to try to defeat a reasonable goal to reduce California’s dependence on oil in the transportation sector and continue our transition to cleaner fuels and more choice in travel.”

She has a point. According to a recent *Inside Climate News* report, oil companies have known about the risks of climate change for decades.

“There is general scientific agreement that the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from the burning of fossil fuels,” a senior company scientist named James Black told Exxon’s Management Committee back in July 1977. Exxon conducted early scientific research on climate change and could have used this knowledge to help the world solve this existential challenge. Instead, they have engaged in a long campaign of disinformation and deceit.

It is one thing to pursue oil development, it is quite another to interfere politically to undermine efforts to address climate change. One is just business. The other is a threat to us all.

The failure of the climate bill provision, which would cut petroleum use in half, as well as the failure to extend SB-32, California’s existing greenhouse gas reduction law, illustrates the problem with Gov. Brown’s wish to have it both ways – to increase oil production in the state while also showing climate leadership. The oil industry spent \$38 million for lobbying and campaigns in California in 2014, a 129 % increase from 2013. They are the strongest lobby in Sacramento.

Locally, a resurgent oil industry threatens our political system as well. Since the failure in November 2014 of Measure P, which would have prohibited fracking, applications for new oil wells have been pouring into the county – 855 wells in northern Santa Barbara County alone.

Measure P failed after oil companies spent an unprecedented \$7 million against it and threatened legal action. That threat was false. A nearly identical measure in San Benito County passed, and all legal cases against it have been dropped.

The risks from these new oil projects are not just the damage to our air, water and health, but to our political system. During the last Santa Barbara County Supervisor election, oil interests spent in excess of \$200,000 in

an attempt to unseat Supervisor Janet Wolf. Already, politicians in North County have appointed oil company employees to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Council where the polluters themselves guide regulations on their own industry.

The answer is not to give up, but to get engaged. If oil has declared war on humanity, it is our moral obligation to fight back. And we can win.

Two important climate goals in SB350 – a 50% increase in clean energy and 50% increase in building efficiency – passed the state legislature despite the oil industry’s influence.

In Santa Barbara County we recently set the strictest regulations on greenhouse gas emissions from new oil projects in the state, sent a loud and clear message opposing the expansion of dangerous oil trains and got both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to kick off a study of Community Choice Energy to increase local renewable energy.

As we close out what is likely to be the hottest year on record, we need to do everything we can about the problem. We didn’t choose it, but climate change is the challenge of our time, clean energy is our future, and we can’t let one intransigent industry stand in the way.

Oil update... *continued from page 1*

county assets and facilitating multi-agency meetings.

~ SB Board of Supervisors approved a letter opposing the Phillips 66 Rail Spur project. This completed our local activity in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties securing support from most of our elected officials in opposition to these mile-long trains carrying volatile crude oil. Now the focus shifts to San Luis Obispo County where the decision will be made. We work with our Santa Lucia Chapter on this issue.

Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club on the SB Environmental Coalition, which monitors all energy activity in three counties.



Luckily we have groups and individuals keeping an eye – and lens – on the Gaviota Coast to ensure it doesn’t become another urbanized strip of Beachlandia. Otherwise, the photographer would have less reason to risk climbing that rock for a vantage point of Gaviota’s magic. (© Photo by Shaw Leonard www.GaviotaMovie.com)

Sneaky Naples project denied

In a victory for the coast, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to deny the Las Varas Ranch proposals in September, underscoring the community’s interest in protecting the integrity and natural resources of a working Gaviota Coast ranch. The County Planning Commission had recommended in April that the Board deny the Project.

The project proposed to reconfigure the existing lots on the 1800 acre agricultural Las Varas and Edward’s Ranches and create 2.5 to 5 acre residential “development envelopes” on each lot with driveways and water systems in order to maximize the land’s value for future residential development.

While proponents of the Project argued the lot reconfiguration would not increase development potential, county staff confirmed at the hearing that it would shift residential potential

from the inland side of Highway 101 onto the much more sensitive and valuable coastal zone south of the Highway.

Las Varas Ranch has a significant history, including service as a prisoner of war camp during WW II, with a remnant of the camp’s water tower still visible from Highway 101. The views across the Ranch’s pastoral lands are extraordinary, while the creeks, grasslands and coastline each have high natural resource values.

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

President Phil McKenna said, “this project was insidious, appearing nominal on its face, while in effect paving the way for development of this iconic Gaviota Coast ranch. GCC does not oppose all development, but in this case understood that the Project had the potential to substantially impact the Gaviota Coast and set an adverse precedent ...”

The Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club supported the Conservancy all the way. Website is:

www.GaviotaCoastConservancy.org

Artists & activists join for great event

An important panel discussion on “Saving Naples and the Gaviota Coast” is part of the Center for Lifelong Learning’s curriculum that is open to the public. It starts at 6pm Wednesday, Oct. 13.

The peaceful and rural agricultural land of the Gaviota coast is threatened not only by oil, it’s also threatened by creeping urbanization. This high-level panel will explore the issues and talk about the groups involved in saving it, notably the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Naples Coalition, both of which are supported by the Sierra Club.

Panel members include Environmental Defense Center lead attorney Linda Krop,

attorney Jesse Swanhuysen of Marc Chytilo’s office, Gaviota photographer Reeve Woolpert, and Janet Koed representing the Conservancy and Coalition.

Cost is only \$16 and is through Santa Barbara Community College’s Center for Lifelong Learning at:

<https://thecll.org>

Also hop aboard a Vintage Rail Ride up the Gaviota Coast on Saturday, Nov. 7. This fundraiser features a ride in two restored mid-century railroad cars and will go through Hollister Ranch, Vandenberg Air Force Base and the beautiful Edna Valley. For details, contact Koed at 683-6631 or: www.savenaples.org



Every year the Naples Coalition has a “Paddle for Paradise” fundraising event in October, kayaking off into the deep blue to secluded sands of Naples. (Photo contributed)

Kayaktivists Ask a friend to join

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *SIERRA* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



F94Q W 1000 1

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org



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>

October 7
UPPER SYCAMORE to BONEY RIDGE: Moderately-strenuous 8 mrt with 1500' elev. gain via the old road (an alternate to the Fossil Trail), with return on the Old Cabin Trail. Near the lower end of the Fossil Trail an obscure road, opened up by the 2013 fire, traverses up the south side of Upper Sycamore Canyon. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Satwiwa end parking lot (entrance on Via Goleta on Lynn Road next to Dos Vientos in Newbury Park) at 8am. **HUGH WARREN** 341-6295 (CJ)

October 8-10

Outing Notes

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

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

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

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

Conditions

A number of campgrounds and roads in Los Padres National Forest are closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats and species or are under repair. Before you go into the local backcountry, it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted all are area code 805):

Los Padres National Forest Districts	
Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538
Other Areas	
Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Conejo Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Notes

For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info

There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:

- <http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>
- www.SBSierraClub.org
- www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
- www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
- www.LPForest.org
- www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION: Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful desert National Park by helping to clean up a marijuana grow site in the Hunter Mnt area. 4WD required, possibility of carpooling. Meet Thursday afternoon at the junction of Hwy 190 and the South Saline Valley Road. Work Thur. afternoon and all day Friday. On Sat, either more clean up, or we may be free to enjoy the park. Camping is primitive, bring all the food and water that you need for the weekend, plus a trowel or shovel for personal needs. Leader: **KATE ALLEN**, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 9
PALO COMADO to SIMI PEAK: Moderate 8.5 mrt hike with 1,560' gain to Simi Peak. 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)

October 10
PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **ROBERT 685-1283** (SB)

LANG RANCH PARKWAY: Moderate 6 mrt hike with 1200' elev. gain from end of Lang Ranch Parkway via fire road and Albertson Motorway. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at end of Lang Ranch Parkway off of Westlake Blvd. at 8am. **SUSAN VIVELL** 495-1436 (CJ)

October 11
STEVENS PARK - JESUSITA TRAIL: Hike across meadow and up wooded area to an inspirational view of Santa Barbara. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **TONY 455-4212** (SB)

POINT MUGU-RAY MILLER TRAIL: Moderate 5.5 mile, 910' elevation gain, out-and-back hike out of La Jolla Canyon off the PCH. Great views of the Pacific Ocean and Mugu Rock along the way. We will take the Ray Miller trail to its end at the fire road and return the same way. No shade on this trail, and possibly hiking in elevated temperatures. Meet at the trailhead at 9am. Pay parking in La Jolla

Canyon or free on the PCH. Bring water, snack, and sun protection. Contact **ARTURO** at 469-2245 (texts ok), or neon.peaks@gmail.com (VEN)

October 12
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 9am to walk into Emma Wood Beach and beyond on trail. For more info, call **PAT** at 643-0270. (VEN)

October 12-15
PCT BACKPACK, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: 38 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail, Section M, starting in Sierra City at 4500', highest elev. 7400', northeast of Sacramento, in the Tahoe and Plumas National Forests. Leave Oct 10 to drive and shuttle cars, return Oct 16 approx. Email leader with backpacking experience and/or training and fitness summary. **TERESA:** teresahnorris@earthlink.net (VEN)

October 16
FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderate paced, strenuous 10 mrt hike with 2300' elev. gain. Come explore this newly opened trail in Carpinteria. Meet at Carrows sign off 101 freeway at Seaward exit in Ventura at 8am. **LYNN LIVELY** 256-4106 (CJ)

October 17
ENNISBROOK: Morning walk through this Montecito area with large trees and plants near San Ysidro Creek. Flat, slow paced 2-3 miles. Children welcome, bring water and meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **DAVE** 563-4850 (SB)

POINT DUME to PARADISE COVE - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy to moderate 5 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Lovely beach walk, up a small hill and down stairs to tide pools, and around corners to Paradise Cove and beyond. Tide 4.3' at 9:30am. Tide 5.1' at 12pm. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's on Hampshire Road just before the Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. **LILLIAN TREVISAN** 498-1623 (CJ)

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

October 19
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 9am for low tide

walk into Emma Wood Beach and beyond on trail. For more info, call **PAT** at 643-0270. (VEN)

October 23
CHUMASH TRAIL - LA JOLLA VALLEY - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 9 mrt hike. 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)

October 24
HORN CANYON: Late Fall afternoon day hike. Five miles round trip. Climb 1800' up to The Pines campground, with several creek crossings of beautiful and shady Horn Creek. Bring 10 essentials, at least 2 liters of water, and a good attitude. Meet at 3:30pm at Ojai Rotary Park & Ride near Hwy 150 and 33 (across from Von's Shopping Center) for carpool to trailhead. **STEPHEN BRYNE** 794-1150, or email scbryne@gmail.com for more info. (VEN)

EAVESDROP

"How about if Sheriff's Deputies research the law and enforce it properly, rather than act as free armed guards for millionaires?"

~ Public vs. private beach issue continued by **LA Times** columnist Steve Lopez when deputies were called to a Malibu beach to toss out a Coastal Commission employee and her daughter testing the 'waters' at Escondido Beach (near Geoffrey's). Despite showing the private guard a map proving it was public, the cops were called and insisted she prove it was legal!

OJAI - COZY DELL TRAIL: Moderate 4 mile loop hike consists of some up and down sections with a total elevation gain of about 700 feet. It takes about 2 - 2.5 hours. The trail starts at the west end of Hwy 33 with a sometimes steep and rocky switch-backed climb for 0.8 miles. The trail here has some shade from oak trees. Once on top, the trail opens to wide vistas in several directions. Then we head downhill to the Pratt Trail, which will be the turn-around point. Meet at 9:30am at Ojai Rotary Park & Ride at the intersection of Hwys. 150 and 33 (across from Von's Shopping Center) for carpool to trailhead. After meeting up, we'll drive a short distance to the trailhead on Hwy 33. Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 quarts of water, snacks/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures above 85 degrees cancels. Leaders: **PHILIP** 218-2103 and **LORA** 218-2105 (VEN)

SANTA ROSA TRAIL LOOP - WILDWOOD PARK: Moderately paced 4 mile loop with 600' elev. gain. This route provides great views of both the Conejo and Santa

Rosa Valleys. Bring water and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the west end of Avenida De Los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. **JOHN HOLROYD** 495-6391 (CJ)

October 24 - 25
FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN: Car Camp/day hike in Figueroa Mt. area. Car camp at Figueroa Campground Sat. night Oct. 24. Sun. Oct. 25 moderate day hike on Catway Road towards Zaca Peak, about 10 miles round trip, on graded dirt road. Beautiful views of San Rafael Wilderness. Figueroa Campground is located off Figueroa Mt. Road, in the Los Padres National Forest, about 12 miles NE of Los Olivos. No water (you'll need to bring your own), vault toilets. Happy hour Sat. night with shared potluck. Sun. morning begin hike at 9am, lunch on trail, return to cars mid afternoon. Dog friendly trip. Rain/fire cancels. For more details and to sign up (you must sign up ahead of time), contact leader **SALLY** at 689-7820. (SB)

October 24-25
SERVICE IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS: This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday we will be assisting others cleaning up debris and trash at the Goodwin Ranch, a historic ranch complex maintained by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). We will be car-camping, and Saturday night is a BBQ given for the volunteers by TNC. On Sunday we will tour one or several of the historic, prehistoric, or geologic sites in the Monument with details to be determined by consensus of the group. Limit 10 people. Contact leader **CRAIG DEUTSCHE**, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670, (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 25
FISH CREEK: Long car pool to Nira Camp, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to a small swimming hole. Moderate 9mrt. Bring lunch, snacks, hat, and swimsuit. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **JIM** 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

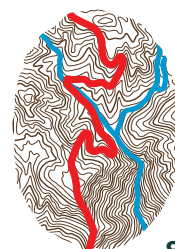
SISAR CANYON TO WHITE LEDGE campground (and maybe Topa Topa!): Starting at the Sisar Canyon trailhead (1867 feet) we'll follow and enjoy views of majestic cliffs and rock formations, all of it shaded by a canopy of stately old laurel, oak and sycamore trees. Out of the canyon, we'll take the trail to White Ledge Campground, then return to the trailhead, which is about 7mrt. If some of you wish to continue to the 6367-ft. summit of Topa Topa, we can do that! But it gets steeper above White Ledge, and the round-trip tally for the day goes up to 14-miles, making this an all-day affair. Bring four liters of water, trail snacks and enough clothing to protect you from cold, wind or rain. Bring the 10 essentials. Hiking sticks are handy above

continued on page 5

Trail Prints

... No two trails are the same

Attractive, Accurate and Easy to Read Hiking Trail Maps of the Front Country and the National Forest



805-708-1421 • www.trail-prints.com

Outings...from page 4

White Ledge. If you decide to go to the summit, you'll be rewarded by breathtaking views of the Channel Islands, the coastal range, and the San Gabriel Mountains. Meet at 8am at Ojai Rotary Park & Ride at the intersection of Hwys 150 and 33 (across from Von's Shopping Center) for carpool to trailhead. Please note: The last half-mile of the Sisar Canyon fire road is really beat up. If you have a 4WD vehicle or even a 2WD vehicle with plenty of ground clearance, you'll be okay. But if your vehicle has insufficient clearance, leave it at the water tank and walk up the last little stretch, or hitch a ride with one of us. RAIN CANCELS. For more info, contact MIKE STUBBLEFIELD at 216-2630. (VEN)

PIEDRA BLANCA (WHITE ROCK): See majestic hundred-foot-high white rock formations on this moderate 6.4 mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of about 700 feet. We'll start from the Piedra Blanca trailhead, cross the Sespe Creek, and proceed on to Twin Forks camp, where we'll stop for a snack before our return trip. Bring water, snack, hiking poles and sun protection. Meet at 1pm at Ojai Rotary Park & Ride at the intersection of Hwys 150 and 33 (across from Von's Shopping Center) for carpool to trailhead. Adventure Pass needed for car. (I have one.) TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

October 26
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Rite Aid in Miramonte to catch trolley (\$1.00) and walk back on trail. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

October 28
AUTUMN RIDGE TRAIL - LANG RANCH: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 1000' elev. gain. This is a double lollipop loop trail through Woodridge and Lang Ranch Open Space. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am. Take Westlake Blvd. north to end at Autumn Ridge Drive. Trailhead and parking at intersection. MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773, WALT ZABRISKIE (805) 497-1775 (CJ)

October 30
SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate 8 mrt hike to Tropical Terrace 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)

FRAZIER PARK-MT. PINOS CAMPGROUND TO SAWMILL MOUNTAIN and back: Moderate, 6 miles round trip, with approximately 1,500' of gain. Hike starts in Mount Pinos parking lot and is pretty simple and quick on the old road (now closed to cars) to Mount Pinos. There are great 360-degree views from the summit. From Mt. Pinos to Sawmill, the trail is fairly moderate with some steep areas. Great views looking north from Sawmill. After the return hike to the cars, we'll stop in Frazier Park for a Mexican meal before heading back to Ventura. NOTE: 2 hour drive each way, Ventura to Mt. Pinos. Meet at 8am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows and Chase Bank). Bring Ten Essentials, hiking boots and

poles, 3 qts. of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain/snow or temperatures over 85 degrees cancels. Leaders: PHILIP 218-2103 and LORA 218-2105. (VEN)

October 31
PAUPER'S GRAVEYARD: Join us for a Halloween stroll along El Sueno Rd. up to a little known graveyard on a hill above Cathedral Oaks Rd. Children welcome, bring water and a snack. Slow paced, 2-3 mile hike. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

PROVISIONAL OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 800' elev. gain. Come and enjoy views of Sycamore Canyon and Boney Mountains. Bring water, food and wear lug soled shoes. Meet at Potrero Road trailhead at intersection of Wendy Drive in Newbury Park at 7:30am. Excessive heat maybe shorten hike. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442. (CJ)

October 31-November 1
GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA: Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll make a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite. 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)

November 1
BARON RANCH TRAIL: A 7.5 mrt moderate hike on a trail on the Gaviota Coast. This trail leads us high into the foothills for great views of the coast and valley. We'll include the upper loop in our route. Although mostly on old ranch roads, the route starts rising steeply towards the rear of the valley, then transfers to a trail leading us to the 1200' high point. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call for instructions. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

SUGAR FREE MORNING. 9am-noon. Work off the Halloween candy doing hands-on environmental restoration in a part of Ventura County rarely visited. Sierra Club is partnering with Friends of the Santa Clara River, and UCSB Riparian Restoration Program to return hundreds of acres on the Santa Clara River at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) near Santa Paula to a long term sustainable ecological condition. This preserve is home to endangered bird species, contains a wealth of aquatic plants, rare butterflies and more. Repeat dates with Sierra Club: Jan 3; Mar 6; May 1. Long pants and closed shoes strongly recommended. Bring water and snacks. All ages welcome. High school teens can get community service hours. Ages

15-18 unaccompanied by parent/guardian MUST bring 2 signed waivers. Download Sierra Club Youth Waiver here <http://tinyurl.com/lk3qytz> and UCSB waiver here <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/files/docs/rm/WaiverElecActivities.pdf> RSVP requested. Directions to HRNA, 20395 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula, exit 10th St. and turn left under freeway, turn quick right on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (cross Santa Clara River bridge), go 3.7 mi to 20395 S. Mountain Rd, turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). Look for the 'Santa Clara River Event banner. Questions NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

November 2
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk to Harbor on trail and return. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 4
LANG RANCH RIDGE: Moderate 5 mrt hike along Lang Ranch Ridge. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead on Lang Ranch Parkway across from Park on left (one block "1/4 mile" east of Westlake Blvd.) a block south of Avenida de Los Arboles in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am. Do not drive to end of Lang Ranch Parkway. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

November 6
OLD FOREST and LOST CABIN TRAILS - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: 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 at 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 7
ROMERO CANYON LOOP: Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream to a lunch spot. Then down an abandoned road with a beautiful view. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

November 8
ARROYO BURRO TRAIL - SANTA BARBARA SIDE: Hike up Jesusita Trail to Arroyo Burro Trail and across ridge line to power line clearing. Great views of Santa Barbara and Goleta, some wildlife viewing possible. Moderate 5 mrt hike with one strenuous 1/4 mi pitch. Bring snack, plenty of water, and sturdy shoes. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Rain cancels. MURRAY 805-967-8770 (SB)

NORTH FORK of the MATILJA: Moderate 7 mrt hike. This is a beautiful canyon with a running stream and not a lot of elev. gain. With luck we will have some Fall color. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in Park and Ride at Thousand Oaks Blvd. and Wilbur adjacent to the Oaks Mall for carpooling. We will return to Thousand Oaks by late afternoon. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

November 9
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk the new trail at City Hall and to the Cross. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

continued on page 6



Even if you are not up for a hike, Al Sladek (center) and friends invite you to enjoy the good company afterward. Just come with a potluck dish and enjoy program adventures you won't forget. Next ones are Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

There's more to do after the outing

By Robert Bernstein

Al Sladek has been leading Friday night Sierra Club hikes for over 40 years. What happens after the hikes is often even more interesting!

On the second Friday of each month Al organizes a potluck dinner and a slide show. The dinner usually gets started at 8:30pm and the slide show begins when people get settled in. Slide shows vary widely. Some are of far-flung hiking treks in the Himalayas or even the Arctic or Antarctic taken by members. Others are travel photos to more traditional destinations, but they are often with some unusual twist. We even once had a program on how the Arlington Theater organ was built and installed by hundreds of local volunteers.

Joan Leipnik is a senior member of the group who is not as active as in her younger days. But she has many amazing adventures to share from those younger days.

Anna Cummings is one

of my favorite presenters. She does not even seem to realize how extraordinary her adventures are. She is a nurse by day, but often takes off for months at a time to remote places. She has travelled alone in parts of Africa that have seen few outsiders. In one of her presentations on China she does a scene shift from a spectacular mountain view to an exotic village. In a casual aside, Anna mentioned that the bus she was on went off the mountain road and she was in the hospital for months in between. And it only got better when she showed us the "dentist" at the village market who displayed a small mountain of teeth he had pulled!

Even if you are not up for a hike, come on over and enjoy the good company and some virtual adventures you won't forget. For the schedule, which include programs on Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11, go to:

<http://swt.org/hikesierra/potluck>



Learn to Backpack Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

We offer thorough training for adults and teens of various levels of fitness who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company. A dedicated staff of leaders will share their skills and stories in eight classroom sessions and during several exciting outings in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Training classes are held from 7-9:30 p.m. in Ventura, February 24 through April 20. Local experts will demonstrate hiking techniques, equipment, outdoor clothing, navigation, wilderness first aid and safety, weather, water filtration, cooking and wilderness ethics, among other important topics. Students will apply this wisdom by participating in day hikes, camping and backpacking trips in our beautiful mountains.

Join us and the many people who have found new insights, enjoyment and adventure in the outdoors. Warning: it could change your life.

Class starts February 24, 2016

facebook.com/lospadresWBC
lospadresWBC@gmail.com • (805) 524-7170



2016 Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

Name: _____ Age (if under 18): _____
(Teenagers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian)

Address: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Course Fees:
Sierra Club Member: \$160/single, \$285/couple Member # _____
Non Member: \$175/single, \$315/couple
Student: \$135 (with student ID)

Send your check made payable to: Los Padres WBC, PO Box 3165, Ventura CA 93006-3165

How you can help our tattered trails

Los Padres Forest Association: Bryan Conant 405-8628 or info@LPForest.org

Ojai District Los Padres Forest: Heidi Anderson, 646-4348 or handerston@fs.fed.us

Los Padres ForestWatch: Tanner Yould, 617-4610 or info@lpfw.org

Santa Barbara Trails Council: <http://sbvolunteers.org/>

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:

Craig Sap: (818) 880-0396; craig.sap@parks.ca.gov

Mary Ann Webster: Task Force (310) 733-7042; mawebster1984@sbcglobal.net

Jerry Mitcham, Trails Council (818) 406-1269; jerrymitcham@verizon.net or www.smmtc.org

Outings...from page 5

November 12
LOWER NEWTON CANYON: Moderate 5.4 mrt with 600' elev. gain. A segment of the Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains, the trail descends to a lovely bridge, creek and shaded area in lower Newton Canyon, lined with tropical ferns and poison oak, and up to the Encinal Canyon fire road with full sun, views and occasional shaded areas. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:30am in the Newton Canyon Parking Lot at the trailhead on Kanan Dume Road. Take a right on Kanan Road off the 101 Fwy from the Conejo Valley, make a right turn into the parking lot just before the third tunnel. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

November 13
OJAI - FUELBREAK TRAIL ACROSS OJAI VALLEY (aka Gridley Fire Rd) Moderate 6.5 mile loop hike of approximately 3 hours. Start from Pratt/Foothill parking area hiking north, then east on Fuelbreak Trail to paved Gridley Road. Walk on paved road south to Shelf Fire Road. Then head west on Shelf Fire Road back to Pratt/Foothill trail and then south back to parking area. Total of about 900 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 8am at Pratt/Foothill Trailhead parking area in Ojai. Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 quarts of water, and snacks/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures above 85 degrees cancels. Leaders: PHILIP 218-2103 and LORA 218-2105 (VEN)

PALO COMADO to SIMI PEAK: Moderate 8.5 mrt hike with 1,560' gain to Simi Peak. 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)
 November 14
LITTLE PINE MOUNTAIN: A challenging hike to a 4,000 foot peak in the back country. Strenuous 12.5 mrt. for experienced hikers only. It can be cold up on top of Little Pine Mountain this time of year, so check the forecast and bring appropriate clothing. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

FRANKLIN TRAIL, CARPINTERIA: 6.6 miles to 2nd bench and back. 1300' ascent. Carpoolers from Ventura meet at 8am at Harbor and Seaward in parking lot between Chase Bank and Carrows; Santa Barbarans meet the rest at 9am at west end Meadow View Lane, Carpinteria. Bring 10 essentials/water/food. No limit/no reservations. 85 degree forecast or rain cancels. More information, KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (VEN)

November 15
ARROYO BURRO TRAIL - SANTA BARBARA SIDE: Hike up Jesusita Trail to Arroyo Burro Trail. Long steep hike with great views of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Hike to spring for lunch. Very strenuous 11 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

November 16
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk north on bicycle trail. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 19-21
DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS SERVICE TRIP: Come help restore wilderness values in this stunning desert national park. The work project has not been determined yet. It might be another marijuana grow site or help with the clean-up of cabin in the Panamints. (Or

something else entirely.) We will meet Thursday afternoon, place TBD and work Thursday afternoon and Friday. Pot luck either Thursday or Friday night. Leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

November 20
POINT DUME to PARADISE COVE - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy to moderate 5 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Lovely beach walk, up a small hill and down stairs to tide pools, and around corners to Paradise Cove and beyond. Tide 2.2' at 9:30am. Tide 2.0' at 12pm. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's on Hampshire Road just before the Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 21
GIBRALTAR ROCK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderately Strenuous 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

November 22
ULTIMATE HIKE: Very strenuous 17.5 mile hike. This up-and-down (5000') hike covers parts of 9 different trails on the front range. This is a fast paced hike for experienced, conditioned hikers only. Hike leader approval required. Plan for an all day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

November 23
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at the end of 5th St. in Oxnard to do circle walk on street. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 25
HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAIL: Easy to Moderate 4.4 mrt hike with 660' cumulative elev. gain in Conejo Open Space in the Oak Park/Westlake Village area. The rolling trail rises to a 360 degree overlook above Lang Ranch with panoramic views. On a clear day you can see the Oxnard plain, Santa Cruz Island, the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains and Simi Valley. Bring water and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead. Take the 101 Fwy. to Kanan or Lindero Canyon Road and go north to the Kanan and Lindero Canyon intersection. Turn left onto Kanan or continue on and make a right turn on Falling Star Avenue and drive to the trailhead at the end cul-de-sac. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

November 26 - 29
BASIN & RANGE THANKSGIVING: Tour our newest national monument in southern Nevada. Comprising 700,000 acres, Basin and Range National Monument highlights the basin and range topography with Great Basin dry dusty valleys and rocky, wooded ridges. Archaeological sites and the modern City landscape-scale construction by artist Mike Heizer are preserved here for posterity. We'll tour the area mostly by vehicle, with some hiking. Expect primitive camping sites with no amenities. Contact DAVID VON SEGGERN, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461. (Toiyabe Chapter)

November 27
SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate 8 mrt hike to Tropical Terrace 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)

November 28
BLUE PEAK: (3662', 11 mile round trip, 2700' elevation gain) Strenuous



The Sierra Club hikers had to literally climb mountains to catch a long-distance view of the elusive Bighorn sheep. (Photo by Kim La)

GORGONIO GREATS

Shy sheep spied near peaks

By Stephen Bryne
 Outings Chair

A summer trip to the "San Gorgonio Greats" was full of historical lore of early explorers and even earlier stories of Indian creation amidst a home for the shy and

EAVESDROPS

"It truly is sad to think that a comedian (Jon Stewart) gave out more information about politics, the environment, health, race relations and social programs that millions of people depend on than network news stations."

~ Letter to the editor in the LA Times.

hike up Romero Canyon trail, looping over Blue Peak, and back down the canyon trail. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

November 29
UPPER LAS VIRGENES CANYON OPEN SPACE PRESERVE: Moderate 5 mrt hike. Beautiful oaks, a stream and fossils. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 9am for carpooling. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

November 30
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to carpool to the corner of Park and Bard in Port Hueneme for beach and lighthouse walk. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 5
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

December 6
SAN YSIDRO TO E. CAMINO CIELO: Strenuous hike up to E. Camino Cielo for lunch. Follows the creek, past a waterfall, and up onto a sunny trail with some height exposure and great views. Strenuous 9 mrt, approx. 5 hrs at moderate pace. Intermediate hikers or beginners with cardio conditioning welcome. -18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes and a hat, bring lunch and 2 liters of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI Email: myomy.design@cox.net (SB)

rarely seen Bighorn Sheep.

This trip was led by Peter and Ignacia Doggett of Sierra Club's Hundred Peak Section (HPS) along with ten other people, the maximum allowed on the Wilderness Permit. We gathered at the Mill Creek Ranger Station to begin this epic day in the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area, important as the range of the remaining Desert Bighorn sheep.

Our route took us up the Vivian Creek Trail and then cross-country, first to Dobbs Peak and then to Jepson Peak, on the way to San Gorgonio Peak.

Dobbs Peak (10,459 ft) was named for a guide for the 1904 George Grant party. A thunderstorm broke as they reached the summit and a bolt of lightning struck Dobbs and knocked him senseless, while another bolt killed another member of the party. Dobbs had to be restrained until help arrived the next morning, when he regained his senses but not his memory.

Jepson Peak (11,205 ft) was named for Willis Lynn Jepson, UC botanist, who made a study of plant life in the San Bernardino Mountains about 1914. He was a charter member of the Sierra Club and a lifelong hiker and was known for his books "Trees of California" (1923) and "Manual of the Flowering Plants of California" (1921).

At 11,499 ft, San Gorgonio Peak is the highest in the San Bernardino Mountains, as well as the highest in the Transverse Range and in all of Southern California. Since the peak is above the tree line, only rocks are visible on the upper portion of the mountain, giving rise to one of the peak's names—Old Greyback. This peak is surrounded by nine peaks over 10,000 ft in elevation. Moraine deposits near San Gorgonio Peak represent relics of the southernmost glaciation in the United States.

In the creation story of the Serrano Indians, brother gods Pakrokitat and Kukitak quarreled and separated, Pakrokitat moved south with a pure white eagle and made his home on this peak—then

known as Akyana.

One of our hikers, Susan Kang, revealed to me that earlier this year, while climbing San Gorgonio Peak she had slipped on ice or snow and had fallen down a steep slope, narrowly escaping death while being badly injured. Returning to this spot was traumatic but also cathartic for Susan, but her body and spirit are strong and she is clearly indomitable!

The route to Dragons Head traversed an unusual geological feature called The Tarn. A tarn is a mountain lake or pool, formed in a cirque excavated by a glacier. It is formed when either rain or river water fills the cirque. A moraine may form a natural dam below a tarn.

Approaching The Tarn from San Gorgonio Peak, we spied what appeared to be a herd of Desert Bighorn sheep on the dry lake bed, although it was hard to be certain from about one mile away.

As we got closer, the small herd came into focus: a ram, several ewes, and a lamb. As we approached, the herd ascended the opposite slope, climbing the appropriately named Bighorn Mountain. The ram brought up the rear, keeping a close watch on the human interlopers. This sighting was the highlight of the trip for me, since they are rarely seen.

Dragons Head was named for the summit block that appears to some to be like a reptilian head, as viewed from The Tarn on its east side. Although the peak is not named on either USGS topos or on USFS maps, the HPS has called this peak Dragons Head for several decades. A tricky razorback ridge, with steep slopes on either side, led us to the summit.

In all, this hike was some 18 miles and took about 13 hours. All who went were subtly changed by this experience in nature.

Mike Stubblefield later commented, "This was one of the toughest, and most interesting hikes I've ever done in my life."

DROUGHT INTOLERANT

Drink up wisdom of water

By Mike Stubblefield

The drought is now in its fourth year. All of us hope for a much-needed El Nino that could well happen in the spring (or not), but we can't wait for Mother Nature to bail us out.

Starting with this issue of *Condor Call*, I'll be writing a column to help you analyze and employ various strategies to mitigate the effects of the drought on your landscape and plants. Here are some resources to help get you started.

Books to read

~ "Designing Succulents," by Debra Lee Baldwin, Timber Press, 2007.

~ "California Native Plants for the Garden," by Carol Bornstein, Cachuma Press, 2005.

~ "Reimagining the California Lawn," by Carol Bornstein, Cachuma Press 2011.

~ "Mediterranean Gardening: a Water wise Approach," by Heidi Gildemeister, UC Press, 2002.

~ "Designing California Native Gardens: the Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens," by Glen Keator, UC Press, 2007.

~ "Landscaping with Native Plants of Southern California," by George Miller, MBI Publishing, 2008.

~ "The California Native Landscape: the Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance," by Greg Rubin, Timber Press, 2013.

Websites to explore

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/VCMG> (Ventura County Master Gardeners)

www.apldca.org/ (Association of Professional Landscape Designers)

www.bewaterwise.com/ (Incentive programs)
<http://mg.ucanr.edu/> (UC Statewide Master Gardener Program)

Immediate action

Here are 10 ways to conserve water in your home landscape in Santa Barbara or Ventura County:

~ Select water-efficient plants that grow well in your climate.

~ "Hydrozone," i.e. place plants with similar water needs - high, medium, low, very low - together, and irrigate them accordingly.

~ Let the roots of established plants dry out between irrigations. Occasionally water them deeply slightly below the root zone.

~ If you don't use or enjoy your lawn, consider replacing it with drought-tolerant plants. (If you intend to keep your lawn, water it based on UC's "Lawn Watering Guide," available at: <http://ucanr.org/freepubs/docs/8044.pdf>.)

~ Mix soil amendments (compost, etc.) evenly and deeply

into sandy and clay soils - 40% or more by volume - before planting.

~ Spread a 2-3 inch layer of mulch on top of soil around garden plants and trees.

~ Water early in the morning, when it's less likely to evaporate.

~ Control weeds. Otherwise, they take water intended for your plants, then they just take over.

~ Avoid over-fertilizing, and try to stick with organic-only fertilizers.

~ Sweep driveways and sidewalks. Don't hose them off.

In coming issues I will address various strategies for coping with specific challenges created by the drought. If questions arise during your research phase, contact me at: motodata@roadrunner.com.

Editor's note: Mike, and his wife Janis McCormick, are both UC Master Gardeners. They have taught organic vegetable gardening to MG trainees at the UC Hansen Agricultural Center in Santa Paula for the last three years. And, like you, they've had to rethink their entire approach to landscaping at home.



Drought, how bad is it? This shot would normally be under water and you'd see boats and anglers. Now the water's so low an old road and bridge can be seen without scuba gear! (Photo by Gerry Ching)

River helps muscle out trash

By Nina Danza

Take 2 gallons of milk in one hand and a 5 gallon bottle of water in the other ... and that's about the weight of trash each person took out of the Santa Clara River Gateway site on Coastal Clean Up day. Never mind, here's the math: 56 pounds per person!

What a hard working group of volunteers: From Sierra Linda Elementary School (Oxnard) came 5th grade teacher Charlene Bouvet with representatives from her class. Their amazement peaked at coming across one of the most unusual items found

that day: a Bible. But their energy level stayed high for hours helping to pick up hundreds and hundreds of cigarette butts, discarded clothing, food wrappers and a stray car tire or two.

Another group of teens from Foothill Technology High (Ventura) walked at least a mile from the sign-in table fanning out across an empty lot and dragging out iron rebar, a floodlight, and bags of windblown trash.

"People littering simply are uneducated and don't understand the terrible impact to the environment," observed one of

the students.

The Santa Clara River Gateway site was run by a partnership of Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy and the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition. Normally closed to the public, the site is a riparian ecosystem home to endangered bird species and a wealth of more common biodiversity.

"We saw a snake crossing the bike path," reported one Foothill upperclassman, "nothing out of the ordinary, a garter snake probably, and we just let it go about its business."

Personal satisfaction, but thankfully not the dumpster, was overflowing by the end of the clean-up. Big smiles and tired arms and legs headed home after free T-shirts, refreshing cold drinks and fruits were passed out.

Want a piece of the action? On Nov. 1 (and repeating Jan 3, Mar 6, May 1) we'll be wanting volunteers to help to return hundreds of acres on the Santa Clara River at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) near Santa Paula to a long term sustainable ecological condition. See the OUTINGS listing for Nov. 1 for all the details.

And you can also help with next September's event at the Santa Clara River Gateway site on Coastal Clean Up day.

Best choices for SB city council



ANDRIA COHEN



CATHY MURILLO

The large field of candidates for the Santa Barbara City Council election for the Eastside District 1 produced several highly qualified candidates. After a careful review of their responses to the Sierra Club questionnaire and personal interviews, we endorse Andria Martinez Cohen.

Andria is a Sierra Club member who describes herself as an active outdoor enthusiast as well as a frequent user of the local city parks and recreation programs. Expanded funding for city parks, recreation and environmental programs are a priority for her, especially since there is currently only one park in District 1.

We can also expect Andria to be a strong voice for water conservation that includes innovative solutions like large scale rainwater catchment systems and increased wastewater recycling. With regard to the city's desalination facility, she will be an advocate for reducing impacts from the currently authorized ocean intakes and powering the plant with renewable energy.

Because Andria is an avid ocean swimmer, she is very much concerned with the oil activities in the Santa Barbara Channel. This makes her a natural advocate for reducing our dependence on oil.

To learn more about Andria Martinez Cohen and/or to help get her elected, visit: www.AndriaMartinezCohen.org.

Sierra Club is pleased to once again endorse Cathy Murillo for Santa Barbara City Council. This endorsement is for the newly created Westside District 3.

Since her election in 2011, Cathy has been a solid vote for the environment. She helped pass a ban on single-use plastic bags within the city, a strong Climate Change Action Plan that includes Community Choice Energy, an updated Bicycle Master Plan, and restoration projects for the city's Creeks Division that include acquisition of upper watershed properties to enhance clean water.

Recreational opportunities have expanded with restored funding for the Parks and Recreation Department. Cathy serves as the council's liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure that city parks and open space are maintained in a healthy and sustainable manner.

As we face the challenges of climate change, sea level rise, drought or El Nino, Cathy will be a leader in finding solutions that preserve and protect the environment. She has already proven herself with support for progressive water conservation efforts and linking renewable energy to the re-commissioned desalination plant.

For more information about Cathy's campaign and/or to help her get reelected, please visit www.CathyMurillo.org.



Join wilderness summit

An important summit meeting on "Protecting the Great Wilderness Areas of California's Central Coast Region" is happening right here in our chapter's back yard.

The Sierra Club California-Nevada Wilderness Team will hold its fall 2015 summit in Ojai, gateway to the Los Padres National Forest and the majestic Sespe Wilderness Area that will feature hikes led by Sierra Club leaders during the weekend.

Open to the public, the meeting is from 10am - 4pm Oct. 24 at Nordhoff High School, 1401 Maricopa Highway, in Ojai. It is hosted by the Los Padres Chapter and its own wilderness

advocate, Jim Hines, will chair the meeting.

The Team sets Sierra Club policy and positions on wilderness issues in the two states. Topics include issues and campaigns such as the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plains wilderness bills currently before Congress, and proposed wilderness areas at Channel Islands National Park. Castaic Wilderness and San Gabriel Mountain issues are also on tap.

It will include representatives from Congress, Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and various wilderness advocacy groups.



Foothill High's team of trash bashers helped haul out hundreds of pounds of trash along the Santa Clara River. (Photo by Nina Danza)

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Ah Wilderness...lands to love



By **Jim Hines**

The wilderness of the land, wilderness we call it, is a place untouched by

the human hand where each of us can go to be in the awe of our natural world.

Wilderness is a natural place to connect with nature and ourselves and has a positive impact on our society. Being in a natural area, whether it be an urban wilderness or in the wilds of far-off Alaska, society needs these areas to reconnect with all

which is truly important to each of us, a connection with the planet we live on.

And by the way, our chapter offers a Wilderness Basics Course every year in February to introduce adults and teens of various levels of fitness who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company. For details, go to:

[facebook.com/lospadresWBC](https://www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC)

I was fortunate to be raised in wild country. My family had a large ranch in the western Ojai Valley which bordered the Los Padres National Forest lands, part of our ranch is where Lake

Casitas is today. My father spent time taking me daily in the great outdoors, learning from the land, appreciating it and enjoying its great beauty and wildlife.

Every morning I woke up and looked out my bedroom window to the towering 5000 foot White Ledge Peak in the Los Padres forest. Not all people in our society have that privilege as we are an increasingly urban society, and those wild places seem so far off and distant for so many people in our society.

While my family's ranch is now protected as a federal wildlife refuge I still go and seek the connection with nature

EAVESDROPS

"The desert is both beauty and terror, never to be underestimated, always to be respected."

~ Writer Terry Tempest Williams in an email to the **LA Times** about the seven canyoneers (six from Ventura County) who were killed by a flash flood in Keyhole Canyon, Zion National Park in mid-September. Most of them met via the Ventura Hiking Crew Meet-up site

there. The home is now gone, but the pine grove my father planted lives on a mighty hilltop that is a sanctuary for me. My memories and feelings overwhelm me sometimes as my father is buried there as is my first horse which I rode on endless outings and my dog who wandered with me. To be able to grow up surrounded by over a million acres of federal lands is truly overwhelming. I was molded here by the land, by the wildlife and by my feelings of love and appreciation for all which is wild and sacred.

And now important federal legislation is before the Congress (Central Coast Heritage Protection Act) which if passed by will place a portion of my family's former ranch lands in the federal system.

I love being a part of the living wilderness legacy.



Our backyard, Los Padres National Forest, during a Sierra Club Wilderness Basics Course training hike (WBC starts up again in February, see page 5). (Photo by Erin Feinblatt)
