Historic step hiring Exec accelerates our activist role

The Los Padres Chapter of Sierra Club is pleased to announce it has hired an Executive Director for Ventura & Santa Barbara counties.

It’s an historic step for a chapter facing unprecedented environmental threats, but also tremendous opportunity to lead the way to a cleaner, greener future.

Jon Ullman is uniquely qualified to help us achieve that vision. With 19 years of Sierra Club experience, Jon has worked on national campaigns such as 100% Clean Energy, Beyond Unnecessary Oil, protecting national parks, wild lands and green spaces and clean transportation. With a communications and journalism background, Jon can amplify success to benefit others.

He has already helped us rack up key environmental wins. Jon first visited Santa Barbara as a Sierra Club organizer for Salud Carbajal for Congress in 2016, a key congressional race that was successful. While here, he spoke at a final hearing in Santa Barbara on the polluting PCEC oil project, which we successfully defeated due to its “significant and unavoidable risks to water resources.” He also organized several successful rallies covered by the press and called attention to fossil fuel funding of the opposition.

“My hope is that I can use the skills and experiences amassed in 19 years with the Sierra Club, to build the Los Padres Chapter into a national model for clean energy and the rejection of fossil fuels,” Ullman says, adding “I’ve built a strong bond to the area and a desire to protect this beautiful coast.”

While our Chapter has done a tremendous job staffed entirely by volunteers, having a full-time director with Jon’s breadth of experience will greatly increase our capacity. Please consider a donation to the Los Padres Chapter to help cover Jon’s work at: www.sierrclub.org/donate/1000

At the end of June, Jon will be relocating here from Florida, where he has been working as Senior Organizer with the Sierra Club. His family and their pet dog, Atticus, are looking for a 2-3-bedroom rental house or apartment in the South Coast area before the school year begins. If you know of any place, please email jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org.

By Katie Davis

Say no to NOAA grab

By Jim Hines

The Trump Administration is working to put ocean activities under the Dept. of Interior, a place where it’s sure to be emasculated by Director Ryan Zinke.

Now’s the time for the public to stop this action by contacting members of Congress to vote against HR 3916, commonly known as the FISH Act (for Federal Integrated Species Health) of America’s commitment to protecting marine mammals in federal waters has worked for the last 46 years, ever since Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). No more killing of marine mammals is allowed, and federal actions in ocean waters must address the impacts to marine mammals.

Whales, dolphins, sea otters, sea lions and other marine mammals evoke a powerful emotion within us to protect these magnificent creatures which call the oceans home. We are dazzled by breaching whales, fall in love with cute sea otters and marvel at how dolphins seem to dance in the ocean.

But the protection for those ocean creatures may change dramatically due to legislation in Congress to move the marine mammal protection program from a scientific-based agency (NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) over to Interior, a politically driven agency. The FISH bill was introduced at the Zinke’s request, who would like to gain control over all federal ocean management programs. In fact, the Secretary’s office is also working on legislation to move the National Marine Sanctuary System (also under NOAA) to Interior.

“Marine sanctuaries need to be open for oil and gas drilling” the Secretary has often said to me.

By Katie Davis

The California State Lands Commission (CLC) held a packed town hall meeting at the Goleta City Hall to “decommission” oil facilities on and off-shore.

They were met by opponents of offshore oil, calling for a transition from fossil fuels to clean energy and pointing out that California’s continued oil production conflicts with the state’s leadership on climate change.

SLC staff answered questions from the standing-room-only crowd, noting the commission opposes more oil leases, are trying to save taxpayers money from paying any costs and constant monitoring will protect the public from any hydrocarbons (sour gas) leaks. Mostly, the studies continue.

At issue was the decommissioning process for Platform Holly (offshore UCSB-Elliwood), Pier 421, the oil platform on Haskell’s beach, and the Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF), which processed oil near the Bacara Resort.

Prior to the meeting, Emily Williams of Santa Barbara 350, and Kristen Monsell with Center for Biological Diversity pointed out that California oil is particularly bad, most of it “worse than Canadian tar sands oil for the climate.”

Goleta City Council Member Kyle Richards spoke about local progress reducing reliance on fossil fuels, including setting a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030, LED street-lighting and a new Master Bike Plan.

Inside the town hall, SLC staff from Sacramento, explained the process and responded thoughtfully and at length to extensive questions. The format was appreciated. Linda Kropf, Lead Attorney with EDC commented, “I’ve never been to a public meeting with this format, and I love it.”

Platform Holly has been shut down ever since the May 2015 Plains Pipeline oil spill in which 140,000 gallons of crude oil was spilled onto the beach and waters near Refugio beach. Since then, the owner, Venoco, has filed for bankruptcy. To illustrate one of the problems, estimates to fully decommission 421 wells are about $348 million, far more than Venoco’s $22 million bond, but negotiations have tapped the prior owner, Exxon, to pay for the work.

The fate of the onshore facility is unclear; SLC options include lease it, own it, or condemn it. This coastal remediation is likely to be costly but could eventually be put to beneficial use.

To learn more and keep up to go:
 https://sinyurl.com/ ProtectYourOilPier

COVER PHOTO
Local artist Kevin Gleason has perfectly captured the essence of SoCal coastal living with “Beach Shack.” A member of the eco-artist group SCAPE, he participated in the Gaviota Coast Conservancy’s annual fundraiser in March. Also, an author (Wild Seeds), check out Kevin’s other incredible art on His Facebook, KevinGleasonArt, or website, KevinGleasonArt.com
Ventura County commuters to work in Santa Barbara County can check out the surf at Rincon while surfing on their computers instead of crawling along Hwy 101 thanks finally to funding to help start the service, part of which was voted in Measure A in 2008. Also, kudos to our State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson and SBCAG among others. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Woo hoo new commuter train

Hundreds of Ventura County residents and others south of Santa Barbara have taken advantage of the new commuter train (see box) that opened April 2 after years of lobbying, planning, delays and finally, funding. The new commuter train (see box) that opened April 2 after years of lobbying, planning, delays and finally, funding.

Amtrak® Pacific Surfliner® to work
Goleta, making it possible to ride the
from Measure A (a 2008 half-cent
planning, delays and finally, funding
opened April 2 after years of lobbying,
new commuter train (see box) that
Barbara have taken advantage of the
and Goleta Valley hospitals, and the
await to major employers, including
and county offices, Cottage and
Goleta Valley hospitals, and the
Hollister business corridor. Soon
to come is a link to the UC-Santa
Barbara campus.

For details go to:
www.trafficsolutions.org/Train

Oh, and there’s an app for that.

“It’s a critical part of SBCAG’s
‘Lane and a Train’ strategy to reduce
traffic congestion and provide the
way between Ventura and Santa Barbara
counties,” said Executive Director
Marie Kim of the Santa Barbara
County Association of Governments.

“We’ve had a variety of reactions
by our customers; mostly it’s very
thankful,” added Scott Spaulding, of
SBCAG.

There’s no haggling over prices, either.
Instead of various prices depending
on location, the commuter deal from Ventura County is $150 per
month for unlimited rides or $50 for
10 rides for any stop up to Goleta.
Campus to SH and Goleta is less,
unlimited and $30 for 10 rides.
There is a free-ride deal for new
commuters.

Listed figures through March 22
show an average of 137 riders so far,
which is expected to rise as the word
goes out. Some may not be commuters
as the train starts in Los Angeles.

Help revive coastal land

The Sierra Club has been
invited to partner with The Nature
Conservancy on working to restore
their new Dungeness Preserve, a
24,000-acre parcel with eight miles of
coastline south of Vandenberg Air
Force Base.

The new preserve is most likely
going to support TNC coastal science
research and restoration and not to open to the
public for many years, but you can be one of
the fortunate locals to access
the preserve now at part of volunteer
work dates.

We are looking for a few nature
lovers to be leaders bringing
club members working dates as
one-day plant and land-oriented
projects. Leaders simply follow
TNC training is provided.

The volunteer work dates are
type of service outing and Sierra
Club requires outgoing leaders to
be dues paying members, over 18 years
old, take an online basic training in
first aid. The training is not difficult
and reimbursable for the first
aid training provided.

It’s very rewarding and a great
contribution to the environment to
be a service leader. All four of our groups
may participate -- Arguello, Santa
Barbara, Ventura and Conejo, but for
now the contact for work will be this
email: aecrclubventura@gmail.com

Criminal trial over oil pipe spill begins

By Katie Davis

The criminal trial of Plains Pipeline for their role in the May
2015 oil spill is underway.

I was called for jury duty, one
of 800 prospective jurors before a
jury of eight was finally selected.
It’s hard to find an impartial group
to consider responsibility for the
oil spill in which 140,000 gallons of oil
ran into the ocean near Refugio beach,
killing marine life and closing
our beaches with tar.

Oil companies are not
chasing ExxonMobil. Exxon’s three
shoreline oil platforms have been
shut down ever since the spill, but
they are trying very hard to start
back up again.

Oil Trucking

First option and most
dominant is one trucking
ExxonMobil’s oil along the
101 freeway to re-start offshore
processing and re-processing on
the Gaviota coast. A 2017 analysis
found that trucks spilled more oil
and gas than both rail and pipeline,
averaging around 32 barrels
and net million tons moved every
mile. Since roads are shared with
the public, the finality rate for truck
transport of oil is six times higher
than pipelines. Exxon’s proposal
would require 140 truck trips per
day, 7 days a week, 24-hours a day.

New Pipeline

The second option is a new
pipeline. Even under their criminal
trial proceeds, Plains Pipeline has
applied to build a new 123-mile pipeline
through Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern
counties.

This would be a major project
traversing the coastline, a state park,
wildlife refuge, Los Padres National Forest, Carrizo Plains
National Monument, three major
rivers (Santa Ynez, Sisquoc and
Cuyama), and several streams,
and harvesting 100-1000 feet of
vegetation along the entire route.

It will be interesting to
know the results of criminal
prosecution of Plains Pipeline for
their last pipeline before their
next one comes up for approval.

Enter AERA

ExxonMobil isn’t just
betting on restarting offshore oil
production. While they long ago
closed shop in the rolling oak-
produced of a potential oil bonanza, with
none of the downside of having to
pay should they, say, pollute the
Santa Maria ground-water aquifer
with another oil spill or poison
the region with a major hydrogen
spill. In that event, they
could simply declare bankruptcy.

That’s what their neighbor,
ERG, did in 2015, becoming the
15th largest oil bankruptcy in
the nation. That’s also what the
owners of Casmalia toxic waste
dump did back in 1992, leaving
behind a $200 million superfund
site. Both ERG and the heirs
to Casmalia (now re-branded
as Vaquero or PetroRock) have
applied for new oil drilling

projects adjacent to AERA’s proposed site.

Together these three projects
would total over 750 oil wells
and a tripling of offshore oil
production in the county using
some of the riskiest, most
generally intensive forms of oil production in
the world.

Another Path

Fossil fuels are not going
cucumberly into the night here. AERA proposes to keep on drilling
through 2050, a point by which
we need to largely stop using oil
if we hope to meet global climate
goals according to America’s
climate strategy before Trump.

Rather, we should be
replacing our energy and
transportation sectors and
transitioning to renewable
energy sources as soon as we
can. As I write this, solar companies are readying
major bids for our region;
an application is pending for the first
 major wind project in our area
near Lompoc.

We can reject the oil projects
outright and choose a
 greener path forward instead. It’s
what the public wants, according
to polls.
SIGHTINGS

We’re here for you, anywhere

By John Hankins

From “A River Runs Through It” to “The World’s Basics” Course 10th anniversary, our chapter volunteers have put in humongous hours of hard work and fun hiking, working on conservation projects and battling the assault on our nation by wretched political policies. Please join us in any capacity you like, and don’t forget, we offer free outings (see story pg 5) that we’ve been up to in April and May.

May 26: Omont Beach cleanup at the western area by 301 McWane Blvd, Oxnard with Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza and conservation. As VSC Chair Nina Danza said, “A lot of debris is dumped by less environmentally minded folks and it is a great deed to give a couple hours to clean it up. Migrating birds, critters, and shore animals are trying to live here and need clean water.”

May 19: Hands Across Sand event next to Ventura Pier was a powerful reminder of our awareness about protecting our coast and ocean against Trump Administration proposing new offshore oil drilling. Sponsored by CFROG and Surfrider, our Sierra Club Chapter Chair Jim Hines spoke.

May 16: Bag It! Is your life too plastic? A comprehensive film about the problems plastics cause and how to stop them. Arguello Group. You too can show it at your next meeting to your local group. www.BagItMovie.com

May 15: 100% Clean Energy resolution submitted to Ventura County supervisors to support 100% clean energy along with approving no new fossil fuel projects. Campaign run by 350.org and Sierra Club. (See story pg 5).

Easy apps... continued from page 1

your opinions with lawmakers.

“We the People” doesn’t allow conversations with lawmakers, but does allow you to send your views on a host of issues. It is shown geographically, and it has a discussion feature.

Your app finds you local reps and how they are voting. You can agree or disagree with their votes which are sent to them via email.

Email: info@WeThePeople.org. See “continued story pg 5.”

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ ExCom meets 7pm on 4th Thursday of every month, either at the Carpinteria I-HOP or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Chung for the agenda. Tip: The meetings are open to the public.

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~ Usually meets at 11:30am on 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 SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at: www.SBSierragroup.org
~ NOW ON FACEBOOK; keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup
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ARGUELLO GROUP

~ By Rebecca August LPFW

No EIR for logging

Forest Service officials have announced plans to fast-track two commercial logging projects in the Santa Monica Mountains near El Tiempo, Ventura, some of the only forested land in the Los Padres, but without environmental review.

With stands of Ponderosa, Jeffrey and Pinyon pines, as well as White and Bigcone Douglas fir, the 4.5-square mile project area is home to threatened, endangered, and rare wildlife including the spotted owl and California condor.

The commercial project proposes to remove trees of all sizes and most of the sagebrush habitat along 12 miles of Tecuya Ridge and 1,200 acres of Cuddy Valley. The announcement reverses the Forest Service’s previous commitment to prepare more detailed Environmental Assessments.

Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza and Ventura area bike enthusiasts, planners and agencies for working together to stop a SRP.

April: 5 File site too close to the urban area, said our air quality rep Mike Stubblefield about a proposal to put a fire training center at 2800 Wright Rd. in Oxnard. While not disputing the need, Mike said “putting it so close to El Ti No. 9 and Oxnard retail and residential areas is just plain inconsiderate.”

April: 5 Webinar fundraising had several our volunteers signing in.

The Forest Service justifies the fast-track project claiming it’s “for timber stand improvement.” Who’s to know that’s true? It has refused Los Padres ForestWatch’s multiple requests for additional information, as well as access to the project site.

Working with biologists, ForestWatch analyzed four years of condor data and determined that the additional 24 within a half-mile of the project site. The Forest Service’s own standards prohibit intrusive activities within a half-mile of condor roosts.

To submit a comment to the Forest Service go to: www.LPWFW.org/logging

EAVESDROPPING

“The President Stole Your Land.”

Patagonia’s home page headlining a national fight and lawsuit between the company’s founder, Yvon Chouinard, and the resident in the White House, Donald Trump. It was a powerful jab at the largest slice of any protected land (Bears Ears in Utah) in U.S. history.

The GOP-led House committee on Natural Resources own reaction via an email was “Patagonia: don’t buy it,” an unprecedented call for boycotting a private company by the gov’t.

The Bike Ventura Hub is a new location and brings bikes back to life from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. (Photo contributed)

Broke bikes healed

Ventura is becoming a better bike community and we love that because bikes are fun and great for the environment (can you say zero- emissions?).

Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza elevates the effort by bringing hundreds of salvaged bikes to town throughout the year which are cleaned up, repaired and sold by BikeVenture, a small non-profit with a storefront at the Bike Ventura Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave. Check it out at: www.bikeventura.org

“Bike Hub” is a model of the change we need in the world for environmental action with a social

By John Hankins

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~ 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 (new location) Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 3346 Constitution Rd. Need a ride or offer a carpool? Get a call of the lantern Blevins: 717-4160 or janro48@gmail.com
~ Volunteers needed for hikes and/or issues; your talents could make a difference. Call 358-0629 or: Rebecca/August@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Up-to-date information on events, vents County group: https://groups.google.com/g/sierraventurahub
~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: www.meetup.com/SierraVentura

REGULAR MEETUPS:

~ 1st Monday monthly at Ventura Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave, 7-8:30pm. STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP is location and date are subject to change: stewart.hitchen@gmail.com

CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 314-6295 mail: hwbw23@gmail.com
~ www.sierraclub.org/go/lists-are-not-confidence
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Climate change 1 oh! 1

By John Hankins

You want to help with climate change? Well then, become a Bacon-eating vegetarian. That quip by Kitty Merrill (co-founder of 350 Ventura) brought down the house at what you would normally think would be a dry and professorial Climate Action Summit at Ventura College April 24.

Instead, it was a great mix of students and community members packing the Applied Sciences building to hear six locals talking about “Solving Climate Change – By Every Means Necessary,” co-sponsored by League of Women Voters and Citizens for a Peaceful Resolution.

Even those who’ve been in the climate change trenches for years were enthusiastic. It covered global and very local issues that were stimulating for students and vibrant for veterans. Each of the six panelists never repeated each other.

Here’s the highlights:

Dr. Omair Clay, an environmental physicist, spoke the science part and predicted we’d lose beaches, live with drought and disasters while the icecaps melt, sparking ocean acidification and disasters while the icecaps lose beaches, live with drought and Scenic Film Festival coming to Ventura on the palindromic date of 8-18-18. Businesses are urged to down the house at what you would normally think would be a dry and professorial Climate Action Summit at Ventura College April 24.

The backcountry is coming back from December’s Thomas Fire and readers are urged to take advantage of our free hikes (pages 8&7) to enjoy the blooms before the summer heat. Here is Harmon Canyon in Ventura’s backyard. Want to go there on foot or bike or on foot or bike or car? Then contact the Ventura Land Trust which offers free tours at 805 643-8044. (Photo by Marie Lakin)

Wild scenes

Tickets are on sale now for Ventura and Oxnard’s annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival coming to Ventura on the palindromic date of 8-18-18. Businesses are urged to go online for details. www.VenturaLandTrust.org (Seaward Avenue exit off 101)

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The Sierra Club was the only environmental organization to make that list. We’ve got 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. Here’s how to help, locally and nationally, through targeted actions and/or donations that bolster our volunteer work.

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Here’s the highlights:

Dr. Omair Clay, an environmental physicist, spoke the science part and predicted we’d lose beaches, live with drought and disasters while the icecaps melt, sparking ocean acidification and disasters while the icecaps lose beaches, live with drought and Scenic Film Festival coming to Ventura on the palindromic date of 8-18-18. Businesses are urged to down the house at what you would normally think would be a dry and professorial Climate Action Summit at Ventura College April 24.

The backcountry is coming back from December’s Thomas Fire and readers are urged to take advantage of our free hikes (pages 8&7) to enjoy the blooms before the summer heat. Here is Harmon Canyon in Ventura’s backyard. Want to go there on foot or bike or car? Then contact the Ventura Land Trust which offers free tours at 805 643-8044. (Photo by Marie Lakin)
Coast hike is beachin’

Editor’s note: Nina Danza and Condor John Hankins contributed to this report.

Life on hiking the California Coastal Trail (CCT) for 96 days over 1,200 miles is a mix of beaches, bluffs, forests, highways and towns. But it also means awe-inspiring scenery and wildlife.

You MUST plan around the tides, reserve campsites and be on the lookout for poison oak and ticks. So why do it? Two hikers calling themselves “Mulo” told us their reasons and their amazing experience at the latest “Venture(s) Out in the County” program hosted by Ventura Sierra Club on May 17 at the Foster Library.

Mo (Morgan Visali) and Jo (Joseelyn Enevoldsen) graduated from UCSB with a Master’s in marine biology, but both had a desire to be “Coastal Policy Nerds,” (at which point they high-lived each other). Since the trail is a work in progress, they did GPS mapping, took videos and wrote a blog: go to: www.MuloCoastwalk.com.

Mo, a mobile app for the trail due out in this summer.

“It's a series of different trails,” Jo told the SRO audience, “and it’s tricky to put all the pieces together.”

That’s due to various jurisdictions, private easements, lay of the land, lack of money and sometimes political will. At one point they were walking at low tide along a sandy beach in Northern California, the tide came in, they climbed the rocky bluffs only to find bushes of poison ivy.

They also used kayaks to cross some portions, and at the Channel Islands Harbor they poled onto one kayak with three people (Mo, Jo and a mo), only to find a locked gate at the other side.

Mo said they made an average of twelve miles per day, had to get permission to bike through Vandenberg Air Force Base, got help across rivers by people with boats and often came at state and regional parks. About halfway through the trip “we got skunked with lime yellow green oil all over the tent that stayed with us,” Mo said laughing.

But despite such trials on the trail, both were enthusiastic about the beauty, the “magical” portion from the Oregon border to San Francisco, coastal lakes and the many people who helped them along the way.

Some favorites were The Lost Coast along Humboldt-Mendocino, Bowling Ball Beach near Pt. Arena and Emma Wood beach in Ventura where “two ladies build cobblestone structures” near the Ventura River. It took Mulo about a year to plan and they applied for an Explore the Coast grant from State Coastal Conservancy, but mostly they relied on donations.

The most important aspect was advocacy. Every day of the trip included meeting with a local official or state parks staff or media event. Everywhere they happened to be, they spoke with and lobby mayors, county supervisors, coastal advocates, and residents. The happy news is that every person contacted was supportive.

What’s next? The trail is not complete and still contains gaps unsafe for walking. Both Mo and Jo plan to continue to work on CCT advocacy and urge others to do the same. Meanwhile, their route and story are on the same site where you can help: www.coastwalk.org.

Lots of trail background, scenes, tips and maps are on the official website: www.californiacoasttrail.info

“It is so wonderful to have them in the next generation of environmental leaders,” said Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza at the end.

Meanwhile, their route and story are on the same site where you can help: www.coastwalk.org.

“Beaches, bluffs, forests, highways and towns. But it also means awe-inspiring scenery and wildlife.”

By Jim Hines

After a meeting with senior officials of the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), I’ve concluded that protection of our wildlife will require every one of us to be their voice, because the animals cannot speak for themselves and effectiveness of agencies is variable.

The meeting was part of my work as team leader of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wildlife Team. While the primary focus was to discuss several statewide wildlife issues (such as migration of gray wolves in northern California) we also considered wildlife issues related to Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. A sampling:

- While the state is very supportive of creating protected wildlife migration corridors — we have a major project in the design stage at the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass over the 101 freeway along Agoura Hills area — I believe it has not moved aggressively in top priority areas.

- The DFW keeps ignoring the will of the state legislature, which directed it to ban the use of lead bullets for hunting by January 2016. It’s now 2018 and the date has moved back forward to July 2019, once again at the request of various hunting groups.

- The DFW has also refused to ban the use of GPS collars on hunting dogs, which enable hunters to track their dogs for a higher kill rate.

- While the agency is starting to support a statewide ban on the use of anti-coagulant rodent poisons, it is moving too slowly, in my opinion. While the poisons their intended targets (rodents, squirrels, gophers etc.) mountain lions, coyotes, condors and other predators can also die if they eat them, and the poisons get into the land and water. Commercial agriculture and home and garden retailers want the DFW to limit the ban.

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- The DFW is with us on the issue of banning longline nylon drift nets, which can kill marine mammals when they are entangled.

- The problem is the state only regulates the ocean within the 3-mile limit from shore. Beyond that, it’s the federal government which allows indiscriminate use of these dangerous nets, which are used in the Santa Barbara Channel and beyond.

The federal government is also thwarting our efforts to slow down commercial ships passing through the Channel, which not only have killed whales but also cause air pollution. Slower speeds would benefit both the marine mammals and our air quality.

I will be meeting with the Acting Secretary of the Interior on these matters in June, along with Nevada wildlife officials.

EDC heroes are role models

Environmental Defense Center’s honored film and television legend, Jane Fonda, and local documentary filmmaker, Gail Osherenko as Environmental Heroes.

Both were praised at EDC’s popular annual event, the “Green & Blue: A Coastal Celebraton” on June 3rd. Previous heroes include Jack Johnson, Jackson Brown, Yvon Chouinard, Jean Michel Cousteau and the Los Padres Chairman Sierra Club, among others.

Fonda is a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, author, and fitness guru. Her self-screen activism highlights crucial work on behalf of political causes, women’s rights, Native Americans and the environment. In recent years, she worked to defend our land during a trip to Standing Rock where she helped lead the protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline project. She also stood alongside Greenpeace and First Nation Leaders opposing the expansion of the Alberta Tar Sands.

All in her late 70’s, now she’s 80 years old and still active in environmental causes. Gail Osherenko, who served on the EDC board, was honored for her documentary film “BROKE: The Santa Barbara Oil Pipeline Spill of 2015.” “BROKE” premiered at this year’s Santa Barbara International Film Festival and has since received accolades from the IndieEST Film Awards and the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. It follows the impacts and cleanup efforts associated with the Refugio Oil Spill when the Plains All American Pipeline broke and spilled more than 140,000 gallons of heavy crude oil onto the Gaviota Coast and into the Santa Barbara Channel. As the Trump Administration pushes to increase offshore oil drilling across the nation, “BROKE” has been invaluable in reminding community members of the significant risks associated with the fossil fuel industry.

Our local chapter of the Sierra Club has been closely associated with EDC for 40 years. In fact, it won the precursor to the Environmental Hero award, then called the ENVI, in 2013 during its “Celebrating Paradise Saved,” event, now called the Green & Blue. The chapter was honored as “a stalwart partner … you name it, they’ve been there for us,” said lead EDC Attorney Linda Kroop during the 13 event.

Sure enough, Sierra Club members were visible as always at the movie premiere, and most recently, our chapter co-sponsored EDC’s spring/summer TGIF series. Wildlife needs our help

This is one reason those forest critters are called “wild” to begin with, it’s the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards and the deadline to enter is June 30th. Sorry, no domestics

Thank you, Jane Fonda and Gail Osherenko
Los Padres Forest now open after fire burned 180K acres

Good news! The areas of our Los Padres National Forest within the Thomas Fire perimeter have been opened again after a closure order Dec. 10. However, visitors should know that certain areas within the Thomas Fire burn scar were heavily damaged by fire and subsequent rainfall. Soils and new vegetation are fragile, and the public is strongly encouraged to stay on the roads and trails and avoid the many hazards that exist throughout the burn scar.

“The area is much more open since the fire, and hikers need to be aware that loose soils, rolling rocks, and unstable portions of the trail will encourage you to stay out of there,” said District Ranger Pancho Smith of the Santa Barbara and Ojai Ranger Districts. “While I understand the interest in seeing the post-fire landscape, I would encourage folks to avoid the haphazard travel of roads, trails, campgrounds, and day-use areas that were not affected by the Thomas Fire.

The Thomas Fire broke out Dec. 4, 2017 and burned 281,893 acres of which 181,333 were on Los Padres National Forest. While it was officially fully contained on Dec. 7, 2017, it has yet to be declared “full out.”

Forest staff continues working with local groups, landowners, and other stakeholders to develop a strategic approach to repairing the damaged sections of trails.

To learn more about how you can volunteer, call the Los Padres Visitor’s Office at (805) 986-6640.

EAVESDROPS

This hasn’t been exactly a fabulous wildflower year with the little rainfall we’ve received. However, Helen Tarbet, whose annual wildflower updates (Figuring on Figueroa Mt) on behalf of the Los Padres Volunteer Fire, was always good this year. She anticipated the ‘lovelies’ are still trying to delight us, but she dropped this year, so get out now!

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

LAHONAN HIKES

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 and see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/laamon-santa-barbara

Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the season. Saturday night: Sherwood conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Laguna and Los Olivos St. This hike is easy to moderate, starts at 200’ elevation and returns along the Santa Ynez River for picnic and swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9 pm. JIM 479-7063/64-9834 (SB)

June 25 VENTURA RIVER BIKE TRAIL: from Foster Park (Oak View) north to the bridge over the Santa Anan river. Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am or at 9am at Foster Park parking lot near the ballrooms. We will be walking the paved bike trail 2.5 to 3 miles (depends on group) for a five mile loop. Highly walkable social ride over the bridge over Santa Ana Creek. The trail is also a bike path to the pier, promenade and back to the water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8:30AM. NOTE EARLY START TIME: TONY 455-4212 (SB)

June 26 BLACK ROCK DESERT - “2ND FOURTH OF JULY”: Another fun trip to the Black Rock Desert about 200 miles north of Reno. This is a busy weekend as many Burning Man attendees use this weekend as their final데트 run to the real thing. Parking and water are limited. Bring your own water and other essentials. Some shade with tents to sleep. Bring comfortable walking shoes and bring洗澡 and swimming. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. LORA/PHIL CLARKE: 218-2103 (VEN)

June 27 GAVIOTA STATE PARK LOOP: a moderate hike in the Northwestern section of the park with great views of the eastern section and the Hollister Ranch. We’ll include a stop at a new recently re-opened Woodland Trail. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. Rain cancels. Margarita’s on upper State St is 2 miles away. In the event of rain, call token at (805) 982-1234 / email at svw@svw.org.

July 1 TRESPASS TRAIL GIANTOVA HOT SPINGS: Moderate hike from Gaviota Peak Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail. About 4-mile loop with side trips to see hot springs, and no water sources. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swim suit for hot springs, water and Emergent trail. Bring food and water and you’ll have potable water. (VEN) at Hope St. Ave. at 9am. RUBERTO 218-3181 / email svw@svw.org.

July 2 URBAN WALK of mid-town Ventura - Meet at fountain across from Ventura Mission on Main St to walk the five-mile loop to the pier, promenade and back to the fountain. Wear comfortable shoes and bring light of water. Temperature above 85F cancels walk. LORA/ PHIL CLARKE: 218-2103 (VEN)

July 6-8 BLACK ROCK DESERT - “2ND FOURTH OF JULY” Another fun trip to the Black Rock Desert about 200 miles north of Reno. This is a busy weekend as many Burning Man attendees use this weekend as their final weekend run to the real thing. Parking and water are limited. Bring your own water and other essentials. Some shade with tents to sleep. Bring comfortable walking shoes and bring洗澡 and swimming. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. LORA/PHIL CLARKE: 218-2103 (VEN)

June 10 SANTA MARCOS FOOT MARSH PRESERVE: Easy-moderate 3.5 mile hike across the Santa Marcos Marsh Preserve, part of our County Parks systems. We’ll explore the plants of the current trail system and enjoy a nice lunch and sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, 100 S. State St. in front of lenses. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

June 10 RAY MILLER TRAIL (Backbone Trail): Moderate 5.4-mtp with an elevation gain of 1110’ This hike offers beautiful views of Channel Islands. From Canond take PCH 100, Los Rosales rd., continue southbound on PCH for about 4 miles to the Leo Carrillo Canyon entrance on the left. (There is an entrance fee for the parking lot or free parking on PCH). Meet at 7:30am at the Ray Miller trailhead and north end of the parking lot of the Leo Carrillo Canyon. Bring plenty of water and food and wear lug-soled hiking shoes.

June 11 VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE: (Gavi) hike from Old Baldwin trailhead - Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am or at 9am at Old Baldwin trailhead for 6-mile hike through the Preserve. This figure-eight loop hike has a couple of river crossings and uphill climbs. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring plenty of water and food. Afterwards, optional cold drinks at local coffee shop. Temperature about 85F at the end of the hike.

June 17 200’ Elevation gain that follows road and trail through the Preserve. This figure-eight loop hike has a couple of river crossings and uphill climbs. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring plenty of water and food. Afterwards, optional cold drinks at local coffee shop. Temperature about 85F at the end of the hike.

June 17 23 ESCALANTE BACKPACK: There are two possible trips, determined by water conditions and weather. Both trips are mostly moderate but will depend on water level. Time: Limit 12. Trip 1 is 14 miles down 25-mile wash to the Escalante River with side trips to runs and slots. Trip 2 is 15 miles through 35-mile hike in to Mamie Creek, just past the confluence of a couple of miles up river to Great Basin. Great Basin day is a long hike up to where the Mal Trail meets the canyon, then along the river to just below where Sand Creek meets the river. Short day hike and arnitz can be had.

June 18 FRANKLIN CANYON TRAIL (Camarillo): 6 mile hike. Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am or at 9am at Lindon and Treadway 2 miles north of Ventura. This 6-mile hike is on trail and fire roads, gaining about 1200 ft and providing great views of Channel Islands. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring water and food. Afterwards, that those want to can join us for cold drinks at a local coffee shop. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike.

LORAH/PHIL CLARKE: 218-2103 (VEN)

June 22 HICKS BACKBONE TRAIL PART 2: Moderate 5.6 mile hike, meet at 9am at State Park. The Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains. The 8th and final section of the hike is the Hicks Trippe Ranch, where we will come to the end of the trail and head towards Temescal Peak, before descending the Rodgers Road and then back to the trailhead. Both Hicks Trail and Ojai Vista Trail have fee parking. Directions to trailhead: See description at www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura under the 6/22 outing. For more info, contact SYLVIA at 746-6650 or SUZANNE at susanne@iplaces.org.

July 11 TAKE A HIKE! Get out now!

For more info, please visit our website www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura or hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, S. Nevada Group/CNRCC http://www.cnrcc.org

Meetup group is open to anyone, but is a super handy calendar of hikes and outings.

WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a snack, and be prepared to cancel if necessary.

We recommend that you: contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within the area unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or legal guardian should accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

June 6 POTLICKER AND PICTURE SHOW: The party will start at 7pm at Cameron Center. Bring printed photos to show and a simple dish and favorite drink for a Summer Celebration. Come early (6:30pm) to help set up the Cameron Center. Bring WARREN 341-6295, JOANNE TURCOT 642-8216, SCOTT FRANKLIN 702-875-4625, GERRY 964-5411, SUZANNE at suzanne@iplaces.org, and CAROLYN 964-5411, gailgingh@iinet.net.

June 6 VEN – Ventura Network (Northern SB County)

SB – Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)

VEN – Ventura Network (Northern SB County)

CJ – Conejo Group

(Southern Ventura County)
Outings... from page 6
Sign up after 6/24 with DAVID, 775-843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

July 4 OXNARD BEACH HIKE: 5 miles in the sun on a beach of sand, rocks, and
burrowing starfish where 5th Street dead-ends at the beach; north to the Santa Clara River Estuary, then back across
that river and stop for lunch, and a snack. Meet at the Rose Garden by the SB Mission on Plaza Rubio at 9am. KRISTI email: sbikong@cox.net

July 8 SB RIVIERA URBAN HIKE: About moderately strenuous 5 mile hike in the residential neighborhood in Santa Barbara. We will start at the Mission and head up towards the Old Mission which crosses Mission and back across Mission Ridge and back to the Mission. Wear comfortable hiking shoes, bring 2 liters of water and a snack. NOTE: Early start time!

July 9 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK at W Wooldy Rd/Chesapeake Dr (Oxnard) - Meet at 9am at the neighborhood park there. Walk begins in residential area and visits the commercial area. This 4-mile walk on mostly paved paths and sidewalks passes through residential neighborhood, bike paths, kayakers, small boats, stand-paddle boarders, etc. Wear walking shoes and bring 1 or 2 liters of water. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. LORA/PHIL CLARKE, 218-2103 (VEN)

July 15 MISSION RIDGE HIKE: up Rattlesnake trail, around Lookout Park and down to Tunnel. From there we’ll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a beach hike. From there we’ll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mile hike. Bring plenty of water. Moderate playground off West Camino Cielo. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME.

July 16 BATES BEACH walk - Meet at 8:30am at Ventura carpool or 9am at Bates Beach parking lot near bathrooms. This easy, 4-mile, mostly on-the-beach walk (2 miles each way) is safe and scenic. Take Carpenteria State Beach (just past Seal rookery). Return walk may be by beach or footpath. Bring 3 liters of water. Temperature above 70F: 6am - 10am. More summer views of the ocean and coastal shoreline. Afternoon optional lunch or dinner. Wear walking shoes and bring 1 or 2 liters of water. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. (Bates Beach; Head north on 101 Fwy to Bates Beach. Turn left on 1200' high point. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. Hike limited to four dogs - please call to reserve your dog.

July 20 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 no development of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (event@ventura.org

July 23 CASTIS VISTA & Sky High Road (OakView) - Meet at Mission Plaza at 9:30am to hike the old OakView trail. We will walk a five mile loop up the partially shoded, partially paved, canyon through the campground, past the old Foster Park outdoor theatre and to the gate stopping us from reaching the upper San Ysidro peak. We will walk back down Sky High road for some heart pumping uphill. Then head down to Santa Ana Rd and back to Foster Park. Wear walking shoes and bring lots of water. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. (438 Castas Vista Road, Ventura. From Highway 33, exit Castas Vista/Santa Ana Rd. 3/4 mile past park). LORA/PHIL CLARKE, 218-2103 (VEN)

July 23-S2 JULY 24 SHEILA NEVADA THREE PASS TreaK: Keenagrace, forestier and Shepherd Passes. 36 miles and four nights on trail. Strenuous but reasonably paced and scenic. Limited party. First night car camp for 6 people. Contact leader for details. HUGH WARREN 342-6295, hiker@warren.net (CJ)

July 28 HOPE RANCH WALK: We'll roam south through the ranch past several large estates. Expect some hills. Return Via Mesa paths. Easy 3-5mrt. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot at Hope and State streets. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

July 29 SANTA YNEZ SWIM: Moderate 6 mile hike with 400 foot elevation gain that follows road and trail to Gibraltar Hot Springs, then trail along the coast. For picnic and a swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun screen. This hike is most comfortable in your swimming suit. Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings. 5-7mrt. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8 am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 455-4122 (SB)

July 30 LOOP, POINTLOOK, Point and Summerland - Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30 am or at the Loon Point parking lot in Summerland at 9am TIDE: 6:00am. This easy 6 mile hike mostly along the beach enjoys views of the sandstone cliffs, the ocean and Channel Islands as we make our way to Lookout Park north of Loon Point. We’ll then walk through pastures of Summerland (Evans Ave to Whitney Ave) eventually to Toro Canyon Creek trail and back to the Loon Point parking lot. Afterwards, some of us will find a place to sit in Summerland and enjoy a healthy lunch. See the Evetspool website for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gghill@gcox.net (SB)

August 1 AUGUST 1 PERSEID METEOR SHOWER - 8:30pm on the beach across and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Expect to get wet. Due to potential heat, at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also lunch, snacks, hat, swimuit, hiking shoes and sandals for water crossings. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carsons). If you’re coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gghill@gcox.net (SB)

August 3 TREATPASS TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 8 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200'. Get ready to see rock popping views up and down the coast. We will ascend Trespass trail to a lovely Dell overlooking the coast. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour, stopping for lunch, and returning to the trailhead at about 2pm. This is a fairly steep ascent so be prepared for some heavy breathing. Hiking shoes and at least 2 liters of water required. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 9pm. NOTE EARLY START TIME! KRISTI email: sbikong@cox.net (SB)

September 8 LAKE CACHUIMA & HISTORIC HWY 150: We’ll walk a portion of the original Hwy 150 road near Lake Cachuma and explore Arrowhead Island. Easy- moderate, 2 mrt. Bring water and a light lunch. Long pants recommended as Spring rains brought tall grass. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. TONY 455-4122 (SB)

Hey, the Los Padres Forest areas are back open for business after the Thomas Fire and it’s green and speckled with wildflowers now. Here’s a great area near the Sespe Valley showing the creek and Hines Peak. (Photo by Pete Stifel)

EAVESDROPS

"There are more than 30 (wave) species on or bordering the island and no environmental impact study, no public outreach, no consultation with experts specific look at endangered species. Attorney Brian Segee, Center for Biological Diversity, now working to halt environmental damage caused by Trump’s proposed wall when he was interviewed by CNN about the waves "There are more under legal challenges."

Watch it here: https://tinyurl.com/
Greetings Friends!

By Jim Hines

It’s Spring and there is natural beauty all around us, thanks to winter rains bringing native wildflowers and flowering shrubs into bloom. But not all that is on display is plant related.

There are dozens of opportunities to observe the amazing wildlife of the Los Padres Chapter region, home to 468 species of fish and wildlife including big mammals: deer herds (Ojai & Santa Ynez valleys), black bears (Sisar Canyon or Figueroa Mountain), wild boar (Santa Maria area), Pronghorn antelope (eastern Los Padres Forest and Carrizo Plain) and Tule elk (near Pozo).

Want to see one of the “ghost” cats of our region or at least their paw prints? Head out to Cheseboro Canyon Preserve just north of Agoura Hills where they migrate through this beautiful grassy canyon on their way into the Santa Monica Mountains. Many trails in the forest also offer great locations for sightings of coyotes, bobcats and foxes.

Birding is at its best around our waterways, notably Lake Casitas and Lake Cachuma, where great blue herons and white egrets stand in the green fields, eagles are nesting and ospreys (fish eating eagles) are commonly seen.

Want to thrill at seeing the largest soaring bird in North America? Then a trip to the Condor observation area on top of Mt Pinos at 8,800 feet is the place to be. Closer in, guided tours at Hopper Mt. Wildlife Refuge in the Fillmore area are conducted by Friends of the Condors, and up the coast you can often see these endangered birds at Julia Pfeiffer State Park.

Chesbro Canyon is one of the best areas for viewing raptors such as hawks, falcons, owls and eagles. Coastal sea birds abound in this protected refuge as well. And then we have the Pacific Ocean, which is teeming with whales, seals, sea otters, sea lions, dolphins and sea turtles which flourish in the protected waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. A day-long whale watching trip is one of the great wildlife adventures in our region.

You may also want to make a stop on Santa Cruz or Santa Rosa Islands, home to several marine birds and home to the smallest fox on earth, the island fox, which will not only let you see them, but their curiosity draws them round your campground.

One of the great delights of our region is this abundance of wildlife, so take a sunny day this Spring and follow your heart to one of these areas to witness some of nature’s greatest creations, our native wildlife.

Condor Tours

Condor tours Go to Hopper Mountain or Bitter Creek on free docent-led tours to see North America’s largest and most impressive bird, the California Condor. Donations are gratefully accepted to help Friends of the Condors carry on their work.

Next tour is Saturday, June 16 to the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge near Fillmore. You need to be a member to do these unique tours, so sign up at: Membership@FriendsOfCondors.org

Stacey Bergman is the one who organizes the tours and you can also send an email to: tours@friendsofcondors.org

Join the Club - Only $15 - Free Bag - SIERRACLUB.ORG