

Vol.'16, No. 3 of 6

June - July 2016

Condor Call

Sespe Wilderness Falls photo by Zack Abbey



Slick oil...Thick of it...Ormond laws...Ag slag...Flood & Drought

Pg 1&2

Pg 3

Pg 6

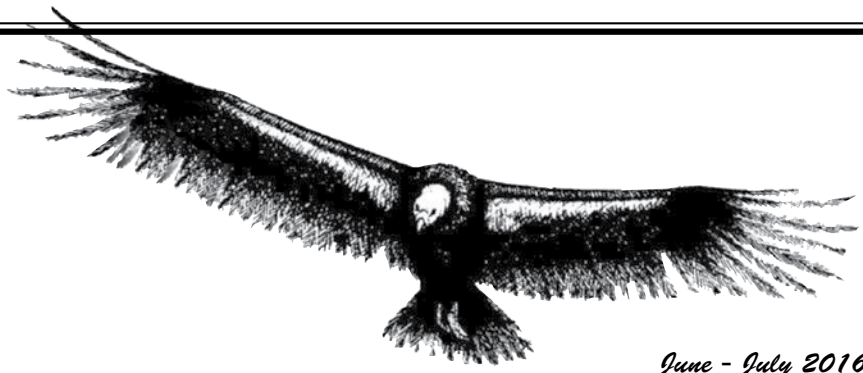
Pg 6

Pg 7

Photo by Arturo Hernandez

Condor Call

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



June - July 2016

REFUGIO SPILL

Lawsuits, legislation, losses The legacy of careless oil ops

By Katie Davis

Gathering at Refugio beach where Plains' pipeline ruptured and spilled 140,000 gallons of oil onto the beach and into the ocean last year, legislators and leading environmental organizations --

EEAVESDROP

"The time to heed the critics and the cynics and the deniers is past," Those who want to ignore the science, they are increasingly alone, they are on their own shrinking island."

~ President Obama, speaking to delegates of an international conference on climate change in the Arctic. Reaction was mixed because he has also allowed Royal Dutch Shell to begin limited offshore oil drilling in the Chukchi Sea.

including the Sierra Club -- marked its one-year anniversary with warnings about future calamities.

The spill killed hundreds of marine animals including birds, dolphins and sea lions and coated beaches and the ocean with oil as far away as Los Angeles.

And while numerous actions were taken to prevent another oil disaster, threats still remain. Here are some key milestones that have happened since the May 19, 2015 pipeline rupture:

~ Signed into law were two bills: One by State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (SB 295) requires annual pipeline inspections while Assembly Member Das Williams' bill (AB 864) mandates the use of automatic shut-off technology in environmentally sensitive areas.

A renewable energy bill (SB 350) was also signed into law, but oil companies beat back a

provision that would have cut petroleum use by 50%.

~ The first Natural Resource Damage Assessment update was published in October, identifying the types and numbers of animals killed. It starts a restoration plan, since most of the oil spilled was not recovered.

~ A Pipeline Safety Act (HR 5050) by Rep. Lois Capps passed a key committee with bipartisan support. It defines coastal beaches as high consequence areas and should affect the frequency of pipeline corrosion inspections.

~ In a possible sign of more stringent oversight by the state, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission filed a tariff cancellation for ruptured Line 903 and 901 (both of which are shut down indefinitely, idling some offshore platforms).

~ The Santa Barbara Grand Jury in May indicted Plains All-American Pipeline on 46 criminal charges related to the oil spill.

~ In a strong condemnation also in May, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration released its final "Factual Report," citing Plains for ineffective protection against external corrosion and failure to detect and mitigate the corrosion measured at an astounding 89%. The report added Plains failed to detect and respond to the rupture quickly, it lacked alarms, and the pipeline controller actually restarted the pipeline after the release occurred.

Plains' oil spill response plan also failed to identify the culvert as a spill pathway and asserted its staff was inadequately trained.

Today's Threats

The company announced it has spent \$150 million on spill clean-up and further civil and criminal penalties are pending. More diligence and regulations are cheaper in the long run, and yet, the fact remains that there will always be the risk of spills. With that in mind, here are some upcoming oil threats to our coast:

~ Old, improperly abandoned oil wells are leaking yet again at Summerland beach this year. The Sierra Club supports a new bill (SB 900) by Jackson that would cap such old, leaking "legacy wells"

continued on page 2

COVER PHOTO

We hike off into the sunset on Nineteen Oaks Trail, one of the exciting places offered by our annual Wilderness Basics Course. It attracted a full complement of 50 satisfied students; next year we start in February, but please keep abreast of hikes, tips, training and photos at: www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC/ (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)



Support the
Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary
1,100 signatures and counting!
Sign the petition at
tinyurl.com/CHNMSPetition

Join Jean-Michel Cousteau and others fighting for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary featuring breathtaking underwater footage. The event, partly sponsored by the Sierra Club, is at 6pm Monday, June 20 at Santa Barbara's Main Library, 40 E. Anapamu St. It's free, but you need to RSVP and get at ticket at: <http://cousteauevent.bpt.me>

BULLETIN: More reason to support sanctuaries: Our campaign to ban the use of deadly drift gill nets within the 3-mile limit (SB 1114) failed to get out of a state Senate committee. We'll try again!

Battle for our coast

You've no doubt heard of the controversy over the firing of Richard Lester as executive director for the California Coastal Commission, notably by Gov. Brown's appointees. Ironic, as he's the one who signed it into law.

To put this in perspective, here's a 52-minute documentary that presents 50 years of the California coastal protection movement from direct sources; the individuals who worked successfully for passage of Prop. 20 in 1972. It created the California Coastal Commission, and resulted in the passage of the Coastal Act in 1976, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The documentary also

describes the process and achievements of the Coastal Commission. Go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/CoastCommissionLegacy>



Richard Lester

ExCom thinking big

Our Los Padres Chapter took actions that could result in state- and nation-wide Sierra Club policies, notably sustainable agricultural practices, protection of marine wildlife and emphasis on 'green' flood control.

Thinking big, it was a very busy time in April and May for the Executive Committee.

Still, in reviewing the issues, ExCom Chair Jim Hines was moved to urge us all, "to go forth and enjoy, be dazzled, breathe in the fresh air, let the sun touch you with her warmth and explore the great wild places which make up the Los Padres Chapter region."

And we honored long-time member Jerry Connor of Santa Maria with a moment of silence, then determined we would find an appropriate and permanent memorial in Santa Barbara's North County.

On to activism, the business of the ExCom over recent months included:

~ Mike Stubblefield was appointed secretary of the California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee and promptly started

work on creating a Sustainable Ag Committee (see story pg 6).

Also, Longtime CNRCC Wilderness Committee chair Vicky Hoover officially announced her retirement and our own Jim Hines will continue on with her work as a co-chair for the southern section and Anne Henny of San Francisco for the northern portion.

~ Supported the Coastal Conservancy spending \$350,000 to fund a restoration plan for the Ormond Beach Wetlands.

~ Thanks to Nina Danza, she will head up creation of a 'green' flood control policy. (See story pg 7).

~ Our Chapter is joining with Santa Lucia Chapter in nominating our long-time Rep. Lois Capps for the Wayburn Award, which honors outstanding service to the environment by a person in government.

~ Appointed James Reach of Oxnard as our new Transportation Chair. An attorney specializing in real estate, the Tesla owner is an activist for alternative fuel and electric vehicles.

~ The Arguello Group is *continued on page 2*



At the scene of Plains Pipeline's crime, enviros and officials marked the anniversary of the pipeline rupture, garnering support for tougher regulations. Speaking is our Santa Barbara Group Chair and ExCom member, Katie Davis. (Photo courtesy of EDC)

Meetups: The new way to connect with us

It's easy to meet up with the Sierra Club in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, just go to Meetup on line and you'll see lots of folks who like to hike and be outdoors. Our chapter has two such groups that feature easy to strenuous hikes and wonderful local adventures. Check them out.

Ventura Meetup

Ventura features an ongoing Monday Morning Fitness walk @ 8:30am, meeting near the Mission Plaza parking lot; destination varies.

For hikes throughout the week, recent destinations include the Ventura River Preserve, Lake Piru, Cozy Dell Trail, La Jolla Valley Loop, Pratt Trail, Ormond Beach Guided Nature Walk, and Santa Clara River. Key organizer is activist extraordinaire, Nina Danza. Sign up at: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

Santa Barbara

The Club's Santa Barbara Meetup has at least 1500 enthusiasts, primarily organized by Stephen Dougherty, who says that, "We have hikes four days a week, nearly every week of the year. This Meetup is focused on our hiking and social activities."

There is a conditioning hike every Wednesday at 6:30pm at the Santa Barbara Mission for a 7 to 10-mile night hike: "This is an always intense workout, and a heck of a lot of fun," says leader Bernard Mines.

There are also less strenuous 2-4 mile hikes in the evening and during the day, going to various destinations. Sign up at:

www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara/

For a complete list of upcoming hikes visit: www.SBSierraClub.org

Spill not stopping oil projects

By Fran Farina

So it's one year since the oil spill at Refugio Beach by Plains All American Pipeline, resulting in 46 criminal indictments and a final federal report pinpointing the causes. Plains' Lines 901 and 903 remain shut down with no start-up date and the offshore oil platforms that rely on these pipelines are idled indefinitely.

Does this mean we've won the battle and can rest on our laurels? Hardly!

While kudos are owed to our Rep. Lois Capps, for securing bi-partisan support in the House Energy and Commerce Committee approving updated federal pipeline safety standards, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration PHMSA

ExCom...

continued from page 1

working with SBCAN in Santa Barbara's North County to counter proposals for about 90 new oil wells. The ExCom also spent \$250 to help sponsor SBCAN's "Looking Forward" awards dinner on May 22, which honored our Arguello Group Member Rosemary Holmes.

~ By John Hankins

oversight still relies on adequate funding. The oil lobby has many friends in Congress who find "government regulation" a burden on business and can impede agency action by restricting money for inspection and rulemaking personnel.

Similarly, fracking has been so successful in getting American to "energy independence" that pressure is mounting to lift the current moratorium on ocean fracking along the California coast.

Santa Barbara County's inland oil fields show no sign of slowing down with multiple active applications for 700+ new wells. Pacific Coast Energy's application for 96 new wells was heard by the Santa Barbara Planning Commission on May 11, but is coming back June 29th for further consideration. This particular applicant has required 100 emergency permits for seep cans to address leakages at the field.

The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission did not support staff's recommendation to deny the Phillip 66 Rail Spur project, which could bring 100-car oil trains carrying volatile crude through the tri-county area. The matter will come back to that Commission in September and public comment will once again be taken.

Ventura County has its own oil challenges. Whether it's new oil well pads or

fracking in the Sespe Oil Field located within the Los Padres National Forest, the condition of oil pipelines, or possible groundwater contamination from oil activities, Ventura is now the third largest oil producing county in the state.

We have had legislative and legal successes since the Refugio oil spill, but the purpose of this article is to illustrate how important it is for everyone who cares about the environment and the impact that fossil fuel extraction has on it to keep up the good fight.

We need elected officials who share our values and will stand up to the oil interests. You have opportunities on June 7 and November 8 to vote for Sierra Club endorsed candidates who have been vetted through our political process. Don't just believe statements or advertisements saying someone cares about the environment or shows beautiful photos along our coast. If they don't have the

Fracking finds friends

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has declared there are "no significant environmental impacts" from any fracking that has been done off of any of the 23 oil and gas platforms offshore California.

A bad call, says the Environmental Defense Center, Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity. The CBD sued the feds for allowing fracking without environmental review. To settle the suit and as ammunition to lift a current moratorium, BOEM



As part of a national action called #BreakFreeFromFossilFuels, Sierra Club members from Santa Barbara and Ventura joined about 2000 others at a rally at Los Angeles City Hall on May 14, calling for more action on climate change. (Photo by Katie Davis)

Sierra Club endorsement, they probably don't deserve your support.

Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in three counties. She is also the Sierra Club California Political Committee Co-Chair and Los Padres Chapter Political Committee Co-Chair.

Refugio...

continued from page 1

in Summerland and Goleta.

~ Proposed expansion of crude oil by rail along the coast presents a new risk, since the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission ignored the staff's recommendation of denial, despite a huge outpouring of opposition and 10,000 public comments opposing the Phillips 66 rail spur expansion. Final approval will mean frequent, mile-long and explosive oil trains along the coast

The decision will be appealed to the SLO Supervisors and Coastal Commission.

~ The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management may lift the temporary ban on offshore fracking, which includes dumping potentially toxic wastewater into the ocean.

~ The California Public Utilities Commission approved another peaker plant on Mandalay Beach in Oxnard on May 26, but gave some breathing room in coastal Goleta by requiring more environmental review for refurbishment of an old peaker plant there.

~ Venoco wants to restart oil operations using Pier 421 near Haskell's beach, despite an oil spill there 20 years ago.

It also seeks to expand drilling offshore in the Ellwood oil field using horizontal drilling from Platform Holly. Venoco wants to process this oil at the Ellwood Onshore Facility, an aging oil processing plant that has been out of zoning compliance for 25 years. The City of Goleta found that it was fully amortized in 2009 and Venoco has sufficiently profited from it, so the City has the legal right to shut it down.

The only thing currently protecting us from new federal offshore oil leases is the Obama Administration.

One positive development is potential designation of a new National Marine Sanctuary from Gaviota to Monterey which would permanently protect central coast waters from new oil drilling.

agreed to do an Environmental Assessment which is now released at:

www.boem.gov/press05272016/

The Sierra Club protested offshore fracking during a "Stop Killing Our Oceans" rally at a BOEM meeting on May 24 via members Katie Davis and Liz Lamar. Chapter Chair, Jim Hines, was featured in a KEYT-TV news broadcast asserting "we are greatly concerned about the destruction of our marine resources ..."

Ventura's eco-grade: C-

The city of Ventura got a C- from school teenagers who asserted it isn't doing enough to protect them, and us, from climate change.

Representing the group iMatter, Olivia Looz and dozens of other students challenged the Ventura City Council on May 9 to do more and asserted, "we will help you to protect our children and grandchildren."

Noting that "we are the transitional generation," Looz announced iMatter's new campaign to assess a city's action - or inaction - "to make meaningful progress."

The report card is based on real data following prescriptions by former NASA climate scientist Dr. Jim Hansen. Ventura's grade was based on a Zero Emissions Plan (D-), Renewable Energy (A+), Waste (B-), Carbon Removal (F) and Youth Involvement (None), among others.

iMatter was founded by then 13-year-old Alec Looz of Ventura who has been organizing youth leaders since its inception in 2007. Olivia is carrying on his work locally until she goes to college later on this year, while their mother

Victoria is helping to run iMatter, which has chapters throughout the nation.

Its new strategy "is to make climate change personal by empowering passionate high school and middle school youth to press for meaningful climate action in their communities. And it is working," Alex Looz wrote in announcing the report card campaign.

"Wow, that was impressive," commented Mayor Erik Nasarenko, but the council took no particular action.

The method was supported by the Ventura Sierra Club because "engaging youth is now a top priority mission of the Sierra Club and certainly iMatter fits right in," said Chapter Chair Jim Hines.

To view the report and support iMatter, go to:

www.imatteryouth.org/

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Condor Call

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

Sierra Club

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller

We're in the thick of it - join us

We work on projects and issues so that we can all enjoy the mountains to the sea. Here's some highlights of our work, and feel free to join us anytime. Use the contact numbers or emails listed in Group News or the Directory.

May 24: **Forget Fracking** - Chapter Chair Jim Hines was featured on KEYT-TV, protesting possibility of allowing fracking in the Santa Barbara Channel during a federal hearing in Ventura, and our members were among the few dozen who rallied. He said on air, "Sierra Club is greatly concerned about the destruction of our

worked tirelessly restore the earth by hand at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, organized by Nina Danza.

April 30 to May 1: **Interstate Interest** - Chapter represented strongly at the California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee at which our Chair, Jim Hines, was appointed co-chair of the important Wilderness Committee. Ventura Sierra Club rep Mike Stubblefield elected secretary and lobbied for creating a CA Sustainable Agriculture Committee (see story on page 6). Co-Legal Chair Fran Farina was also there.

April 22 - **EcoVote OpEd** - *SB Independent* published OpEd piece by Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis about the importance of voting for environmental candidates, noting oil and other polluting industries are heavily supporting others. Link is at: <http://tinyurl.com/EcoVote>

April 18: **Biodynamic Wine!** The April edition of *Sierra Magazine* features a wine grown by Arguello ExCom member Rebecca August on her family's farm in the Santa Ynez Valley, in an article entitled: "Five Great Biodynamic Wines." Read it at: <http://tinyurl.com/Biodynamic-Wines>

April 3-5: **Islands Hop** - Jim Hines joined the Sierra Club California's Islands Hop cruises for three days visiting Channel Islands National Park. "This is such a great outreach to be able to talk to people from all over the state about the work of the Los Padres Chapter in protecting the national park, ocean waters and marine mammals," he said. You too can go, see story on back page.

April 2: **Inspiring Youth** - Hines spoke on behalf of the Sierra Club at an "Inspire Her Mind" event at Cal State Channel Islands, event designed to mentor young school girls with university educators.

~ Compiled by Condor John Hankins



National honored Ventura Sierra Club Chair Liz Lamar for her work on the Diversity Team and Population Program, also citing her local activism. We are so proud of her talents. Learn more at: www.SierraClub.org/population

marine resources by offshore fracking ... this is the deadly dumping of chemicals from offshore oil platforms that are allowed to frack into the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel."

May 25: **Whole Foods** fundraiser in Santa Barbara was delicious, and we'll get a check!

May 16: **Oracle of Ormond** - Members met with Walter Fuller at Ormond Beach to determine what kind of help he needs as the area's long-time volunteer steward. We begin special fundraising outings there on June 5.

May 13: **EDC TGIF** - Chapter was co-sponsor of Environmental Defense Center's TGIF event and many people signed up to support our campaigns.

May 10: **Historic Trail** - Irene Rauschenberger of Ventura Sierra Club attended the Oxnard Cultural Heritage Board in support of a landmark within the city recognizing the historic route of the Juan Bautista De Anza Trail.

May 1: **Danza's Dozens** - Big shout out to the inspiring teens and Sierra Club adults who



We organized a rally to ban fracking from offshore oil platforms but the feds didn't listen (see story on page 2). We're not giving up. (Photo by Katie Davis)

We were at five Earth Day celebrations

Over two days in April the Sierra Club was taking part in Santa Barbara's giant Earth Day celebration, in which scores of people visited our booth and learned about our outings, activism and Wilderness Basics Course ... a scene repeated to a lesser degree in Oxnard, Ventura, Ojai and the Santa Ynez Valley.

"Our chapter accomplished great outreach," said Chair Jim Hines.

A butterfly release and education "was a hit," Hines said of Ojai's event in which we teamed up with Juliana Danaus, of Monarch ARC Waystation. Oxnard's event was hampered by inclement weather. Ventura's beautiful day along the promenade had fewer booths represented than in past years and at least four competing companies pushing solar energy.

The chapter did, however,



At the 2-day Earth Day fest in Santa Barbara, Alex Pujo was one of many volunteers who spoke with scores of visitors. (Photo by Katie Davis)

have a presence in the Santa Ynez Valley which doesn't conduct large Earth Day events if at all. But thanks to Arguello Group ExCom members Rebecca August and Rosemary Homes the late (May 21) event drew dozens of people signing onto our

mailing list and petition for a new marine sanctuary.

Thanks to all members who staffed our booths, notably organizers Katie Davis in Santa Barbara and Liz Lamar in Ventura-Oxnard and Jim Hines in Ojai.



Ventura Sierra Club Chair Liz Lamar welcomed many visitors at Ventura's Earth Day along with WBC volunteers. (Photo by John Hankins)

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 Rebecca August, RebeccaAugust@mac.com

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 11:30am 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.

Carla Castillo endorsed

The Sierra Club is endorsing Carla Castilla for Supervisor of Ventura County's District 3, which includes Camarillo, Port Hueneme, Naval Base, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, Lockwood Valley and parts of Oxnard.

"This is a key seat, a swing seat held for five terms by Kathy Long who is retiring," said David Gold, chair of the chapter's Ventura County political committee.

Carla has worked for Rep. Lois Capps and is currently the District Director for State Senator Hanna Beth Jackson. "Carla is a really strong candidate due to her political skills," Gold said. "She blew away our interview committee with her detailed knowledge and passion about the full range of local environmental issues."

Not only that, she is the only candidate supporting the traditional SOAR measures, which the Sierra Club favors, while all the other candidates are backing "SustainableVC," a competing measure funded by agricultural and development interests.



A Ventura native, she plans to fight for more jobs, water safety, environmental protection, safe neighborhoods, and preserving the quality of life for Ventura County families.

"Now our work is cut out for us ... this will be a very competitive race that will make a huge difference for the future of Ventura County's environment," Gold concluded.

To help her win, go to: www.carlacastilla.com/



WE ENDORSE for June 7 ballot

See stories on pgs 4 & 5

Salud Carbajal
Congress, 24th Dist.

Julia Brownley
Congress, 26th Dist.

Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Senate, 19th Dist.

Henry Stern
State Senate, 27th Dist.

Monique Limón
Assembly, 37th Dist.

Christy Smith
Assembly, 38th Dist.

Das Williams
S.B. Supervisor, Dist. 1

Joan Hartmann
SB Supervisor, Dist. 3

Steve Bennett
Vta Supervisor, Dist. 1

Carla Castilla
Vta Supervisor, Dist. 3



Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter's website: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

June 7
RAY MILLER TRAIL - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Fabulous ocean views, good switchbacks, up the first half of the hike, with a downhill return. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8am for carpooling. Or meet at 8:30am at the La Jolla Canyon parking lot off of PCH (CA State Park lot with parking fee) next to the trailhead. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

June 10
HAPPY CAMP CANYON: 10 mile loop hike in Happy Camp Canyon Park, north of Moorpark, on an abandoned ranch road. The park is an important wildlife corridor linking the Simi Hills with the Santa Susanna Mountains, and features oak woodlands and open grasslands in a sheltered canyon. 1,000 feet gain/loss. Bring hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water, and lunch. Rain cancels. Meet at 8am at Fillmore Starbucks. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

June 11
SAN MARCOS FOOTHILL PRESERVE: This is an easy-moderate 3.5 mrt hike across the San Marcos Foothill Preserve, part of our County Parks system. We'll explore the parts of the current trail system.

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

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

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

Regional Hike Info
 There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:
<http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
www.LPForest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

Bring water and a light lunch. Sun protection is recommended as there is limited shade. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

June 12
GAVIOTA PEAK: Walk past the hot springs, then up to a 2,400 foot peak for lunch and a sweeping coastal view. Long drive. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

June 13
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to the cross. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 15
SUNSET HILLS TRAIL: Moderate 6.6 mrt hike with approx. 750' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead. Directions: north on the 23 Fwy toward Moorpark; exit at Sunset Hills Blvd. turning right onto Sunset Hills and continue to Erbes Road (about 1/4 mile); turn left onto Erbes and continue about 0.7 miles to the trailhead parking lot on your right. MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773 (CJ)

June 17
LA JOLLA VALLEY LOOP with a car shuttle: 7 miles with 2169 cumulative elevation gain - moderate hiking pace. Start out going up the Chumash trail into the La Jolla Valley then looping around and coming back the overlook trail and ending up in La Jolla Valley via the Ray Miller trail. From this hike you get to see pretty much all of the La Jolla Valley and much of its surroundings. Meet at the Ventura carpool at



Bushwhacking above Hwy 101 at Gaviota rewarded hikers with lesser known and unique wind caves during an outing led by Robert Bernstein. A geologist happened to be on the outing and answered lots of questions. Moral: Join our outings, you're in for adventures. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Seaward and Harbor at 8am so that we can carpool to trail head. Park along Harbor Blvd. Hiking/trail boots, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Extreme heat (above 85F) or rain cancels. PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

June 18
CATHEDRAL PEAK: Start up Tunnel trail and branch off onto Jesusita connector trail. Continue up primitive trail, steep and rocky in places, to Cathedral Peak. Lots of boulder hopping. Strenuous 5 mrt. Some agility required. Bring lots of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

June 19
ROMERO CANYON LOOP: Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream. Then down an abandoned road with beautiful views where we will have lunch. Moderate 6 MRT. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

June 19-25
ESCALANTE RIVER BACKPACK Enjoy the stunning landscape of southern Utah on this backpack along 27 miles of the Escalante River and 10 miles of deep and narrow Harris Wash Creek. Side trips along the way will explore the narrow canyons and creeks. Arrive in the town of Escalante at the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center around noon MDT to get our free permit and latest route information. Then set up a car shuttle between the beginning at the Hwy 12 bridge and the end at Harris Wash Trailhead. Bring a daypack for the side trips and footwear appropriate for being in and out of the river all day. There



Two men armed only with catchpoles risked peril working to free this cougar's paw caught in a bobcat trap. Stunning video.

Footage of cougar freed

Here is an amazing, real life rescue of a cougar caught in a trap that did not entail putting it to sleep:

<http://tinyurl.com/CougarFreed>
 The six-minute video features Utah Wildlife Resources employee Mark Elkins and a trapper using several catch poles on the cougar's head and back foot to get it to lie down and stretch out so they can release its

front foot from the bobcat trap in Utah's Pine Valley Mountains last December.

While the whole procedure is intimidating, Elkins said "the scary part is once it's out."

He emphasized that, "trappers in the state of Utah are a huge asset in controlling predator populations, and essential in wildlife management."

is an option of ending the trip June 24 or 25. DAVID HARDY, 702 875-4826, email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. (S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

June 20
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Lake Casitas to do circle by the lake for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 23
LOWER SADDLE PEAK TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 660' elev. gain. Half the hike in the shade; the other half in full sun. Bring water, food, and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in the small parking lot on the corner of Las Virgenes (Malibu Canyon) and Piuma Road. Red flag warning cancels. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

June 25
MONTECITO PEAK - ANNUAL SUNSET HIKE: Celebrate Summer Solstice with a late afternoon hike up a steep peak for a panoramic view of the South Coast. Enjoy a sunset supper. Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lots of water, supper, flashlight. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 4pm. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

June 26
PRATT TRAIL TO VALLEY VIEW CAMP: Catch the last breath of spring (or the first beam of summer) looking down on the Ojai valley. Round trip distance 6.6 miles, gain/loss 2,000 ft. Lunch break in cool shaded Valley View Camp. Wear hiking boots;

bring 2 or more liters water, snacks, and sun protection. Meet 8am at Ventura carpool point (Carrow's parking lot at Seaward and Harbor Blvd.) or 9am at Los Padres National Forest Trailhead parking (next to Stewart Cyn Debris Basin off Signal Street, Ojai). Contact: NINA, email: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com. (VEN)

June 27
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)

June 29
LOWER SYCAMORE CANYON - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 4.5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Rancho Sierra Vista Satwiwa parking lot in Newbury Park at 8am From the 101 Fwy., take Lynn Road south towards ocean; turn left on Via Goleta before Dos Vientos and drive to the end parking lot. MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773 (CJ)

July 3
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. Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper

continued on page 5

Ongoing Outings

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

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

Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends
SOCIAL HIKE every Friday evening for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)
STRENUOUS 5-10 mile roundtrip evening hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; bring water and a flashlight, preferably head lamp. Hike is designed for conditioning. For details, contact BERNARD MINES, 722-9000.
MODERATE AND STRENUOUS hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at Bank of America at State St. and Hope Ave.

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Outings...from page 4

State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

July 3
CHUMASH TRAIL TO MUGU PEAK: Salute independence on land of the free overlooking our U.S. Navy Base. Moderate 4.5 mi loop hike with 1,100 feet elevation gain. Steep steady climb for the first 1/2 mile, which is crowded with hikers and runners. Then leave the crowds behind and enter the scenic La Jolla valley for several miles. We'll take a spur to the top of Mugu Peak for a refreshment break and then return to the main trail and back to parking. Bring 2 liters water, snacks, and sun protection. Wear good hiking shoes. Meet at 9am across from the Navy firing range (northerly of Mugu Rock) at the free parking area. Contact: NINA, email: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com. (VEN)

July 4
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 a.m. 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)

EAVESDROPS

"We want to be among the groups leading the way in ensuring everyone has the opportunity to access the outdoors--whether it's a park down the street or one of our national wonders."

~ Statement from the Sierra Club in actively supporting the 100th anniversary of our National Parks in 2016.



July 8
REYES PEAK (7,514'): This is a great hike in the summer, because at 7,000' it's usually cooler and the pine trees keep the trail shaded. There are great views on both sides of the Pine Mountain ridge, and on clear days you get some amazing views of the Channel Islands. The hike is mostly moderate with some steep sections to Reyes Peak (about 1.5 miles), then we'll cross-country back down to the main trail and hike for a couple more miles to a viewpoint and have lunch. We'll then head back, staying on the main trail, back to the cars. Total hike time will be 4-5 hours. Long drive to trailhead. Bring a jacket for colder temperatures. Bring lunch, snacks, at least 2 liters of water (no water on the drive or on the trail), Adventure Pass required for each car at trailhead. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8am. SUZANNE, email: suzanne@hiplaces.org. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

July 9
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. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

July 10
PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State

St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

July 11
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 16
SAN YSIDRO TO E. CAMINO CIELO: Strenuous hike up to E. Camino Cielo for lunch. Follows the creek, past a waterfall, and up onto a sunny trail with some height exposure and great views. Steep 9 mrt, 3000' gain, approx. 5 hrs at moderate pace. Intermediate to advanced hikers. -18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring at least 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net(SB)

July 17
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL CANINE HIKE: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 4 mrt. with 1000 foot elevation gain. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at Bank of America parking lot at 3790 State at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. Hike limited to five dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

SANTA CLARA RIVER TO SOUTH MOUNTAIN RIDGE SECRET GARDEN TRAIL: Sierra Club has permission this date to explore privately held land earmarked as part of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. We will be hiking a 1,500+ acre area owned by The Nature Conservancy, approximate distance 3 miles with 1000 ft. gain. Bring 2 liters water (required), snacks, and sun protection. DIFFICULT river crossing! Expect to wade through 18" or deeper water 50' across with very slippery bottom. Wading footwear recommended. Ages 10+ only, no dogs please. Meet at 9am at south end of Mission Rock Road (past Pick the Part, 950 Mission Rock Road, Santa Paula 93060). Contact: NINA prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

July 18
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am in Ojai at Shelf Road trailhead to do large square for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

July 23
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

July 24
GAVIOTA STATE PARK TUNNEL VIEW LOOP: A 4 mrt moderate hike on the Tunnel View Trail and newly re-opened undercrossing. We'll start

on a short portion of the Trespass Trail, then onto the Tunnel View. Great views of the NW section of the park. Then descend to the US101 undercrossing and link up with the Ortega Trail. Return my way of the old road, Hwy 1 and the frontage road. 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)

July 25
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)

July 29
ROMERO LOOP: Strenuous 11 mile loop with 2,400 ft. gain in Montecito. Enjoy beautiful views and lunch on a water tower. Moderate pace. Bring food, at least two quarts water and lug sole boots. Meet at 7:30am at Carrows sign off Seaward 101 exit in Ventura for carpooling. PHILIP & LORA, email: philipclarke@yahoo.com 218-2103 (VEN)

July 30
OXNARD BEACH HIKE: 5 miles in the sand. Out and back hike starting where 5th Street ends at the beach. We will go north to the Santa Clara River. No development, few people, many birds and maybe seals and dolphins offshore. See McGrath Lake, Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve, 25-foot high sand dunes. Bring snacks, water. Meet at 10am at the end of Fifth Street in Oxnard. KIM 983-2147 for questions. (VEN)

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)

July 31
BEAR CREEK CAMP: Hike to a swimming hole at Bear Creek Camp on Sespe Creek. 9 miles round trip. Probably hot weather but a relatively level trail with chances to cool off in the creek. Finish at a sand bar with a swimming hole and shade from cottonwood trees. Prepare for an all day adventure. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. Early start time 8AM. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

August 6
COLD SPRING EAST: (9 mile round trip with 2775 ft elevation gain) Very strenuous hike ascends one of the most scenic front country trails to Camino Cielo. Optional loop at top adds 1 mile and 300 ft elevation gain. 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)

August 7
FIR CANYON: Long car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mt. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring



Walter Fuller, the full-time volunteer "Steward of Ormond Beach," shows a visitor information from his many displays. Ventura Sierra Club has signed on to help him out with equipment and leading hikes. See story on page 6. (Photo by Nina Danza)

lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 13
POLO CLUB - RESERVOIR TRAIL LOOP: Join us on this 4mrt easy-moderate hike to the Summerland Reservoir. Mostly flat, but some steep sections. We'll start from the Toro Cyn Creek trailhead on Via Real near the intersection of Toro Cyn Rd. We'll pickup the Edison Trail back of Summerland and connect with the Reservoir Trail to the reservoir where we'll stop for lunch. We'll return via the Reservoir and Polo Club trails. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

August 14
TRESPASS TRAIL/GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to Moderate Hike from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail. About 4mrt with side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swim suit for hot springs. Also water and snack or light lunch. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT (SB)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2016 thru January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

August 19-21
PERSEID METEOR SHOWER IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT: Come enjoy the Perseid Meteor shower in a dark sky area. We'll probably have about 100 people camping in the widest part of the Black Rock Desert about 100 Miles north of Reno. Expect a potluck, tours, and meteor watching. Sky will be pretty dark in this remote area and the meteors show up really well. Side trips to hot springs and the Emigrant Trail likely. DAVID BOOK 775/843-6443 (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

August 20
FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately

strenuous 10.4 mrt 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. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

August 21
PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mrt hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike will be in the creek bed, so expect to get wet. It can be very hot in August, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit, hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Please do not come on this hike if you're not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek. Meet at 9am, Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). 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)

August 27
ROMERO CANYON/ ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Strenuous hike up to a ridge line with the most gorgeous views in SB, Old Island View trail to an OHV road and Juncal, looping back to Romero, 12 mrt, 3000' gain. About 5-7 hours at a moderate pace with several steep spots and some minor height exposure. Experienced and Intermediate hikers only. 18- must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks, weather protection, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

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A Brush With the Waves
 Art Show and Sale Benefiting Surfrider Foundation
 Catch the waves... in plain air... at the library
July 2-31, Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Central Library
 Opening reception & award ceremony • First Thursday, July 7, 5 - 7 pm
 Dave Johnson and the Blue Ice • Meet the SCAPE artists!

New laws protect Ormond Beach

“Ormond Beach is a designated Audubon Important Bird Area which indicates its global importance to wildlife conservation efforts as a unique and essential bird habitat.”

~ From Oxnard city staff report

With that kind of professional testimony, the Oxnard City Council passed an ordinance that will protect Ormond Beach’s plants and animals by restricting harmful activities, such as unleashed dogs, kite flying, camping, fires, private vehicles and trespassing into closed areas.

The importance of this ordinance is that Walter Fuller – longtime volunteer caretaker at the beach -- and officials can now point out to visitors that any disturbance is the law, that ideally will be enforced. Pending is a future Memo of Understanding to improve enforcement between all entities to ensure priority is given to the protection and restoration of habitat.

Present at this May 17 council meeting were many defenders of Ormond Beach (including the Ventura Sierra Club). A fence-sitting discussion ensued that compelled consultant comment from attorney Karen Kraus, who skillfully acknowledged the problems to the satisfaction of a vote in favor of the ordinance 4-1, with only Bert Perello opposed. Oxnard Council Member

Carmen Ramirez moved the recommended action for an ultimate safe public access management plan, “... although we do not have all the resources, this is essential to take care of Ormond Beach.” She also emphasized that, “The Nature Conservancy is an international organization that acquires property privately all over the world, (and) is making its greatest investment in the world in Oxnard...”

A long-time supporter of the Conservancy’s vision that would make it a world-class habitat, Ramirez recognized Walter Fuller, whose personal quest to keep the area clean and protected evolved into being a self-imposed caretaker and documenter of the habitat and visitors. In prior years the City recognized the value of his work and provided him with a trailer and storage container at the gate where he resides.

Lately, the Ventura Sierra Club is pitching in to help Fuller with equipment and via “Clean and Green” guided nature walks, the first at 9-11am on Sunday, June 5. “This is the first of a series of Ormond Beach Clean and Green hikes to be held as a benefit for Walter Fuller, resident docent of Ormond Beach. For a requested \$5 donation, we will have a combined cleanup - nature tour,” said VSC organizer Nina Danza. Future hikes will be announced at:

www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

The outspoken support of those present is reassuring that the concerns defended by City staff, the Nature Conservancy and the Coastal Conservancy partnership goals of restoration and visitor access will prevail. The Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Audubon Society, Environmental Defense Center and Sierra Club environmental groups and the people are integral to making Ormond Beach function as a secure and safe preserve.

~ Editor’s note: Irene Rauchenberger and John Hankins collaborated on this report.

EVENTS

June 12 - **Green & Blue, A Coastal Celebration** is the Santa Barbara Environmental Defense Center’s biggest and most fun annual fundraiser from 2-5:30pm Sunday, June 12 at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, 304 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta. For tickets, go to: www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

June 17 - **California National Parks 100th anniversary** will be celebrated by the Wildling Museum with a juried exhibition showcasing the nine NPS parks within the state with 51 works on display, opening June 17 with a reception and running through Oct. 3. For details, on the reception, go to: www.WildlingMuseum.org

July 2-31 - **A Brush with the Waves**, an art show and sale benefitting Surfrider Foundation with SCAPE artists is at Santa Barbara’s main library with an opening reception on Thursday, July 7. See details on page 5 advertisement.

July 4 - **Street Fair** in Ventura and the Sierra Club will be there, in the 300 block sharing a booth with other eco-groups and the Arts for Earth Foundation in downtown Ventura.



There must be a better way to grow our food without using damaging chemicals and pesticides, and member Mike Stubblefield is determined to show the way. (Photo contributed)

Changing Ag methods

By Mike Stubblefield

As a longtime gardener in the third largest agricultural area in California, I’ve always been fascinated by commercial agriculture.

But lately, I’ve become alarmed by some of its practices. Recently, my wife and I attended a community meeting of hundreds of farmworkers, local farmers and county and state Ag officials, to protest increasingly heavy aerial applications of chemical pesticides on fields, especially local schools and neighborhoods.

I was shocked to learn that the “regulators” don’t always regulate as well as they should.

I’m disturbed by many of the practices employed by commercial agriculture (farming, dairy farms and cattle ranching). That is why I decided to propose a statewide “Sustainable Agricultural Committee,” under the aegis of Sierra Club California, to identify such threats to our environment, create alternatives to current practices and lobby the agricultural community or the legislature to change the way they do business.

At the Sierra Club’s recent California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee meeting, I introduced a resolution to form the new statewide committee and it was unanimously approved. Here are some initial issues we’ll be tackling:

~ Health hazards to farm workers, nearby neighborhoods and consumers due to toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

There is a virtual lack of any rules regarding the use of these chemicals beyond “following the manufacturer’s instructions [italics mine],” some of which also causes unhealthy or ‘dead’ soil.

~ The means by which crops are watered via inefficient and wasteful sprinkler systems instead of drip irrigation. Also, the inability of soil at commercial farms to retain moisture because there are no longer any organic

nutrients in the soil, which in turn causes more contaminated runoff into adjacent land and streams.

~ The impact of increasing use of genetically modified seeds (many of them actually trademarked).

~ For dairy farming and cattle ranching, we consume so much that the herd is 93,000,000 strong! These critters consume enormous amounts of water and grain, and pose a serious threat to soil and water. That’s partly because both dairy and meat products have trace residues of heavy metals, drugs, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.

Animal waste at large dairy farms and ranches is often stored in “lagoons” chock full of chemicals and disease organisms. And the enteric emissions (belching and flatulence) from those 93 million cattle and cows are a major cause of global warming because it’s rich in methane.

~ Vehicles used in farming and ranching mainly use diesel engines, which emit far more NOx than gasoline engines. Farmers like diesel because it’s rugged, reliable, more efficient and therefore cheaper to operate. But unlike virtually all street-legal vehicles, many farm vehicles have few or zero emission controls.

~ Overall, as currently practiced, agriculture in California is a threat to our air, water and soil, unhealthy for all of us, and it’s simply unsustainable.

The Sierra Club, the oldest and biggest environmental organization in the world, which began in and has its headquarters in California, is the logical organization to lead the fight for more sustainable agricultural practices.

We are now up and running. I invite those of you who share our concerns about this threat to join us. For more information, call me at (805) 216-2630 or email:

motodata@roadrunner.com



Ormond Beach is home to snowy plovers and hundreds of other birds, many of them migratory. Now the city of Oxnard has passed an ordinance that will help keep them safe from unleashed dogs, vehicles and other threats. (Photo courtesy of Ventura Audubon Society)

BACKBONE TRAIL

67-mile trail fused-use it

The dream of establishing an uninterrupted trail among the sycamore canyons and sandstone peaks of the Santa Monica Mountains was finally fulfilled when the full 67 miles of the Backbone Trail was officially celebrated on June 4 by the National Park Service.

Decades in the making, it runs between Pt. Mugu State Park in Ventura County and Will Rogers Historic Park in Los Angeles County. Pieces of it have been donated or purchased despite many pressures to develop the lands along the way, especially the prime real estate with ocean views. The last chunk of 40 acres in the Trancas Canyon area was donated by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Betty Weider, while two

other parcels at the Ventura County line closed escrow a few days later.

A story about how difficult it was to acquire and build the trail over many generations is at:

<http://tinyurl.com/BackboneTrailLATimes>

“The Backbone Trail offers the primo, sustained outdoor experience in Southern California,” Joe Edmiston told the Times. He should know, he’s the long-time director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and he sees it as iconic as the John Muir Trail or the Appalachian Trail.

“One of my favorite segments is the upper Newton Canyon area, where I enjoyed sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean below, a vast canyon

with a seasonal waterfall and lush ferns in the shady side of the trail,” commented Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines.

The Chapter’s Conejo Group often leads hikes along the Backbone; check our outings for specifics.

The celebration was held on National Trails Day.

Backbone Trail System





“Green flood control” that recharges storm water seems to be a no-brainer and already demonstrated here along the Truckee River. So why can’t we do it for the Santa Clara River? (Photo contributed)

Rethink flood control to recharge our water

By Nina Danza

Too much or too little is the new water reality.

Climate change means longer drier droughts and harder shorter rains. In Ventura and Santa Barbara counties (and in much of the US) the flood side of that reality needs to be used to help solve the drought side.

With every kind of development, more runoff gets in our rivers and is rushed to the ocean. There goes the water that’s supposed to replenish aquifers which is an irreplaceable part of our water supply.

So why do we rush streams and rivers to the ocean? In this new reality of fewer bigger storms, this is all the water we get. There isn’t another magical source.

You guessed it, that water needs to be contained for flood control. In what is certainly now a senseless paradoxical twist, we send the very water we need away so developments stay dry.

You know the drill: FEMA requires flood insurance in mapped inundation zones. Not the worst situation, except that new development is routinely allowed in those and other flood mapped zones which increases the calculated water elevations.

For example, the Newhall Ranch is a gigantic footprint within the floodplain on the upper Santa Clara River. What will that mean to the river elevation, say in Santa Paula? Or Oxnard? FEMA regularly redraws maps in a given area due to increased flows from another area. By the way, development may be the biggest evil but it’s not the only one. FEMA has been known to re-compute higher storm flows due to new data (hello climate change). All of this simply means existing river capacity is found inadequate and more flood protection is needed.

And more flood protection in a now ‘inadequate’ river almost always takes the form of paving the sides or bottom or raising height of its levees. The same available cross-sectional area has to carry more water. Rarely is flood protection provided

by other means such as buying floodplain land or elevating the buildings.

How to change this losing game? Can the disconnect between land use decisions and flood control be resolved? Or maybe FEMA will be overhauled so taxes don’t keep bailing out those who live in disaster prone areas? Fat chance. Even though there are rare successes in river stewardship (such as in Denver, Colorado), waiting for the flood control political correctness is foolhardy.

Green flood control techniques are a better way to leverage extreme storms for water sustainability. These techniques

are proven but highly underutilized. It means slowing down flows to allow infiltration and groundwater recharge. It means using rock in naturally placed arrangements, growing trees and plants to bio-filter urban contaminants, restoring wetlands and habitat for healthier water ecosystems. And maybe even welcoming back extirpated species such as steelhead trout.

The problem with green flood control is usually figuring out how slower, sometimes larger flows can be accommodated if space is tight. The solution is working

We applaud our donors...encore

Please accept an immense thank you to every one of you who contributed money to our annual March Appeal, making it possible for all of us to be catalysts of change. And a similar thank you to all who volunteered your time.

While we only ask you once per year, you can contribute anytime, and the simplest way is online. Just click on the ‘Donate’ link at our website: <http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org/>

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The Sierra Club has been at it since 1892, saving Yosemite and the Grand Canyon, helping to secure passage of the Wilderness Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act and so much more.

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very hard and creatively, finding areas that may not be an easy or obvious fit, but still make green flood control successful. Even in Los Angeles, where urbanization

is on top of the River for miles around, an ingenious plan has been written to take out the pavement and put in green flood control.

Green flood control is the answer. We need to be willing to ask the question ‘Why aren’t there more green flood control projects?’



Sierra Club President Aaron Mair was arrested April 18 during a civil disobedience rally in Washington DC to urge Congress to “do its job” and consider a new Supreme Court nominee. (Photo contributed)

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What a deal...nature heals

By Jim Hines

Nature heals us and brings each of us back to a simple world where the strength and beauty of nature allows each of us to feel renewed and reconnected with life and ourselves.

There are times when I feel "down" and so I take a long walk in the Ventura River Preserve



(western Ojai Valley) and once I am on the trail, so many positive feelings

take over me, memories of hiking with my parents, the joys of exploring new trails and the feeling that I am part of the beautiful creation of our natural world.

The same values which make us great trail companions are also the same values which make us positive human beings. Treat the land and people with respect, fight for the protection of our great wild places and know that the call of the land is forever waiting for us.

Need a short unwind after a long stressful day at work? A quick beach walk will bring total relaxation and well-being to our souls. Life poses so many daily challenges for each of us. When those challenges need to be placed in focus, take a hike along any creek in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and let your mind sort things out and

heal itself.

Our hikes may be solitary, with friends or with organized groups (check out the hundreds of free Outings we offer all year round). Whatever way you choose to hike, the main point is to just get out in nature and let her magic and beauty heal your mind, body and soul.

If you need proof, there is a magnificent program to help soldiers returning from the war heal their emotional wounds, called "Walking Off the War." This program, started by an Iraq veteran, takes returning soldiers out into nature so that they may readjust, reflect and heal from the emotional impacts of conflict.

We are lucky to have so many great hikes so close to us, be it the Oso trail by the Santa Ynez River, Sycamore Canyon in the Santa Monica

Mountains, the Cheeseboro Canyon Preserve and of course the numerous trails in the front country of Santa Barbara and Montecito.

After an experience hiking there one cannot leave the trail without feelings of the richness of life. It brings out, in me, feelings of happiness, joy, love, emotional strength, respect and a zest for life.

Yes, nature heals us. The world needs more people getting out to enjoy and appreciate nature.

Lets go hiking!



Go: 3 days, 3 islands

Sierra Club California's annual Channel Islands hopping trips has five left during the 2016 season and they are highly recommended by our Chapter Chair Jim Hines, and 'Condor' John Hankins, both of whom have participated.

Each one is a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to our Channel Islands where you can hike the trails, kayak the coastlines, snorkel in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish, swim with frolicking seals or just relax.

The dates for the remaining excursions are: June 12-14, July 17-19, Aug. 21-23, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 23-25.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.

For details contact leader Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email:

jholtzhln@aol.com.

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://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar>

Tap solar app

By John Hankins

On the day that my solar panels were turned on (April 15) the top front page headline in the *Ventura County Star* asserted that electric power rates were going up.

On June 1 they did, SCE also replacing its 4-tier system with three tiers ... and that's just the beginning as it's estimated that such costs in California will rise 5-7% each year.

Excuse me if I yawn and tap my solar app showing that my modest 8-panel 2.4kW system takes care of about 80 percent of my electric rates. *SCE now pays me* and even with the loan to buy I'm paying less than ever.

But frankly, I get more of a kick knowing I am getting energy from the sun; it's a fantastic feeling.

All thanks to the Sierra Club partnering with Sungevity, one of the top two in the nation. With a simple phone call, Sungevity can estimate how much you'll save with federal and Sierra Club discounts (over \$3,000); just go to:

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