

Vol. '17, No. 1 of 6

Feb - March 2017

Condor Call



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Review & Act...Old Trail...Gaviota movie...The March...Wildlife

Pgs 1,2,3

Pg 2

Pg 3

pg 4

Pg 5

Oil ban Act will challenge Feds

On the anniversary of the devastating 1969 oil blowout from Platform A in the Santa Barbara Channel, a new generation on Jan. 28, 2017 gathered at Shoreline Park not only to say 'no' to any new oil development, but to offer renewable energy solutions.

It was our new Congressman Salud Carbajal's first major action as he announced the California Clean Coast Act HR 731 that would ban future offshore oil projects in federal waters (beyond the three-mile limit), in defiance against a hostile and oil-lovin' Trump Administration, which wants to do the opposite.

How's that going to work out? "I realize there's not a very high chance of it being successful," Carbajal told the *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, but "I'm always hopeful."

"We have more support than you might think," Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis told the supportive crowd of over 100 on a beautiful, postcard picture day.

She noted that when President Obama proposed drilling in the Atlantic, "there was an outcry, not just in the liberal northeast, but the southeast," including the red states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida where "90 percent of coastal cities passed resolutions against offshore drilling or seismic testing."

She concluded: "It would be an incredible waste of public resources for the Trump Administration to

reopen that (leasing) process, and a bad move politically."

"Ask any coastal city anywhere, don't mess with our beaches!"

Local support included the Sierra Club, Community Environmental Council and Environmental Defense Center (EDC), among others, notably the SB Adventure company whose owner, Michael Cohen, noted that "the Channel Islands and our cherished California coastline are our office, our classroom, our playground, and our sanctuary," all of which brings income from tourism, fishing and recreation.

"The Sierra Club fully supports Congressman Carbajal ... and the club will do everything in its power to help get this important legislation passed by Congress," said Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines, who will be in contact with the club's National staff on how best to support the effort.

"It is not a question of if, but when, another spill will devastate our shores," said EDC attorney Linda Krop. She reminded all that "our coast and community are still recovering from the 2015 oil pipeline spill (along the Gaviota Coast)." That pipeline spill occurred onshore but reaching into the ocean, spilling oil all along the Santa Barbara and Ventura coasts, some even reaching Los Angeles waters.

Carbajal also called out to remove oil industry subsidies.

~ By Condor John

BULLETIN:

State Controller Betty Yee released a statement Jan. 31 opposing expanding oil extraction at Platform Holly off the coast of Santa Barbara, owned by Venoco. Our local chapter, working with Environmental Defense Center attorneys, have been fighting this expansion idea.



Rep. Salud Carbajal announces his Clean Ocean Act at Shoreline Park with oil rigs in the distance. Support speakers included (from left) Michael Lyons of Get Oil Out!, Katie Davis of our Los Padres Sierra Club Chapter and Michael Cohen SB Adventure Company. (Photo by Gerry Ching)

Resistance Adds-Up!

Did you love the vibes from the Women's Marches after the inauguration but are wondering where to go from there?

The Sierra Club's new activist network is one good way to stay active NOW at:

www.addup.org

It keeps track of your activism, whether it be sending a letter to support a new marine sanctuary off our shores, defend federal workers from retaliation, fight for reasonable bank and/or oil regulations, petitions asserting "no place for hate in our government" and "strengthen presidential conflict-of-interest" laws.

The Sierra Club turns 125 years old this year and, as Executive Director Michael Brune writes, we've seen our share of hostile

presidents and tough fights. So even though "President Donald Trump and his administration represent the biggest imaginable challenge to our mission and to our values... we'll do a lot more than survive. We will resist—in the courts, in the states, in Congress, and in the marketplace."

Regardless of how many battles we win or lose, we will emerge stronger in the end.

There's so much more ... the club has also launched an activist fund-raising called Team Sierra Club in which you can turn your passion or activity to help support our many efforts, including protecting wildlands and wildlife, keeping our air and water free from pollution, and promoting a clean energy future. To learn more, simply go to: www.TeamSierra.org



A historic trail in Ojai that was built over a hundred years ago is in the process of being uncovered and rediscovered by a lot of weed-whacking volunteers. OVLC trail volunteer Rob Young enjoys the fruits of that labor, looking towards Lake Casitas. Could it eventually connect to Carpinteria's Franklin Trail? **Read Perry Van Houten's story on page 2.** (Photo by Rick Bisaccia)

YEAR 2016

Local success, nat'l disaster

By Jim Hines
Chapter Chair

Wow, what a year 2016 was for our Los Padres Chapter. We made major gains in many programs, issues and campaigns and enjoyed free outings while we set a record enrollment in our very popular Wilderness Basic Course. And our electric vehicles show drew hundreds to events in Oxnard and Solvang.

However, we lost a great friend in 2016, Jerry Connor, who for years led our Arguello Group in north Santa Barbara.

We're grateful that the public helped elect virtually all of the Chapter's endorsed candidates in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and overwhelmingly supported renewing the important Ventura County growth control measure (Save Our Agricultural Resources).

Of course, we did not fare so well in national elections. A major focus of the Sierra Club's work in 2017 will be to stop the environmental disaster known as the Trump Administration. We cannot underestimate the potential of his administration to negatively affect our region, as we have a lot of federal property: the Los Padres National Forest, Santa Monica Mountains National Park and Channel Islands National Park.

Remember too, the federal government controls our offshore waters in the Santa Barbara Channel and President Trump has said he wants to open more offshore leases that could include

fracking. Also, numerous federally protected wildlife species in our region will be under threat of losing that status if the Endangered Species Act is undermined. We truly have our work cut out for us, but the Sierra Club has geared up with the strategy of Resist, Recruit, Train and Sustain.

I am so proud of the work of our many group leaders, activists, hike leaders, event organizers and financial supporters this past year: without each of YOU we would not have made the gains we had in 2016. We'll do even more in 2017 with your help!

Each of our four groups played an important role in connecting members and supporters with issues within their local area. They are:

~ **Arguello Group** made great strides in stopping the large, 144-oil well proposal in north SB county, testifying against oil trains, protecting open space in the Santa Ynez Valley and raising public awareness of the Sierra Club.

~ **Santa Barbara Group** worked hard to prevent more offshore oil drilling and advocated for more oversight to prevent another oil spill into the ocean. Meanwhile, the group promoted

Community Choice Energy for the tri-counties region (now under study). It helped stop leap-frog development but promoted protection and more public access along the majestic Gaviota Coast, and the front country areas of the Los Padres National Forest,

~ **Ventura Sierra Club** expanded the campaign to protect the Santa Clara River, continued our work to protect Ormond Beach while also placing a major emphasis on public outreach.

~ **Conejo Group** worked hard

continued on page 3

EAVESDROPS

"Even as the 45th president takes the oath of office, a fierce resistance is rising to confront and constrain the Trump presidency. From the ACLU to the Sierra Club to Everytown for Gun Safety, civil society is girding for battle - reinforced by an unprecedented upwelling of activist support and donations."

~ **Rolling Stone Magazine**, in a cover article: "Meet the Leaders of the Trump Resistance," Jan 2017

COVER PHOTO

Enjoy the view now of the Jalama Beach area of the Gaviota Coast, lest it be developed! But the fight and passion to protect the Gaviota Coast for the public is exactly why The Gaviota Movie (unofficial name) was made. **See story on page 3.** (Photo by the filmmaker, Shaw Leonard)



Ahhhh ... Lover's Beach sea lions on San Miguel Island are lovin' it, and so can you during the Sierra Club's annual "Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park" adventures on these dates: April 2-4, May 7-9, June 11-13, July 16-18, Aug. 20-22 Sept. 24-26 and Oct. 22-24. It's a small-group live-a-board cruise. Info from leader Joan at (626) 443-0706 or: jholtzin@aol.com (Photo by Joan Jones Holtz)

WHAT A VIEW

Recovering a historical trail

By Perry Van Houten

Work has begun to reopen a historic trail originally built by Ojai forest rangers more than 100 years ago. The six-mile-long Ocean View Trail (OVT) offers unrivaled views of the backcountry, and as its name implies, far-reaching vistas of the Santa Barbara Channel.

The effort is by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC), in partnership with the Ojai Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service and Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA).

"It is the hope and plan to one day join our Ventura River Preserve to the trail, via a 10-mile route along the Kennedy Ridge and Camino Cielo trails, that could connect hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners and equestrians to the Matilija Canyon Trailhead some 20 miles distant," says Rick Bisaccia, OVLC Stewardship Director.

The trail stretches from the end of the old Camino Cielo

Road on the Ojai Valley side to the Divide Peak OHV route above Matilija Canyon near the Murietta Divide. "It would also be possible to connect via the western terminus of the OVT to an existing route which joins with the top of the Franklin Trail, which begins in Carpinteria," Bisaccia says.

The trail was built around 1903 by Ojai forest rangers, including Bob Clark and George Bald. They were among the most colorful and accomplished mountain men of the time, and Bald's son, Howard, was the first forest ranger for the Ojai Ranger District.

But before the OVT can be opened to public use, Bisaccia says an official study on the route has to be done. That entails cutting a narrow pathway, called a p-line, along the route to accommodate surveys by scientist for an environmental impact report.

The effort to reopen the OVT is getting plenty of support from volunteers, young and old.

"Several months ago, water was cached by volunteers on the western section of the trail, and on the weekend of November 18-20, several OVLC trail crew volunteers worked a half mile east towards Ojai along the trail from old White Ledge Camp, cutting p-line and route-finding using old USFS trail surveys, topo maps, Google Earth images and a topo map app."

Joining the group were hiking guide author Craig R. Carey and his 32 Boy Scouts, along with leaders of Ventura's Troop 111. Comprising boys mostly in the sixth grade, it specializes in backpacking

and taking on service projects in the forest.

A projected reopening date for the OVT has not been set, but Bisaccia says he's looking forward to a ribbon-cutting someday.

"It's my hope that the outdoor recreation community will come together to support the eventual approval and completion of this truly epic trail project. The contributions of volunteers and the help we've gotten from the U.S. Forest Service, LPFA, and Supervisor Steve Bennett's and Congress member Julia Brownley's offices are the kinds of backing needed to make such a project successful."

~ Editor's note: portions of this article appeared in the Ojai Valley News.

EVENTS

Feb 9: Gaviota Movie called The End of Southern California shown at the Santa Barbara Film Festival at 5:20, Metro 4 Theater.

Feb 11: Gaviota Movie called The End of Southern California shown at the Santa Barbara Film Festival at 7pm Saturday, Lobero Theater.

Feb 11: Oak Tree Mysteries revealed by UCLA for Sedgwick Reserve at 7pm Tipton House, 3566 Brinkerhoff Ave. Santa Ynez.

Feb 14: Shorebird Recovery Program sponsored by Ventura Audubon featuring by Cynthia Hartley, who has 20 years of work at Ormond Beach; includes video of similar work at Santa Barbara's Coal Oil Point. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, 7:30pm

Feb 22: Drive Clean, Free forum on Fuel Cell Electric and Hydrogen Vehicles sponsored by CEC and APCD, 6:30pm Wednesday, Feb. 22, SB Library, 40 E. Anapamu St. Learn about the benefits and challenges locally and beyond.

March 4: Green Scene with the Ventura Sierra Club 3-5 pm. Foster Library Topping Room (651 E Main St. Ventura). Free: meet and greet mixer, finger foods potluck to share with no utensils, no disposables, zero waste event. Program features 'New Urbanism' by Aurelio Ocampo, Oxnard Parks & Rec Commissioner. Info: Nina at sierraclubventura@gmail.com.

March 3 & 4: Wild and Scenic Film Festival sponsored by Ventura Hillside Conservancy is a popular series of award-winning short films "that celebrate the beauty and bounty of our natural world" at 7pm each night at Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura. Details at: www.VenturaHillside.org/events

March 23: Ethnobotany of Local Native Plants will inform about their edible and pharmaceutical uses. Sponsored by the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, the free program features Anthropology Professor Angela Kirwin at 7pm, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura. RSVP at: www.VenturaHillside.org/events



"The Wilderness Basics Course, a teaching wing of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club, stands in awe and appreciation of the work and sacrifice your team of volunteers face every day at any hour." That was the inscription in thanking -- and donating money to -- the seven Search and Rescue groups covering Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. "Seven Samurai" anyone? (Photo by Mary Looby, SAR volunteer)

WBC gives back to Search & Rescue

Our annual Wilderness Basics Course is ... SOLD OUT!

But there is a waiting list.

The wilderness course is wildly popular, gaining fans and students ever since our first class in 2009, by our founder, Teresa Norris. This edition runs from Feb. 8 through March 29; follow our adventures on Facebook, get on the waiting list or sign up (for next year????):

www.lospadresWBC.org

Showing that we give back -- not only in training -- the WBC team took a break from planning the upcoming course to dole out donations to several local groups.

Our Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter got \$2,800, allocated among several different areas: \$500 each to legal, wildlife, energy, outings, and Ventura County trails access. In addition, the group gave \$300 to go towards a memorial from the Chapter for Jerry Connor. We are also endowing a WBC scholarship in Jerry's name, with a value of \$200. In addition to all his

responsibilities with the Arguello Group and the Chapter, Jerry was a beloved member of the WBC board for several years.

We also gave \$250 to each of the four Los Padres Chapter Groups: Ventura, Conejo, Arguello and Santa Barbara. We know that sometimes the Groups need funds for special causes.

In addition, at the suggestion of Condor John Hankins, the group donated funds for Search and Rescue (SAR) teams. We voted to give \$200 each to the following seven SAR Groups: Santa Barbara County, East Ventura County, Fillmore, Upper Ojai, Ventura County Dive Team, Ventura County K-9, and Ventura County Medical Team, along with this letter of appreciation:

"The Wilderness Basics Course, a teaching wing of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club, stands in awe and appreciation of the work and sacrifice your team of volunteers face every day at any hour."



Climbing legend Lynn Hill hangs out with a local young woman, who reverts Lynn's skills and attitude, after a talk to Search and Rescue members attended by WBC reps. Hill was the first to free climb Yosemite's 'Nose' and, as a self-described 'non-conformist', became a cultural icon for women (her book is 'Climbing Free...'). Asked if her young son liked climbing, she quipped "he prefers parkour" (obstacle course gymnastics). (Photo by Condor John)

ExCom leaders stay

Jim Hines and Katie Davis were elected to the two of the five at-large seats on the Los Padres Executive Committee.

The at-large seats are elected for two year terms, but terms are staggered to preserve continuity.

The first action of the ExCom at the January 26 meeting was to appoint Jim Hines as Chair and Katie Davis as Vice Chair. In addition, Gerry Ching was re-appointed as Secretary and Richard Hunt as Treasurer.

The board also enthusiastically renewed the club's affiliation with the Naples Coalition, a key to protecting the Gaviota Coast area.

The ExCom consists of five elected at-large seats plus three Group Reps from each regional

They also approved funds to distribute more Condor Calls to the public by placing stacks in well-traveled service and retail stores.

EAVESDROPS

"It's shortsighted to believe you're going to save the sea lions simply by rescuing them, 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.

Condor Call
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ADVERTISING: Contact Condor Call Editor
DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:
Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.
PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:
February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members
Non-members, \$10 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins
Photos, news, tips always welcome!
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What we do defines Sierra Club ethic

By John Hankins

We thought we were in high gear during the last few months, but with the new federal administration you'll see the Sierra Club switch into Very High Gear. It's perilous and exciting times and we hope you'll join us either by asking friends to become members, donating and/or volunteering. Here's part of what we've been up to protecting the environment in December and January.

~ Jan 28: California Clean Coast Act introduced by our new Congressman Salud Carbajal and announced at Shoreline Park



The Woman's March packed Ventura, Santa Barbara and, yes, L.A. and the world on Jan. 21. See story page 4. (Photo by Condor John)

with attendance by Sierra Club members. Held on the anniversary of the massive 1969 oil spill, the Act would ban future offshore oil projects in response to President Trump's intention to do the opposite.

~ Jan 24: Wildlife Corridor protection plan supported on narrow 3-2 vote by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. See story page 5.

~ Jan 21- 24: Our members supported the People's Climate Movement 100 Hours of Trump Resistance to oppose the Administration's aggressive attacks on our future.

~ Jan 21: Our local members rallied with the Women's Marches in 'bigly' numbers not only in our Santa Barbara and Ventura turf, but also in Los Angeles, DC and New York!

~ Jan 18: Protest in Washington DC against EPA nominee Scott Pruitt, and Leslie Purcell from Ventura was there, joining other members in a rally outside the



Local rally against the Dakota pipeline was held in Santa Barbara with SB Group Chair Katie Davis, among other members. (Photo by Cathy Murillo)

Senate building. See story page 4.

~ Jan 11: Wilderness Basics Course enjoyed a prominent article in the *Ventura County Star*, in which reporter Tony Biasotti interviewed founder Teresa Norris, who noted we gave significant donations to seven Search and Rescue teams. Class is already full! See story page 2.

~ Jan 10: CA Energy Commission held a final public meeting in Oxnard regarding the Puente Peaker Plant proposed for Mandalay Beach and we testified against it in concert with the city of Oxnard. Final decision expected this Spring.

~ Jan 9: Day of Action Against Climate Denial, a chance for people in all 50 states to pressure their Senators to stand up against "alternative facts" coming from Trump and his cabinet.

~ Jan 8: Work on riparian restoration at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, 220 acres of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. Under direction of UCSB marine science lab and help from the Sierra Club (Thanks Nina) it is undergoing transformation from degraded grazing lands to rich riparian habitat. Join our projects, details at: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

~ Dec 27: Whilst reading the *LA Times* online, an ad with the headline "Team Sierra" popped up, asserting "with Team Sierra you can choose an activity and raise money for Sierra Club. Sign up now." Check it out online.

~ Dec 15: We testified at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's hearing in Camarillo that proposed a new application for fracking on Platform Hilda. Both our Chapter Chair Jim Hines and SB Group Chair Katie Davis addressed a rally outside the hearing of over 60 protestors.

~ Dec 13: Letter to the editor in the VC Star by our WBC Founder Teresa Norris decried the lack of access to the national forest from Fillmore.

~ Dec 13: Supported a Coastal Commission letter urging President Obama to declare permanent protection of our ocean waters, beaches and coastal economies at risk from new oil and gas drilling. Obama did, Trump is overturning it.

~ Dec 3: United front will be the tactic of the four SoCal chapters to deal with loss of public access and increased private use for profit of our national forests under the Trump Administration, reports our Chair, Jim Hines. The four are Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland (San Diego County) chapters who plan a conference this year.



Filmmaker Shaw Leonard scans the horizon for the best shots for his film, "Gaviota: The End of Southern California." We'll keep you apprised of future showings. (Photo by Tamorn Chase)

Detail & dedication made Gaviota Movie

After five years of patient and sometimes dangerous but exciting filming, what may be the definitive Gaviota movie is now out, with the world premiere debuting at the Santa Barbara Film Festival on Feb. 9 and 11.

"Gaviota: The End of Southern California" is a 42-minute film that explores one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world. If you miss the festival, keep your eyes peeled for future showings at: www.GaviotaMovie.com

For decades, activists have battled land developers to preserve this coast for future generations and wildlife. Without constant action, this coastline and its wildlife will be consumed one building permit at a time.

Luckily, the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and the Naples Coalition – of which the Sierra Club is a member – were formed to beat back the threat of leap-frog

EAVESDROP
"The foxes are back. The Endangered Species Act works."

~ Ventura County Star editorial, lauding the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and others who helped the island fox recover from a low of about 100 to a current population of nearly 4,000 on the channel Islands ... and it only took 12 years!

development and have so far been successful. The latest happened on election day when the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve a long-awaited Gaviota Coast Plan that would enhance protection and public access.

The threats will continue, but the Gaviota movie will no doubt help draw attention and passion to the issues.

The primary filmmaker is Shaw Leonard who later enlisted the help of his cousin, Tamorn Chase, an outdoors expert. The film took years because of their attention to detail.

"We did not stop filming until we had captured all of the animals on our list, and this took a very, very long time to complete," Leonard said, citing the nearly six months it took to get action shots of a cougar.

It was worth the wait, he said, "to get what turned out to be incredible footage of her on a midnight stroll."

And it was also occasionally dangerous, such as when Leonard insisted on filming the Sherpa Fire from safe locations, until the wind changed and came so close that "I ran for my life across the last ridge."

The film leads audiences from the ocean floor of the Santa Barbara Channel to the peaks of the jagged Santa Ynez Mountains and so many of its denizens: breaching humpback whales, elusive white tailed kites and nocturnal mountain lions.

Many thanks go to those who provided funding, with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy as the fiscal sponsor and including a grant from UC-Santa Barbara's Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildea Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Jannd Mountaineering and Leatherman. Ryan Wolfe, a seasoned editor and producer, assisted among many others.

Facing the reality of mass extinction, California's Gaviota coast is a startling reminder of what we have lost and what remains to be saved.

Year 2016...

continued from page 1

on wildlife corridor protection and on campaigns to protect the Simi Hills, Santa Monica Mountains, and Rim of the Valley.

Yes, we still have unfinished business ... always! We are lobbying for new gas plant proposals to move off the Mandalay Beach and a river near Santa Paula, the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass over the 101 freeway may start construction and we'll continue to work with coalitions to remove Matilija Dam.

Support is critical for the new Los Padres National Forest wilderness bill and a new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The renewed push to privatize our public lands will be opposed and offshore we need to stop the use of deadly drift gill nets.

Protection of the great wild places and wildlife within the Los Padres Chapter region will move aggressively forward in 2017. We know there's a hostile Administration for the next four years, but times like these are exactly what the Sierra Club was created for 125 years ago.

I will be going once again to Capitol Hill once the new congressional committees are in place to lobby members of congress on behalf of Sierra Club issues.

I want to say a big THANK YOU to each and every one of you helping us to protect this special place on our planet.

EAVESDROPS
"The incredible mission at Vandenberg is synergistically compatible with environmental conservation and sustainability."

~ Beatrice Kephart, of the Air Force's Civil Engineer Squadron team working to protect endangered species and habitat over its 99,600 acre base. Read feature story at:

<http://tinyurl.com/VAFBplovers>

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

~ 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 under Ventura Sierra Club

~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

~ Ventura Network Meetings first Tuesday of the month at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Email Nina Danza to confirm at sierraclubventura@gmail.com



Local Sierra Club members were proud and excited to join the Women's March and other protests in all sorts of venues. Above, the crowd attending the Clean Coast Act announcement by Rep. Carbajal. Photos at left are: Will Rogers' wisdom in SB, Hate-Free Zone in Ventura, Liberty in Ventura, local Shannon McComb in New York, Ex EPA employee protesting Trump nominee in DC. Photos under the panorama are: The Kids Are Alright in SB, Katie Davis' nephew Jack's plea in LA and a SB guy who knows signs. (Photos by Robert Bernstein, Condor John, Gerry Ching and Leslie Purcell)



We march, protest for American values

The Women's March on Jan. 21 turned out to be not only a March on Washington DC to protect human rights, the environment, healthcare and freedom of religion, but a global protest against the Trump Administration's likely assault on all those issues.

The Sierra Club was on board from the beginning. Members from the Los Padres Chapter turned out in large numbers joining an estimated 2,300

participants in city of Ventura and 6,000 in Santa Barbara. But nationwide, the numbers were even more stunning at about 3 million, making it the largest single-day demonstration in the nation's history. Worldwide estimates were at 4.8 million.

While it started out as a march on Washington to "send a bold message ... that women's rights are human rights," it exploded to include at least 675 marches worldwide in all

seven continents, even one in Antarctica!

Clearly, the participation in DC was bigger than Donald Trump's inauguration, according to the Lion Media.

After such a success, the organizers posted the "10 Actions for the first 100 Days" campaign for joint activism to keep up the momentum.

As Sierra Club member Carla Bollinger said, "it was named the Women's March but it

could also have been the We are One march. Be afraid – be very afraid, and then get busy because work has to be done to protect America," she concluded.

Our chapter is already committed to conduct a postcard writing campaign during Earth Days and will continue its lobbying efforts, notably by our Chair Jim Hines going to Washington in March.

The best way to tell this story is visual ... enjoy the photos!



In the halls of D.C.

By Leslie A. Purcell

When I learned that not one, but three environment-related US Senate confirmation hearings were scheduled for January 17-19, I decided to go to Washington DC.

This was not completely foreign territory, as my dad taught political science at George Washington University, and I had gone with my mother to visit our Congressional representative. I went online to find out the details, and when I got to the DC hearings, security was not a problem, even friendly ... more so when I got to the third floor. The first thing I saw was an open door with the American flag to one side, and a plaque with the name of Senator Bernie Sanders!

The main event was the committee hearing for Scott Pruitt as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Sierra Club, 350.org, and Friends of the Earth had organized an impressive rally outside the building, which then moved inside.

So many people jammed the halls that there was little chance to get into the actual hearing, as the room filled up with senators, staff, news media and Pruitt's supporters. I saw much of the questioning on a large screen in the overflow room.

While outside the EPA hearing, there was a ripple of applause as Sen. Tim Kaine came smiling by. I said "hello" as my brother knows this "nicest guy" from Harvard Law school. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey walked by and I thanked him for his work; he also asked good

questions.

Then a guy dressed up with feathers all over came by, with a sign that said "Help", meaning Pruitt would be bad for birds. Later, I recognized Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Global Exchange and Code Pink, who had once run for CA Senator. I called out her name and we had a hug!

Senators questioned Pruitt about his ties with oil and gas companies, suing the EPA in his capacity as Oklahoma Attorney General, conflicts of interest, climate change, state vs. federal rights, and much more.

California's new Senator, Kamala Harris, was formidable in her questioning of Pruitt, as was ranking member Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware. Later, I went down to the basement to find Harris' temporary office, and was happy to meet and compliment her effort.

The hearing for Rick Perry as Energy Secretary found Sen. Sanders pressing him on his climate change views, and there was a significant discussion of nuclear energy, weapons and waste. Perry did not give a definitive answer as to storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.

The hearing for Interior Secretary nominee Ryan Zinke concerned his relations with Indian tribes and tribal rights, public lands management, as well as a self-bonding "sweetheart" deal for coal.

All told, I felt it was important, as a Sierra Club member of the public, to attend these hearings, and to encourage Senators in their questioning of these nominees for the environment.



Preserve your piece of history

Preserve the Women's March for the ages ... your stories are our history.

The curator of the Museum of Ventura County "needs your signs, your photos, your pussy hats AND most important of all: I need your stories," said Anna Bermudez.

She requests "all Ventura County residents who attended the recent March on Washington or any of the sisters' rallies around the globe," including, of course the local marches.

"We are planning on putting an exhibit together

about the impact that these marches had on current and former residents of Ventura County. You can reach me at the museum at:"

abermudez@venturamuseum.org

EAVESDROPS

"If Trump turns off the satellites (gathering climate change data), California will launch its own damn satellite."

~ Gov. Jerry Brown in a December speech at a science conference in San Francisco.

Signs of the times

The Women's March was full of creative expressions on home-made and professional-like signs. Here's a list of them in all their wit and wisdom -- compiled by Sierra Club's Robert Bernstein who wrote about and photographed the Santa Barbara march.

- LOVE
- I Matter
- Boys 4 Girls
- Pussy Power
- Viva La Vulva
- Girls are Strong
- Fight Like a Girl
- Choice = Freedom
- Love Trumps Hate
- Black Lives Matter
- Health Care for All
- United Against Hate

- No Human is Illegal
- We Are the Majority
- Fempire Strikes Back
- We Shall Over-Comb
- I am Stronger than Fear
- This Pussy Grabs Back!
- Time Wounds all Heels
- Even Melania Looked Sad
- Make America Kind Again
- I March to Save Our Planet
- Make America Think Again
- Rebellions are Built on Hope
- Nasty Women Make History

- I March to Support a Free Press
- Nasty Women Will Not Be Silent
- Women's Rights are Human Rights
- Compassion is the New Radicalism
- How Many Miles Must We March?
- 2,864,000 More Votes [For Hillary]
- Climate Change Threatens All of Us
- Keep Your Rosaries Off My

- Ovaries
- Respect Existence or Expect Resistance
- Love Not Hate Will Make America Great
- My Mom Already Did This 50 Years Ago
- Science is Based on Evidence Not Feelings
- People and Planet - Not Privilege and Profit
- Build a Wall Around Trump - I'll Pay For It

WILDLIFE

Don't fence us in!

BULLETIN: The count is up to three dead cougars in our region killed by traffic within the last two months, accelerating the importance of establishing wildlife corridors. Road kill of other animals is also accelerated.

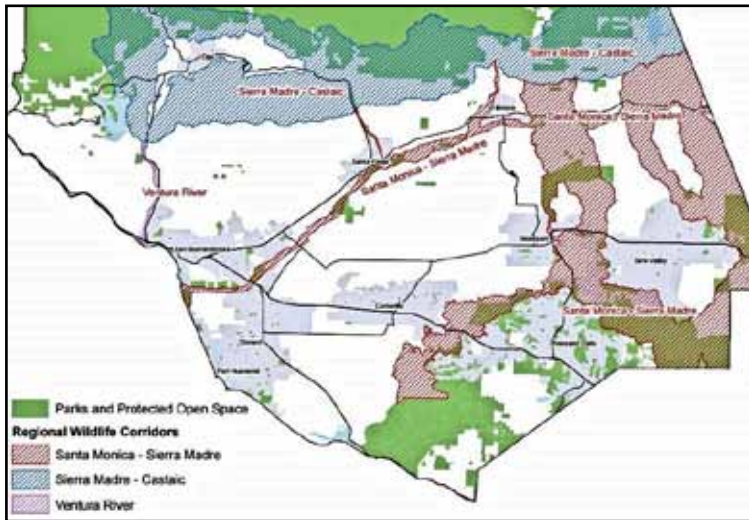
By Carla Bollinger

There's now hope that wildlife may be able to avoid "choke points" that restrict their natural movements, now that the Ventura County Supervisors approved an important "Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement" study on a narrow 3-2 vote.

Signaling that it's an important topic – and would be the first planning zone of its kind for Ventura County -- the Jan. 24 meeting drew a packed house with 50 people speaking, reducing the time to 2 minutes per speaker. A lengthy debate occurred that resulted in asking staff to come up with details.

"The Los Padres Chapter will now be meeting with county planning staff to help develop the actual planning rules to carry out the board's direction," said Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines, who urged the board to "follow the spirit of SOAR," the county-wide ordinance that was decisively renewed in the November election.

The staff of the county's



As you can see, wildlife is being squeezed into narrow corridors due to urban encroachment. Solutions? County staff working on it!

Resource Management Agency (RMA), Kari Finley and Abigail Convery, presented various options and maps of wildlife movement, notably from the 2006 South Coast Wildlands Project that evaluated impacts on animals throughout Southern California. Agencies involved were as varied as CalTrans and state Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

Of special concern on the designated wildlife corridors are the "choke points" caused by urban sprawl, physical barriers such as roads, freeways and fencing. Indirect barriers were also noted: bright night light, loud noise, anti-rodenticide poisoning, and lack of natural vegetation for wildlife.

Staff emphasized this was a public outreach and they certainly got plenty of feedback.

Seth Riley of the National Park Service had a Power Point presentation covering mountain lions in LA-Ventura counties and their survival challenges: Mortality on roads, barriers for movement and genetic differentiation.

Merrill Berge, SOAR-area coordinator for Camarillo, pointed out the pending development proposals that would impact the Conejo Creek,

one of the last open, natural wildlife under-crossings beneath the 101 in Ventura County.

Support for wildlife movement corridors for all animals from birds to cougars was advocated by Julie Newsome, Santa Monica Mountains Fund and Save LA Cougars, among many others.

Farmers and ranchers raised their concerns, especially the possibilities of additional regulations, more cost to comply and erosion of farming rights. In reply, Paul Edelman of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, reminded everyone that it's early in the process, and compromises can be reached.

"As our county becomes increasingly urbanized, wildlife is getting squeezed out of areas they have historically used for migration routes," Hines said. He gave credit to "the hard work of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, who drafted this plan."

~ Editor's note: Carla Bollinger is a Ventura Sierra Club member and a PLAN (Public Land Alliance Network) organizer

It helps to donate time, money, heart

Editor's note: "It's a slap in the face. The fox made it into the henhouse and our hard work for our local, state and national environment is in peril with a president and cabinet that's like putting arsonists in charge of fighting fires."

"That's nothing new to us; the Sierra Club is designed for moments like this. We've faced hostile administrations before and have 124 years' experience figuring out what works best. We're not defeated, we're determined, and we'd love your help."

That's how our annual March Appeal starts out, which will appear in members' mailboxes during that month, backed up by stories of tangible success *locally* that happens with your donations.

EAVESDROPS

"The most immediate effect of the 'secure fence' was environmental, as canyons were filled in and the haunts of mountain lions, wolves and jaguars were bisected."

~ Statement about the 670 miles built at the US-Mexico border fence ordered by Pres. Bush in 2006 (at a cost of \$2.4 billion!), by author Kimball Taylor of "The Coyote's Bicycle," telling of the rise of a "borderland empire."

So please, respond to the letter, or if you can't wait, donate to help our local chapter online at:

www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

There are many other ways to help, such as:

~ If you're an Amazon shopper, you may designate the Sierra Club to get a small portion of your purchases (it doesn't cost you any more). Sign up at:

www.smile.Amazon.com

~ Coordinate your passion or hobby with Team Sierra Club in which funds are raised through the club for your favorite activity. Details at:

www.TeamSierra.org

~ Buy Sierra Club paraphernalia, be it a shirt, outdoor and shopping bags, calendars and cards. You can also adopt an animal in which your donations go directly to the activity you choose (great for kids). Click on 'store' at:

www.SierraClub.org

~ Interested in solar panels for your house or business? Part of the discounted price goes to your local chapter. Get an estimate at:

<http://SC.org/SolarPrint>

~ Ask friends to join the Club. See ad below.

~ Sign up for a Sierra Club credit card (see ad below).

~ Leave a legacy in your name to the Sierra Club in your will. See ad below.

Pitch in @ Earth Days

By Irene Rauschenberger

The Los Padres Chapter needs supportive volunteers for the 2017 Earth Day events at various dates and locations to highlight our accomplishments, goals, and to inspire membership.

This is an opportunity to be creative, defend, educate and gain support on local issues. Pick your group and choose your location for these volunteer sign-ups below. Fun and satisfaction guaranteed.

~ **Ventura** Sierra Club for Saturday, April 22, choose preferred times: 9am-12pm ; 12pm-3pm ; 3pm-6pm, at Plaza Park. Contact Nina Danza: SierraClubVentura@gmail.com

Official Ventura Earth Day website: www.venturaearthday.org

~ **Oxnard**, Saturday, April 15, 10am to 3pm, at Plaza Park downtown Oxnard. Need two volunteers for 2 hour shifts. Contact Irene Rauschenberger: ireneraus@hotmail.com

~ **Ojai**, culminating an Earth Week of events, Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines will host a Sierra Club table on Saturday, April 22. A live butterfly exhibit is planned. To help, contact Jim at:

jhcasitas@gmail.com

Also at Wheeler Gorge Nature Center on Saturday, April 22, our Wilderness Basics Course will be featured. To help, contact:

alissefisher@gmail.com

~ **Thousand Oaks** merges Arbor Day and Earth Day at its celebration April 8. Our Conejo Group has not yet decided if it will participate, but either way, go! Details at the public works section of:

www.toaks.org

~ **Santa Barbara** Earth Day is a full weekend event in Alameda Park Saturday and Sunday April 22 & 23, 11am - 6pm. We need volunteers for 2-hour shifts both days. Contact SB Group Chair Katie Davis:

santabarbara.group@sierraclub.org

Website for this signature event:

www.SBearthday.org

~ **Buellton** is having a celebration comprising North County Santa Barbara areas off-calendar on Sunday, May 21 from noon to 5pm at River View Park in Buellton. Arguello Group needs volunteers; contact Rebecca August:

rebeccaagust@mac.com

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Join the movement

Holly, Mary, Jim, Carla, Nina don't just March, they're hands-on volunteers making our area better. Please join us. (Photo by Condor John)

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Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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Outings...from page 6

Fwy, take Lynn Road south towards ocean, turn left on Via Goleta before Dos Vientos and drive to the end parking lot. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

March 5
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 8:30am 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)

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION Santa Clara River: 9am-noon Volunteers invited to monthly riparian restoration at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area. Be part of the future Santa Clara River Parkway by working on these 220 acres near Santa Paula. Under direction of UCSB marine science lab, we'll be doing any of a variety of tasks such as: invasive plant removal, native plant installation, and nursery plant care. Wear long pants and closed shoes. Bring sun protection, snack and water. All welcome! Ages 14 and under need to be accompanied by parent or guardian. Ages 15-18 without parent/guardian MUST bring 2 signed waivers. Print and bring to the event. RSVP requested. RAIN CANCELS! Other dates planned: 4/1/17. Directions to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) 20395 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula, exit 10th St. and turn left (go under freeway), turn quick right on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (cross Santa Clara River bridge), go 3.7 mi to 20395 S. Mountain Rd, turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). Contact: NINA, sierraclubventura@gmail.com. (VEN)

EAVESDROP

"... the Sierra Club, which recently hired its first director of diversity, equity and inclusion, is trying to counter the impression that the outdoors is a privileged domain for white people."

~ An op-ed in LA Times, in which writer Nina Revoyr talks about how "diversity lags far behind on backcountry trails."

March 6
MONDAY MORNING WALK Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at the corner of Park and Bard (Port Hueneme) for low tide beach walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270. (VEN)

March 10-13
MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE CARCAMP: On Friday, we will meet at Sunrise Campground at noon and then hike Teutonia Peak (4 miles rd. trip). Saturday we will move on to Midhills campground and hike in the area. Sunday we will visit the Kelso Depot and continue to the Kelso dunes for primitive camping where we will enjoy a moonlight hike on the dunes. Sunday we will enjoy a hike before heading home. There are no services in the Preserve, so you will need to show up with a full tank of gas and food and water for the entire trip. Temperatures can vary greatly so bring clothing for both warm and cold weather. To sign up and get more information contact Carol Wiley at earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com or 760-245-8734. (Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 11
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 12
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL - TUNNEL TRAIL: Hike up Rattlesnake Trail to Tunnel connector. Hike up steep connector to Tunnel Trail. Hike along Tunnel Trail to rock formation for lunch. Beautiful views of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Moderate-strenuous 9 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

March 13
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot or 9am at the end of Rice Road to walk on trail in the chaparral. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 17
HORN CANYON: Creek walk near Ojai! Trail crosses Thacher Creek several times in a forested canyon, and then climbs higher for great (and green) views. Our lunch destination is the Pines Campsite, about 6 mrt, 1900' gain/loss. Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen, and other 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Meet at 7:45am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows' restaurant and Chase Bank) OR meet at 8:30am on the side of the road outside the Thacher School. Rain cancels. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

March 18
CANINE HIKE JESUSITA TRAIL TO Inspiration Point: Hike through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. 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)

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)

March 19
SAN MARCOS RIDGE: Short, easy hike along foothill ridges of recently opened San Marcos Preserve County Park. Amazing 360° views of coastal mountains and islands. Easy 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)

BONEY MOUNTAIN- POINT MUGU STATE PARK- Easy pace on steep terrain, 6-7 miles, 1000 ft. of gain. Bring 10 essentials plus food and water and real hiking shoes. Meet at Satwiwa parking lot off Lynn Road in Newbury Park at 10am. KIM HOCKING 983-2147. (VEN)

March 20
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)

March 24-26
DESERT BLM MONUMENT SERVICE: Our series of trips to CA desert wilderness with Needles BLM staff continues. CA/NV Wilderness Committee joins with Mojave Group for special celebration and service venture in newly designated Mojave Trails National Monument -- Afton Canyon area. Central commissary, fee. Exact car-camp site still a mystery--contact vicky.hoover@

sierraclub.org or 415-977-5527 for project news and to sign up. Mojave Group/CNRCC Wilderness Committee

March 24-27
SACATAR WILDERNESS trail improvement: Sacatar Trail is an old wagon road that at one time provided the only route into the Owens Valley from the west before the road over Walker Pass was built. Now it is a 10 mile trail that provides relatively easy access into this rugged and pristine Wilderness area on the eastern slope of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, about 20 miles northwest of Ridgecrest. Our project will include trailhead improvement and recording places along the trail that need work. We will camp at Fossil Falls Campground (pit toilets, picnic tables and available water). For questions or to sign up contact leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com or 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

EDITOR'S PICK

March 25
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 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)

PHOTO WORKSHOP ADVENTURE Santa Clara River @9am. Walk through the Santa Clara River 'Secret Garden' while practicing photo composition basics for beginners. Phone cameras welcome. Good native plants, critters and scenery expected! This is one of a series of photo adventures to raise funds for equipment at the Ormond Beach Arnold Road entrance. Take home a mini instruction booklet for future reference. Donation requested for the outing \$5. Total distance about 3 miles, no elevation change, but two river crossings likely, expect to wade. Wear closed shoes; bring water, snack, and sun protection. River crossing footwear optional (no flip-flops). Rain forecast cancels. No dogs. Park and meet at the end of Mission Rock Road past Pick the Part (950 Mission Rock Road) Contact: NINA, sierraclubventura@gmail.com. (VEN)

LOS ROBLES TRAIL from Newbury Park to Triunfo Canyon Park: Moderately paced 10 mrt hike with 1500' elev. gain and car shuttle. Bring water, lunch and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:30am in the west parking lot of Triunfo Canyon (Westlake Village), near the trailhead to which we will return. We will arrange carpools to the start of the hike off Potrero Road 0.2 miles east of Wendy Drive. This is a good chance to stretch your legs without having to climb a mountain. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442. (CJ)

March 26
BLUE PEAK: (3662', 10mrt, 2700' elevation gain) We ascend Romero Canyon trail to the saddle, loop behind and over Blue Peak back to the saddle, and then 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)

March 27
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot or 9am under freeway in Casitas Springs to walk to the outside of Lake Casitas. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

March 29-April 2
MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE Spring Weekend: We will visit the California desert when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. We

will visit some of the well-known features of the park like the Hole-in-the-Wall, Kelso Dunes, Joshua tree forests, and Lava Tube. We are staying in a group campground (\$20 per person) which includes vault toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire ring, grill, picnic shelter with tables. We have the campsite from 2pm Wednesday until noon on Sunday. Wednesday is a free day. Arrive anytime and explore the park on your own. Maximum hiking distance is 8 miles with 1500' elevation gain. Deposit required to confirm participation. Limited to 20 people. Net proceeds will support the Sierra Club Desert Report. Email or call leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Jurcich, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. (Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 31
SERRANO VALLEY LOOP, Mugu State Park: This 10-mile moderate level hiking loop takes you through some of the most scenic parts of the center of the Park. About 5-6 hrs. of hiking starts at Big Sycamore Canyon trailhead and climbs 1100 ft. through Serrano Canyon. Along the way enjoy woodland foliage, a large expanse of chaparral and a variety of other plant forms. We will walk down to Sycamore Cyn Trail to finish the loop back to

TUNNEL TRAIL TO RIDGE LINE VIEWPOINT: Hike up busy Tunnel Trail and quiet 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. NOTE EARLY START. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8:15am. MURRAY 967-8770 (SB)

April 3
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 about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 8
ROMERO CANYON - Camino Cielo Loop: Hike up Romero Trail to E. Camino Cielo. Hike along fire break to the old Romero Rd for return trip. Wonderful views. Very strenuous 14 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)



Friends of the California Condors Vince Gerwe, Jill Forman and Martin Fletcher educated a captivated audience at the recent "Comeback of the California Condor" program sponsored by the Ventura Hillside Conservancy (see more programs at www.HillsidesConservancy.org). Participants heard that the captive breeding and release program is bringing the rare bird back from the brink of extinction (from only 22 birds in 1982 to 450 today). See condors live at <http://tinyurl.com/CondorCam>. (Photo by Jessica Nikolai)

the trailhead, having lunch at Danielson Ranch first. Meet at 8am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank) OR Meet at 9am on the old bridge near the parking lot's restrooms to walk to the trailhead. Bring ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts. of water, and snack/lunch. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat (above 85F) cancels. PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN)

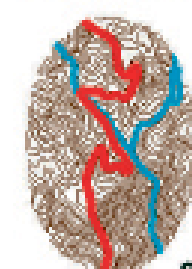
April 1
FIR CANYON: Car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mt. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. Note the early start time! TONY 455-4212 (SB)

April 2
SAN YSIDRO TO THE FALLS: Hike past a favorite rock climbing location 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)

SANTA CLARA RIVER Gateway Clean Up: 9-noon. Kick Off Earth Month at the Santa Clara River Clean Up at Johnson/Hwy 101. If Earth 'Day' means more to you than visiting a festival or picking up micro-trash on the beach one day a year, this is the place to be. We take more trash out of this site than any other in the County. We are saving not only the river, but also the estuary (a mile away), and are keeping the 5 gyres from getting bigger. Park near Anytime Fitness (2950 Johnson Dr.) and walk to the sign-in table across from Motel 6. Please note, all volunteers must sign a Nature Conservancy waiver at check-in table. Contact: NINA at sierraclubventura@gmail.com (VEN)

April 9
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)

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An old trail renews our strength

By Jim Hines

Greetings, Friends

One can learn a lot about the land, plants, wildlife and oneself by taking just one hike. To be out in nature, free of human obligations allowing one's soul to find the inner strength we all need to face life's challenges is such an amazing experience. The bond I feel with nature is a bond which has lasted a lifetime for me.

It all started with my first hike when I was about 5 years old with my father: Laguna Ridge, a Los Padres National Forest 6-mile long fire road north of Lake Casitas where I grew up.

When I was young, it was the "top of the world" at around 2200 feet high. I could see down on our ranch house, Lake Casitas, the entire Ojai Valley and, at the end of the ridge, Carpinteria and far off Santa Barbara and even the Channel Islands offshore. You could even reach Matilija Canyon.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to walk in many beautiful wild areas in our state and nation, but still my favorite

hike is Laguna Ridge.

After our recent life-giving rains, I went back and the views were as amazing as ever. Life is vibrant along the ridge; a dozen deer were grazing in a grassy area and they "jumped to attention" as I approached, standing quietly still, was I friend of foe? They returned to grazing, sensing I was a friend.

The bright sky brought several hawks and turkey vultures soaring overhead, then I heard that familiar grunt ... a herd of wild boar were on the move, rooting for roots and boy were they making a commotion.

The first tender shoots of wood ferns were emerging along one of the shady slopes as well as red sage. A hint of blue caught my eye, it was the first two Brodiaea (native bulbs) already starting to bloom, more will come in Spring. Several small mammals run fast across the dirt road from time to time, scurrying to avoid predators, but I move slowly to enjoy the land and their presence.

I feel such a bond with the land and I am filled with memories of my father, now buried on our family's former ranch site below me. In fact, I felt his presence, guiding me as he did on so many hikes when I was young.

* * *

Nature gives me energy, gives me



Chapter Chair Jim Hines writes about the renewal given by the outdoors that include 'eye-candy' views from his favorite hiking trail, Laguna Ridge, where you see both land and sea, including Lake Casitas. Artist Ray Strong also tuned in and painted this artistic view of the lake. It's part of the Wildling Museum's special exhibit "Private Collections" comprised of artwork borrowed from its members. Exhibit opens from Feb. 24 to May 29. Details at: WWW.WildlingMuseum.org Meanwhile, the trail is always open 24-7.

passion and gives me the strength and encouragement to continue my work on behalf of the Sierra Club to fight to protect all which is great and wild.

A wild place like Laguna Ridge was once threatened by oil drilling, an operation we stopped long ago, and now stands as a symbol we must respect, appreciate and protect.

The soil was damp, animal tracks were everywhere: bobcat, bear, deer, quail and wild turkey all of which inhabit this great, wild place. But no sign of the largest predators, mountain lions. They are here, I have seen them frequently over the years. Perhaps they were here today but I did not see them, these 'ghost cats' as they were called by the Chumash.

Silence was my partner on this hike, the silence to feel and absorb all of the beauty around me, the wildlife, and the quiet, oh the

quietness of the land, but it has stories to tell and knowledge to share.

I have learned from the land, she has taught me well, a respect for something greater than myself. I am alone in this great land but I am not lonely; I feel as if I am a giant on top of the world looking down on creation, basking in the sunlight in quiet meditation. Our great wild places can heal and educate us, and all the land expects in return is for each of us to protect and respect it.

I am serenaded as I end my hike by a group of blue jays; I feel they are wishing me well and asking that I return soon to this special place, Laguna Ridge, my sanctuary.

See you on the trail.

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