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Condor Call



IN THIS ISSUE: WBC begins, climate changes, issues linger, solutions attained, oil leaks, river rehabs, national parks celebrate, trees pine and coast politicized

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club

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Condor Call

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- 3 2015 Recap, WBC begins
- 5 Cal Coast in dire straits
- 6 Happy Birthday to Nat'l Parks
- 7 Green methods recover wasted water
- 8 Looking for action? Look no further
- 9 Embrace potential o'er Santa Clara River
- 10 Magic mulch, Alchemy oil
- 11 Group news ... our grass roots for action
- 12-19 Free outings for every fitness level
- 14 Seven 7th Heaven trips to Channel Islands
- 16 Winter wonderlands at Cal-Neva deserts
- 17 More than 'middlin' at Midland School
- 18 And more pain for Pines Camp trees

COVER PHOTO

Cheeseboro Canyon, part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, is one of two National Parks in our chapter area (see stories on pages 6 & 14). Contact photographer Herbert Petermann to inquire about his professional photos at hpetermann@charter.net. You can also meet and hear him talk at a free event sponsored by the Angeles Chapter's Camera Committee at 7:30pm, March 17 at the Felicia Mahood Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd. For details call (714) 962-2054.



Shout out to Jean Paul Tümmmler who created WBC's new logo after graduating from the course. WBC starts Feb. 24, see pages 3, 6 & 13.



Just as the coast is under fire (again, see pg. 5), the Wildling Museum in Solvang is coincidentally opening "California's Wild Edge: The Coast in Prints, Poetry, and History" exhibition. "Shown is Muir Beach by Tom Killion" There will be an opening reception on Feb. 12th at 5:30pm; exhibit through June 6; for details go to:

www.wildlingmuseum.org

Next issue of

Condor Call

is all electronic so to get it

send your email to

condorjohn@gnusman.com

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Questions? Call 452-2885

Founder's 'flounder' inspires WBC course

Editor's note: beginners, day-hikers and experienced backpackers can always learn more to be safe and comfortable outdoors, and the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course will get you there and back with amazing memories. Here's our founder's story to illustrate why.

By Teresa Norris
Founder, WBC

As the Grateful Dead song goes, "What a long strange trip it's been."

1996: A memorable year, because I started section hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) at the Mexican border in San Diego County that August. (Still not done . . .)

Mostly, I day hiked. Two years later, having completed almost 190 miles, I arrived in Idyllwild.

From Idyllwild to the Coachella Valley, I needed to do an overnight trip because of the distance. I knew what to do because I had backpacked in the Sierras when I was younger. I felt confident about going by myself.

I planned to use spring break to hike 28 miles through the San Jacinto Wilderness and down to Snow Creek. I knew I'd be out for a few days, so I packed plenty of supplies. My sister-in-law Yvonne helped me with the car shuttle: We left my car in Snow Creek, and then she drove me back up the mountain.

I had stowed my gear in her car in several pieces, but I hadn't put it all together at home. We stopped at the trailhead, and I unloaded my stuff and started to assemble everything.

OMG! It was way heavier than

I had imagined it would be. I could not lift it off the ground. (Did you see the movie *Wild?*) I managed to drag it to a large rock, got it up on the rock and then I was able to put it on my back. It was probably around 60 pounds. I could hardly walk with it. What could I do? My car was dozens of miles away, I didn't want to hitchhike, and we didn't have cell phones back then for me to call anyone.

Of course I needed 6 liters of water (12 pounds), because I might not find any. And of course I needed an extra pair of blue jeans and my big parka. It all added up to a huge burden.

Well, that first afternoon

I only went about 1 mile at a snail's pace with frequent stops. I stopped to camp early, exhausted.

I'll fill you in on the rest of my adventure in a future *Condor Call*.

The following year, I enrolled in the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course, and found out how to take just what I needed and how to lighten my load. The gear had changed a lot since my youth. I bought some new equipment and left other things behind.

You don't have to go through the pain I suffered carrying my gigantic pack. You can come to WBC and find out how to do it the right way the first time. Our first class is Feb. 24.

For details, check our website:

www.lospadreswbc.org

www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC

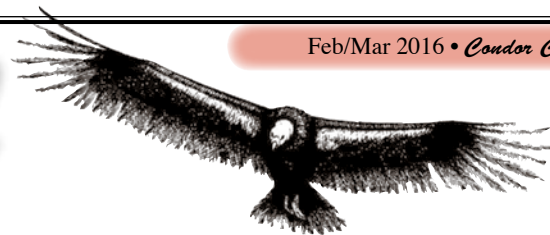
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Condor Call

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



A look behind tells us what solutions lie ahead

**By Jim Hines and
Condor John Hankins**

What an amazing year 2015 was for Los Padres Chapter campaigns to protect our great wild places, our precious wildlife and stopping dirty energy projects, and special thanks to our Executive Committee chaired by David Gold.

"It's important to recognize our accomplishments so that we can gain strength for the work ahead of us. Excited to be a part of this dynamic team," said Liz Lamar, Chair of the Ventura Network (Sierra Club).

While we move forward and

look now to this year, we also see that we have much work still to do.

But we should also take some time to get out and enjoy the great wild places and wildlife we all work so hard to protect. The joy of migrating birds, whales in the waters, deer herds in the meadows, clear coastal views, snow on the mountains -- it's all right here in the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter region.

We cannot say enough to thank each of you who rallied with us at public events, lobbied and testified

continued to page 4

Editor's note

Jim Hines of Ventura was elected to be our next Chapter Chair, along with Katie Davis of Santa Barbara as Vice-Chair. As our outgoing Chair David Gold commented, "we again have the benefit of a Ventura – Santa Barbara team." Jim would like to communicate with all our chapter members in Condor Call each issue. Here's his first "From the Chair" column.

FROM THE CHAIR

New ExCom favors print Condor Call

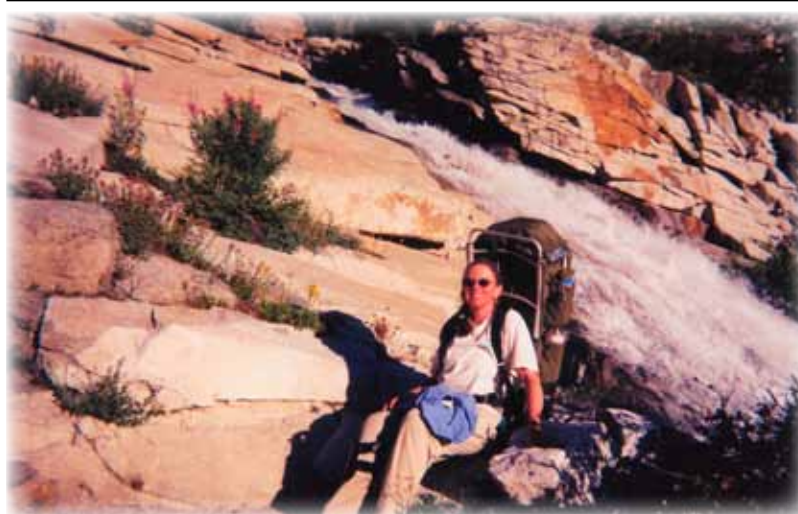
By Jim Hines
Chapter Chair

Greetings Los Padres Chapter members and supporters.

The most important person in the Sierra Club is YOU. The Los Padres Chapter (covering Ventura and Santa Barbara counties) is your local Sierra Club responding to issues and threats to our region's environment.

We are governed by a chapter-wide Executive Committee (known as the ExCom) which oversees four regional groups: two in Santa Barbara County, Arguello in the

continued to page 4



This was the big, huge backpack that attacked a young Teresa Norris when she was on the Pacific Coast Trail (see adjacent story). That heavy experience eventually led her to take a Wilderness Basics Course, which taught her how to lighten the backpack and be safe and comfortable. (Photo by Nanci Wise)

A look behind...

continued from page 3

at hearings and lent your expertise wherever it was needed. The results?

~ Thanks to our hike leaders who logged in thousands of hours, we conducted hundreds of free public outings. Mike Stubblefield and now Stephen Bryne were our stellar Outings Chairs. We also hosted the Cal/Nevada Wilderness conference in Ojai.

~ Outdoor clean-ups were conducted at Lizard's Mouth and the Santa Clara River along with members helping to maintain various trails.

~ Because of your activism we

now have the U.S. Government poised to implement a complete ban on the use of deadly drift gill nets in the Santa Barbara Channel.

~ Another successful year for our Wilderness Basics Course, founded by Teresa Norris, and we're doing it again this year.

~ In partnership with other groups, leapfrog development along the Gaviota Coast was thwarted.

~ With your help and support a statewide ban on the trapping of bobcats was accomplished.

~ Our chapter achieved great success in getting support from agencies within the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo to pursue Community Choice

Energy, notably by SB Group Chair Katie Davis. Also, our Chapter is a major player in the campaign to stop the placement of the fourth power plant on Mandalay beach along Oxnard's beautiful coastline. Mike Stubblefield was particularly active in this area.

~ Thanks to Jim Vanyo's legacy, funds were allocated to open up more segments of the Franklin Trail in Carpinteria.

~ Jon Ziv won national recognition posthumously for his leadership in "rebuilding the Ventura Network's activist base and community image." We also lost Jim McComb, activist and organizer extraordinaire, and participated in a Celebration of Life.

~ Our ExCom expanded our diversity efforts and the Ventura Network (Sierra Club) created an award during Women's History Month for activist and member Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard's Mayor pro-tem.

~ Endorsed candidate Cathy Murillo won re-election for Santa Barbara City Council.

~ A first-ever Gear Grab to sell or buy outdoor goods was not only successful, but caught the eye of the media. Organizer Nina Danza was also awesome for her Santa Clara River activism and flood control expertise.

EAVESDROP

"The oil industry ... outmaneuvered and outmuscled the governor, Democratic leaders and Environmentalists."

~ **Sacramento Bee** editorial, in the wake of the legislature stripping provisions in the climate change bill SB 350 that would have forced a 50% reduction in petroleum use by 2030. "Oil remained king ... the editorial concluded, asserting "we are disgusted by the influence of oil money on the Capitol."



Paris climate talks graphic advertising Sierra Club's "Ready for 100% Renewables" campaign. The club's site says: "Achieving 100% clean energy is becoming 'the new normal' in the fight to solve climate change." The Sierra Club has many ways to get involved; go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ReadyForRenewables>

New ExCom favors print edition...

continued from page 3

north county, Santa Barbara for the South Coast; and two in Ventura County, the Ventura Network for the west portion and Conejo Group in the east. Each one focuses on its regional issues, events and outings.

The Chapter and our groups are only as strong as the members who are involved with us. So please feel free to join us whether it be in the chapter region you live in or at chapter-wide events. See our Group News box on page 11 for contact information.

We are making several changes in 2016 to reach out and engage you in our work to protect our great wild places, save endangered wildlife and keep dirty energy in the ground. More on that in future columns.

For now I'd like to announce that the first major change will be the return to the printed (yes, paper) copy of our popular chapter newsletter *Condor Call*, so watch your mailbox for the April/May issue. It will also be online on our website and available to be sent via

email addresses.

Our very successful chapter Outings programs are a great way for the entire family to enjoy the beauty of our great wild places within the chapter region, be sure to check the hikes listed in each *Condor Call* issue and feel free to join our experienced chapter hike leaders.

Our very popular Wilderness Basics Course is also a great way to learn how to enjoy our great outdoors in a safe and positive way. New classes start this month (see info pages 3, 6 & 13)

The chapter also has issue committees such as the Santa Clara River Task Force, Wilderness and Public Lands Committee, Wildlife Committee and Energy Committee to name a few, even more ways for you to be involved in the issues you care about in our chapter region.

Our new Los Padres Chapter officers for 2016 welcome you and look forward to seeing you at our next event or out on the trail on one of our chapter outings.

~ When our chapter started a national Sierra Club petition you joined with us and signed on as millions of supporters across our nation did, asking President Obama to order a ban on the use of naval sonar testing in our coastal waters because of impacts to marine life. The President listened and ordered the ban.

~ Your support was invaluable in getting NOAA to accept the petition to designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

~ We encouraged a switch to solar energy locally giving deep discounts. Program is at: www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes

~ You were with us each step of the way as we advocated Rep. Lois Capps re-introducing a major bill in May 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.

~ Working with the Santa Barbara County Chaparral Coalition, we were victorious in convincing the county to protect the chaparral ecosystem in the East Goleta.

~ Our activism on oil issues was steady and stellar and particular thanks to Fran Farina who kept us all apprised of the issues in *Condor Call*, and to the Environmental Defense Center.

~ A particular shout-out to über activist Jim Hines, who seemed to be everywhere, and was! He was too modest to add his name, so the editor did.

Public money will pay for old oil leaks

More money from the state to stop the old, leaking wells off Summerland beach was allocated in January. There are no private owners left as it was part of the oil boom in the 1900s, so the public pays.

Known as the Becker Onshore Well, leaks were first detected in a 1994 USGS survey.

Now over 20 years since then, “oil from the leaking well causes sheening to occur in the ocean off Summerland Beach, thereby creating a threat to the health and safety of the public and the marine environment,” said the California State Lands Commission’s request for the funds. That initiated funding totalling about \$900,000.

“This is the big news for Summerland -- funds secured to fix the leaking well on the beach,” said Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis.

EAVESDROPS

“So pardon me if I take personally the political drama unfolding at the California Coastal Commission, where dark forces may be chipping away at a 40-year tradition of protecting the coast from over-development.”

~ LA Times columnist Steve Lopez, admitting his life-long love of the coast, afraid that some development factions may be successful in ousting Exec Director Charles Lester during an upcoming hearing in March (see story this page).



These oil rigs off the Summerland Coast during the 1900s are gone, but not their effects generations afterward, as yet another leak is happening from these wells today (see adjacent story). It’s also a wake-up call to protect the coast as detailed by all the stories on this page. (Historic photo contributed)

Oil by train opposed

Phillips 66’s proposal to receive heavy crude oil by train to the Santa Maria Refinery in San Luis Obispo has sparked intense interest among residents of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties because the oil transport would run along the coastal rail system, also from the north and east

The Sierra Club, which opposes the project, will have members testifying in person or commenting via the internet, along with many other environmental groups and the public. In fact, the Club is advertising a bus leaving from the Santa Barbara Transit Center and the Santa Maria Home Depot at 2120 S Bradley Rd. on Feb. 4. To sign up, go to: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2491094

If you can’t attend the meeting, help out by signing the petition either before or after the hearing, at: <http://stopoiltrains.nationbuilder.com/petition>

The SLO County Planning Commission hearing will determine if Phillips can build a 5-track rail spur

adjacent to the Santa Maria Refinery for unloading crude oil. It starts at 9 a.m. Feb. 4 & 5 in the county building at 1055 Monterey St.

A permit would allow up to five trains per week from various oilfields, each one carrying up to 27,300 gallons (650 barrels) of oil each.

“The Department of Transportation has called these dangerous oil trains an ‘imminent hazard’ to the public, and it predicts an average of 15 accidents each year on lines that run straight through major metropolitan areas. Despite these known threats, their new rules force communities to play railway roulette with explosive oil trains for the next decade,” said the Sierra Club’s website.

To read the environmental impact report and the staff report on the Phillips proposal, go to: www.sloplanning.org

The meeting will also be live-streamed from:

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/meetings.htm>

Coastal political peril

Editor’s note: This is reminiscent of the politically motivated, failed attempt to oust founding Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas in 1995. It was Douglas who famously forewarned:

“The coast is never saved. It’s always being saved.”

As the California Coastal Act celebrates its 40th year as the most effective coastal protection legislation on the globe, a behind-the-scenes effort to terminate Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, has just come to light.

This attempted coup d’état is a power grab in an attempt to undermine the integrity of the Coastal Program, gain control over an independent staff, and make the Commission more “developer-friendly.”

Sierra Club California (SCC) and the chapters are fighting against the ouster of the California Coastal Commission’s Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. A public hearing is scheduled for Feb. 10 in Morro Bay.

“Our issue is about protecting California’s coast – and the public’s right to access the coast,” the SCC said. Also, those Commissioners appointed by the Governor Brown appear to be leading the effort to fire Dr. Lester.

No cause has been given for such a drastic action, Gov. Brown is mute and the effort was launched secretly in a behind-closed-doors meeting. Lester refused an effort to force him to resign quietly and, as the law allows, has called for a full public hearing.

“I have worked with Charles



Dr. Charles Lester, Coastal Commission Executive Director, is supported by environmental groups.

Lester, and he has been more than supportive of Sierra Club issues,” commented Los Padres Chapter’s Jim Hines, Vice-Chair of the ExCom.

“We need to inundate them with letters ... and we (Sierra Club) plan a massive public turnout at the February meeting in show of support for C. Lester,” added Mike Stubblefield, also an ExCom member.

Ironically, this effort to terminate Lester comes at a time of strong Commission accomplishment, such as:

~ New authority strengthens lawful public access laws backed up by fines.

~ Increased preparation for rising sea levels.

~ More protection under the Santa Monica Mountains land use plan.

~ State of the art database that enables easy access on projects.

~ Tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans.

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Celebrate Nat'l Parks 100th birthday

By Jim Hines

During the late 1800s, a passionate man walked a scenic trail in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range. That man was John Muir, who was so passionate about protecting this "grand and wild place" that he formed a small devoted group of concerned citizens and called it the Sierra Club.

They worked hard to protect that grand and wild place and surrounding majestic mountains from the "hoofed locusts" and development, a special place that you and I know and love today as Yosemite National Park, one of over 400 of America's national park system.

Now in 2016 we celebrate the 100th birthday of America's national parks. And right here in the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter region of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties we have two of them and our chapter is working on the creation of a third unit. They are:

~ **Channel Islands National Park:** Five protected islands located offshore of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. A world apart from the mainland, each island is uniquely different in plant and animal species and geographic features. The Sierra Club will again host our very popular "Exploring California's Channel Islands" trips in 2016 (see story on page 14).

And the Chapter is working on major campaigns to get Congress to designate over 70,000 acres on the islands as federally protected wilderness areas because it's rich

in native American history, early California ranching history and biological resources.

Wild places where man is no longer the dominant force, nature rules on these islands and we are all the better for it.

~ **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:** A vast protected preserve located in Ventura and Los Angeles counties, we are part of the Sierra Club Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, which works to protect its unique ecosystems.

Hiking trails abound, wildlife is abundant, and spring wildflowers



will be gracing the meadows and hills after the blessings of our recent rains. Unique national park properties include Cheeseboro Canyon Preserve, spread over 4000 acres just north of Agoura Hills in the southeast corner of Ventura county.

The canyon has one of the largest concentrations of birds-of-prey species in southern California. Great hiking trails through the canyon and along the ridgelines boast great views of inland areas.

Rancho Sierra Vista, located just south of Newbury Park, has a recreated Chumash village and features nature study and hiking trails. And Circle X Ranch located on the coastal side of the Santa Monica

Mountains gives great views of the Pacific Ocean from its many hiking trails.

All of these national park service sites are open daily and can be enjoyed at no fee.

~ **Rim-of-the-Valley Corridor** is our newest Los Padres Chapter national park campaign in concert with the Angeles Chapter. We are working hard to get Congress to create this vast 300,000 acre preserve which would connect the inland mountains of southern California (San Gabriel Mountains and eastern Los Padres National Forest) across the Santa Clara River basin, into the Simi Hills and across into the coastal Santa Monica Mountains.

If it's designated as a National Park, it would not only preserve great natural areas and provide for passive outdoor recreation like hiking trails and nature centers, but also provide for a protected wildlife corridor for mountain lions, deer herds, bobcats, coyotes, foxes and other wildlife which travel from the inland mountains to the coastal range.

So, spend some time this year in celebration of America's national parks centennial. Hike, camp, nature study, picnics, wildlife viewing and historic preservation ... it's all there in your national parks.

See you on the trail ...

EAVESDROPS

"Only by going alone in silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter."

~ John Muir in a letter to his wife Louie in July 1888.

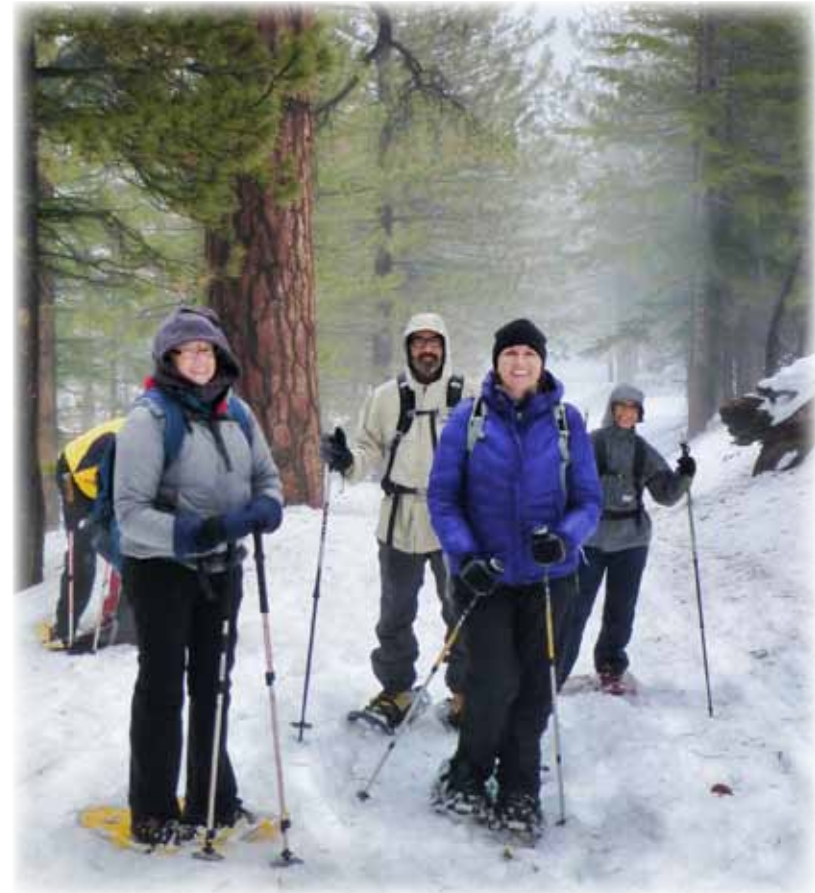
What's WBC all about?

Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course offers training for adults and teens at various levels of fitness and experience who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company, be it just for day hikes or overnight backpacking trips.

It starts Feb. 24 – May 4 with eight one-per-week classes (with breaks) and weekend day and overnight opportunities. Shared gear is available and discounts at local stores is a bonus to keep costs down.

Local experts will share their knowledge of equipment, navigation, first aid and so much more, including camaraderie with wonderful people. See application on pg. 13.

For details, call (805) 524-7170, or email: lospadresWBC@gmail.com
Check out our Facebook too: www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC



Wilderness Basics Course instructors and friends go outside the classroom so they can expertly pass on their wisdom of the outdoors ... and have fun. Here the snowfall in January got them donning their snowshoes for the fun part on the McGill Trail near Frazier Park. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka)

Lobby for green flood control

Editor's note: Our chapter is lobbying for "green flood control," which will help assuage future droughts, provide recreation and benefit wildlife. Here's Part I of possible solutions right here, right now.

By Nina Danza

There's one proven way to solve water issues: use green flood control.

Green flood control means preserving natural flood plains that can contain very large storms. It is spreading surface drainage over permeable surfaces for infiltration into groundwater basins. It uses vegetation for biodegrading urban pollutants.

Bottom line is that green flood control makes for a more sustainable water supply in periods of drought, based on a principle that 'storm water is a resource' not a waste.

So are we using green flood control? It's not mainstream. For 60 years storm water has been treated as a waste to prevent flooding. Right here, and all over the U.S., flood control still means channelizing, paving, and confining surface water courses in practically every neighborhood.

The chance to capture rainfall for water supply or to remove urban pollution and their impacts to the ocean is ignored. Flood control remains divorced from wildlife habitat, from improving air quality and from healthy outdoor recreation for humans.

But now green flood control is finally getting attention. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has produced a Storm Water Strategy that says "well-conceived storm water management actions provide multiple benefits for California communities, including improved water quality, increased water supply,

increased space for public recreation, increased tree canopy, enhanced stream and riparian habitat area, as well as many other benefits."

The Storm Strategy intends to redefine storm water as a resource. You can read about it here:

<http://tinyurl.com/StormWaterStrategy>

Luckily for us, the Storm Water Strategy is looking for a few good candidate projects and there is one right on the Santa Clara River Reach 1 (SCR-1). SCR-1 is located on the south levee in Ventura County from Hwy 101 to Hwy 118. These five miles of levee are earthen, have been deteriorating and erosion occurs inside the river at the levee toe.

The county agency wants to pave the levee with cement to fix the problems, but their cement proposal excludes any opportunity for storm water infiltration, natural erosion control, or even a recreation path.

What if the SCR-1 project was designed using green flood control practices for recharge and habitat instead of rushing storm water to the ocean?

There's an example of that erected about 17 years ago across the Santa Clara River north bank. At that time

the county agency used open rock and vegetated groins for erosion control (see photo). And guess what? The groins are doing exactly what they are supposed to do: provide bank stabilization and prevent erosion.

And they are doing exactly what the state Storm Water Strategy wants new projects to do: recharge the groundwater aquifer, reduce water pollution by biodegrading contamination, and enhance wildlife habitat (endangered least bell's vireo has been sighted in the groin area).

We are advocating using the SCR-1 project as a Storm Water Strategy demonstration project and the state is interested as state water board staff in January came to review the location.

and opportunities. Green flood control is a sustainable policy and far smarter choice for water resources and the future of the Santa Clara River.

NEXT ISSUE: Breaking the water wasting cycle of old-fashioned flood control, outstanding green flood control success stories and ...will the Santa Clara River be next?

Follow and support our green flood control efforts at:

www.facebook.com/SantaClaraRiverConfluence



Jim Danza (green jacket, right) helps to educate state water board members and other agency representatives on the merits of green flood control along the Santa Clara River. (Photo by Nina Danza)

State likes our model

"I love outdoor meetings," remarked Tam Dudoc, State Water Resources Control Board member.

She and other key stakeholders came to the Santa Clara River Jan. 11 to see how a flood control project planned for the Santa Clara River can be greatly improved by including multi-benefit objectives: groundwater recharge, habitat expansion, education, and recreation, among others.

Nina Danza, our Santa Clara River advocate, hosted the meeting and many other reps participated from

Ventura County Watershed Protection District, United Water Conservation District, Rio School District, and Friends of the Santa Clara River.

The project attracted Dudoc's attention and it is now listed as a demonstration model in the new State Storm Water Strategy (see related article this page)

"Difficult technical, fiscal and political hurdles must be overcome to succeed in building a truly integrated local project, but getting out on the River was an excellent start," Danza said.

Help with our river rehab

Los Padres Chapter is partnering with Friends of the Santa Clara River, and UCSB Riparian Restoration Program to return hundreds of acres at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) to a long term, sustainable ecological condition.

We encourage volunteers to lend a few hours doing restoration on Sundays, March 6 and May 1. All ages are welcome and teens can get community service hours.

Meet at the ranch, 20395 S. Mountain Rd., Santa Paula. 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://tinyurl.com/UCSBwaiver>

Rain cancels, and RSVP requested at:

prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com



About 17 years ago across the Santa Clara River north bank the county used open rock and vegetated groins for erosion control, and guess what? The groins are doing exactly what they are supposed to do: provide bank stabilization and prevent erosion. (Photo by Nina Danza)

We go where the action is

By Condor John Hankins

There were plenty of public sightings of our Los Padres Chapter's activism since our last issue. Here are some of the highlights.

Jan. 26: In a published letter, Joan Edwards of Westlake Village cited the *Ventura County Star* article on our Wilderness Basics Course as a good way of introducing the public to our wild lands.

Jan. 14: Chapter members went to the King Ranch in Calabasas to

tell Caltrans to support a wildlife corridor that would span the entire eight lanes over the 101 freeway at Liberty Canyon.

Jan. 12: Liz Lamar, chair of the Ventura Network, travelled to New Mexico to work with the Sierra Club's Diversity Team.

Jan. 7: Good news from Katie Davis, Chair of the SB Group who announced, "we have a petition supporting the new proposed Chumash National Marine

Sanctuary and an AddUp campaign page." Go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/MarineSanctuary>

Dec. 31: OpEd piece by Nina Danza in the *Ventura County Reporter* entitled "Not a drop of water conserved," in which she advocates "green flood control" (see story on pg 7).

Dec. 17: Local energy activists and Sierra Club members Ron Whitehurst, Jan Dietrick and Oxnard Mayor Carmen Ramirez rallied many others from the area for a late night bus ride to San Francisco to speak at the state PUC hearing opposing the Mandalay Beach Power Plant proposal.

Dec 16: Nina Danza and Jim Hines testified before the Ventura Co. Watershed Protection District and lauded them for taking "very welcome steps" of going from the worst environmental alternate to the best. The State Water Board reps visited in January and decided it could be a demonstration project for their Storm Water Strategic Initiative (See story pg. 7).

Dec. 15: During a Goleta hearing about the Ellwood Oil Facility, Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis and our chapter's oil expert, Fran Farina, testified that the industrial facility should be shuttered, and the land reverted back to its recreational zoning.

Dec. 15: Ventura Conservation Co-chair Jim Hines represented the Sierra Club at a public hearing held by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and advocated an immediate ban on all new oil drilling permits until more protection for wildlife and habitat were accomplished; the board delayed a decision.



Sierra Club members are active in gathering petition signatures to keep SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Resources) initiatives intact, which require a vote of the people before agricultural land or open space areas can be rezoned for development in Ventura County and its cities. Here, members Glenn and Suky Reilly knock on Suz Montgomery's door with maps, details and the petition. Go to www.soarvc.org to help out. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

Dec. 12: Sierra Club members were at the Save Our Coast/ No More Power Plants on the Beach rally which was held at Port Hueneme.

Dec. 12: Ventura Network Chair Liz Lamar traveled to Sierra Club San Francisco headquarters for work on the DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) organizational plan.

Dec 10: Jerry Connor of our Arguello Group and member of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) at VAFB, received a detailed briefing on endangered plover issues. Here's an article on it:

<http://tinyurl.com/VAFBplovers>

Dec. 6: Kickoff to the Ventura Network's advocacy and petition drive to retain SOAR (Save Open space and Agricultural Resources) measure for the November 2016 ballot, which needs 84,000 signatures to qualify in the county and eight cities.

Dec. 5: Jim Hines represented our chapter at the Sierra Club Southern California National Forests Committee, which is working to connect various wildlands and ecosystems to create a protected wildlife corridor.



Our Ventura Network Sierra Club is honoring a tireless activist and member, Jan Dietrick, on March 5. Here Jan (white hair looking at camera) travelled to San Francisco with 35 Hispanic youth from Oxnard on Dec. 17 to tell the Public Utilities Commission they oppose any more power plants on Oxnard beaches. (Photo contributed)

We honor Jan Dietrick

The Ventura Network Sierra Club will present an award to community organizer, activist and club member Jan Dietrick as part of the Women's International Empowerment Day event at the Oxnard Heritage Culture Center, Saturday March 5, 141 West 5th St.

We would like to take a moment to recognize Jan's commitment to both environmental and social justice, and appreciate her dedicated work for clean energy in our county.

The annual free event takes place between 9am-3pm, and includes lunch, entertainment, and childcare is available.

Special guest is Jim Hines, Vice-Chair of the Los Padres Chapter ExCom and speakers include Melissa Goodman, director of the ACLU's SoCal division; Oxnard Police Chief Jerri Williams, student activist Gladys Morales, Irma Lopez of the Rebozo Festival and Silky of KNS Rockstar, rappers with a message against bullies.



The gated community at the NW corner of Ventura Rd. and Vineyard Ave. will be on the adjacent parcel to this view site, which has areas that could be used for public recreation and saved from future encroachment. (Photo by Irene Rauschenberger)



THE HOFFMAN COMPANY

Vineyard Homes | ©

Aerial from the Hoffman Company's marketing package for the Ventura Vineyard Homes project, which has been approved.

More homes encroach near river

By Irene Rauschenberger

Historic and dry as it may be, the Santa Clara River is still the dynamic and the second largest river system remaining virtually intact in Southern California. It travels 83 miles from the San Gabriel Mountains and arrives in the vast and flat Oxnard Plain.

Given its importance, last spring neighbors in the north end of Oxnard were alarmed with news of an ongoing gated housing development adjacent to the river. Called Ventura Vineyard Homes, from its location at the corner of Ventura Road and Vineyard Avenue, it is in a direct line to the river where it turns west and into the ocean.

Sadly, on January 12th, the Oxnard City Council finalized the approval of this project featuring over 150 homes. Residents and visitors standing at this location can appreciate the commanding perspective of this view corridor by the existing River Ridge golf course and popular Cowboys football field, and the towering Topa Topa Mountain Range overseeing the Santa Clara River valley.

Gated Community? I say not, this is a threat to the mission of the Sierra Club that is to explore, preserve and protect the natural resources and environment; in this case to make allowances for access to our Santa Clara River. This is an infringement on a watershed and nature's power that warrants due respect.

What communities can say they have a storied treasure as we do with the Santa Clara River at this location? The Los Padres Chapter Vice-Chair, Jim Hines, concurs as we toured the site's path that rose at the bend, "there's the Topa Topa Mountain and

Chief's Peak" he acknowledged. The conclusion was, yes, urban dwellers can have nature brought to them with this hidden gem at the bend of the river.

Let us not deter from the recent approval of the subdivision and the neighborhood's loss. Let's look for solutions.

One is to salvage potential of the City-owned strip of land that lies between the north boundary of the project site and the river (this is the VC Watershed Protection SCR-3 area for

flood protection.)

Also follow this link:

<http://www.vclevees.com/>

Consider the potential for a preserve in this area for public access, to encourage implementation of existing trail master plans, and to tell the stories of the Santa Clara River. To ensure this vision, I believe the property needs to be protected. At one time there were plans to build apartments there, but the City re-acquired the land, so the fate of this property is yet to be determined.

Field trips need leaders

Remember Your Grade School Field Trips?

Sierra Club is providing field trips to the Santa Clara River for 7th grade environmental studies students at Rio School District and we'd like you to help out as a 'station leader' – no experience necessary.

Last summer we heard a recurring question at the Sierra Club table: "I want to help doing something useful, could I come in and stuff envelopes?"

Well, in this paperless age of digital media, we don't really stuff envelopes much anymore!

But there is a need for 'station' leaders during the field trips, which entails being with a small group to observe, learn and take notes on a subject (such as river plants, critters, pollution). The lesson information is already developed and no experience is necessary; just a love of nature and enthusiasm to be with the future stewards of our earth.

Dates and times for the field trips are: Mar 24 and Jun 2; 8am-2pm. Volunteers can do one or both dates.

This should be an exciting year with a very alive wet River ecosystem making for an enriching educational experience. You probably have a field trip memory from the past, why not become a lifetime memory and inspiration to the future?

Sign up to be a field trip station leader, call Nina Danza at 901-1679 or email:

prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com



Grade school students find friendly critters during field trips to the Santa Clara River area. Volunteers are needed. (Photo by Nina Danza)

MULCH: A magic material



you roll out the next row, overlap the first row about six inches, and so on.

Now you're ready to mulch! Mulch is any material placed on top of the weed cloth to conserve soil moisture, moderate soil temperature, prevent soil erosion or prevent weed growth. Like weed cloth, mulch eliminates or at least reduces the amount of sunlight that can reach seeds in the soil. If you're going to apply a coarser material (like bark), the depth should be about four to six inches thick. If you're going to mulch with finer materials, like sawdust or grass clippings, the mulch depth should be about one to three inches thick.

There are several ways to obtain mulch. The quickest way is to simply buy mulch at garden outlets.

Aesthetically, I prefer chopped up bark. So years ago I bought a 6-hp chipper/shredder through which I ran my old redwood fencing after I built a new fence. It provided enough bark to mulch under all my fruit trees. Years later, when the drought began, my wife Janis and I decided to cut down some trees that had grown too big and whose roots were threatening a driveway and house foundation.

We hired professional tree people with a much bigger commercial chipper/shredder that could eat an

entire branch in a second and spit out chunks of bark and wood. We turned a couple of eucalyptus, a large pine, a chorisia (silk floss) and a giant jacaranda into enough bark to mulch the entire front and back yards with a layer over four inches thick.

With our front and backyard lawns – and some thirsty trees -- long gone, we save a bundle on water every month. We also don't have to mow, weed or water the lawn, giving us more time to grow stuff that we can eat instead of simply maintaining a boring lawn all the time.

Next issue I'll talk about growing veggies at home.



There are pelicans-to-go in those boxes, gathered from the Gaviota area oil spill for cleaning and release. (Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper)

Oil ads target Ventura

The oil industry is running expensive pro-industry television and internet advertising in Ventura County, using local ranchers and residents to tout jobs, alleged safety of fracking practices and a viewpoint of energy independence.

Oil and gas operations and support firms have long played a part in Ventura's history, and the industry would like to keep it that way, especially in light of a lawsuit in Superior Court that was filed by three environmental groups objecting to the Board of Supervisors 3-2 approval of over a dozen wells in Santa Paula Canyon, relying in large part on an outdated environmental impact report prepared in 1978.

Such approvals based on old

permits may be applied in other parts of the county, and a lawsuit in Kern County was also filed on similar grounds.

One of the ads is "Ventura Fracking Facts" backed by the oil industry. Its website is:

<http://EnergyIndependenceCA.com/Ventura-County>

A recent TV ad that appears often shows Ventura County rancher Richard Atmore and cowboys on his land. He says "I did my own research ... fracking has been done safely for decades," amid his claim that it's "under the strictest environmental standards of the world." It's paid by Californians for Energy Independence.

Local environmental groups

continued to page 11

Spill aftermath examined

The Plains All American Pipeline Spill last year provided a harsh reminder that oil exploration, production, and transport along our coast can have significant impacts on the environment, economy, and community.

That has initiated a free six-part speaker series that will address how we are moving forward after the oil spill. Experts will present on each topic, followed by a brief Q&A at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History from 6-8pm.

While agencies, non-profits, and scientists are working to ensure we are better prepared for future spills, it is important for our community to be informed and engaged. Santa Barbara

Channelkeeper and the Museum are co-hosting the event which started Jan. 13 with an overall introduction. Information on speakers for each session and their specific topics are available at:

www.sbck.org/AfterTheSpill.

Feb. 10: Santa Barbara's Oil Spill Response Plan and new legislation to improve spill prevention and response

Feb. 17: Research and monitoring impacts from the spill

March 2: Volunteering during an oil spill

March 16: Truth about seeps: natural and human sources in the Santa Barbara Channel

March 30: Sustainable energy and transportation in Santa Barbara County

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 [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto: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.

CONEJO GROUP

New Conejo connection

To all subscribers of the Conejo Group newsletter and interested parties: The editor, Walt Zabriskie, has decided to eliminate the newsletter since the information is on the website and is adjusted for changes. After describing how to print a copy of the outings from the website and reviewing any comments from subscribers a simplified newsletter will be sent out for a few months. The website is found at:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo

“The Sierra Club Drupal website supports a slideshow which I will test and perfect so you can see the areas we go to on our many outings,” Zabriskie said.

On this site you will see the Conejo

outings by list or calendar. A map view shows the meeting place which can be clicked on to give the details. If you prefer a view showing all detail in a text view which also works in your mobile smartphone or tablet, just click on the Outings tab after using the link presented above, or use this link:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

“We hope to see you on the trails of our area. We are a very social group and welcome new people. Everyone is permitted to participate in our group activities, though we would hope that you consider joining the Sierra Club and be an active member,” Zabriskie added.

He emphasized that Conejo

ExCom, Groups welcome leaders

The Los Padres Chapter and its Groups have newly elected leaders, with the top two positions continuing a split between Ventura and Santa Barbara activists.

Jim Hines from the Ventura Network was unanimously chosen as the Chapter’s Executive Committee (ExCom) chair as our years-long leader, David Gold, stepped down and Hines stepped up from the vice-chair position. Gold’s valuable leadership was lauded and he will stay active on the legal and political fronts.

Katie Davis of the Santa Barbara Group become the vice-chair on a unanimous vote.

Re-elected were Gerry Ching as secretary and Richard Hunt as treasurer, a post he has held for 40 years!

At-large members are Alex Pujó and Katie Davis (Santa Barbara Group), Jerry Connor (Arguello Group), Nina Danza and Mike Stubblefield (Ventura Network) and Hugh Warren (Conejo Group).

During December, three groups

Oil ads...

continued from page 10

don’t buy it, including the Sierra Club. “We (eco-groups, citizens) have been working in our own separate ways on this issue, but we now feel we can get much more positive results if we all work as one team,” said Jim Hines, the chapter’s Conservation Chair for Ventura County.

Group subscribers should check the website before driving to the trailhead “to verify that the outing has not been changed or cancelled since their decision to participate.”

held ballot elections. There was no competition for the seats, indicating group members are satisfied with their representation and open to new officers. Results are:

~ **Conejo Group:** Melanie Ashen, John Holroyd, Stephanie Scher and Joanne Sulkoske.

~ **Santa Barbara Group:** Robert Bernstein, Katie Davis, Alex Favacho

and Alex Pujó.

~ **Arguello Group:** Rebecca August, Janet Blevins, Doris Connor, Jerry Connor, Connie Geiger and Rosemary Holmes.

~ **Ventura Network:** This Sierra Club area is appointed by the ExCom, which welcomed a new officer, Irene Rauschenberger, who’s been active with the Wilderness Basics Course.

ARGUELLO GROUP

Pondering oil trains & potluck

The Arguello Group will have its monthly meeting on Friday, February 19 at the Lompoc Presbyterian church, 1800 East Berkeley at 7-9pm .

Besides potluck, the Sierra Club members and friends (all are welcome) will review and evaluate the key issues of allowing crude oil by train from other regions to ship to the Santa Maria Refinery. An

all-day hearing was held at the San Luis Obispo public civic center Feb. 4 covering the Phillips 66 Refinery’s proposal.

See related story on the oil trains on page 5.

The March program is not yet set, but will be the third Friday, March 18.

For information, contact Jerry Connor at 928-3598.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP



Kate Mullin, vice chair of the Santa Barbara ExCom, introduced Jefferson Litten who gave an informative talk about Community Choice Energy recently. The tri-counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura are banding together to pay for a feasibility study. CCE is a grass-roots effort that allows locals to decide where to buy energy. For details, go to: www.ChannellIslandsEnergyChoice.org (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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>

February 3
WILDWOOD PARK LOOP – PARADISE FALLS: Moderate 4.5 mrt hike with approx. 700' elev. gain. A pleasant trail follows the stream up to the waterfall with steps leading down to the pool beneath Paradise Falls. Continuing upstream, there is a tranquil picnic area at Little Falls. Return by way of Indian Creek Trail. Bring water, food, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 9am in the Wildwood parking lot at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. EUGENE BABCOCK 499-3487 (CJ)

February 5
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)

CARPINTERIA: FRANKLIN CANYON: Strenuous 10.4 miles round-trip with 2,350 ft. of elevation gain starts from trailhead near Carpinteria High School, climbs to Ducas Family bench, then continues climbing 2 more miles before turning around. Carpinteria Valley and ocean views highlight the hike. Meet at 7:45am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase



A rare opportunity to join a guided hike of the entire 65-mile Backbone Trail along the Santa Monica Mountains, April 30 to May 7. Participants should register now as it is limited to the first 25 sign-ups. Contact Jerry Mitcham at (818) 406-1269 or backbonetrek@yahoo.com or www.smmtc.org/bbtrek (Photo by David Edwards)

Ongoing Outings

Ventura Every Monday Morning

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

Ventura Every Wednesday

URBAN EVENING HIKE: Weekly hike in Ventura meets across the street from the Mission at 6:45 p.m. for a 4 ½-mile walk up to Father Serra's Cross for spectacular scenic views of Ventura, the Channel Islands and the sunset. It continues across the hillside, down to the ocean, to the end of the pier, then along the promenade looping back to the Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER 643-5902. (VEN)

Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends

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

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

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

Monthly Programs

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

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

Outing Notes

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

AR – Arguello Group
(Northern SB County)

SB – Santa Barbara Group
(Southern SB County)

VEN – Ventura Network
(Northern Ventura County)

CJ – Conejo Group
(Southern Ventura County)

LA – Los Angeles Chapter joint hikes

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

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

Bank). Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 qts of water, snacks and lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat (over 85F) cancels. LORA 218-2105 & PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

February 6
AUTUMN RIDGE TRAIL - LANG RANCH: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 800' cumulative 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 9am Take Westlake Blvd. north to end at Autumn Ridge Drive. Trailhead and parking at intersection. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

DRAGON'S BACK OF CATHEDRAL PEAK: Start at Tunnel Trailhead toward Seven Falls. Make steep climb to the base of the Cathedral Peak Spine. Moderately strenuous 4 Mile Round Trip with boulder hopping sections. We'll go further than I led in the past! 1200 foot gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

February 7
ROMERO CANYON TO CAMINO CIELO: Walk all the way up this mostly tree shaded trail to the top. Great views of back country. Moderate-strenuous 9 mrt. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at

continued next page

Outings...continued

Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

February 8

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Bates Beach for low tide beach walk. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 10

DOS VIENTOS LOOP: Moderate 5 mrt loop with 730' cumulative elev. gain. Enjoy wonderful views of Boney Mountain, the surrounding hills and the Camarillo Plain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:30am at the Dos Vientos Community Center parking lot, Borchard Road entrance. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442 (CJ)

February 12

CHUMASH TRAIL-LA JOLLA LOOP TRAIL-POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Strenuous 9 mrt hike with ocean view.

EAVESDROPS

"Yosemite's list of recent calamities could resemble a police blotter."

~ Reaction to the deaths of two sleeping children from a fallen tree branch, by **LA Times** writer Julie Cart, who reports that the park averages 12 - 15 deaths per year from climbers falling, visitors swept over waterfalls, animal attacks, wildfires and rodent-borne viruses. "Yosemite by definition is a wild place," noted spokesman Scott Gediman.

Challenging steep beginning. 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)

February 13

MT. PINOS SNOWSHOE or SHEEP CAMP HIKE: Bring or rent your own snowshoes, then join us for some fun in the snow, snowshoeing on the

trail to Mt. Pinos. Trail starts at 8,300' and climbs to 8,800'. If road is closed before trailhead, we'll snowshoe near McGill Campground. You can reserve snowshoes and poles at Mt. Pinos Wintersports, Frazier Park, 661-245-3760. Wear boots and fleece or wool clothing: hat, gloves, long underwear, and at least 2-3 layers on top. Sunglasses, sunscreen, water, lunch, extra socks and gloves, jacket. Put ski baskets on your hiking poles if you can. In case there is no snow, we'll hike to Sheep Camp, 10 miles, about 1500' gain/loss. Rain cancels. Adventure Pass needed for cars. Meet at 8am at Fillmore Starbucks. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

February 13

MORE MESA: Morning loop walk around this extensive coastal bluff. Children welcome. Slow paced 2-3 miles or so. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State Street at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

ZUMA CANYON - ZUMA RIDGE TRAIL: Moderate 6 mrt with 1500' elev. gain overlooking the coast. 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 for carpooling. We will leave no later than 8:30am. Alternately meet at 9am at the trailhead at the end of Bonsall Drive. Directions: Kanan Road to PCH; right on PCH; right on Bonsall; continue on the unpaved road to the trailhead parking lot. SUSAN VIVELL 495-1436 (CJ)

February 13 - 14

LOWER PEAKS WEEKEND: Come join us for a Lower Peaks hiking weekend in Santa Barbara County. Saturday hike Cachuma Mountain 5 mi round trip, 1600' gain at a moderate pace. There is an option to camp or stay at a hotel. Sunday hike Little Pine Mountain 12 mi round trip, 3400' gain. Hike one or both days. Bring food, water, 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Contact leader for details: LAURA FRANCIOSI (lauraf999@dusd.net). Co-leaders: GINNY HERINGER, MARLEN MERTZ (SB)

February 14

FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 10.4 miles rt hike with an elevation gain of 1700'. Let's check out the newly re-opened historic trail in Carpinteria that offers great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop halfway for lunch and snacks, returning to the trailhead between 3-4pm. This is a long hike and good physical conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. Those coming from the south can meet us at Franklin Creek Park at 9:30am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net or 805 563-0349 (SB)

February 15

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. to walk to Ventura

continued next page



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 May 4. 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](https://www.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

Explore one of our area's national parks

Hop the Channel Islands National Park this year on any one of seven trips, and be prepared for an adventure hiking on land, relaxing, snorkeling or kayaking the coasts.

Anacapa, San Miguel, Santa Cruz: beautiful names and each has its own character and history. This year is special as the Islands are part of over 400 of America's National Parks, and it's the Centennial celebration of the National Park Service.

There are windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers, rugged coastlines with caves, pristine waters teeming with colorful fish, kelp forests, migrating whales, sea lion beaches, birds, endangered fox and so much more.

Sponsored by Sierra Club California, each adventure is a 3-day, 3-Island, live-aboard cruise with a naturalist-docent riding along during the following dates:

April 3-5
May 8-10
June 12-14
July 17-19
August 21-23
September 25-27
October 23-25

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost is \$650 which includes all meals and snacks. For details, contact leader Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email: jholtzhl@aol.com.

To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to Holtz at 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.



Each of the Channel Islands National Park islands have their own character and charms. Here's two examples: A campsite on the popular Santa Cruz Island and a hike on San Miguel Island which boasts coreopsis as high as a pigmy elephant's eye. You have seven island hops to choose from. (Photos by Condor John Hankins and Joan Jones Holtz)

Outings...continued

Harbor for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 19
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 3.8' at 9:30am Tide 0.4' 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)

February 20
EL CAPITAN CYN: Join us for a moderate 4mrt loop (600' 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 trail, following it down into the next canyon. After lunch, follow old farm roads past the llama pens 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. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

LANG RANCH PARKWAY – LINDERO CANYON via CHINA FLATS - CAR SHUTTLE: Moderate 7 1/2 mrt hike with 1500' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at end of Lang Ranch Parkway off of Westlake Blvd. at 8:30am to carpool to Lindero Canyon trailhead. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442 (CJ)

TOLAND PARK STROLL: Walk on road around Toland County Park, (between Fillmore and Santa Paula) slow pace, suitable for seniors or

families with children (strollers OK). Beautiful views of Santa Clara Valley and Santa Paula Peak. Road is 1.5 miles around; we'll do it twice, for a total of 3 miles. Two short hills, but we'll walk slowly. Bring hat, sweater, sunglasses, sunscreen, water, and snack. Rain cancels. Meet at 10am at Toland Park or 9:30am at Fillmore Senior Center, 330 Central Avenue. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

February 21
HOWARD CREEK TRAIL TO NORDHOFF PEAK: Strenuous 10 mrt hike with 2400' elev. gain/loss. The hike starts from the Rose Valley Road right off of Highway 33 and takes the Howard Creek Trail up to Nordhoff Ridge Road, then continues on to Nordhoff Peak for some great views of Lake Casitas, the Ojai Valley, and the Los Padres backcountry. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch, and proper clothing for the weather conditions. For those coming from Ventura, meet at 9am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between

Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

SALT GRASS AND SEA GLASS: @9am-11am. Easy walk along canal and sand at Ormond Beach for 1.5 mi. Start out spotting shore birds and wetland plant species, end with collecting sea glass on the way out. Please wear closed shoes, bring water, snack, sun protection. Binoculars may be useful! Light rain does not cancel. Great for kids with accompanying parent or guardian! No dogs please. Meet at the end of Arnold Road at the docent trailer (go past Agromin 6859 Arnold Rd). Questions NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

February 22
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at *continued next page*



Outings...continued

9am at Lake Casitas to do circle by the lake for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 26

OLD CABIN SITE-POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike with 1000' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Potrero Road trailhead at intersection of Wendy Drive in Newbury Park no later than 8:30am LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

February 27

ROMERO CANYON TO CAMINO CIELO: Walk all the way up this mostly tree shaded trail to the top. Great views of back country. Moderate-strenuous 9 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

RAY MILLER TRAIL - LA JOLLA CANYON: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Wonderful views of the ocean and Channel Islands. Multiple switchbacks take us up, up the mountain and the return trip is all down. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling or at the trailhead in La Jolla Canyon off of PCH at 9am. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

February 28

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)

February 29

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at

9am in Ojai at Cozy Dell trailhead to go uphill on trail for 1 hour and then return. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 2-6

ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK SPRING WEEKEND: Visit this amazing California desert state park east of San Diego when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. Our space in a developed group campground is reserved from 2pm Wed. to noon on Sunday. Arrive anytime on Wednesday and explore the park on your own. An optional half day off-road adventure with a commercial outfitter (\$135) on Thur. or Fri. Day hikes may require walking over rocky trails and some areas of rock scrambling off trail. Deposit required by February 1st to confirm participation. Limited to 18 people. For more information contact leader: RICH JURICICH, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. (Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 5

CANINE HIKE JESUSITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT: Hike through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderately strenuous 7 miles RT. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring lunch and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at B of A parking lot at 9am.

Hike limited to four dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. Call leader if in doubt. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

SULFUR MOUNTAIN: Walk on Sulfur Mountain Road uphill for about 1 hour and then back downhill for an hour. Slow pace, suitable for seniors or families with children (strollers OK). Beautiful views of mountains and valleys. Bring hat, sweater, sunglasses, sunscreen, water, and snack. Rain cancels. Meet at 10:30am at Sulfur Mountain Road and Hwy. 33 or 9:30am at Fillmore Senior Center, 330 Central Avenue. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

March 6

WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO TANGERINE FALLS: Hike along the trail then do some rock-hopping up the creek to the falls. Difficult 3 mrt. Some climbing and agility required. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

SANTA CLARA RIVER RESTORATION DAY @9am-noon. Sierra Club volunteer day with Friends of the Santa Clara River and UCSB Riparian Restoration Program at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) near Santa Paula. This preserve is home to endangered bird species, contains a wealth of stream-

side plants, rare butterflies and more. We might be taking out invasive plants, starting or planting native plants, and more. Bring water and snacks. Long pants and closed shoes strongly recommended. 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. Rain cancels. NINA 901-1679 Repeat date with Sierra Club: May 1 (VEN)

March 7

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Park and Bard in Port Hueneme for low tide beach walk. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 10-12

DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION: Come help restore wilderness values in this remote and

EAVESDROPS

"It's shortsighted to believe you're going to save the sea lions simply by rescuing and rehabilitating them and then sending them out when there's really not enough food to go around."

~ A record-setting 534 sea lions were found stranded and rehabbed last year from the Channel Islands and coast, more is expected this year due to lack of sardines and anchovies due to climate change, said Geoff Shester of Oceana. **See one stranded? Call 567-1505.**

beautiful desert park. It may be a spectacular wildflower year, and we will have time to stop and admire the flowers. Project may be trail work on the Cottonwood Canyon trail, but possibility that it will change before March. Leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

continued next page

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.

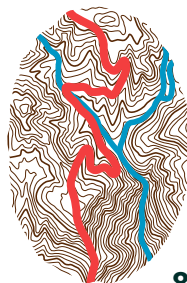
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org

Includes news and links by Steve.

Trail Prints

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Outings...continued

March 11

SERRANO VALLEY LOOP, Point Mugu State Park: This 9 miles round-trip moderate-to-strenuous hike loops through many scenic parts of the center of the Park. About 5 hrs of hiking starts at Big Sycamore Canyon trailhead and climbs 1,100 ft. up steep Serrano Canyon. Along the way enjoy woodland foliage and some wildflowers which may be blooming. Meet at 7:45am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 qts of water, snacks and lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat (over 85F) cancels. LORA 218-2105 & PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

March 12

CHORRO GRANDE: Strenuous 10 mrt hike with 3200' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. The hike starts at 4000' and climbs steadily for 5 miles to 7200', ending up on the Pine Mountain Ridge near Reyes Campground. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8am to arrange a carpool

to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

COZY DELL TRAIL, OJAI: Moderate 4 mile trail, rocky/steep start. Great views. Meet at 9:30am, Ojai Rotary Park and Ride at Hwy.33/150 intersection across from Von's. Snacks/water plus 10 essentials required. Rain or 85 degree forecast the previous day cancels. KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (VEN)

March 13

SAN MARCOS RIDGE: Short, easy hike along foothill ridges of recently opened San Marcos Preserve County Park. Amazing 360 deg views of coastal mountains and islands. 3 mi loop with optional, moderate extensions up to 5 mi. Rain, or wet trails, cancels. Call leader if in doubt. Water, sunscreen, and stable footwear advised. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 967-8770 (SB)

March 14

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at the end of La Luna in Ojai to walk on trail in the chaparral. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 19

JESUSITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT: Walk through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderate-strenuous 7 MRT. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet

behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

March 20

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)

March 21

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. to carpool to starting point at underpass in Casitas Springs to walk on trail to the outside of Lake Casitas. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 25

FRANKLIN CANYON: Climb up above Carpinteria to third bench for ocean and canyon views. 10.5 miles round trip and 2,900' gain/loss. Moderate pace. Bring 2-3 qts. water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, windbreaker. Meet in parking lot between Carrows and Chase Bank off 101 freeway, Seaward exit, in Ventura at 8am. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

March 25-27

CA DESERT WILDERNESS SERVICE: Join Mojave Group and the CA/NV Wilderness Committee

for our annual desert wilderness service project with wilderness staff Needles office of BLM. This year's destination is still top-secret at press time, but Turtle Mountains, Dead Mountains or Clipper Mts are all potential choices for some fun and useful restoration work, wilderness enhancement, and spring desert enjoyment. Central commissary, contact VICKY HOOVER 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

(Mojave Group/CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

March 26

REFUGIO BEACH TO EL CAPITAN: Car pool to Refugio Beach and walk to El Capitan or beyond. Easy 6 to 8 mrt. Bring old shoes, lunch, and water. Share parking fee. Meet behind B of

continued next page



While Condor Call prints many desert outings, the best reference is the Sierra Club's Desert Report, available at www.DesertReport.org Shown is a most attractive photo of plant life in the Soda Mountains area by Tom Budlong and published in the Report.

Winter's a great time to explore Cal-Neva deserts

Since winter and spring are prime times to go to the California and Nevada deserts, members and friends can go on outings, work and social trips and keep up with protection efforts by reading the Sierra Club's *Desert Report* newsletter. Go to:

www.desertreport.org

To receive *Desert Report* by mail contact Kate Allen at kj.allen96@gmail.com

Articles, photos, letters and original art are welcome.

Errata: Terry Frewin was listed

as the editor of Sierra Club's *Desert Report* newsletter in the Dec/Jan issue of Condor Call. Instead, Terry is the Chair of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Desert Committee. Craig Deutsche is the editor of the *Desert Report*.

The error was made in the caption of a report about an award presented to Frewin at Sierra Club California's Convention as the person who has worked the hardest on protecting public lands, in this case the California desert.

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 handerson@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...continued

A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

March 27

SUMMERLAND LOOP: A 4 mile hike and urban walk through the back hills of Summerland. We'll use little used paths, starting at Oceanview Park, to walk the trails above Summerland, returning on the back streets of the town. Steep sections make this Moderate, not Easy. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. Bring water and a light snack. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

March 28

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 2

LITTLE PINE MOUNTAIN: A challenging hike to a 4,000 foot peak in the back country. Strenuous 12.5 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)

April 3

COLD SPRING EAST TO SADDLE ROCK: (7.5 mile round trip with 2300 ft elevation gain) Moderately

strenuous hike (with some steep sections) visits cool riparian trails and beautiful coastal vistas. It connects Cold Spring East, Hot Springs, McMenemy and Saddle Rock Trails, forming loops at each end. 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)

April 9

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

April 10

INSECT HIKE IN ALISO CANYON: Learn about the most abundant form of life on the planet - insects - on this interpretive hike. A leisurely loop from Sage Hill campground on a marked trail alongside a stream. Easy/Moderate 3.5 mrt. Please note that location may change based upon weather conditions. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KENNY 692-2227 (SB)

April 16

PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3000' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8:30 AM (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

April 17

SAN YSIDRO TO THE FALLS: Hike past a favorite rock climbing location

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Public 'permitted' on school trails

By Robert Bernstein

Gerry Ching finds some unusual places to lead Sierra Club hikes and The Midland Schools Trail Network was his latest offering.

The area offers scenic views of the Santa Ynez Valley as well as of "Grass Mountain" which is covered in wildflowers in the spring. In all seasons the oak trees and pine trees are a highlight.

We started on the main trail to Grass Mountain, but after a bit we came to a big sycamore tree that marks a fork in the road. We took the left fork to the Senior Cutoff trail passed the Senior Cabin used for student outings and looped back.

The access is from Figueroa Mountain Road near the former Neverland Ranch of Michael Jackson. The property and trails are owned by the nearby Midland School and they ask people to sign a liability waiver before entering the property. [Here](#) is the form.

to a seasonal waterfall, then return to a pool for lunch. Moderate 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

OUTINGS NEEDED: Get your Jun-Sep outings to your Group outings chair soon. Be sure to include the first week of October in your schedule.

April 23

BLUE PEAK: (3662', 10 mile round trip, 2700' elevation gain) We ascend Romero Canyon trail to the saddle, loop behind and over Blue Peak back to the saddle, and then



The sign to access Midland School's trails emphasizes that the "land is protected forever," and although it's private property, you can go there with permission. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

descend also by 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)

April 24

NINETEEN OAKS RIDGE ROUTE: Hike along a stream filled with beautiful spring flowers and impressive exposed cliffs to 19 Oaks camp for lunch. Return via a low ridge and dirt OHV service road with great open views. Moderate pace 6 mrt, 1400' gain. Long commute to Upper Oso trail head, plan on late afternoon return. Rain cancels. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, and sturdy shoes. Meet

behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 967-8770 (SB)

April 30

GAVIOTA PEAK/TRESPASS LOOP: Moderately strenuous 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200. Get ready to see eye-popping views up and down the coast. We will ascend the fire road to the saddle and return via Trespass trail. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop at the saddle for snacks, returning to the trailhead at about 2pm. This is a fairly steep ascent so cardio conditioning is

continued next page

GO SOLAR

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity to make it easy and affordable for rooftop solar systems, and \$750 will go to your local chapter. Get a free quote and details at: <http://content.sierraclub.org/solar>

More pain for pines

By Perry Van Houten

The popular Pines Camp in the Ojai front country is closed for safety by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) while it launches an aggressive effort to rid the camp of hazards caused by the drought and a bark beetle infestation.

Those hazards include falling trees and limbs along with fire danger, a situation that is happening throughout the Los Padres National Forest. In May 2015, USFS officials announced that the combination of drought and bark beetles had killed some 12 million trees statewide, including about two million in Southern California.

The grove of 60- to 70-year-old Coulter pine trees at the camp began showing signs of stress in 2014. Scientists say drought affects a tree's immune system and its ability to fend off invasive bark beetles, which weaken the tree.

"After they're weakened and they die the integrity of the entire tree is compromised," said Michael Shiffar, an Assistant Fire Engine Operator for the USFS, Ojai Ranger District.

A couple of windy days in November toppled several weakened pines. The broken trees and jagged stumps served as a warning to trail users.

"One tree snapped off and fell across one of the benches and the main fire ring," Shiffar said. "That was kind of the awakening—the heads-up that these trees are really compromised now and there's nothing safe about them."

Often the danger from hazard trees is not apparent until you look above you. "It's not just the whole tree snapping off all at once and coming down. It's the top breaking out of a tree and getting hung up, and now it's just hanging there waiting for somebody to walk underneath it."

By December 18th, most of the trees presenting overhead hazards (referred to in forestry circles as "widow makers") had been taken down.

But there's another danger once the dead trees are felled. "Now you have a lot of hazardous fuel (dry vegetation) on the ground, which is basically creating a giant campfire," explained Shiffar. To mitigate the hazards, crews from Engines 352 and 53 cut off and scattered the limbs, but left the logs intact.

"The fire hazard is the limbs, the smaller diameter stuff, the dead needles that will get a fire going. The next issue is what to do with the logs," he said.

The USFS has posted a notice at the Horn Canyon Trailhead prohibiting camping at The Pines, and will announce when it is lifted.

"We really want to encourage people to stay out of the area. If you're going to the ridge just keep going. Water your dog at the spring if you need to, but don't spend a lot of time up there."



What a difference a year makes. On the left, pines are still standing on March 2014 at the popular Pines Camp in the Ojai region, and on the right a view from the same spot on December 2015. (Photos by Perry Van Houten)

Outings...continued

recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net or 563-0349 (SB)

May 1

GAVIOTA STATE PARK GRAND LOOP: A 4 mrt moderate hike in the Northwestern section of the park with great views of the eastern section and the Hollister Ranch. We'll include the newly re-opened Woodland Trail and the re-opened Yucca Trail. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. 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 or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should ready their outings for the next Condor Call schedule, covering the Jun-Sep plus the 1st week of October.

Questions? Contact Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

May 7

SUNBIRD MINE: (11 mile round trip with 1000 ft elevation gain) Long moderately strenuous hike follows road and trail past Gibraltar Dam to abandoned quicksilver mine (active 1860 – 1992). River permitting, the return trip will preview our Santa Ynez Swim hike. 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)

May 8

LA CUMBRE - CATHEDRAL PEAKS LOOP: Hike up Tunnel Trail to La Cumbre Peak for spectacular views. Then return on primitive trail to Cathedral Peak and back to Jesusita Trail. Very Strenuous 11 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

May 14

INDIAN CREEK: Long carpool to the trail head. Follow Indian Creek up a canyon and enjoy some rarely seen back country.



The creek abounds with wildlife, especially frogs and the western pond turtle. Bring a swimsuit if you're interested in taking a dip in the creek or relaxing in the Little Caliente hot springs at the end of the hike. Moderate terrain, but long 12 mrt hike. There will be many creek crossings, and you may get wet, so bring water shoes for the crossings. Also, bring snacks and lunch and at least three liters of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

May 15

TUNNEL TRAIL TO RIDGE LINE VIEWPOINT: Hike up busy Tunnel Trail and wide connector road to power line clearing. Option to continue up steep knife edge ridge just beyond the power lines for lunch. Beautiful views of Mission Canyon and Santa Barbara. Moderate pace 4 mrt with 1200' gain to clearing, strenuous 0.7 mrt, 500' gain to ridge viewpoint. Rain cancels. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at

continued next page



Volunteer Coleen with an Albinos Turkey Vulture. (Photo by Steve Adams)

Now's your chance to see raptors

The Ojai Raptor Center will open its doors to the public for a rare opportunity to meet its non-releasable "ambassador" raptors, and tour the Center which is home to the largest flight aviary in the state.

Normally, the Center is closed to the public due to the sensitive nature of wildlife in rehabilitation.

But the annual family-friendly open house on Sunday April 10 is a chance to greet hawks, falcons and owls. Come to the center at 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai from noon to 4pm. The theme for this year is "Nesting Season" with plenty of things to see and learn relating to baby raptors.

A suggested tax-deductible donation of \$5 is requested. Parking is available on-site or a mile from the center with a shuttle running every 10 minutes. For more details:

www.ojairaptorcenter.org



Outings...continued

Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 967-8770 (SB)

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

May 21
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)

May 22
GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike from Gaviota beach to the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above. Includes off-trail cross-country exploration on a challenging route! Some rock

scrambling, bush-whacking and agility required. About 5 mrt. Wear long pants and bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

May 28
REFUGIO BEACH TO EL CAPITAN: Car pool to Refugio Beach and walk to El Capitan or beyond. Easy 6 to 8 mrt. Bring old shoes, lunch, and water. Share parking fee. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

May 29
SANTA YNEZ SWIM: (6 mile round trip with 400 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike follows road and trail to Gibraltar Dam, then returns along the Santa Ynez River for a picnic and swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. It is most convenient to hike in your swimming suit (under

your hiking clothes). Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)



Sierra Club is serious about fostering diversity, and our own Ventura Network Chair, Liz Lamar, joined the club's Diversity Team in New Mexico recently. She's shown just left behind the fellow kneeling. "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work is incredibly rewarding," she said. Find out more at: <http://tinyurl.com/SClubDiversity>



Sierra Club outing at the Midland School preserve gives the public a chance to see protected private lands. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

School's Out (doors) Ask a friend to join

www.Sierraclub.org

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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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.



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