

Vol.'17, No. 4 of 6

August - September 2017

Condor Call



© Photo by Susan Bell Photography

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Back page

Grassroots action is saving the wetlands

By John Hankins and Irene Rauschenberger

The dream to restore the Ormond Beach and wetlands became more of a reality during a public workshop on June 21, outlining the project that experts say is the most important wetland restoration opportunity in Southern California.

It was the first public meeting about the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan co-sponsored by the State Coastal Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the City of Oxnard. The meeting presentation materials (English and Spanish versions) are now available online:

<http://ormond.scc.ca.gov>

Nature Conservancy provided a brief overview of the restoration project yet to be completed. They needed community input, so they provided an opportunity to speak and/or submit comments on

EAVESDROP

"What other city has three power plants and a Superfund site on the beach? The people of Oxnard have paid their dues."

~ Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard mayor pro-tem, quoted in a *LA Times* article about the opposition to a gas-fired 'peaker plant', a sentiment shared by the Sierra Club. Read the article at: <http://tinyurl.com/PuenteOrmondFeature>

a questionnaire (the comment deadline was July 23).

About 80 attendees were seated in work groups for discussion. Issues arising from the groups were similar: public access, parking, signage, boardwalks, a visitor center, docents and more. Oxnard Mayor Tim Flynn, Mayor Pro-Tem Carmen Ramirez, and Council member Bert

Perello were seen along with the city's Planning Commissioners and staff.

Also in evidence was Ventura Sierra Club activist Nina Danza, who's been leading photo hikes at Ormond that helped raise funds to purchase an outdoor table and materials for resident docent, Walter Fuller. The Sierra Club has for years advocated for Ormond restoration, often teaming up with Roma Armbrust and Jean Harris who founded the Ormond Beach Observers in 1983 (*See adjacent story on these pioneers*).

The Coastal Conservancy's plan "is pursuing acquisition at Ormond Beach with a goal of acquiring at least 900 acres to accommodate wetland and other habitat needs, and at the same time complement the City's goal to complete development of the south Oxnard community. Acquisition and restoration of these properties could at least triple the extent of habitat at Ormond Beach."

The biological significance of this area and its restoration potential is endorsed by all the federal and state resource agencies that participate in the SoCal Wetlands Recovery Project. Unanimous support is also from the County of Ventura and the City of Oxnard.

Families brought their children because Ventura Audubon had a fun activities and refreshments.

For decades, the coastal wetlands in south Oxnard have been drained and filled to make way for agriculture and industrial uses, but in recent years there has been a concerted effort to purchase private property for restoration purposes, starting with the 2002 sale of 265 acres belonging to SoCal Edison. Currently there is 540 acres of the ultimate goal of having at least 900 acres.

The effort has attracted state and even national attention. See recent new feature here: <http://tinyurl.com/OrmondLATimes>

the Ormond Beach Observers in 1983) and enduring inspiration recently paid off, with funded restoration plans presented to the public on June 21.

Ormond Beach will be preserved and eventually turned back into the healthy wetland it once was. See the plan at: www.Ormond.SCC.ca.gov

People will be able to access this rare remaining refuge on

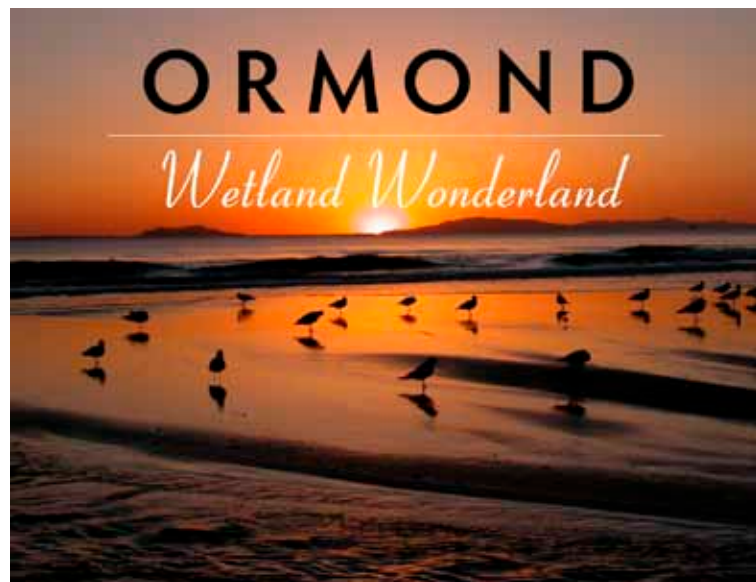
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Credit Roma & Jean, Ormond's Dream Team

Editor's note: As the dream to preserve Ormond Beach progresses, let's pause to acknowledge the primary activists whose vision has brought us to this point.

By Bob Chianese

Thirty years ago, Roma Armbrust, with her environmental colleague, Jean Harris, advocated the preservation of a wide stretch of beach along the Oxnard shore. Their early efforts (they formed



Cover shot for an Ormond Beach video extolling its worth as a world-class wetland. (Photo contributed)



The "super-bloom" on the Carrizo Plain in April is just one reason to revere it, but this National Monument in eastern San Luis Obispo County is under review by Interior Secretary Zinke as are 26 others to determine if the private sector can utilize them.

(Photo by Denise Dewire Photography, Ventura, Flickr.com/denisedewirephotography)

INFERIOR DEPT

Millions support monuments

By Jim Hines

The public comment phase for the Interior Department's campaign to reduce boundaries, eliminate, privatize and/or allow oil and mineral extraction on 26 of America's national monuments has officially ended.

But the public has heeded the call aggressively: over 2.5 million comments were received, the majority from the official comment webpage but a large number by postcards and letters, according to Interior senior staff in DC.

Too, on Aug. 19 the Sierra Club is organizing a National Monuments Day of Action. Keep your eyes peeled on our web, Facebook and Meet-up pages for details on actions locally; links are listed under Group News, page ?

A big THANK YOU to everyone for getting so many supportive and passionate comments for protection of America's national monuments in before the July 10th deadline. You inundated them so much so that they are not sure what to do with so many comments!

Staff says that a preliminary tally shows a 10 to 1 margin in support for leaving the monuments fully intact and protected. In July, Interior announced that four of the 26 monuments will stay as is: Craters of the Moon NM in Idaho, Hanford Reach NM in Washington, Colorado NM and Canyons of the Ancients NM, also in Colorado.

The most individual comments were for Bears Ears NM in Utah. It is ground zero for the Administration's campaign to allow more resource extraction as Zinke has publicly stated its boundaries should be reduced to only protect "cultural resources."

"Farmers, ranchers, and the oil and gas industry have urged the Utah congressional delegation to push for a rollback of the protected areas so they could have access to the land for development," according to the *New*

York Times.

The closest to our Los Padres region is Carrizo Plain National Monument at the southeast of San Luis Obispo County. Others on the list for changes are Grand Staircase-Escalante NM also in Utah, and Grand Canyon Parashant NM on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. These are the big national monuments with economic amounts of oil and gas, uranium, copper and coal.

Sierra Club sent in 203 pages of comments on each of the monuments at issue and sent copies directly to Zinke. Club activists are also showing up when Zinke visits particular sites.

My personal take on all this is if the Secretary follows the expressed

will of the American people, our national monuments are safe. But the Secretary also listens to and follows the advice of a very small but vocal group of anti-public land advocates.

Secretary Zinke is a devoted and obedient servant of the President. In several face-to-face meetings I had with him, he made it very clear that he thinks anti-public lands advocates are the "victims".

BULLETIN

Comments to save our Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary has been extended to Aug. 14. Do it online:

<http://tinyurl.com/ChIslandsComment>

Gas plant blasted

Oxnard residents rallied strong in their opposition to the proposed Puente power plant that would be the fourth such industrial facility on their beach, backed up by environmental groups, elected officials and many others just before a hearing by the California Energy Commission commenced on July 26.

At issue is SoCal Edison's proposal to build a gas-fired power plant to provide power during peak use and replace two older gas-fired steam turbines at Mandalay Bay that cause more pollution. Hearing was held at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

If you didn't make the meeting you may still comment via the internet at:

<http://tinyurl.com/PuenteEcomment>

Key objections included:

~ An *L.A. Times* report that the state's power plants can produce at least 21% more electricity than needed by 2020 without it.

~ CAUSE group asserting that it's a case of environmental justice, as 85% of Oxnard's population are "people of color" and that the area has already had its share of having three other power plants on its beach that may also be the cause of higher rates of health issues.

"This project would never be proposed on the beaches of Santa Barbara or Malibu," the group asserted.

~ Environmental Defense Center and the Sierra Club commented that "new information about renewable energy alternatives -- including solar power and energy storage -- demonstrates that the gas-fired

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COVER PHOTO

Sun setting over Campus Point, what a beautiful place to get a college education.

(© Photo by Susan Bell Photography @ www.Facebook.com/SusanBellPhotography)

Dream Team...

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the Pacific coast and walk on prescribed paths, study the dunes and pools and the plants and animals they harbor, and examine the water's edge, a zone of thriving life.

There are things to be cleaned up, like industrial wastes, run-off, and toxics deliberately dumped there. Also, an obsolete power plant needs to go, even before its shut down date of 2020. It turns out we are awash in electrical power, having to pay other states to take it off our hands. A new proposed one nearby clearly doesn't need to be built.

When Armbrust and Harris set out to save this rare coastal habitat, they were two individuals who had that shared objective. And who would think that Ormond and other beaches would serve a vital function in protecting human development from a new threat—sea level rise due to global warming?

There's a key lesson here for environmentalists. Persevere, push back, delay, and propose attractive alternatives. One's efforts will also ebb and flow with the tides of public opinion. Eventually your plan may settle

EAVESDROPS

"Real change never takes place from the top down ... it always occurs from the bottom on up -- when tens of millions of people say 'enough is enough' and become engaged in the fight for justice."

~ Senator Bernie Sanders, still active, still encouraging a grass-roots revolution. So are we.

into the consciousness of locals, politicians, and businesses, and result in a vision that you held early on that now inspires many others.

Gratitude for their vision, coupled with perseverance, is what we owe Roma Armbrust and Jean Harris.

~ Many thanks to the author, a retired CLU professor whose other articles on the local environment are found at: www.IslandViewMedia.com

Get low-cost NatPark pass

BULLETIN: For those of you who are 62 or older, the *lifetime* senior federal lands pass is still only \$10 until August 28. After that, it will go up to \$80 while an annual pass will be \$20.

This is the pass that lets you get into national parks and pay only half price for national forest and national park campsites. For our Chapter region, you can buy it at the Los Padres National Forest headquarters at 6750 Navigator Drive #150, Goleta or the Ojai Ranger District office at 1190 E Ojai Ave or, if you're going to visit a national park this by Aug. 27, you can buy it at the entry stations.

You can go online to get it, but there is an extra \$10 cost for processing, or \$20 total. There may also be a wait-time of about nine weeks.

www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

The senior pass is not sold at our local Channel Islands NP or the Santa Monica Mountains because they don't collect entry fees, and so are not set up for purchase.

Thanks to Teresa Norris for this tip.



Many Oxnard residents have had enough of industrial uses on its beaches, but instead of being phased out, SoCal Edison wants to put in a new peaker plant; albeit to replace two older ones. Shown is an existing plant on Ormond Beach. (Photo Copyright © 2002-2017 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman Coastal Project)

Gas plant...

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Puente Project will not be needed."

Also, "that an industrial facility of this nature should never be built on the coast where sea level rise will eventually submerge it."

~ It would be constructed atop a rare 2-acre coastal wetland that is surrounded by ancient

and environmentally sensitive coastal dunes and unique plants and wildlife, some of which are protected.

Those who participated in the opposition rally before the hearing included Strela Cervas, co-director of California Environmental Justice Alliance; Jim Hines, Chair of our own Sierra Club chapter, Tom Steyer of NextGen America, EDC lead attorney Linda Krop,

and State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson.

Many of Oxnard's public officials oppose the Puente plant while the California Coastal Commission has warned that it could be underwater in less than a decade due to sea level rise. Gathering more information on that and public health threats were the reasons for the CEC adding this July 26th hearing.

SB coast also has industrial issue

The single biggest threat to the Gaviota Coast today is the County's trash processing plant proposed at the Tajiguas Landfill, and the first public hearing is on Aug. 9.

The County approved the project last year, but used the incorrect coastal zone boundary line, and now must revise and reconsider the project. As time passes, the project's benefits decrease while costs rise.

The Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project (TRRP) is entirely incompatible with the National Seashore-worthy Gaviota Coast. The project will substantially increase the amount of traffic on the Gaviota Coast, squander the potential to reduce greenhouse gases through carbon farming (a practice referenced in the Paris Agreement that sequesters atmospheric carbon in the soil), and will extend

operations at the landfill for 20 more years.

The County had pledged to close the landfill by 2015, but now proposes to extend operations until 2036.

In proposing the TRRP, the County rejected viable alternatives that would have less cost, less impacts, and move towards Zero Waste goals that many other local governments have adopted throughout the Country. We can do better.

The first hearing on the revised project will be on Aug. 9 at the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission. For details and how to help protect our precious Gaviota Coast and keep apprised of future hearings, check the Conservancy's website at: www.GaviotaCoastConservancy.org

Tell your elected officials and candidates: Don't Trash the

Gaviota Coast!

The Hateful Eight

The developers keep trying to leapfrog urban projects to the Naples Townsites as the County has received preliminary applications for eight "residential complexes" on its lots.

These developments are being opposed by the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, the Naples Coalition (Sierra Club is part of the coalition) and the Surfrider Foundation, each of whom is committed to protecting and preserving the eastern Gaviota Coast.

The areas proposed for development include lands identified for public recreational use that have extensive resource constraints, including sensitive habitat, protected viewsheds, and constrained access and water supplies.



Aerial of the Tajiguas Landfill on the Gaviota Coast. (© Photo by Bill Dewey)

Condor Call

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

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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GREETINGS FRIENDS

We rally to defend our planet

By Jim Hines
Chapter Chair

Los Padres Chapter has been going full blast the past couple of months and I am so inspired by the hard work our activists are doing.



They truly are the backbone of our chapter and, without them doing what they feel so passionate about, we would not have the victories we have won so far this year.

While this has been a rough year for our planet and our planet weeps, we need to stay strong and collectively hug our planet and stand in her defense. We are in a long difficult battle, the past few months have not been good for our environment, but we are realistic and we know we are in this for the long haul. We are the resistance, we encourage, we inspire; but we are human, we hurt, and we feel the pain of our earth.

But you have rallied and you have made your voices heard in defense of wildlife and wild places.

(See story on how you can help on page 5. And if you are not yet a member, it's only \$15 to join at: www.SierraClub.org)

~ Over 2000 comments sent in from our chapter region alone to speak out against Interior's intention to review all National Monuments with an eye toward more privatization and resource extraction (oil, mining). Sierra Club also commented in detail to retain the closest Monument to our area, the Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo County.

~ A large number of comments poured in regarding the National Marine Sanctuaries also under

Club's Big Stick

The Sierra Club was rated "one of the Top 15 most influential brands in Washington" by the National Journal.

And that's not all – 1,500 leading policymakers were interviewed in D.C. to determine perceived integrity, influence and respect among a wide range of groups. The Sierra Club was the only environmental organization to make that list.

review and threatened with budget cuts or oil/gas extraction, notably our own Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary. Public comment on this issue ended July 25.

~ I have spoken to around 80

groups and organizations since February on the work of the Sierra Club and the Los Padres Chapter. My talks have occurred in the Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Barbara, Ventura County, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. I can attest that people are becoming so engaged on so many Sierra Club issues.

~ Since a number of our activists head up other groups and organizations, our alerts and other materials have been blasted out on various social media sites and sent out to the lists of those other groups.

~ Activists are turning out in record numbers to speak at public hearings, attend rallies and speak to elected officials. A great example was on very short notice over 600 of our activists and supporters turned out to protest Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke when he spoke to a small group of invitation-only people in Santa Barbara in April.

~ We are getting a lot more exposure (mostly positive) from local, state and national media.

We now need to recharge, renew and reconnect with our core values of protecting all which is wild.

For the wild ... Jim



Kathy and Kent Bullard's Nissan. (Photo by John Hankins)

Plug into E-car show

Come to our Sierra Club Chapter's electric vehicle display and test drive event in Oxnard on Sunday, Sept. 10, 9am to 2pm, adjacent to the Sunday Farmers Market at Channel Islands Harbor.

We have added a ride-and-

Free jobs

Come volunteer with the Ventura Sierra Club without spending a dime; here's what we need:

Ventura Sierra Club Board Secretary - Looking for a volunteer to take minutes at 1st Tues monthly board meetings. Time commitment ~ 2 hours per month. Good communication and teamwork skills needed. Great way to make a legacy difference.

Ventura Sierra Club Restaurant Fund Chair - Looking for a volunteer to run restaurant-business fundraiser every other month. Time commitment ~ several hours per month. Friendly organizer skills needed. Restaurants and businesses already known.

Contact: sierraclubventura@gmail.com

drive route where you may get behind the wheel and experience the smooth, quiet ride of an EV. Also, the Air Pollution Control District has a cash rebate program for residents who purchase or lease a new EV (\$2200) or PHEV (\$1100). Details here: <http://vcapcd.org/index.htm#EVVoucher>

This is part of National Drive Week and co-organizers are the Community Economic Council, Sustainability Council and Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County.

We welcome EV or Plug-In Hybrid owners to participate. Contact James Reach to sign up as an exhibitor at: reach@101freeway.com

EVENTS

Aug 10: **Fascinating program** about the history and recent discovery of the USCG Cutter McCulloch sunk in the Santa Barbara Channel, 7pm at the SB Maritime Museum; link: www.sbmm.org

Aug 20: Hillsides Conservancy and Surfrider have a volunteer work day starting at 9am at the Willoughby Preserve entrance which is at Main Street and the bike path. It's to create and Ocean Friendly Garden there; please come, details at: www.VenturaHillsides.org/events

Aug 20: **Conservancy History** about the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's past and future with E.D. Brain Stark Sunday 4:30pm at: www.OjaiValleyMuseum.org

Aug 28: **Our Wildlife Neighbors**, part of the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy's Nature on Tap series at 7pm. So hoist a beer at Topa Topa Brewing Co. (104 E Thompson Blvd) whilst hearing biologist Jess West tell you about all our critters. Details at: www.VenturaHillsides.org/events

Sept 24: **Potluck Brunch**, a tradition hosted by the Santa Barbara Group inviting the public and all Chapter members. Wonderful food, stunning views and an optional beach walk. Occurs 9am to noon at Shoreline Park in Santa Barbara on a Sun Day!

Sept 28: **Preserving Ventura's** Open Space featuring Ventura Hillsides Conservancy's Dash Dunkell, 7pm at Topa Topa Brewing Co. (104 E. Thompson Blvd). Details at: www.VenturaHillsides.org/events

Solar discounts setting soon

ALERT: Solar discounts to expire ... Community Environmental Council's Solarize Ventura County -- a community-led, group-purchasing program for residential solar electric systems -- will continue its reduced prices until Sept. 8 and for Santa Barbara on Aug. 14. You can still get solar through CEC, but the group-purchase discounts will expire.

The CEC's solarize programs have been operating in both counties for a while. It has placed 162 homeowners in the city of Ventura, the Ojai Valley and along Highway 126 for the solar program's vetted installers, discount pricing, and educational workshops. This is the first time that the program has been offered throughout the entire county of Ventura. Take in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties and the programs have placed a total of 524 homeowners in the effort.

Earlier this summer, workshops

were held in Santa Barbara locations and in Ventura, Oakview and the cities of Ventura and Oxnard. The workshops are often co-hosted by the cities, as shown below. Ventura County's Regional Energy Alliance has also partnered with the Solarize Program, as have Santa Barbara jurisdictions, helping 524 homeowners to go solar throughout the region.

"The goal of our Solarize program is to make going solar more simple and affordable for homeowners," said CEC's Renewable Energy Specialist, April Price. This year's two solar installers -- California Solar Electric and Coastal Solar -- will offer sizable discounts, she noted, adding that the installers were selected by a committee of local experts. The program has logged in many satisfied customers.

For more details or to apply before the deadlines, call (805) 963-

0583 x 101 or:

www.SolarizeVentura.org

www.SolarizeSB.org

Or attend any of the last few workshops:

~ Thursday, Aug. 17th, 6pm, Newbury Park Branch Library, 2331 Borchard Road.

~ Monday, Aug. 21, 6pm, Blanchard/Santa Paula Community Library, 119 N 8th Street, Santa Paula.

~ Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6pm, Thousand Oaks library, 1401 E. Janss Rd.

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

www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

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



It's an annual tradition for the Santa Barbara Group and the public, a potluck on the bluffs and a walk on the beach. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Bluffs & beach potluck

It's a Santa Barbara Group tradition and all members, friends and the public are invited to the annual potluck brunch held on the bluffs at Shoreline Park, with amazing views of the islands and harbor. A great time to meet and greet and eat.

That's not all, an optional beach

saunter always occurs to walk off the excellent food consumed under sunny skies with engaging companions.

Put the date on your internet or paper calendar so you won't miss out. It's from 9am to noon Sunday, Sept. 24, at Shoreline Park, conveniently near the restrooms.

We're fighting, but having fun too

While the federal government is in a frenzy to cut funding to the EPA, craft or cut regulations favoring oil and mining, denying climate impacts, rejecting miles-per-gallon goals and allowing

pollution in the land and waters, citizens are fighting back in many silent and positive ways. See page 5 for the many ways you can easily get involved.

And during this culture war,

please treat yourself to "nature breaks;" spend time outdoors, take advantage of our many free hikes (on pages 6 & 7) and enjoy the land around you. For *that* is what we're all about.

Here's a glance at all the things we did the last few months. Please join us in the months ahead.

July 26: "Tomorrow, Take Concrete Steps to a Sustainable Future" is a documentary giving an "inspirational look at concrete solutions to help build a more sustainable future." Co-sponsored by the SB Sierra Club, Community Environmental Council and SB Permaculture Network at the Luke Theatre.

July 26: **Puente Power plant proposal** found a large rally in opposition that included many Sierra Club activists at a hearing in Oxnard to fight having another power plant on the beach. See story front page.

July 25: **No Oil Offshore:** Club supported in person or letters to Interior Secretary Zinke that we OPPOSE any more Santa Barbara Channel offshore oil projects, which passed the Ventura Board of Supervisors 3-2. A more solid statement was a 6-1 vote by the Santa Barbara City Council noting

"shocking drop in ocean health", oil spills, commercial fishing and tourism impacts.

July 25: **Marine Sanctuary** support around our Channel Islands was strongly supported by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on a unanimous vote. Its opposition will be sent to the Interior Department. Sierra Club support will also be sent.

July 22: **Gear Grab:** Ventura Sierra Club sponsored an all-day event in which people could buy or sell their used outdoor and sports equipment, ranging from a classic wood-handled ice ax to a tree-hugging tripod. Held at the Working Artists Ventura courtyard. Many thanks to hard-working Nina Danza and volunteers.

July 2: **Indivisible Group** picnic featured our chapter Chair Jim Hines who "spoke about the threats from the Trump Administration about the federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel." Issues included offshore fracking and oil drilling platforms and a general weakening of regulations or elimination of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

June 21: **Ormond Beach** Restoration plans unveiled by community and conservation leaders. Club member Irene Rauschenberger quoted in *VC Star*: "...very encouraging, the Nature Conservancy has bought property little by little and we're very blessed." (See story pg 1)

June 20: **Trail funds:** SB Board of Supervisors publicly informed that our Chapter is donating \$10,000 to realign the Baron Ranch Trail on the Gaviota Coast.

July 18: **Big Hearing** on Huge Newhall Ranch project (21,000 units) along the Santa Clara River; in LA but at Ventura County line. Sierra Club was there to question impacts on the first 6,000 units, notably greenhouse gas impacts, traffic, air quality, waste disposal et al.

June 17: **Bug Farm:** Insect Ecology Tour at the Rincon-Vitova Insectaries in Ventura (100 Orchard Dr. Ventura) dedicated to raising beneficial insects to replace pesticides.

June 13: **"We're Still IN"** backing the Paris Climate Change accord, a statement passed by the Ventura Board of Supervisors



A climate change poster by the Ventura Sierra Club and signed during public events will be presented to local State Sen. Monique Limón. (Photo by Nina Danza)



When the Santa Barbara City Council voted to pursue 100% clean energy in a July vote, the National Sierra Club applauded them with this ad.

Attend training sessions

Our Los Padres Chapter hike leaders are all trained in first aid and day hike and backpack instruction to ensure our participants from the public can feel confident and safe. For questions or enrollment, contact Teresa Norris at 805 524-7170 or teresahnorris@earthlink.net

Wilderness First Aid Sept 30: We welcome and encourage all Chapter hike leaders to attend a half-day training, 8am to noon at Church of the Foothills in Ventura, presented by Matt May of 4Points Expeditions. This class fulfills the first aid course required every four years for hike leaders, and the Chapter has generously allocated funds.

If your first aid certification will

expire before the fall of 2019, this would be the time to get recertified.

Hike Leader Training: Enroll in the Wilderness First Aid course described above after you have taken the on-line course OLT 101 at: <http://tinyurl.com/SClubOLT101>

Backpack Leading: A one-day training for hike leaders who would like to become certified to lead overnight backpack trips, held Saturday, Oct. 21.

To qualify, you must be a currently certified Sierra Club hike leader (OLT 101 and First Aid within the past four years).

After completing the two courses above, you will need to lead a provisional hike and be evaluated on it.



The Ventura Sierra Club's Picnic with a Purpose brought a smile to these two hungry attendants. (Photo by John Hankins)

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SLO Grange Hall

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June 13: **No oil in 3-mile limit:** Chapter publicly supports SB 188 by local State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson, prohibiting the State Lands Commission from approving any new oil and gas development or infrastructure in state waters. EDC is spearheading the campaign locally.

June 13: **SB City Council** meeting on Tajiguas Landfill saw the council kicking the can. Gaviota Coast Conservancy has held the line on many significant urban leap-frogging, and now SB County is scrambling to revise the project to avoid the coastal zone by digging deeper into the hills of Gaviota. (See story on pg 2)

June 8: **Nature Day** that Ventura Sierra Club helped fund for Elmhurst 3rd grade Earth Keepers. They raised trout in the classroom to learn about water quality, food chain, farm runoff, and loads more ... and then released the fry to the wild at Lake Casitas. Many thanks to teacher Marci Giardine who ran this program for 13 years but is now retiring.

June 7: **Community Choice Energy** public forum sponsored by the Santa Barbara Sierra Club at the downtown library. Overflow crowd of 120 people at SB Library and broadcast via Facebook Live. Offered crash course in how California communities are taking "power" into their own hands.

June 6: **100% Goal** for renewable energy by 2030 was passed by the city of Santa Barbara with heavy lobbying by the Santa Barbara Group.

June 4: **Green & Blue,** Environmental Defense Center's annual fundraising fun with music, food, and lots of networking at Stowe House. Club members were there with wallets open.

June 4: **Ojai WILD!** fundraising event for the Los Padres ForestWatch at Thacher School supported by Sierra Club members who also celebrated the Sespe Wilderness's 25th anniversary.

June 3: **Picnic with a Purpose:** Annual Ventura Sierra Club picnicers showed off lawn bocce ball talent, badminton form, book swap, barbecue and loads of homemade eats. Many new volunteer commitments were made. We'll put on a regular Green Scene speaker/mixer program throughout 2018.

~ Compiled by John Hankins

Club makes it easy to act

Editor's note: The Sierra Club has a 125-year history battling for the environment, with lawyers and lobbyists in Washington, but mostly the cadre of three million members who work local, state and national issues in their spare time. The club makes it simple to be active, and easy to donate your time or money to the cause.

Here's how to help, locally and nationally, through targeted actions and/or donations that bolster our volunteer work.

~ 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 and climate 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>

As for donations, the most direct way is to contribute 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

~ 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

~ Other ways to donate include signing up for a Sierra Club credit card, leaving a legacy in your will, donate a car and many other methods; go to:

www.SierraClub.org

~If you're not a member, join. If you are a member, ask friends to join or gift a membership. It's only \$15 for new members.



This Ventura River Preserve trail is favored for its cool trails and varied landscape over the 1,600-acre property. (Photo by Perry Van Houten)

Readers choose best Ojai trails

By Perry Van Houten

Ojai Valley News readers cast more than 36,000 votes in the annual "Best of the Ojai Valley" poll. Of special interest to outdoor recreation fans was the category "Favorite Hiking Trail."

What makes these trails (or trail complexes) our favorites? Here's a rundown of the top three picks and what to expect.

No. 1: Cozy Dell Trail

Readers voted Cozy Dell Trail (#23W26) the best hiking trail in the Ojai Valley, perhaps because the fun, two-mile trail takes hikers into a charming, wooded canyon, offers great views and options for longer hikes, while located only ten minutes from town.

To get to the signed trailhead, take Highway 33 north for about three miles (past the Ojai 'Y') to a dirt parking area, just south of Friend's Ranches. Initially, the rocky trail climbs many switchbacks under the cover of oaks, with plentiful poison oak along the way. The trail then moderates before climbing again, then dropping to reach Cozy Dell Rd.

Hardy hikers can take Cozy Dell Trail to Cozy Dell Canyon Rd., then uphill to the Pratt Trail and Nordhoff Ridge, past the old Nordhoff Peak Fire Lookout, then downhill to Ojai on the Gridley Trail, for a total of about 16 miles.

No. 2: Shelf Road

Closeness to town has, for decades, made Shelf Road an Ojai favorite. The easy, two-mile dirt road runs east-to-west from Gridley Rd. to Signal St., and offers excellent views of the Ojai Valley and surrounding mountains. What's more, new branch trails give hikers several alternate routes and loop options.

A former county road open to vehicle traffic not so long ago, Shelf Road was recently made much more interesting by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's (OVLC) creation of the Valley View Preserve (VVP). Hike up the Fox Canyon Trail to the Foothill Trail, and back down to Shelf Road via Luci's Trail, for a bit of a workout and some nice views.

Due to its popularity, Shelf Road parking can get tight, especially on weekend mornings. Pay attention to

the signs posted, and if N. Signal St. is crowded, you can always park at the nearby Pratt Trailhead and walk a short distance to Shelf Road.

No. 3: Vta River Preserve

Proximity to town and a network of varied, well-maintained and signed trails make the Ventura River Preserve (VRP) instantly appealing. If you want to get away from the hustle and bustle without driving far, head for the nearly 1,600-acre VRP.

Opened in 2003 by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, the VRP offers

trails that run along the riverbank, loop trips that take you through oak forests and peaceful meadows, and lofty adventures that take you high above the Ojai Valley. My favorites are Wills Canyon and El Nido Meadow.

The VRP is accessed from three distinct trailheads: the Oso Trailhead, off Meyer Road; the Riverview Trailhead on Rice Road, and the Baldwin Road Trailhead, off Highway 150. Parking is free at all three trailheads, just heed the posted winter hours.



Here's our Ventura Sierra Club activist Nina Danza helping visitors fill out political action postcards or joining the club or buying books during the "Picnic with a Purpose" event on June 3. As for fun, there was badminton, bocce ball and potluck food where "old friends and new friends came together." (Photo by John Hankins)

Visit Ventura's new web

If you build it will they come? Quick, name one thing (besides a loaf of bread) you don't need a website to help in daily life. Even planning a hike or camp trip usually involves a website. You surely turn to a website for science, news, education, travelling, and politics.

And now the Ventura Sierra Club has a website:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura

"Use it to find out what big, blanket policies mean to our homes and neighborhoods," explains Nina Danza, chair of the Ventura Sierra Club. "For example, the website may have an article of what something like repealing the Clean Water Rule will mean in Ojai."

Most important, check it out

for a calendar of local outings, volunteer actions, and eco topics in our area. Do you have something to show about saving the environment in your backyard? User input welcome! Photos of local enviro activity or scenes may be submitted for posting on the website (subject to editing and approval).

All photos must be original and provided with a statement by the photographer and signed by all persons shown in an image: 'All distribution and reproduction rights granted to Sierra Club'. Send your thoughts and pics to:

SierraClubVentura@gmail.com

Many thanks to the hard work and many hours creating the website by Jose Flores, Sergio Flores and Steve Caballero.



Here's a screen shot of Ventura Sierra Club's new website. More and more features are being added as you read. It's at: www.SierraClub.org/Los-Padres/Ventura

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Sierra Club
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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>



Here's a fellow taking our Gear Grab title seriously by grabbing some gear during a Ventura Sierra Club event organized by its chair, Nina Danza. The public could buy or sell its used outdoor goods and there was a steady stream of buyers, leading to what Nina called "a wonderful success." (Photo by John Hankins)

August 6
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 7
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-EMMA WOOD: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza for 4-mile loop walk through Emma Wood State Beach, then north along shoreline, back to bikeway and eventually crossing the railroad tracks nearby to walk along access road for campers. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

August 9
ROSEWOOD TRAIL - ANGEL VISTA: Moderate 3.5 mrt with 800' elev. gain. It is a well-maintained trail with lots of foliage. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:00am at the trailhead. From the 101 Fwy. take Lynn Road west past Ventu Park Road to the next left at Regal Oak. The trailhead is on the left near the end of Regal Oak. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

August 11
POINT DUME to PARADISE COVE BEACH WALK - ZUMA BEACH: Join us for a gorgeous walk along the waters' edge and to Paradise

Cove (tide permitting). Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at beach at 8am. Tide at 9am, 2.1 feet increasing; at 11am, 4.3 feet increasing. Take Kanan to PCH, turn right to Westward Beach Road, drive down to end and meet across from Sunset Restaurant. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

August 11-13
PERSEID METEOR SHOWER CAMPOUT: Expect about 100 people at this event in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions permitting, we'll be camping mid-Playa about 10 miles from a couple of hot springs. We'll have porta-potties but little else so bring water, food etc but there's usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. LNT, dogs must be on leash and expect to pick up after them. DAVID BOOK 775/843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

August 12
POLO CLUB - RESERVOIR TRAIL LOOP: Join us on this 4mrt easy-moderate hike to the Summerland Reservoir. Mostly flat, but some steep sections. We'll start from the Toro Cyn Creek trailhead on Via Real near the intersection of Toro Cyn Rd. We'll pickup the Edison Trail back of Summerland and connect with the Reservoir Trail to the reservoir where we'll stop for lunch. We'll return via the Reservoir and Polo Club trails. Meet at 9am

at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

LOON POINT, PADARO LANE WALK, CARPINTERIA: 7:30am, easy to moderate hike- 6 miles, 800 ft. of elevation gain. This hike will lead to a sandy beach with sandstone cliffs, then to Lookout Park. We'll walk through parts of Summerland (Evans Ave to Whitney Ave), eventually to Toro Canyon Creek trail and back to Loon Point. Take 101 N to Summerland, take Padaro Lane exit. Turn left on S. Padaro Lane and drive 0.4 miles crossing Hwy 101 and curving east, to the signed Loon Point Beach parking lot on the left. Please wear long pants and bring plenty of water, snacks, and sun protection. ANNA 657-3765 (VEN)

August 13
TRESPASS TRAIL/GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to Moderate Hike from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail. About 4 mrt with side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swim suit for hot springs. Also water and snack or light lunch. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT event@swt.org (SB)

August 14
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BATES BEACH: Low tide

8:36am. Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes north on 101 Fwy to Bates Beach offramp and then left to bluff parking lot. At 9am, leave parking area to begin 2 mile beach walk (4 miles round trip in sand) north to Carpinteria State Beach (just past seal rookery). Return may be by beach or Carpinteria Bluffs. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

August 16
HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAIL: Moderate 4.4 mrt with 400' elev. gain. Bring water, food, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 7:30am at the trailhead at the end of Falling Star. Turn onto Falling Star from Kanan in Oak Park. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

August 18
FRAZIER PARK - MT PINOS Campground to Sawmill Mountain and back: Moderate, 6 miles round trip, with approx. 1,500 ft. of gain. Hiking starts in Mount Pinos parking lot and is pretty simple and quick on the old road (now closed to cars) to Mount Pinos. There are great 360 degree views from the summit. From Mt Pinos to Sawmill, the trail is fairly moderate, with some steep areas between Pinos & Sawmill Mt. Great views looking north from Sawmill. After the return hike to the cars we will stop in Frasier Park for a Mexican meal before heading back to Ventura. NOTE: 1.5-2 hour drive each way Ventura to Mt Pinos. Meet at 7am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). Bring Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperature above 85F cancels. PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

August 19
FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 10.4 mrt hike with an elevation gain of 1700'. This trail offers great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop for lunch at the turnaround point. This is a long hike and good physical conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2-3 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. Those coming from the south can meet us at Carpinteria High School at 9:30am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

SYCAMORE CYN-OVERLOOK-FIRELINE TRAIL LOOP: 8am. Soil, Sea and Sand are ours in this intermediate loop. Start up Scenic Overlook trail, spur to the overlook, continue to Fireline Trail junction. Rest and snack at the picnic table. Return down Sycamore Canyon Trail. Take it easy with optional beach-going after. Total distance 4 miles and 800 feet elevation gain but expect hot no-shade conditions. Bring 2 or more full liter water bottles, wear good hike shoes and sun protection. Allow extra time to arrive because parking lot fills FAST inside the State Park (fee). Or park outside on the road (free but 1/2 mile extra walk). THEN WALK TO THE TRAILHEAD GATE

INSIDE THE PARK. Contact NINA at prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com. (VEN)

August 21
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BEHIND CITY HALL: Meet at 9am in upper parking lot behind Ventura City Hall. Begin 4 mile round trip walk up Ventura Botanical Gardens switchbacked trail to Father Serra Cross. Extend walking on VBG upper trails near shooting range to eventually return on lower VBG trail to parking lot. Great views of the city and ocean. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

August 23
PIUMA TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 7:30am. Exit 101 Fwy. at Lost Hills Road, right turn to Las Virgenes Canyon, left turn into the small parking area on the corner of Piuma Road and Las Virgenes. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

FREE MAPS

I have over 80 USGS hiking area Topo Maps and they are free to you. Call 805 498-9401 or email:

ghclint@yahoo.com

August 26
SNYDER TRAIL: Hike up from Paradise Road to the remains of Knapp's Castle. Enjoy breathtaking views of mountains while eating lunch. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 27
PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mrt hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike will be in the creek bed, so expect to get wet. It can be very hot in August, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit, hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Please do not come on this hike if you're not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek. Meet at 9am, Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2017 thru January 2018 plus at least the first week into February. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

August 28
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-ARROYO VERDE PARK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to drive 20 minutes southeast to Arroyo Verde Park in Ventura at Foothill and Day roads. Parking free except on holidays and weekends. Park near bathrooms. At 9am, begin 4 mile loop trail walk. Trail can be

continued next page

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>

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.

JOIN THE CLUB • ONLY \$15 • GET A FIELD BAG • SIERRACLUB.ORG

Outings...from page 6

rough with rocks and tree roots, and sometimes slippery. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 1

STUNT HIGH TRAIL to SADDLE PEAK: Moderate 8 mrt hike with 1000' elev. gain. See Ocean views. Bring water, food and wear hiking boots. Meet at trailhead at 8am. Take the 101 Fwy. to Las Virgenes Road south for 3.9 miles to a left onto Mulholland Hwy. and turn right onto Stunt Road and go approx. 1 mile and look for off-road patch of dirt on right to park. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

September 2

ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Outstanding view of the islands and the coastline are featured in this moderate 5 mrt hike. We'll start at Romero Saddle, hike down the Juncal Road a bit, then follow the motorcycle/ATV road to the start of the Island View trail (also known as the Romero Ridge trail). Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm, but bring a light jacket, just in case. This hike involves a long (45 minute) drive to the trailhead on mountain (paved) roads. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

September 3

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

EAVESDROPS

"Wildlife crime, increasingly, is organized crime."

~ From National Geographic magazine which noted that just before the November election, Congress voted unanimously to approve the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act, which may be shot down by Trump Administration. NatGeo noted that Eric and Donald Trump Jr. were photographed with a leopard they shot and another photo showed Junior holding an elephant tail as a trophy.

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)

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

September 4

MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-VENTURA HARBOR and settling ponds: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 20 minutes southwest. Park along Harbor Blvd just south

of Spinnaker. At 9am, we will begin 4 mile loop walk from parking lot near bait store in corner strip mall. First we will walk through Ventura Harbor to Channel Islands National Park Headquarters then back along beach side to settling ponds. NO DOGS allowed in settling pond area. After touring the ponds, we will head back to Harbor and Spinnaker. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 6

UPPER NEWTON CANYON: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 7:30am. Take the 101 Fwy to Kanan Road exit, go south to parking lot just before the third tunnel. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

September 9

HOT SPRINGS - SADDLEROCK - GIRARD - McMENEMY LOOP: Hike from Hot Springs trail to Saddle Rock overlook, then back by Bud Girard Trail and McMenemy Trail to starting point. 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)

September 10

MIDDLE MATILIJA CAMP: Moderate 8 mrt along stream, mostly shaded, to Middle Matilija Camp. There are at least 17 creek crossings, but we will have no problem rock hopping across. Bring at least 3 liters of water, sunscreen, a good pair of hiking shoes/boots, and hat. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

September 11

MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-CHANNEL ISLANDS PARK at Seabridge - Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes southwest. At 9am, we will leave small community park parking lot at Wooley and Chesapeake Avenues. Walk begins in residential area moving towards Seabridge commercial area. This 4 mile loop walk passes along several inlets used by kayakers, small boats, stand-up paddle boarders, etc. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 15

REYES and HADDOCK PEAKS: Moderate 8-mile round trip hike to Reyes and Haddock Peaks in the Ojai back country. You will gain about 1,600 ft. in elevation to get to the peaks before lunch to experience some great views of Piedra Blanca, the Sespe Wilderness and vistas all the way to the Channel Islands on a very clear day! Meet at 7am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). (The Trailhead is a 1-1.5 hours drive from Ojai.) Bring Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures above 85F cancels. PHILIP & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

September 16

ROMERO CANYON CANINE HIKE: Hike up a shady trail with

Coastal Clean Up Day 2017

Santa Clara River Gateway

A Team Effort of:





and support from
The Nature Conservancy

(Johnson @Hwy 101)

Sat Sept 16
9am - noon

.....

Park: Behind Anytime Fitness (2950 Johnson Dr.) and walk to the sign in table

Gloves, Tools Available

.....

Good for All Ages, Families, Work or Neighbor Teams

** Most Unusual Thing Found Contest * Coastal Cone Coupons **

a small stream, then loop back down abandoned fire road. Spectacular views of the islands. Moderate 6 MRT. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at Bank of America parking lot at 8am, 3790 State NOTE EARLY START TIME. Hike limited to four dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

September 17

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)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE NOW: Group outings chairs should send their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2017 thru January 2018 plus at least the first week into February. Send to Gerry at gching@cox.net

September 18

MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BUBBLING SPRINGS TO LIGHTHOUSE: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes southwest to Bubbling Springs Park in Oxnard. At 9am, leave parking lot (on Park Ave at Bard St) for 5 mile walking loop to beach, pier and Port Hueneme lighthouse and back to Bubbling Springs Park. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 22

PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Hike in a remote, high and beautiful area of the Los Padres National Forest. We'll start from the Piedra Blanca trailhead and pass through majestic 100-foot high white rock formations, then into Piedra Blanca Creek canyon and on up to Pine Mountain Lodge Camp (elev. 6,000'), where we'll stop for lunch in an area reminiscent of the Sierras. Steep climb after Twin Forks camp. 13 miles round trip with an elevation gain/loss of 2,940 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Meet at

7:30am at Seaward & Harbor carpool location to drive to Rose Valley trailhead. Rain cancels. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030. (VEN)

September 23

LIZARD'S MOUTH CLEANUP: Have fun exploring while making this popular spot a bit cleaner! Beautiful rock formations and wind caves are a pleasure to enjoy and restore! Short Easy hike with some boulder hopping. Bring a snack and water. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT event@swt.org SB

September 24

FIR CANYON: Long (1hr) 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! ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

September 25

GRIDLEY SPRINGS CAMP HIKE: 8am. Dry fall season vegetation surrounds us on this moderately paced hike, total 6 miles and 1,200 feet gain. Lunch at the campsite. Bring 2 or more full liter water bottles, wear good hike shoes and sun protection. Meet at Ventura carpool spot (Carrows parking at Seaward and Harbor). Temps over 85 deg cancels. Contact NINA at prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com. (VEN)

September 25

MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR LOOP: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes southwest to Channel Islands Harbor parking near Mrs. Olsen's Cafe. At 9am, leave parking lot to walk over Harbor Blvd bridge to other side of Channel Islands Harbor to Silver Strand Beach area. This walk is approximately 5 miles round trip. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 29-October 1

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY: Join various N. Nevada outdoor groups for an as yet undetermined volunteer project in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. Most food provided but

Naples hiking

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy will be leading hikes of Naples and the Gaviota Coast through the summer. To get notice of these opportunities, sign up at:

www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org

The public may legally access the Naples townsite by parking on Dos Pueblos Canyon Road near the southbound 101 on-ramp and walking around the white gate (trail starts next to the on-ramp sign) and down Langtree Ave. Leave all gates as you found them, and do not disrupt any livestock that might be there.

you'll have to work for it! There's usually a work day and a play day so we won't work all weekend! Call DAVID BOOK 775/843-6443 for more info as we get closer to the event! (Great Basin Group)

September 30

ROMERO CANYON: moderately strenuous dayhike up a beautiful, mostly shady canyon to East Camino Cielo road, 6 mrt, 2100' gain, about 4 hours at a moderate pace with some steep spots and minor height exposure. Intermediate hikers or beginners with cardio conditioning welcome, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring two liters of water, snacks, sunscreen, and a hat. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

September 30

WILDERNESS FIRST AID for hike leaders: 8am to 12 noon, Church of the Foothills, Ventura. **All Los Padres Chapter hike leaders welcome.** This class fulfills the first aid course required every 4 years for hike leaders. Prospective hike leaders are also welcome, but must complete Sierra Club OLT 101 on-line course first. Presented by Matt May of 4Points Expeditions. For questions or to enroll, contact TERESA at teresahnorris@earthlink.net. (VEN)

October 1

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)

SIERRA CLUB
LOS PADRES CHAPTER
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Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

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Gaviota shows off its stuff

By Mark Wilkinson
and Pat Fish

The Gaviota Coast is the intersection of two ecosystems, forming a unique environment with an incomparable breath of biodiversity, natural history and sheer beauty. The 2017 Gaviota Coast Photo Contest was held to celebrate and recognize this amazing scenic treasure.

The contest will be repeated in six months, and the public is invited to participate.

Showcasing one of the largest remaining stretches of undeveloped coastline in southern California, photographs in the contest give witness to panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands National Park, undeveloped coastal bluffs, agricultural land, varied native habitats, and the Santa Ynez

Mountains.

The contest inspired over 100 people to join together in a collaborative process of capturing, archiving, and celebrating the area's diversity and awe-inspiring vistas.

Knowing that we are in debt to past generations who have protected it, we enjoy it today with a sense of responsibility. We are the stewards of this iconic coastal plain, and it is paramount that we pass on to future generations the resource we appreciate today.

The Trails Council thanks those who shared their photography. It relied on the sponsorship of Samy's Camera, Boreas Gear, Impact Hub, Gaviota Coast Conservancy and the Santa Barbara County Trails Council. Gratitude also goes



Susan T. Cook won awards in three categories, here's her second-place finish under the Wildlife category.

out to judges Kevin Steele, Kimberly Kavish, Chuck Place, Christopher Broughton, and Crista Dix who winnowed through 375 images to select the best.

Winners in five categories and best of show can be seen online on our Facebook or on our website:

<http://sbtrails.org>

Best of Show winners are: Ronald Williams (first place), Alex Nye (second) and Susan T. Cook (third). Top honors in each category include: Ronald Williams (Landscape), Tom Modugno (Recreation), Mark Briggs (Wildlife), David Powdrell (Close-up) and Ronald Williams (Only in Gaviota).

Contest proceeds will support the completion of the Baron Ranch Trail spanning 3 miles from Hwy 101 to the Los Padres National Forest.

This is the only public trail providing access up to the forest from the Gaviota Coast, and is supported by the Los Padres Sierra Club, which recently allocated funds.

EAVESDROPS

"Public confessions of misdeeds against nature can inspire environmental awareness, commitment, and action."

~ In an article in **American Scientist**, Ventura resident and Sierra Club member Bob Chianese reaches near (Channel Islands fish boat captain) and far ("The Rime of the Ancient Mariner") to relate personal environmental sins of commission and omission. Fascinating read at:

<http://tinyurl.com/NatureMisdeeds>



The Point Conception lighthouse can only be seen from a boat or from a dirt road five miles from Jalama Beach County Park, but this Only in Goleta category award was from the air. (© Photo by John Wiley, see his other photos at www.ja4u.net)