

Vol.'17, No. 2 of 6

April - May 2017

Condor Call

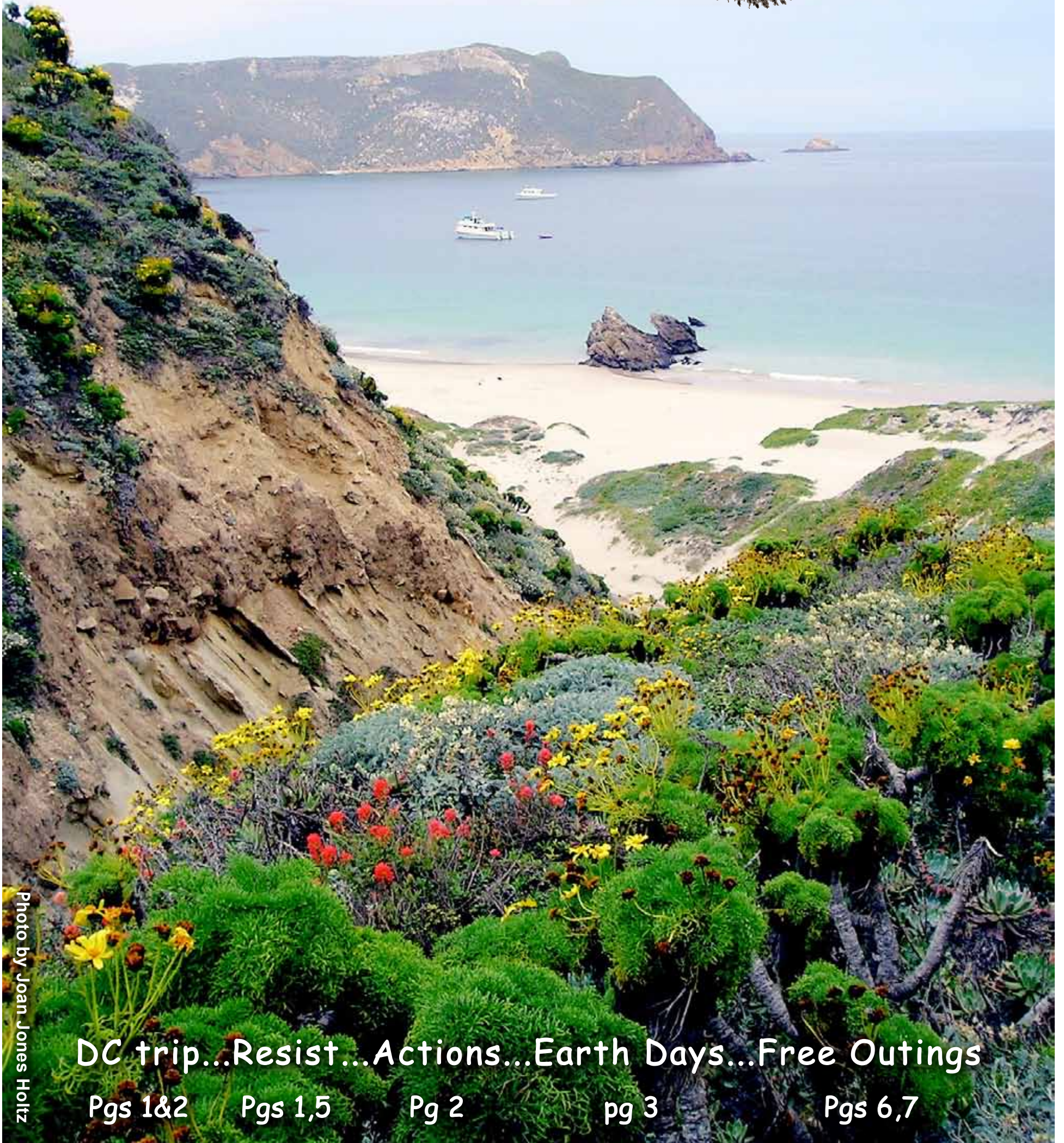


Photo by Joan Jones Holtz

DC trip...Resist...Actions...Earth Days...Free Outings

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Condor Call

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

April - May 2017



Locals join the resistance

The first surprise was in November when the electoral college elected Donald Trump as president, the next was how many millions of citizens rose to protest his style and substance, which threaten advances made in environmental protection and justice. See story on EPA deep cuts here:

<http://tinyurl.com/DeepCutsEPA>

Locally, the January rallies in Ventura and Santa Barbara attracted thousands, and from that wellspring came a new energy to organize a major resistance movement, one that can already claim emerging success, such as stopping oil transport by trains through our cities.

You can get involved on many levels; notably through the Sierra Club, which has lobbyists and lawyers in Washington and nearly 3 million volunteers nationwide who work in their local communities (See page 5). The emerging coalitions are already busy with rallies, letter writing, phone calling and many more actions to make government more responsive. Here's a short list:

Heroines of the year

By Elisabeth Lamar

Held in Oxnard's beautiful Heritage Square, the third annual Ventura County International Women's Day event was an exquisite celebration complete with belly dancers and the Channel Island High School drill team.

The Ventura Sierra Club gave environmental heroine of the year awards to Supervisor Linda Parks and activist Merrill Berge for their work with SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Resources). In their acceptance speeches, both women emphasized the importance of civic involvement and remaining engaged with members of our community.

Parks, wearing a vibrant dress with a mountain lion print, talked about her activism being sparked from a "Mommy and Me" group where she learned about the plans to develop Ahmanson Ranch. Berge remembered her interest in advocacy started with a simple article in the local paper about the proposal for massive housing in Camarillo.

Our environmental heroine



Daisies were ablaze on the Cuyama Hills and forest firefighter Jeff Knepp was there to snap them in the bud. NOW is the time to see our region's riot of blooms due to winter rains. Go on our free outings and meanwhile there's a free wildflower brochure to ID local flowers from Blue Dicks to Vigin's Bower at <http://tinyurl.com/ForestWildflowers> Also, get on Helen Tarbet's wildflower report (she is the Forest Service's RecTech) at htarbet@fs.fed.us

The Indivisible movement started with the online publication of a 23-page handbook titled "Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda." The authors of the document were former congressional staffers. Read it here:

www.indivisibleguide.com

Indivisible has local groups: For Santa Barbara: www.IndivisibleSB.com and Ventura: <https://indivisibleventura.org>

The Women's March in January also spawned Justice for All (J4all) groups that in Ventura at least has splintered into issue-specific committees. Over 300 people overflowed a meeting hall on Feb. 15, and when asked what groups they belonged to, the top three were ACLU, Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club.

The Ventura environmental committee co-chairs are Nikki Spina ([nikkigsix@yahoo.com](mailto:nikkisix@yahoo.com)) and Kris Ohlenkamp (kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

In a March 9 meeting, numerous groups were represented, including the Sierra Club, iMatter, 350.



"Pussy hats" were on brilliant display at the Museum of Ventura County to curate the Women's March locally. (Photo by Condor John)

org, WaterWatch, Audubon, CFROG, among others. "Many of the attendees have deep areas of interest, credentials and affiliations to contribute," Spina said. The Ventura J4all-Environment Facebook is at: <http://tinyurl.com/J4All-Eco>

We also witnessed a surge in membership and activism in both the Santa Barbara and Ventura Democratic clubs.



Linda Parks



Merrill Berge

COVER PHOTO

Sierra Club California has six more "Island Hop Cruises" planned this year in which you live aboard a boat and go onshore to explore three of the Channel Islands, or float a kayak. Kick your Island cruise off your bucket list and do it on these dates: May 7-9, June 11-13, July 16-18, Aug 20-22, Sept 24-26 and Oct 22-24. Call or email the leader who took this photo: Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email jholtzhin@aol.com



Mr. Hines, also known as our Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines, put on a suit and tie to blend in with the political natives in the wilderness of Washington DC.

Mr. Hines goes to Washington

Editor's note: Our chapter Chair Jim Hines spent "six intense days" in our national capitol as part of the Sierra Club Protect Wild Utah campaign, but of course he also lobbied for issues in our own Los Padres District. While he found the new Administration bleak, he noticed "there are cracks in the Trump Wall."

EAVESDROPS

"I wouldn't give you two cents for all your fancy rules if, behind them, they didn't have a little bit of plain, ordinary, everyday kindness and a little looking out for the other fella, too."

~ Jimmy Stewart as Jefferson Smith, fighting against a developer's political graft, to build a dam instead of allowing a national boys camp, in Frank Capra's film, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

By Jim Hines

I spent time in the positive light of our friends on Capitol Hill and in the abyss of darkness with our adversaries. I was welcomed by many members of congress, scorned and lectured by others.

Good to know who our friends and adversaries are, for we have many battles ahead in our effort to protect wildlife and wild places.

This congress and Administration is like no other I have every encountered. Yes, there is a massive "war on the environment" going on. The primary focus for my visit was stopping numerous bills before Congress to abolish national lands in Utah, which is ground zero for this unprecedented attack on our public lands. Notable is the Bears Ears National Monument designated by President Obama before he left office; it's the most attacked and threatened piece of national land in the nation, so far.

I met with Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah, chair of the House

Committee on Natural Resources) and witnessed the dangers of the assault on our land, water and wildlife. Bishop told me in no uncertain terms that NO federal land protection legislation will ever get past his committee as long as he is chair.

Which means our long-sought protections for the Los Padres National Forest via the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act may not even get a hearing.

The day after, a staff member sent me a copy of a letter by Bishop to President Trump asking the him to revoke protections of our offshore waters by removing the existing Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and rejecting our proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

The Trump Administration has stated they would like to open up more offshore tracts to oil drilling. That means that local Rep. Salud Carbajal's proposed Clean Coast Act to prevent this may not even get a congressional committee hearing.

Funding will be cut to provide needed protection for federal lands such as the Los Padres National Forest, Channel Islands National Park and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The federal budget will be used as a tool to NOT protect our environment.

Also, our Rim of the Valley Corridor Act is now in jeopardy, said Rep. Adam Schiff, who authored the bill that would protect a huge wildlife corridor in eastern Ventura county.

Bills have been introduced to repeal the federal endangered species act, affecting the Condor Recovery Program locally, and ironically, efforts to recover the Bald eagle, our nation's symbol, along with many more species in peril.

And we will see the Trump Administration approving more private companies to run our national public lands for profit.

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Justice for All group, an outgrowth of the January Women's Marches, had an overflow crowd of over 300 in Ventura to organize issues into task forces and coalitions. Many Sierra Club members joined the environmental task force, which has a Facebook presence at: <http://tinyurl.com/J4All-Eco>

SIGHTINGS

All actions great and small

By John Hankins

The Sierra Club doesn't sit on its laurels; instead our actions are like the plant, ever green and ever growing. And so it is with this long list of what our chapter did in the past few months.

Notice the grand scope of our activities ranging from great (resisting a hostile Administration in DC) and small (habitat restoration) and visionary (100% clean energy).

You are invited to join us (see Group News box on page 3 for where you live) as a member or not;

if not, you can join for only \$15 at: www.SierraClub.org

PS: We have a lot of fun, too, see our extensive list of FREE outings, starting on page 6!

* * *

~April 1: **Habitat Restoration** event at Santa Clara River Gateway area sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club and UCSB.

~ March 29: **Mandalay Beach** power plant known as P3 (Puente Power Project) had another hearing due to large outcry among opponents, such as the Cal Coastal Commission, city of Oxnard and our local Sierra Club whose intrepid AQ expert Mike Stubblefield was there and interviewed on radio. Decision put off 'till summer perhaps.

~ March 25: **Photo Adventure** on the Santa Clara River by Ventura Sierra Club drew many who learned or upgraded photo talents during a lush springtime day. Requested donations go to help Ormond Beach welcome center.

~ March 22: **100% Clean**

Energy goal was adopted by the Santa Barbara Group by joining Sierra Club's national campaign to convince cities to commit to that goal. So far, at least 25 cities have committed.

~ March 18: **Arguello Group** hosted an open event and potluck featuring Chapter Chair Jim Hines in a talk about Trump's environmental agenda and what we can do to support Sierra Club.

~ March 18: **Meet the Condor**, a real one at Libbey Bowl in Ojai, plus "The Condor's Shadow" movie outdoors and Condor John of the Sierra Club was there. It not only tied in with the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act which helped the condors survive. There was also a tie-in with National Women's History Month which honored biologist Jan Hamber who's worked with the condors for years. Presented by Friends of the Condors.

~ March 16: **Ozone Plan** that would protect children from asthma and the health of vulnerable residents was advocated by SB Sierra Club Chair

continued next page

Citizen goes to Washington, too

By Leslie Purcell

The sky was spitting snow on March 10 as we got off the train and headed where the Native Nations march was to begin, the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C.

I was with an activist from Delaware, two women from Maryland and a couple independent journalists. We walked the few blocks to where hundreds of people gathered. This march came out of the Standing Rock resistance against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), for water protection and native rights, and against the Trump administration's policies and actions towards the tribes and the environment.

People inside the Army building were at the windows looking out as marchers -- babes-in-arms to elders -- walked, danced, and rode by with drums, chanting, signs and banners.

It paused near the Trump Hotel, by the elegant old Post Office building with several American flags flying, while dancers performed, and chants and banners were raised. Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and presidential candidate, was interviewed by a journalist; then we walked together, hearing about O'Malley's formal recognition of the Piscataway tribe, and his current work to help young people get involved in politics.

Winding through D.C. streets, the long march arrived at Lafayette Square across from the White House. Tribal leaders and others spoke about sovereignty and rights, treaties, historic and ongoing litigation. People had come from different parts of the country; some came recently from the Standing Rock encampment.

The overall spirit was high, with more drumming and dancing, and even though it was cold,

people were happy to be there.

After the rally, we went into the Environmental Protection building for lunch and to get warm. We met an EPA staffer informally, who urged us, and others, to let our legislators know that the public does support the EPA and its work, and to write letters to the media.

Later I stopped by California Senators' offices, and expressed my concerns for the environment, its protection, and the EPA's future. The next morning, I attended a panel discussion of Jumping Eagle vs. Trump, litigating the Trump administration's executive order truncating the Army Corps environmental impact study, giving a go-ahead to the DAPL, without proper due process and tribal consultation.

Mr. Hines...

continued from page 1

We are truly in dangerous times and while I have painted an apocalyptic picture of this war on our environment, it is a real picture of what is coming. My meetings with senior Trump Administration Dept. of the Interior staff did not go so well. Mostly got lectured on their philosophy of destroying the environment.

But there may be hope in the resistance.

After 60 million Americans wrote letters and spoke out in rallies, we pressured Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) to withdraw his legislation to transfer 30 million acres of your national public lands out of federal ownership. I was also encouraged by a meeting I had with Arizona Sen. John McCain, who said he thinks it's nonsense to get rid of national public lands.

And the staffs of the House Natural Resources and Senate Environment committees were encouraging while House vice-chair Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Arizona) was inspiring. That's because Congress members are getting thousands of calls, emails and requests for meetings about the attacks on our environment.

Each one of YOU are the resistance warriors; we are ready, we are speaking out and there are cracks in our adversary's ranks. Your voices matter now more than ever.

The Sierra Club has a powerful voice in DC and we are using that voice very effectively and we ask for your help.

(NOTE: please see what you can do to help, on page 5.)

Oil battles continue

By: Fran Farina

Donald Trump has been President for two months as I write this and the damage onto the environment has begun. While much of our energy and personal resources will be expended resisting these changes, we remain engaged locally fighting fossil fuel projects and supporting alternative energy programs and projects. Here's the latest update.

Big Win in SLO - We had a huge 3-1 win defeating Phillips 66 rail project in San Luis Obispo County.

This project had statewide impacts and drew opposition from multiple cities and counties threatened by train derailments spewing volatile crude oil in their communities. (See story pg 4)

Plains Pipeline Status - A feasibility study is underway to evaluate options for the pipeline that has been shut down since the May 2015 Refugio oil spill. Options could include repairs to existing Lines 901 and 903, inserting a smaller diameter pipe into the existing pipeline, or constructing a new one. Study is expected later this year.

Venoco Deal? - The old news is that Venoco is still in Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The new news: Venoco is lobbying for a deal to encourage approval of a lease expansion in the South Ellwood Field off Goleta. The "deal" is to pump the oil out faster by possibly 15 years, and then shut down Platform Holly and the Ellwood Onshore Facility permanently.

The trouble is, the clock won't start ticking until the permit is approved by the State Lands Commission and they are back in production. From that point (which could be five years from now), they'd still be producing oil for another 25 years!

Oh, I should mention that the 15-year figure isn't firm because Venoco is still crunching the numbers. Meanwhile, Sierra Club went on the offense, met with two

of the decision makers at the State Lands Commission in Sacramento and each has now publicly stated opposition to the expanded drilling application referred to as a "lease line adjustment." Don't you just love their choice of words to sell the project?

North SB - We continue monitoring three large onshore oil projects in North Santa Barbara County. The first is ERG's Cat Canyon project with 233 wells; draft EIR is expected about summertime. The second is AERA's Cat Canyon with 296 wells; draft EIR also expected summer or early fall. Sierra Club will work with the Environmental Defense Center to submit comments on any negative impacts which can't be mitigated. Third, Petro Rock's application for 230 wells was incomplete as of mid-February.

Puente Power plant at Mandalay Beach in Oxnard is temporarily delayed. Thanks goes to the California Energy Commission and the hard work of Sierra Club activists together with the Environmental Coalition of Ventura and EDC. The applicant must now provide information on the project's impacts on natural resources that were underestimated and unmitigated.

Offshore Drilling - With Republican control of all branches of government and their threats to expand leasing in federal waters (past the 3-mile limit), we expect to be more active in the early stages.

Legacy Wells - State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson is back with a second try to monitor and cap old, leaking oil wells along coastal California. Her bill passed last year, but was vetoed by Gov. Brown. The new bill (SB 44) will next be heard by the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

Winter storm erosion exposed eight abandoned wells off Summerland Beach and two were actively leaking. The bill also seeks a separate \$2 million fund generated from tideland oil revenues.

~ Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition, which monitors all energy activity in the tri-county area.

Condor Call

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

EDITOR: 'Condor' John Hankins, 452-2885

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

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

Sierra Club

• **LOS PADRES CHAPTER** •

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

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

Santa Barbara 965-9719 • Ventura 988-0339

Change of Address: address.changes@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5653

NATIONAL OFFICE & MEMBER SERVICES: (415) 977-5500

2101 Webster St. Suite 1300, Oakland CA 94612

WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: (202) 547-1141

50 F Street, N.W., 8th Floor Washington, D.C., 20001

• **Executive Committee** •

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

Katie Davis (Vice-Chair): 451-4574, kdavis2468@gmail.com

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

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

Alex Pujo (at large): 962-3578, alex@pujo.net

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

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

Rebecca August (Arguello Group Rep): 350-0629, rebeccaugust@mac.com

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

Martha Sadler (Santa Barbara Group Rep): 636-9194, marthasadler@yahoo.com

Liz Lamar (Ventura Network): 667-7617: elisabethlamar@hotmail.com

• **Group Chairs** •

Arguello: Rebecca August, 350-0629, rebeccaugust@mac.com

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

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

Ventura Network: Nina Danza, 901-1679, prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com

• **Club Services** •

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

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

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

Conservation SB: Open

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transportation: James Reach, 444-6638, reach@101freeway.com

Typography and production by Dan Fuller

All actions...

continued from page 2

Katie Davis. (Outcome TBD)

~ March 14: **Oil train denied** by SLO County Supervisors 3-1, proposed by Phillips 66. Scores of Sierra Club activists in SLO and SB worked tirelessly over the past year to defeat the threat of mile-long, explosive oil trains running through our communities.

~ March 11: **Women's Empowerment Day** in Oxnard where we gave out our 2017 Environmental Hero Award to Merrill Berge and Linda Parks. (See story pg 1)

~ March 9: **J4All Environmental** committee met with two presentations from the Ventura Sierra Club plus iMatter, 350.org, Water for Life, WaterWatch and about 30 individuals ready for action. Issue driven meeting shared eco-info and letter-phone numbers of politicians to lobby. (See story pg 1)

~ March 8: **Women's Strike** marches in Solvang and Lompoc were boosted by Arguello Group members with the theme of a healthy environment for future generations.

~ March 8: **100% clean energy** goal was supported by SB-Goleta Sierra Club supporters who sent 50 emails to the Goleta City Council which scheduled a meeting May 8. Council also advocated to switch streetlights to LED and cut city energy use by one-third.

~ March 7: **Water threat** occurred when the new conservative Ventura Supervisor Kelly Long proposed a Groundwater Management Agency for Fillmore-Piru that would add board seats for two private pumpers and herself affecting Santa Clara River flows and the shift of power. Sierra Club was there to strongly oppose it and it was rejected 3-2, but more to come!

~ March 6: **Oil train** by Phillips 66 in SLO was opposed by SB Supervisors; SB Sierra Club Chair Katie Davis testified how the dangerous transport would go through SB-Ventura routes populated by thousands.

~ March 5: **Rain didn't dampen** the volunteer spirit on at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area. Sierra Club joined UCSB, Ventura Audubon, and Santa Paula High teens in giving native plants new room to grow on the Santa Clara River.

~ March 4: **Wild & Scenic** Film Festival by Ventura Hillside Conservancy attended by many Sierra Club members, notably to see short films that proved that farming and ranching can be done successfully without pesticides or fertilizers or succumbing to "factory" type of agriculture.

~ March 4: **New Urbanism** talk by Aurelio Ocampo and others at Ventura Sierra Club's first program of the year, organized by Chair Nina Danza. (See story pg 4)

~ March 4 - 10: **DC Lobby** effort by Sierra Club to focus on the protection of America's national parks and monuments, notably with our Chapter Chair Jim Hines. (See story page 1&4)

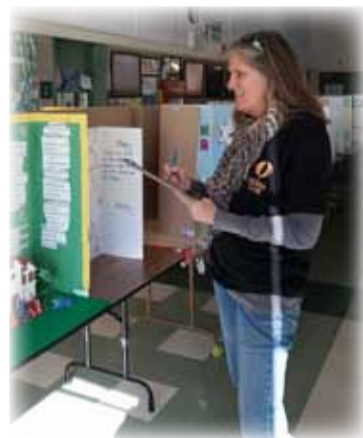
~ Feb 25: **Rally for Health Care** and a clean environment, part of the Women's March aftermath, had about 100 people with signs pointed toward traffic around the busy Ventura Government Center. Sierra Club

members were there for support.

~ Feb 23: **Global Ecology** classes at Santa Paula High were treated to a restoration and pesticide reduction talk by UCSB experts, focused on the Santa Clara River area which the Ventura Sierra Club has helped for the last three years due to Chair Nina Danza gathering volunteers.

~ Feb 22: **Reading projects** at Elmhurst School with Ventura Sierra Club volunteers Jill Forman, Bruce Hunter and Pamela Hazard as judges during the reading fair, who were recruited by VSC Chair Nina Danza. This 3rd grade schoolwide program has the kids doing a follow-up project on endangered, African or Arctic animals.

~ Feb 15: **Justice for All** group,



Annual reading project for students at Elmhurst School in Ventura culminates in posters about what they read, many with environmental themes. The Ventura Sierra Club provided three volunteers as judges, including Jill Forman shown here judging the posters. The others were Bruce Hunter and Pamela Hazard. (Photo contributed)

an outgrowth of the January Women's Marches, had an overflow crowd of over 300 in Ventura to organize issues into task forces and coalitions. Over a dozen Sierra Club members were there, and most joined the Environmental Task Force, which has a Facebook presence at:

<http://tinyurl.com/J4All-Eco>

~ Feb 15: **Lompoc Wind** project was supported by our members during a presentation; the Arguello Group also began a campaign to spread the word about the injection of oil waste into nine of our federally protected aquifers in North County.

~ Feb 14: **Resistance** efforts detailed by Jim Hines, Chair of the CalNeva Conservation Committee in the Valley Sierran, the San Fernando Valley Group's newsletter. Hines asked all to keep apprised and join the club's efforts to resist the hostile Trump Administration at:

www.AddUp.org/resist

~ Feb 9: **No DAPL** (Dakota Access Pipeline) rally in Santa Maria bolstered by Arguello Group members.

~ Feb 7: **Marine Sanctuary** hearing in San Luis Obispo rejected 3-2; members went to testify and deliver our "strongest possible warning" against those who were opposed.

~ Feb 1: **Commuter Rail** proposal got study money by SBC Assn. of Governments; urging support were SB Sierra Club members Kate Mullin, Alex Pujo, Martha Sadler and Katie Davis. See story at:

<http://tinyurl.com/CommuterTrain>



Learn insider views of what the environmental community is doing locally on CAPS TV's Schmooze with Suz (Montgomery) show. Interviewed were Condor John Hankins, editor of Condor Call, and Pery Van Houten of KVTA radio, who is also an outdoor writer and trail volunteer. Lots to learn; see the show here: <http://tinyurl.com/SchmoozeTheEnvironment>

Celebrate our Mother Earth Educate Inspire Protect

Earth Day is Every Day to the Sierra Club, but we love to celebrate and support the festivals in our Ventura and Santa Barbara region.

Our chapter will have a booth at the celebrations in Santa Barbara, Buellton, Ventura, Oxnard, Ojai and Wheeler Gorge. Please stop by for an opportunity to be creative, defend, educate and gain support on local issues.



VENTURA COUNTY

~ **Thousand Oaks** merges Arbor Day and Earth Day at its 20th Annual celebration Saturday, **April 8**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community Park 2525 N. Moorpark Road. **Highlights:** animal shows, bike rodeo, workshops, food trucks. Details at:

www.toaks.org

~ **Oxnard**, Saturday, **April 15**, 11am to 3pm at Plaza Park, 500 S C St Oxnard. **Highlights:** music, food, exhibits. And sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club, a special electric and hybrid vehicle display by owners (ask questions). All details at:

www.oxnard.org/earthday2017

~ **Ventura**, Saturday, **April 22**, 10am to 3pm at Plaza Park (new location), 651 E. Thompson Blvd. **Highlights:** 100+ exhibits, green vehicle expo, live bands, kid-friendly. Details at:

www.venturaearthday.org

~ Ojai Earth Day has moved from previous years at Oak Grove School location to the Ojai Women's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave. for booths and exhibits 11am to 4pm. **Highlight:** Peoples' Climate March starts at 9am at Libbey

Bowl and ends up at Women's Club.

~ **Wheeler Gorge** Open House, Saturday, **April 22**, 10am to 2pm 17017 Maricopa Highway 33, Ojai. has lots of forest displays, store and info by Los Padres Forest Assn. **Highlights:** Display by Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course. Also, nature walk by Lanny Kaufer at 1pm for \$15, kids free. Visitors' Center is at 17017 Maricopa Hwy 33, Ojai. Details at:

www.lpforest.org/wheeler

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

~ **Santa Barbara** Earth Day Saturday and Sunday **April 22 & 23**, 11am - 6pm, is an inspiring extravaganza since 1970 at Alameda Park. **Highlights:** Everything! ... like more than 250 green vendors, Green Car Show, sustainable Food Court, Farm-to-Table dinner, Eco-Marketplace etc. Lots to do and see, details at:

www.SBearthday.org

~ **Santa Ynez Valley's** Earth Day celebration is off calendar on Sunday, **May 21**, but draws from all North County areas, from noon to 5pm at River View Park. **Highlights:** Demos, music, agriculture.

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

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.

ARGUELLO GROUP

NOW ON FACEBOOK; keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: <http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup>

~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave., at 7pm or 6pm when there are potlucks.

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

~ Questions? Contact RebeccaAugust@mac.com or 350-0629.

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>

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

~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Check before attending at: sierraclubventura@gmail.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

EVENTS

April 8: **River Clean-up** at the Santa Clara River Gateway 9am to noon; by Ventura Sierra Club; we provide tools and gloves. Park at 2950 Johnson Dr; info at SierraClubVentura@gmail.com

April 9: **Ojai Raptor Center's** bi-annual open house, noon to 4pm, at 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. A rare opportunity to meet raptors up close and hear about ORC's rehab work for only a \$5 donation. Silent auction, kid friendly activities (under ten admitted free), etc. Found a sick raptor (owl, falcon, hawk, etc.?) call 649-6884.

April 14-15: **Gaviota Coast Visions**, "The Jewel in our Backyard" is an art show and fundraiser for Naples Coalition and Gaviota Coast Conservancy 2-8pm at the Bacara Resort, 8301 Hollister Ave. Goleta. (See story pg 4)

April 15: **Trump Tax:** Events locally, nationally to insist President Trump release his tax returns. Details for Santa Barbara: www.IndivisibleSB.com and Ventura: <https://indivisibleventura.org>

April 22: **March for Science** - Saturday, De La Guerra Plaza, 11am. Join a nationwide movement to champion support and funding for science, science-based policy, and diversity. This gathering will start in De La Guerra Plaza and march to Alameda Park, ending at the main stage of Santa Barbara Earth Day. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/ForScienceRally>

April 22: **Help Shorebirds** on Ventura County beaches, train to be a volunteer naturalist for endangered species sponsored by Audubon; 3-hour sessions, contact Chelsea.Fletcher@Parks.ca.gov

April 29: **People's Climate Mobilization** - On the 100th Day of the Trump Administration a huge march on Washington is planned; also, will be rallies nationwide; notably noon-2pm at SBCC's La Playa stadium with opportunities to become active. Our SB Group involved. Details at: www.cecsb.org

April 29: **Milkweed planting** from 8:30am to noon, join Ventura Hillside Conservancy for a family-friendly milkweed planting event at our Big Rock Nature Preserve along the Ventura River. Gloves, shovels and milkweed plants provided; info at 643-8044 or info@venturahillside.org

May 21: **TGIF** at the Environmental Defense Center will be sponsored by the Los Padres Chapter. At EDC, 5:30 to 7:30pm, 906 Garden St. It's one of the best happy hours in Santa Barbara, lots of activists to meet.

May 20: **Help Shorebirds** on Ventura County beaches, train to be a volunteer naturalist for endangered species sponsored by Audubon; 3-hour sessions, contact Chelsea.Fletcher@Parks.ca.gov. Also session on June 3.

June 4: **Green & Blue**, Environmental Defense Center's annual fundraising fun with music, food, silent and active auctions and lots of networking. From 2-5:30pm at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, Goleta. Details at: www.EDCnet.org

Jun 4: **Ojai WILD!** on Sunday, June 4th. This year we will be honoring the Thacher School where the event takes place; also celebrating the Sespe Wilderness's 25th anniversary. Info at: www.lpfw.org

Attend Gaviota art benefit

Help save the Gaviota Coast in an artistic way.

The Fifth Annual "Visions of the Gaviota Coast: The Jewel in our Backyard" fundraiser is happening on Friday & Saturday, April 14 & 15 at Bacara Resort in Goleta, to benefit the Gaviota

Coast Conservancy and Naples Coalition.

This two-day exhibit of more than 150 works of art, juried by artist and professor Rick Stitch, features the stunning beauty of the Gaviota area, stretching for 72 miles and

providing a pristine habitat for over 1,400 species. Hours are Friday from 2-8pm and Saturday 1am-5pm. An opening reception is on Friday 5-8pm, and a special free showing of the new Gaviota movie (see story on pg 7) will be at the Bacara 3pm on Saturday. Bacara is located at 8301 Hollister Ave.

Sponsored by the Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE), the event will also offer a silent auction with items from Patagonia, Seavees, El Encanto and many more. Bacara Resort is hosting the event, and donating an overnight stay and spa treatment for a raffle. The artists from SCAPE are donating 40 percent of their works to the two environmental non-profits.

Meanwhile, the public may also celebrate some big victories towards the protection and preservation of the Gaviota Coast, thanks to the Coalition – of which the Sierra Club is an active partner – and the Conservancy.

"After seven years and 130 public meetings, the Board of Supervisors approved the Gaviota Coast Plan, which establishes forward-looking strategies to balance protection of the many environmentally sensitive areas of the Gaviota Coast, preservation of viable agriculture, and development," said Michael Brown, Conservancy president. Want to help? Go to:

www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org
www.savenaples.org

Barbara county, the excitement of whale watching in the waters of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and on the islands themselves.

Enjoying and experiencing these wild places and magnificent wildlife allow us to slow down, renew, recharge and reconnect with nature and with ourselves. These are YOUR public lands.

We are truly a region blessed with great natural beauty, endless outdoor recreation opportunities and abundant wildlife and marine life ... all because these lands are owned and protected by the U.S. Government to be held in trust for the protection of our natural world, or to study the natural world and great wild places and provide outdoor recreation for all Americans.

Keep Public Lands Public. Remember, these are YOUR national public lands locally and nationally; so get out, enjoy and appreciate the great natural beauty we have here.

See you on the trail.



Green Scene of New Urbanism was organized by Nina Danza, Chair of the Ventura Sierra Club on March 4. Shown chatting about it afterward are (from left) Ron Whitehurst, Aurelo Ocampo, Nina Danza and Virginia Souza who came all the way from Santa Maria to learn about it. (Photo by Condor John)

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Keep public lands public

By Jim Hines
Greetings Friends

With so much talk in the media about the attempts to undue protections for federal lands across the west (including those in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties), this would be a good time to remember just how important they are to each of us.

The outdoor experience we all get when hiking these lands owned by the people and overseen by our government are experiences which stay with us forever.

Lands such as the 5000 acres of Cheseboro Canyon Preserve in southeastern Ventura county, watching condors soar in the skies above Mt Pinos, or dazzle at the fields of wildflowers on Figueroa Mountain and the Los Padres National Forest.

Or learn about the importance of coastal sand dunes at Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge in northern Santa



Green scene is back to future

Would you like to have a "lovable, walkable community?"

One solution was provided at the Ventura Sierra Club's Green Scene public mixer in which "New Urbanism" was explained "to counter effects of urban sprawl," said speaker Aurelio Ocampo of the Oxnard Community Planning Group. OCPG has lots of details at:

www.OxnardCPG.com

Organized by VSC Chair Nina Danza, the event drew about 30 people to the Foster Library on March 4 with a program that was not only fascinating, but practical, as any community could use its ideas. In fact, Virginia Souza of Santa Maria traveled down to find out more, as she is part of the Buena Vista Beautifiers Committee in that city.

And by the way, it really was a Green Scene, as Danza ensured that it was a finger foods potluck to share with no utensils, no disposables, zero waste.

Envision small downtowns of yesteryear, where there was mixed use, sidewalks with trees, bike and pedestrian paths, where you didn't need a car. Now go back to the future with New Urbanism and you can grasp its ideas.

"Oxnard (as well as many other communities) was built around the car," added Steve Nash, a former Oxnard Planning Commissioner who is part of OCPG. When asked about how The Collection fit in, Nash said it doesn't, rather "it took shopping away from downtown" and allowed a huge movie theater to

also draw people away from the urban core.

He sees The Collection "as the last gasp of the car culture ... it's doomed ... I wouldn't be surprised if it was a ghost town in ten years," especially with the rise of online shopping and the "lack of a human element."

The group is fighting back, however, determined to get housing built in Oxnard's downtown across the street from Heritage Square, a location that encourages walking to stores and events.

Ocampo said New Urbanism works well with SOAR and cities have outdated zoning that instead should favor "human-scaled neighborhoods" with narrower roads, wider sidewalks and minimal building setbacks.

~ By John Hankins

Oil trains are derailed

In a major 3-1 victory, a long-fought proposal to transport oil-laden trains was denied by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. The proposal by Phillips 66 would transport oil by rail south through Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and north through San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties and beyond.

"This is a significant win for our communities, our environment ... and for our climate," stated the Environmental Defense Center, which represented the Sierra Club, Stand-Earth, Surfrider Foundation and Center for Biological Diversity in this complicated effort with almost a dozen hearing dates over the last year.

The project faced major opposition with at least 25,000 Californians and more than 45 cities, counties, and school boards sending letters urging denial. Club members from Santa Barbara and Arguello groups carpooled and bused to the hearings, joining with the SLO chapter to actively fight the project.

"SLO County has succeeded in taking the fork in the road away from fossil fuels and toward a clean energy economy," said Andrew Christie of the Club's Santa Lucia Chapter.

"This win is also a clear statement of the power of the people to stand up against polluting interests," said the EDC.

Grand Green Gaviota - Chris Potter

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTISTS PAINTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Invite You to the 5th Annual

Visions of the Gaviota Coast

The Jewel in Our Backyard

Benefit for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy & Naples Coalition

April 14 & 15, 2017

Friday 2 - 8 pm & Saturday 10 am - 5 pm Reception Friday, 5 - 8 pm

Bacara Resort & Spa

Now is the time to speak up for the animal victims who cannot!

The many unique ecosystems which make up the Los Padres Chapter region are outstanding places for wildlife viewing ranging from endangered species to marine mammals, from the high county to the seashore ... and that's what we defend.

Your donation helps us protect these amazing creatures and their home in the wilderness and watersheds.

Easy to donate online at: www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

◀ The endangered condor, brought from the brink of extinction and now released into our local Los Padres Forest (© Photo Dean Zatkowsky)

▶ The annual migrations of the whales through the Channel Islands are now safer thanks to our work requiring slower ship speed, which also reduces pollution. (© Photo Denise Dewire)

Looking for action? Look no further

Editor's note: We're facing an Administration that is hostile to the environment and, while it's a slap in the face for all the progress we've made with like-minded groups (less smog, cleaner water, wilderness, open space, wildlife protections et al), the Sierra Club is determined to resist.

It's nothing new in our 125-year history; the Club is designed for moments like this, we have lobbyists and lawyers and a volunteer membership that is nearly three million strong.

* * *

Here's how to help, locally and nationally,

Stop parks action

A major assault on YOUR national parks, monuments, conservation areas, forests and protected wildlife areas are all on the chopping block as Congress and the Trump Administration mount an all-out attack on lands which have been protected for close to 100 years as part of our proud national public lands system.

Funding and staff cuts, privatization, no conservation funds or opening these lands to extract oil, minerals and development are favored by this short-sighted Administration. Our message is simple: Keep Public Lands Public!

Please contact your member of Congress and set up a meeting with them while they are in their home district during the upcoming Spring recess (April 10-21).

EAVESDROPS

"We started thinking more about what they (Tea Party) had done and how you could replicate some of those tactics without the violence, without the nastiness, without the racism."

~ Leah Greenberg, one of the founders of "Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda." Read about it at: <http://tinyurl.com/IndivisibleIdea>

We have local groups: For Santa Barbara: www.IndivisibleSB.com and Ventura: <https://indivisibleventura.org>

Clean building

The Sierra Club's Buy Clean California campaign calls for state officials to spend taxpayer dollars on infrastructure supplies in a way that is consistent with the state's globally recognized climate change goals.

The state spends on average \$10 billion each year on infrastructure, which require steel, cement, asphalt and other materials that produce pollution.

The campaign calls for the state to create rules that consider pollution levels during production. To learn more, go to: BuyCleanCalifornia.org

through targeted actions and/or donations that bolster our volunteer work.

The most direct way is to donate to our **local** chapter (SB and Ventura counties) online at: www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

~ Amazon shoppers can designate the Sierra Club to get a small portion of your purchases (at no extra charge). Sign up at: www.smile.Amazon.com

~ Coordinate your passion or hobby with Team Sierra Club to raise essential funds for the fight. Details at: www.TeamSierra.org

~ 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 free streamlined activist network is not only a great way to stay active NOW, it keeps track of your activism and makes it simple to communicate with legislators at: www.addup.org

~ Sierra Rise is an online community working to create a world with justice, sustainability, and genuine

democracy for everyone. Read or tell your stories at:

<http://content.sierraclub.org/sierrarise>

~ 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? Backed by the club, you get \$1,000 off the price and another \$1,000 goes to the local chapter. Get free estimate at:

www.SC.org/SolarPrint

~ Sign up for a Sierra Club credit card. See ad this page.

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

~ If you're not a member, join, or ask friends to join or gift a membership. See ad this page.



SBCounty hills© Photo by Denise Dewire

Free outings ... we'll show you the earth any day

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 Email _____

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Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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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

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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Make officials pay attention

~ Simplest way is use your phone via **Resistbot**; just text 'RESIST' to 50409 and it will send your messages to appropriate officials. (Free, but supported by donations).

~ Call the Capitol Hill switchboard: (202) 225-3121, give your zip code and you will be transferred.

~ Twitter: @POTUS and send your individual message to The Man Himself.

~ White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1111.

~ White House email form:

www.whitehouse.gov/contact

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:

SC.org/SolarPrint

amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

SUPPORT THE LOS PADRES CHAPTER

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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
 2101 Webster St.
 Oakland CA 94612
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270





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>

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)

SANTA CLARA RIVER Gateway Clean Up: 9-noon. Kick Off Earth Month 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, saving the river and estuary (a mile away). Park near Anytime Fitness (2950 Johnson Dr.) and walk to the sign-in table across from Motel 6. 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

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>

conditions. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KENNY 692-2227 (SB)

April 10
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at the end of 5th St. in Oxnard to do urban walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 15
COAL OIL POINT RESERVE: A flat 4-mile hike along the beach and trail. The tour will last about 2 hours, bring binoculars if you have them! Major sights include: Gray whale migration; breeding season of the threatened shorebird, Western Snowy Plover; Great Blue Heron rookery; also not unlikely to see raptors: (Red-tailed hawk, White-tailed kite, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, and more). Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

EAVESDROP
"During a shocking committee hearing, Senate Republicans complained the Endangered Species Act 'is not working today'."

~ Fact is, the ESA has a very high success rate in saving the gray wolf, Florida manatee AND the nation's symbol, the Bald Eagle, said Sierra Club Exec Director Michael Brune. Locally, we've seen the ESA save the Channel Islands fox, California condor and the bald eagle, among many others plus plants!

April 16
GOAT ROCK/RANGER PEAK: Climb up a hillside past Goat Rock proceeding on for lunch and magnificent views from Ranger Peak. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE dianesoini@gmail.com (SB)

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

April 17
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza

shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 21
CHORRO GRANDE (+Reyes Peak?), Los Padres National Forest: This is an out-and-back, moderately paced, 11 mile hike, with approx. 2500 ft. of gain. We'll hike from the trailhead at Mile marker 36 on Hwy. 33 through Oak Camp to Chorro Springs camp for lunch. If group agrees and time allows we will continue an additional 2.5 miles to Reyes Peak. If weather permits, we should be able to see Piedra Blanca, the Matilija Wilderness, and even some of the Channel Islands. Meet at 7am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). There is an hour's drive to the trailhead from the Hwy 33/150 intersection. 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 22
EL CAPITAN CYN: Moderate 4mrt loop (600' elevation gain/loss) for an overlook hike of El Capitan Cyn. Trailhead just outside of the Ocean Meadows campground. We'll head down into the canyon and take the short Selma Rubin trail to the organic gardens, hike to the Paradise Picnic area. Then we'll follow the Bill Wallace trail, into the next canyon. After lunch, follow old farm roads past the llama pens. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

April 23
PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3000' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8:30am (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from



High above Santa Barbara from Mission Ridge during one of Sierra Club's free outings; check out our list for more adventures. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

April 24
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 28
EDITOR'S PICK
April 23
NEW! ALISO LOOP CANINE HIKE: Hike along a stream filled with beautiful spring flowers and up onto open ridge-line for lunch stop with panoramic views of the Santa Ynez back country and more flowers. We will be able to see and assess the damage from the recent Rey fire. Moderate pace 3.5 mrt, 900' gain. Long commute to Lower Oso trail head, plan on mid afternoon return. Rain or wet trails cancels. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, and sturdy shoes. Parking permits now required. Call leader for parking and canine requirements info. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 967-8770 (SB)

SESPE CONDOR Sanctuary to Bucksnot Spring: Experience a verdant spring in the Sespe Wilderness, on a corridor through the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. Hike 2 miles on the road to Dough Flat and then 2.5 miles beyond to the Bucksnot Spring area, where we'll find the spring and stop for lunch. About 9 miles round trip, 1200' gain/loss. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, & other 10 essentials, gloves and warm hat if weather is cool. Rain or recent heavy rain cancels. Meet at 7:30am in Fillmore Von's Shopping Center near Starbuck's to carpool on unpaved forest road to trailhead. Adventure Pass not required. TERESA 746-6030 (VEN)

April 29
HELL'S HALF ACRE: Hike from Cachuma Saddle up a dirt road to interesting rock formations. About ten miles round trip. Moderately strenuous. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on

upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! DIANE dianesoini@gmail.com (SB)

April 30
SUNBIRD MINE: (11 mile round trip with 1000 ft elevation gain) Long moderately strenuous hike follows road and trail past Gibraltar Dam to abandoned quicksilver mine (active 1860 - 1992). River permitting, the return trip will preview our Santa Ynez Swim hike. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should ready their outings for the next Condor Call schedule, covering the Jun-Sep plus the 1st week of October. Questions? Contact Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

May 1
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or 9am at Emma Wood State Beach to walk through park on beach trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 5-7
BRIGHT STAR WILDERNESS - RESTORATION PROJECT: We'll work on the Bright Star Corridor fence that was burned in the Erskine Fire of 2016. This project will be the beginning of an even longer fence line that will extend across the corridor route to help protect the now vulnerable burned area. For questions or to sign up contact leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com or 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

May 6
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)

May 7
SAN MARCOS RIDGE: Short, easy hike along foothill ridges of recently opened San Marcos

continued next page

Meetups & Ongoing Outings
Santa Barbara

Meetup site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara

Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day.

Wednesday night: Strenuous conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Laguna and Los Olivos St.

Friday evening social hike for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mrt 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)

Saturday and **Sunday** hikes: Usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State Street. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/SB-Hikes>

Ventura

Meetup group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get going on intermediate half or whole day hikes, or make new friendships on overnight backpacks. Just go to: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

Every Monday morning, Easy Walks: Join Pat Jump at 9 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.

Outings...from page 6

Preserve County Park. Amazing 360 deg 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)

May 8
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Shelf Road in Ojai to do large square. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 12
BEAR CANYON: Water crossings will cool you off! Hike along the Sespe Creek to Bear Canyon on old jeep road at a comfortable pace, past deep pools and sandy flats, about 9.4 miles round trip, 400' gain/loss. Stop for lunch and swimming at Bear Canyon. Rain or recent heavy rain cancels. Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen, other 10 essentials, and swimsuit. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Adventure Pass needed for cars at Piedra Blanca trailhead. TERESA 746-6030 (VEN)

May 13
INDIAN CREEK: Long carpool to the trail head. Follow Indian Creek up a canyon and enjoy some rarely seen back country. The creek abounds with wildlife, especially frogs, two striped garter snakes, and the western pond turtle. Bring a swimsuit if you're interested in taking a dip in the creek or relaxing in the Little Caliente hot springs at the end of the hike. Moderate terrain, but long 12 mrt hike. There will be many creek crossings, and you may get wet, so bring water shoes for the crossings. Also, bring snacks and lunch and at least three liters of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

May 15
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)

May 16
OUTINGS DUE: Outings for inclusion in the Condor Call are due NOW. All Group outings chairs should send their Jun-Sep outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 20
HENDRY'S BEACH TO MORE MESA: Beach walk past Hope Ranch to More Mesa or beyond depending upon tide. Easy 7 mrt. Optional swim. Bring swim suit, old

shoes, lunch, and water. Meet at Hendry's Beach (Arroyo Burro on maps) outside gate at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

May 20
FUEL BREAK SHELF ROAD LOOP: We'll take the high road, then the low road on a loop hike above Ojai. This route is basically long and steady without a lot of elevation change. Be ready to be on the trail at least 5 hours. Beautiful scenery and not a lot of others on the trail. Dogs ok. Total miles = 7, elevation change = 1000'. Bring lots of water (2 liters minimum), lots of trail food. We'll start at Pratt Trailhead, travel east on Fuel Break Road, lunch on Gridley Trail, and return on Shelf Road. Early start to beat possible heat! Meet at Ventura carpool point at 7am (Carrows lot at Seaward and Harbor). Contact: NINA sierraclubventura@gmail.com. (VEN)

May 21
SANANTONIO CREEK: Beginning at Tuckers Grove County Park, we will walk on a creek side trail that meets up with Hwy 154. A short walk on this busy highway will link us to a return via San Antonio Creek Road. Easy, 2 mrt. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave. & State St. at 9a.m. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

May 22
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at the Sulphur Mountain Road trailhead off Hwy 33 in Casitas Springs to walk uphill for about 1 hour and then return. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 26-29
MT. GRAFTON WILDERNESS SERVICE: Join the CNRCC Wilderness Committee's Memorial Day service trip in eastern Nevada's Mt. Grafton Wilderness--another in our ongoing series with the wilderness staff from BLM's Ely office. Useful work in a scenic area--a great way to celebrate Memorial Day out in the wilds. Optional central commissary. Contact VICKY HOOVER 415-977-5527; vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Project specifics available later. (CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

May 27
CATHEDRAL PEAK LOOP II: Head up Mission Canyon trail and then branch off onto a steep and rocky primitive trail to Cathedral Peak for lunch. Spectacular views, including "Three Pools," and echoes from the Canyon. Return down west side to Jesusita trail. Strenuous 6 mrt. Some agility needed. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)



The filmmakers who made the documentary film "Gaviota: The End of Southern California," bask in the appreciation by a full house at the SB Film Festival's showing at the Lobero. Also shown are those who made three shorter documentaries, "Losing Ground," "Coastal Guardians," and "Devereux Slough," (Photo by Condor John)

Overflow crowd for Gaviota movies

By John Hankins

What a debut it was in February as the line to see the long-awaited Gaviota movie snaked around to State Street, leading to the Lobero Theater that simply couldn't hold all the clamoring crowd.

Such is the popularity of the long fight to keep the Gaviota Coast from the urban sprawl monster that gobbled up the rest of

Southern California.

Hence the title: "Gaviota: The End of Southern California," a 42-minute film that explores one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world. If you missed its sold-out debut at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, keep your eyes peeled for future showings at: www.GaviotaMovie.com

It was dedicated to the groups that are constantly protecting it, notably the Naples Coalition – of which the Sierra Club is a vital part – and the Gaviota Coast Conservancy. In fact, this journey started when, in 2007, the Naples Coalition asked Shaw Leonard to help its cause by making "The Future of the Gaviota Coast," which focused just on the Naples property, located west of Ellwood that to this day makes developers salivate.

That began Leonard's love for the Gaviota Coast: "Each day spent revealed beauty and overwhelming biodiversity." When embarking on a larger film for the whole 20 miles from Ellwood to the Gaviota State Park, Leonard called upon his cousin, Tamorn Chase, to help filming. They spent five years putting the film together, often

with great physical and monetary challenges.

As a special sidelight, Leonard told the Lobero audience: "Jessie Davidson became the love of my life and we're getting married." Davidson, a fixed wing pilot, flew for the film's aerial shots and designed the website. Another score was having the legendary John Kay of Steppenwolf do the narration.

Funding was tough, but local sources came through with Producer Ryan Wolfe scoring a University of California coastal grant while others included the Fund for Santa Barbara, Gildea Foundation, Patagonia and dozens of individuals.

Chase said their hard work and vision "was inspired by global actions around the world ... we have to protect our home."

Strongly echoing that statement were three short films that preceded the Gaviota movie: "Losing Ground," also about the threat to the coast; "Coastal Guardians," about the proposal for a Chumash Marine Sanctuary, and "Devereux Slough," which presented how it was successfully restored.

EAVESDROPS

"Any harm done to the environment, therefore is harm done to humanity. The ecological crisis, and the large-scale destruction of biodiversity, can threaten the very existence of the human species."

~ Pope Francis

May 28
SANTA YNEZ SWIM: (6 mile round trip with 400 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike follows road and trail to Gibraltar Dam, then return along the Santa Ynez River for a picnic and swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. It is most convenient to hike in your swimming suit (under your hiking clothes). Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

May 29
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 3
CANINE HIKE JESUSITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT: Hike through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderately strenuous 7 miles RT. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring lunch and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at B of A parking lot at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. 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)

June 4
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)



The Friends of the Condor and Fish and Wildlife's booth at Ojai's Libbey Bowl prior to showing a film and a real condor from the L.A. Zoo on March 18. But you can see real condors flying in the wild, thanks to the Friends. Scheduled are two each at Hopper Mountain (Fillmore) on April 15 and June 3 and two at Bitter Creek (Maricopa) April 29 and May 13. Tours are free, but a donation is appreciated. Sign up with Steve Larios at: tours@friendsofcondors.org For those who can't take the tours, log on to condor cam at: <http://tinyurl.com/ViewCondors>

Conejo Trails Edu. a big deal

The 26th annual Trails Education Days for children from the Conejo School District will take place from April 24 to 28 with a lot of help from the Sierra Club.

"For well over ten years, members of the Conejo Group have been a large portion of the volunteers who make the program possible," said Hugh Warren, Chair of Conejo Group. For details, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/TrailsEd>

It takes nearly 100 volunteers and Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, National and State park rangers contribute almost a thousand hours to the planning, execution and follow-up each year.

"Sierra Clubbers serve as hike leaders and workshop coordinators.

It's a great way to get the message of enjoyment and preservation of nature to people at an early age. It is also good to work with other organizations having interests that overlap ours," Warren said.

With about 1,200 students attending over a 5-day period, the program needs as many as 12 – 15 people per day to lead hikes from the Wildflower Playing Fields to the Nature Center via the Wildwood Canyon Trail. They learn about indigenous plant and animal life.

The students are invited to enter a letter-writing contest to describe what they learned. Two winners from each school and five Grand Prize winners are chosen to receive cash awards and public recognition.

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From the classrooms to summits and the valleys below, WBC made it fun

The Wilderness Basics Course sold out again this year, graduating 50 more people (from teens to seniors) who gained vital knowledge to go out in the backcountry safely, enriching the adventure. Most said they enrolled because they've been spending too much time behind a desk ... well, Get Out!

"This was so much fun and tons of knowledge was shared by all the speakers. Well worth it," said one student (echoed by many). Thanks to the 24 speakers, and over 50 volunteers "for your fun-loving selves, hard work, knowledge, and teamwork," said Teresa Norris, singling out her co-founders Alisse Fisher, Suzanne Tanaka and Mark Hertz.

See more photos at: <http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresWBC>



Above it all near Sheep Camp. Photo Michael Kuredjian



Search & Rescue Team & WBC go over details.
Photo Condor John



Wildflowers everywhere.
Photo Cara Peden



Snow at Sheep Camp monument.
Photo Michael Kuredjian



Warmth at Paradise camp. Photo by Liesbeth Legendyk



Welcome to WBC, say Lora Clarke & Laurie Crain at the register table.
Photo Condor John



Peace-Love-Joy sign near Danielson Monument. Photo Cara Peden

The Perfect Backpack by Alisse Fisher.
Photo Condor John

