

Vol. 18, No. 3 of 6

June - July 2018

# Condor Call



© Painting by Kevin Gleason

**JOIN THE CLUB - ONLY \$15 - FREE BAG - [SIERRACLUB.ORG](https://www.sierraclub.org)**

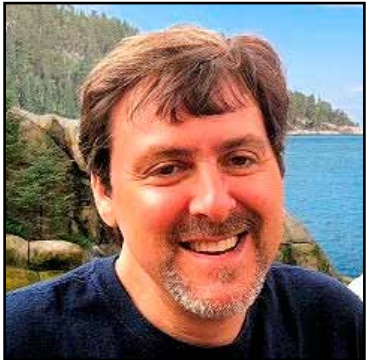
Ullman & Ocean ...	Train & Trial ...	Sightings ...	Shout-outs ...	Get-Outs
Pg 1	Pg 2	Pg 3	Pgs 4,5	Pg 6,7



# 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 Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

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



Jon Ullman

## EAVESDROPS

**"With an ever-increasing workload of issues affecting the environment here in the Los Padres Chapter, we are really excited that we have been able to fund and hire a fulltime chapter director, Jon Ullman. This is a big step we have taken, but the time is right."**

~ Jim Hines, Los Padres Chapter Chair on behalf of the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

## Easy apps help pester gov't reps

Want to pester Congress? There's an app for that.

The consensus among activists is phone calls are better than email, and that showing up in person to district offices or town halls is better than phone calls. But email and social media make a difference too, especially if personalized and even better if you are a constituent.

A big problem is the growing volume of emails that staff doesn't have time to handle. And sometimes huge responses to controversial issues can literally clog a lawmaker's computers, which will certainly get attention.

An app called 'Countable' is one of the highest rated tools that make it easy not only to learn about issues, but to rally friends, keep track of legislation and give feedback to Congress. One of Countable's best features is the weekly guide called "What's Congress voting on?"

The 'Indivisible Guide' app is also wonderful for political actions. It uses your location for a list of representatives and their voting history. It will also spot local activity of grassroots organizations.

'ActOn' gathers up news, petitions, protests and fund-raising activities.

Another useful app is 'Presidential Actions' borne by students protesting funding cuts at UC-Berkeley. It specializes in presidential executive orders and actions. Still others are 'Voter', 'We the People' and 'Votespotter'.

'Voter' aims at who's who and their issues. It asks a series of questions on issues and will match

*continued on page 3*

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 Oil, protecting national parks, wild spaces and green building and 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 Maria 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.

"It is my hope 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 said, adding that "I developed 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.sierraclub.org/donate/1000](http://www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000)

At the end of June, Jon will be relocating here from Florida, where he has been working as a Senior Organizer with the Sierra Club. His family and their pet dog 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 him at: [jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org](mailto:jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org)

~ By Katie Davis

## Let's hasten Ellwood oil retirement

**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 from paying any costs and constant monitoring will protect the public from any hydrogen sulfide (sour gas) leaks. Mostly, the studies continue.

At issue was the decommissioning processes for Platform Holly (offshore

# Condor Call

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

June - July 2018



Rec or Wreck the ocean? Sierra Club prefers recreation, which brings in a huge influx of tourist dollars, compared to the risky oil industry that wants more big rigs. The DC March for the Ocean is June 9 and will emphasize that ethic, and our Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis is going. The closest march to us is in L.A. but, as Condor John is doing, we can 'march' to the ocean and recreate any ol' day. See articles on this page, page 2, 3, 4 and 5 on threats to the ocean and its wildlife and what we're doing about it. (Photo by a tourist on Ventura Pier)

## 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).

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.

UCSB-Ellwood), 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.org called oil "so last decade," 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 Kropp, 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. Such coastal remediation is likely to be costly but could eventually be put to beneficial use.

To learn more and to keep up, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/RetireGoletaOilPlan>



### 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 via 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 from Measure A (a 2008 half-cent sales tax surcharge).

It stretches from Simi Valley to Goleta, making it possible to ride the Amtrak® Pacific Surfliner® to work

with views of the ocean on one side or, on the other side, the 15,000 daily vehicles on Hwy 101 crawling to work. Meanwhile, you can enjoy wi-fi, power outlets and a café car.

And at the Santa Barbara and Goleta destinations, free bus rides await to major employers, including city 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](http://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 on the 101 freeway 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, also 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. Carpinteria to SB and Goleta is less, \$80 unlimited and \$30 for 10 rides. There is a free 10-ride deal for new commuters.

Latest figures through March 22 show an average of 137 riders so far, which is expected to rise as the word gets 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 Dangermond 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 and research and not be open to the public for many years, but you can be one of the fortunate locals to access the preserve now as part of volunteer work dates.

We are looking for a few nature lovers to be leaders bringing club members to work dates, such as one-day plant and land-oriented tasks. Leaders simply follow TNC instructions and can commit to any number or tasks.

The volunteer work dates are a type of service outing and Sierra Club requires outing leaders to be dues paying members, over 18 years old, take an online basic training in managing a group, and be certified in first aid. The training is not difficult and reimbursement for the first aid training is 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 inquiry will be this email:

[sierrclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierrclubventura@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 chastened. ExxonMobil’s three offshore 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 dangerous one is trucking ExxonMobil’s oil along the 101 freeway to re-start offshore production and processing on the Gaviota coast. A 2017 analysis found that trucks spilled more oil and gas than both rail and pipeline, averaging around 326 barrels per million tons moved every mile. Since roads are shared with the public, the fatality 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 as 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, stripping away 100 feet of vegetation along the entire route.

It will be interesting to know the results of the 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-covered hills of Cat Canyon near Santa Maria their heir, a scrappy Exxon/Shell joint venture called AERA, has emerged on the scene.

As a separate operation with limited liability, AERA can take bigger risks than its big parent companies would be willing to stomach. They get all the benefits

of a potential oil bonanza, with none of the downside of having to pay should they, say, pollute the Santa Maria groundwater aquifer with another oil spill or poison the region with a major hydrogen sulfide release. 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 of Casmalia (now re-branded as Vaquero or PetroRock) have applied for new oil drilling



Sun setting on fossil fuels indeed. Photo by Katie Davis at May 14 town hall Ellwood oil hearing; see story page 1.

projects adjacent to AERA’s proposed site.

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

## Another Path

Fossil fuels are not going quietly 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:

<https://tinyurl.com/USclimatestrategy>

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

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



Newly purchased by The Nature Conservancy, the Dangermond parcel helps save the Gaviota Coast.

## Condor Call

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

**EDITOR: ‘Condor’ John Hankins, 452-2885**  
260 Pacos St. Ventura CA 93001 • [CondorJohn@gnusman.com](mailto:CondorJohn@gnusman.com)  
ADVERTISING: Contact Condor Call Editor  
DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:  
Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:  
February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members  
Non-members, \$10 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins

**Photos, news, tips always welcome!**

## Sierra Club

• **LOS PADRES CHAPTER** •  
Post Office Box 31241, Santa Barbara, Ca 93130-1241  
<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>  
Santa Barbara 965-9719 • Ventura 988-0339  
Change of Address: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5653

NATIONAL OFFICE & MEMBER SERVICES: (415) 977-5500  
2101 Webster St. Suite 1300, Oakland CA 94612  
WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: (202) 547-1141  
50 F Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, D.C., 20001

• **Executive Committee** •  
Jim Hines (Chair): 340-9266, [jhasitas@gmail.com](mailto:jhasitas@gmail.com)  
Katie Davis (Vice-Chair): 451-4574, [kdavis2468@gmail.com](mailto:kdavis2468@gmail.com)  
Gerry Ching (Secretary): 964-5411, [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)  
Richard Hunt (Treasurer), 966-4157, [richardhunt@cox.net](mailto:richardhunt@cox.net)  
Alex Pujo (at large): 962-3578, [alex@pujo.net](mailto:alex@pujo.net)  
David Gold (at-large): 642-7748 x6, [davidgold4@aol.com](mailto:davidgold4@aol.com)  
Michael Stubblefield (at-large): 216-2630, [motodata@roadrunner.com](mailto:motodata@roadrunner.com)  
Rebecca August (Arguello Group Rep): 350-0629, [rebeccaugust@mac.com](mailto:rebeccaugust@mac.com)  
Hugh Warren (Conejo Group Rep): 341-6295, [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:mail@hkwarren.net)  
Martha Sadler (Santa Barbara Group Rep): 636-9194, [marthasadler@yahoo.com](mailto:marthasadler@yahoo.com)

• **Group Chairs** •  
Arguello: Rebecca August 350-0629, [rebeccaugust@mac.com](mailto:rebeccaugust@mac.com)  
Conejo: Hugh Warren, 341-6295, [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:mail@hkwarren.net)  
Santa Barbara: Katie Davis, 451-4574, [kdavis2468@gmail.com](mailto:kdavis2468@gmail.com)  
Ventura Network: Nina Danza, 901-1679, [prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com](mailto:prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com)

• **Club Services** •  
Forest issues: Jim Hines, 340-9266, [jhasitas@gmail.com](mailto:jhasitas@gmail.com)  
Wilderness Basics Course: Teresa Norris, 524-7170, [lospadreswbc@gmail.com](mailto:lospadreswbc@gmail.com)  
Air Quality: Michael Stubblefield, 216-2630, [motodata@roadrunner.com](mailto:motodata@roadrunner.com)  
Conservation SB: Open  
Conservation VC: Jim Hines, 340-9266, [jhasitas@gmail.com](mailto:jhasitas@gmail.com)  
Legal: David Gold, 642-7748 x6, [davidgold4@aol.com](mailto:davidgold4@aol.com)  
Outings: Stephen Bryne, 794-1150, [scbryne@gmail.com](mailto:scbryne@gmail.com)  
Political SB: Alex Pujo, 962-3578, [alex@pujo.net](mailto:alex@pujo.net)  
Political VC: David Gold, 642-7748 x6, [davidgold4@aol.com](mailto:davidgold4@aol.com)  
Transportation: James Reach, 444-6638, [reach@101freeway.com](mailto:reach@101freeway.com)

**Typography and production by Dan Fuller**



## SIGHTINGS

# We're here for you, anywhere

By John Hankins

From "A River Runs Through It" to Wilderness Basics' Course 10th anniversary, our chapter volunteers have put in humungous hours and had fun hiking, working on conservation projects and battling the assault on our nation by wrong-headed politicians. Please join us in any capacity you like, and don't forget, we offer free outings (see pgs 6 & 7). Here's what we've been up to in April and May:

May 26: Ormond Beach clean-up at the wetland area by 301 McWane Blvd, Oxnard with Ventura Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy. 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 public rally to raise awareness about protecting our coast and ocean against Trump Administration proposing new offshore 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 reduce them was screened by the Arguello Group. You too can show it or learn more at: [www.BagItMovie.com](http://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 also May 1 & 14 items)

### EAVESDROP

#### "The President Stole Your Land."

~ Patagonia's home page headline that sparked a national fight and lawsuit between the company's founder, Yvon Chouinard, and the resident in the White House, Donald Trump. It was over Trump slashing 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.

## Easy apps...

*continued from page 1*

your opinions with lawmakers.

'We the People' doesn't offer contacts with lawmakers but does allow you to vote on issues which are shown geographically, and it has a discussion feature.

'Votespotter' finds your local reps and how they are voting. You can agree or disagree with their votes which are sent to them via email.

'Congress' is the oldest app (for Androids) and backed by the Sunlight Foundation, not to be confused with a paid app by the same name by the Cohen Research Group (iPhones). It keeps abreast of bills which you can follow and has convenient links to the lawmakers.

There are surely others out there and if you know of one, let us know and we'll pass it on.

~ Compiled by Condor John

May 14: Old Petrochem site along the Ventura River was proposed for a project of over 600 homes, just outside city of

Ventura, but it was shot down on a 4-1 vote. The Sierra Club was there to protest the plan.

May 14: Grant Team Kick off for Next Generation of Conservationists, an application which Sierra Club is a partner along with Rio Schools, Friends of the Santa Clara River, Los Padres Forest Watch and others.

May 14: City of Ventura considers resolution supporting the 100% Clean Energy campaign by 350.org and Sierra Club Energy Committee.

May 14: Packed Town Hall meeting at Goleta City Hall on decommissioning Platform Holly and related onshore facilities, fully supported by Sierra Club among others. A rally outside emphasized clean energy sources. (See story pg. 1)

May 15: Back in DC the "voice of the voiceless," LP Chapter Chair Jim Hines, is again trying to convince Interior folk not to allow plans to allow killing of marine mammals and whales off our coast, and to abandon plans to erect new oil rigs. Plus, Interior's push to reduce size of or eliminate national parks for business. All this to those who will not hear the voice. (See story pg 5)

May 11: TGIF dazzled by the Sierra Club, which was a co-sponsor of this popular Environmental Defense Center event. Our Chapter Chair Jim Hines spoke to the crowd about our activism while our table had many interactions thanks to Katie Mullen, Jim Taylor, Martha Sadler and Richard Hunt. Way to go team!

May 8: Mo and Jo gave a fascinating talk and slide show about their months-long trek hiking the 1,200 -mile California Coastal Trail, sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club. (See story pg 5) .



The Bike Ventura Hub is in 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 BikeVentura, a small non-profit with a store front at the Ventura Bike HUB, 490 N. Ventura Ave. Check it out at: [www.bikeventura.org](http://www.bikeventura.org)

"Bike HUB is a model of the change we need in the world: environmental action with a social

May 8: Santa Clara River Bike Trail Partnership formative meeting held with Sierra Club, City Oxnard, Friends of the Santa Clara River for preliminary decision on grant opportunities

May 4-6: Climate Change Action weekend for Sierra Club members in San Luis Obispo, attended by our local members Ron Whitehurst and Jan Dietrick. The program focused on the club's work to address climate change in the state, notably from a report by Sierra Club California about legislative efforts.

May 7: Puente Petition (to stop NRG's proposed project in Oxnard) was signed by over 8,000 Sierra Club members and supporters, telling the Cal Energy Commission to finally kill it instead of asking for more delays. This from an email by the club's Beyond Coal campaign. Want to sign it too? Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/PuentePetition>

May 1: Email Drive for 100% Clean Energy started by the national 350.org and supported by Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign; local club and 350 member Jan Dietrick is the local sparkplug for this campaign.

April 28: Mission Lagoon invasive plant removal, Palm Park, call for volunteers sponsored by our SB Group.

April 21 - 22: Earth Daze. Festival in Santa Barbara where the SB Group spent two days tabling and teaching visitors about the Sierra Club. We also had tables and lots of interest at the Moorpark College Earth Fest (23rd), Ventura Ecofest (21st), Oxnard (14th) and Fillmore's first-ever Earth Day (22nd).

April 20-22: WBC's 10th Anniversary campout celebrating ten years of training folks to hike and backpack in a variety of conditions, safely, comfortably and with knowledge for being beyond cell phone range! Graduates from many years gathered at the Circle X Ranch



Rally on May 14 outside and inside a State Lands Commission hearing about retiring offshore and onshore oil facilities. Read about it on page 1. (Photo by Katie Davis)

in the Santa Monica Mountains and split up during the day for various hikes.

April 19: A River Runs Through It, was the title of Sierra Club member and Oxnard College professor Jim Danza slide show program that dazzled an audience about the importance and dynamic nature of Ventura's waterways. Sponsored by the Ventura Land Trust.

April 6: #BootPruitt Campaign endorsed by the Sierra Club.

April 9: Santa Clara River Watershed Recreation, Education, Outreach Committee Meeting co-

chaired by Nina Danza and attended by Ventura area bike enthusiasts, planners and agencies for working toward a SC River Trail.

April 5: Fire 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 Rio and N. Oxnard retail and residential areas is just plain inconsiderate."

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

## No EIR for logging?

Forest Service officials have announced plans to fast-track two commercial logging projects in the Ventura backcountry near Mt. Pinos, 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.

The Forest Service justifies the fast-track project claiming it's for "timber stand and wildlife habitat 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 identified up to 14 California condor roosting sites within the Tecuya Ridge project area, and an 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.LPFW.org/logging](http://www.LPFW.org/logging)

~ By Rebecca August LPFW

## Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ ExCom meets 7pm on 4th Thursday of every month, either at the Carpinteria IHOP or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)

### SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ 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.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org) [www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub](http://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 (new location) Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 3346 Constellation Rd. at 7pm; 6pm if a potluck. Need a ride or offer a carpool? Get ahold of Janet Blevins: 717-4160 or [janro48@gmail.com](mailto:janro48@gmail.com)

~Volunteers needed for hikes and/or issues; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or: [RebeccaAugust@mac.com](mailto:RebeccaAugust@mac.com)

### VENTURA NETWORK

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

~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc:

[www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at Ventura Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave, 7-8:30pm.

STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change: [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com)

### CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:mail@hkwarren.net)

[www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo)

[www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings)



# Climate change 1 oh! 1

By John Hankins

You want to help with climate change? 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. Omar Clay, an environmental physicist, spoke the science part and predicted we’ll lose beaches, live with drought and disasters while the icecaps melt, sparking ocean acidification affecting coral, all of which will be “a profound tragedy” that, by the

way, will cause a rise in fleas, ticks and mosquitoes.

And did you know that livestock puts out nearly as much pollution as fossil fuels?

~ Christy Weir of the Ventura City Council laid out what it’s doing locally via joining the Clean Power Alliance and spending “many millions of dollars” on a managed retreat of Surfer’s Point saying, “it’s THE model when talked about in DC.”

Also, the city has one of the best low-polluting fleets in the nation via electric and hybrid vehicles, along with planting 500 trees per year using recycled water for our “urban forest” and having one of the highest recycling percentage in the nation.

~ Kimberly Rivers of Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas noted the Ventura County supervisors are not so responsible, allowing new oil wells without environmental review under old permits and going ahead with an oil tar sands project on the Oxnard plain. “There’s still hope” if advocates can ensure change, noting the current General Plan review would be a good place to start.

And by the way, “renewables are creating more jobs than fossil fuels.”

~ Jan Dietrick of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby and a Sierra Club member simply said, “we gain political power when we work together, it’s thrilling.” Her message to students was the shift to renewable energy “is a window on future jobs for you.”

Having a practical mind, Dietrick is president of the Rincon-Vitova Insectaries and has said, “there’s no resistance to (natural) predators. That’s why beneficial bugs work,” instead of pesticides. She also noted the Climate Solutions Caucus now has an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, (36 each) for “unified, creative actions.”

~ Tomas Rebecchi of Food & Water Watch said it was early in opposing fracking for oil, advocating for locals to pass an ordinance to ban the practice. Success has already happened, despite being “vastly overspent” by oil advocates; such ordinances were passed in San Benito and Monterey counties.

He urged all to go to: [www.OffFossilFuels.org](http://www.OffFossilFuels.org)

~ Kitty Merrill had the last word (and the funniest, see above), inspired by “An Inconvenient Truth” she drove less, recycled, ate less meat, etc. The she saw “Do the Math” documentary and realized size really does matter. It features Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, in a David-vs-Goliath battle to fight the fossil fuel industry and change the terrifying math of the climate crisis.

Merrill advocates for a low-carbon economy divestment, an end to deforestation and finding ways to keep carbon in the ground. She offered this practical link: #BankOnClimateChange



The backcountry is coming back from December’s Thomas Fire and readers are urged to take advantage of our free hikes (pages 6&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)

## Want to get in the action?

*Editor’s note: 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.*

*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.**

~ Did you love the vibes from the women’s and climate marches 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](http://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>

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

[www.TeamSierra.org](http://www.TeamSierra.org)

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](http://www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000)

~ Sierra Club’s targeted programs cover a range from Beyond Coal to Get Outside. It’s a list of over 20 specific actions, check them out at: [www.sierraclub.org/programs](http://www.sierraclub.org/programs)

~ 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](http://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](http://www.SierraClub.org)

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

[www.SierraClub.org](http://www.SierraClub.org)

~ If you’re not a member, join (only \$15 online). If you are a member, ask friends to join or gift a membership.

~ Read *Condor Call* for issues, actions and social media/internet connections in your specific locale, and for fun and free hikes.

## Wild scenes

Tickets are on sale now for Ventura Land Trust’s 9th annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival coming to Ventura on the palindromic date of 8-18-18. Businesses are urged to sponsor this unique event that will be held outdoors for the first time.

It starts at 5pm on the Ventura County Credit Union campus, 2575 Vista Del Mar Dr. in Ventura (Seaward Avenue exit off 101)

Deatails at: [www.VenturaLandTrust.org](http://www.VenturaLandTrust.org)

There are still opportunities for local businesses to sponsor the event on many levels and rewards. Call the VLT office at 805 643-8044 or go online for details.

**Want SOLAR in North SB Co? But Electric Bills Too Low?**



**Call NONPROFIT SunWork!**

With bills < \$100/mo, get solar for ~1/3 less

**Free Going Solar Workshop**

July 14 (Sat), 12:15-1:30pm

Register: [sunwork.org/events](http://sunwork.org/events)

[sunwork.org](http://sunwork.org)

 (805) 550-5898  
CA Contractor License #920732 (650) 520-9918

Shangri La Care Cooperative Inc.  
[www.slcc.info](http://www.slcc.info)

MEMBERS GIVING MEMBERS  
A HELPING HAND

408 Bryant Circle Suite G  
Ojai, CA 93023

[info@shangrilacarecooperative.org](mailto:info@shangrilacarecooperative.org)  
Office (805) 640-6464



## Shout-out to WBC’s success

WOW to WBC and its leaders and volunteers for their record-breaking wilderness course of classroom wisdom and practical hikes and backpacks during its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of constant growth teaching people of all ages how to enjoy the wilderness in safety and comfort. Shown (clockwise from left) are: Brandon, his son Kurt and Heather atop 3,111-foot Sandstone Peak, Santa Monica Mountains next to its registry (Photo by John Hankins). Tent atop car during WBC campout by Peter Green. Lilly Meadows backpack by Kurt Klingebiel and fossils on (where else?) Fossil Trail by Mike Wondolowski.





# 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 "MoJo" told us their reasons and their amazing experience at the latest 'Venture(a) Out in the County' program hosted by Ventura Sierra Club on May 17 at the Foster Library.

Mo (Morgan Visali) and Jo (Jocelyn 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-fived each other). Since the trail is a work in progress, they did GPS mapping,

took videos and wrote a blog; go to: [www.MoJoCoastwalk.com](http://www.MoJoCoastwalk.com)

Too, a mobile app for the trail is 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 piled onto one kayak with three people (Mo, Jo and a mom), 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 camped at state



MoJo hikers reversed as JoMo (Jocelyn Enevoldsen and Morgan Visalli) along with Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza at the public slide show and talk May 8 about MoJo's 1,200-mile journey. (Photo by John Hankins)

# 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 Celebration" on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Previous heroes include Jack Johnson, Jackson Brown, Yvon Chouinard, Jean Michel Cousteau and the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club, among others.

Fonda is a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, author, and fitness guru. Her off-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 this in her late '70's; now she's 80 years old and still active in environmental causes.

Gail Osherenko, who serves 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 IndieFEST Film Awards and the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. It follows the impacts and clean-up 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



**Thank you, Jane Fonda and Gail Osherenko**

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 soothing sounds," the "magical" portion from the Oregon border to San Francisco, coastal lakes, and all the 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 MoJo 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 lobbied 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](http://www.coastwalk.org)

Lots of trail background, scenes, tips and maps are on the official website:

[www.californiacoastaltrail.info](http://www.californiacoastaltrail.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.

But the story is not over until the whole trail is connected.

Meanwhile, MoJo plan to do the whole Oregon trail (which connects to the CCT) in late summer.

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 call the ENVI, in 2013 during its "Celebrating Paradise Saved," event, now called the Green & Blue. The chapter was lauded as "a stalwart partner ... you name it, they've been there for us," said lead EDC attorney Linda Krop during the 2013 event.

Sure enough, Sierra Club members were visible as always at this year's event, and most recently our chapter co-sponsored EDC's spring/summer TGIF series.



# Wildlife needs our help

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 July 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 kill 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.

~ 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 Assistant Secretary of the Interior on these matters in June, along with Nevada wildlife officials.



This is one reason those forest critters are called "wild life"! Seriously, it's the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards and the deadline to enter is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Sorry, no domestics no matter how whacked your cat may be. Check it out at: [www.ComedyWildlifePhoto.com](http://www.ComedyWildlifePhoto.com)

**AUGUST 18TH. 2018**

**VENTURA LAND TRUST PRESENTS THE 9TH ANNUAL**

**WILD & SCENIC<sup>®</sup> FILM FESTIVAL**

WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

**THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IS MOVING OUTSIDE! BIGGER. BETTER. AND UNDER THE STARS**

**Award-Winning Short Films**  
**Live Bands, Food Trucks, Beer & Wine**  
**Raffle, Games, Family Fun**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
[www.venturalandtrust.org](http://www.venturalandtrust.org)

**VENTURA LAND TRUST**

Festival will be held at the headquarters of VCCU: 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura

**National Sponsors**

**Local Sponsors**





# 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. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within 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: <http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites (See Meetups box below).

#### Key to outing locations:

- AR – Arguello Group (Northern SB County)
- SB – Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)
- VEN – Ventura Network (Northern Ventura County)
- CJ – Conejo Group (Southern Ventura County)

June 6  
POTLUCK AND PICTURE SHOW: The party will start at 7pm at Cameron Center. Bring printed photos to share and a tempting dish and favorite drink for a Summer Celebration. Come early (6:30pm) to help setup. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

June 7  
PIUMA TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am. 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 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

### 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](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)
- [www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com)
- [www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com)
- [www.LPForest.org](http://www.LPForest.org)
- [www.VenturaCountyTrails.org](http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org)
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

June 9  
SAN MARCOS FOOTHILL PRESERVE: Easy-moderate 3.5 mrt hike across the San Marcos Foothill Preserve, part of our County Parks system. We'll explore the parts of the current trail system. Bring water, light lunch and sun protectio. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

June 10  
RAY MILLER TRAIL (Backbone Trail): Moderate 5.4-mrtp with an elevation gain of 1,161'. This trail offers beautiful views of Channel Islands. From Oxnard take PCH 1 to Las Posas Rd., continue southbound on PCH 1 for 4.2 miles to the posted La Jolla 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 north end of the parking lot of the La Jolla Canyon. Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, hat. VICTORIA (480-231-2008) prefer text message. (VEN)

June 11  
VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE (Ojai) hike from Old Baldwin trailhead - Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am or meet us 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 2 qts of water and hiking poles. Afterwards, optional cold drinks at local coffee shop. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. (Trailhead located on Old Baldwin Road just off of Hwy 150 in Ojai. At the intersection of Hwys 150/33 turn onto Hwy 150 towards Lake Casitas. Go past Rice Rd and the next road on the right is Old Baldwin Rd. LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

June 17  
SANTA YNEZ SWIM: Moderate 6 mrt hike with 400 ft elevation gain that follows road and trail to Gibraltar Dam, then 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 am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

### 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](http://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](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

**Every Monday morning**, Easy Walks: Join the Ventura Sierra Club at 9am every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks-hikes in the Ventura county area. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two to three hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Philip 218-2103 or Lora 218-2105.

# Los Padres Forest now open after fire burned 180K acres

Good news! The areas of our Los Padres National Forest Land within the Thomas Fire perimeter are now open to the public 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 remain very 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 trails are what they will encounter out 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 burned areas in favor of nearby 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 January 12, it has yet to be declared "full out."

Forest staff continues working with local groups, partners and 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 Supervisor's Office at (805) 968-6640.

June 17 - 23  
ESCALANTE BACKPACK: There are two possible trips, determined by water conditions and weather. Both trips are mostly moderate but will be strenuous at times. Limit 12. Trip 1 is 14 miles down 25-mile wash to the Escalante River with side trips to ruins and slots. Trip 2 is on the Upper Escalante. Hike 3½ miles from town in afternoon to camp. Next day 3½ miles to Mamie Ck, option of backpacking a couple of miles up creek to Death Hollow. The following day is a long hike up to where the Mail Trail meets the canyon, then along the river to just below where Sand Ck. meets the river. Short day hike to arch and ruins. Last day to cars at bridge on Hwy 12. This possibility would require protecting anything you don't want wet. Leader: DAVID HARDY hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702 875-4826, email preferred. (S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

June 18  
FRANKLIN CANYON trail (Carpinteria) to Ducas family bench - Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am or at 9am at Linden and Meadowview Ln in Carpinteria. This 6-mile hike is on trail and fire roads, gaining about 1,200 ft to the turnaround point, provides great views of Channel Islands. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring 2 qts of water and hiking poles. Afterwards, those that want to can join us for cold drinks at a local coffee shop. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike.

LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

June 22  
HIKE BACKBONE TRAIL Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Park. The Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains. The 8th and last section (moderate) starts at Trippet Ranch, where we climb up the Musch Trail and then towards Temescal Peak, before descending the Rodgers Road Trail and ending at Will Rogers State Historic Park. It's 10.8 miles with an elevation gain of 926 ft. and loss of 1,656 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and other 10 essentials. Limit 15 hikers. Rain or temps above 85 degrees cancels. We'll meet at Will Rogers Park at 8:30am and shuttle to Trippet Ranch. Both have fee parking. Directions to trailhead: See description at [www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura](http://www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura) under the 6/22/18 outing. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030 or SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org. (VEN)

June 24  
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 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 455-4212 (SB)

June 25  
VENTURA RIVER BIKE TRAIL from Foster Park (Oak View) north to the bridge over the San Antonio creek - Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am or at 9am at Foster Park parking lot near the bathrooms. We will be walking the paved bike trail 2.5 to 3 miles (depends on group) for a five or six mile easy, slightly uphill walk to the bridge over San Antonio Creek. Sycamore and Oak trees provide some shade with lots to see. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring 1 qt of water. Temperature above 85F at 9 am will cancel hike. (438 Casitas Vista Road, Ventura. From Highway 33, exit Casitas Vista/Santa Ana Rd. \$3/day park fee). LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

June 30  
GAVIOTA STATE PARK LOOP: A 4 mrt moderate hike in the Northwestern section of the park with great views of the eastern section and

### EAVESDROPS

"This hasn't been exactly a fabulous wildflower year ... with the little rainfall we've received."

~ Helen Tarbet, whose annual wildflower updates (focusing on Figueroa Mt) on behalf of the Los Padres Forest Service, are always anticipated. "The 'lovelies' are still trying to delight us," but are short-lived this year, so get out now!

the Hollister Ranch. We'll include the Yucca, Hollister and the newly re-opened Woodland Trail. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

July 1  
TRESPASS TRAIL/GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Moderate Hike from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail. About 4-mile loop with side trips to tunnel and to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swim suit for hot springs, water and light lunch. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 / event@swt.org

July 2  
URBAN WALK of mid-town Ventura - Meet at fountain across from Ventura Mission on Main St at 9am to walk this five-mile loop to the pier, promenade and back to fountain. Wear comfortable shoes and bring 1qt 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 100 miles north of Reno. This is a busy weekend as many Burning Man attendees use this weekend as a "shakedown cruise" for Burning Man. This may be a "second 4th of July" with big fireworks and bright lights. There's usually a potluck or Dutch oven cook-off on Saturday. We'll also visit hot springs and the Emigrant Trail! Bring food and water but we'll have portapotties! LNT. Leader is very familiar with the area.

*continued next page*



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

Outings...from page 6

Sign up after 6/24 with DAVID, 775/843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

July 7

OXNARD BEACH Hike: 5 miles in the sand, easy pace. Out and back starting where 5th Street dead-ends at the beach; north to the Santa Clara River. No development, but power plant, few people; birds, seals and dolphins. See McGrath Lake, Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve, high sand dunes. Bring snacks, water, meet at 10am. 983-2147, KIM HOCKING (VEN)

July 8

SB RIVIERA URBAN HIKE: Easy to moderately strenuous hike about 5 miles through a beautiful residential neighborhood in Santa Barbara. We will start at the Mission and head up toward APS and Franceschi Park, then across Mission Ridge and back to the Mission. Wear comfortable hiking/running shoes, bring 2 liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Rose Garden by the SB Mission on Plaza Rubio at 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net

July 9

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK at W Wolley Rd/Chesapeake Dr (Oxnard) - Meet at 9am at the small neighborhood park there. Walk begins in residential area moving towards Seabridge commercial area. This 4-mile walk on mostly paved paths and sidewalks passes along several inlets used by kayakers, small boats, stand-up paddle boarders, etc. Wear walking shoes and bring 1 qt of water. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

July 15

MISSION RIDGE: Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we'll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we'll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

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) takes us north of Ventura into Carpinteria State Beach (just past Seal rookery). Return walk may be by beach or along sandstone bluffs. LOW-TIDE: 7:10am More summer views of the ocean and coastal shoreline. Afterwards, optional lunch or snack. Wear walking shoes and bring 1 qt of water. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. (Bates Beach: Head north on 101 Fwy to exit at Bates Beach. Turn left under fwy, then right into parking lot UP the hill.) LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

July 22

PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283/event@swt.org

July 23

CASITAS VISTA & Sky High Road (OakView) - Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool to Foster Park. We will walk a five mile loop up the partially shaded, partially paved, canyon through the campgrounds past the old Foster Park outdoor theatre and to the gate stopping us from reaching the back of Lake Casitas dam. We walk back down at 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 1qt of water. Temperature above 85F at 9 am will cancel hike. (438 Casitas Vista Road, Ventura. From Highway 33, exit Casitas Vista/Santa Ana Rd. \$3/day park fee). LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

July 23-27

SIERRA NEVADA THREE PASS TREK: Kearsarge, Forester and Shepherd Passes. 36 miles and four days on the trail. Strenuous but reasonably paced and spectacular. Limited party. First night car camp for six people. Contact leader for details. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, hiker@hkwarren.net. (CJ)

July 28

HOPE RANCH WALK: We'll roam the quiet roads in western Hope Ranch past several large estates. Expect some hills. Return via More 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 mrt hike with 400 ft elevation gain that follows road and trail to Gibraltar Dam, then returns along the Santa Ynez River for a picnic and swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. It is most convenient to hike in your swimming suit. Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8 am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 455-4212 (SB)

July 30

LOON POINT, Lookout Park and Summerland - Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30 am or at the Loon Point parking lot in Summerland at 9am. LOW-TIDE: 6:40am. 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 parts 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

EAVESDROPS

**"There are more than 30 (waivers for border wall), and no environmental impact study, no public outreach, no consultation with experts, no specific look at endangered species ..."**

~ Attorney Brian Segee, Center for Biological Diversity, now working to halt environmental damage caused by Trump's proposed border wall when he was interviewed by CNN about the waivers (now under legal challenge). Watch it here: <https://tinyurl.com/TrumpWallWaivers>

to imbibe a local beverage. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring 1qt of water. Hiking poles may be of help, too. Temperature above 85F at 9am will cancel hike. Directions to trailhead: See description at www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura under the 7/30/18 outing. LORA/PHIL CLARKE. 218-2103 (VEN)

August 4

GAVIOTA PEAK/TRESPASS LOOP: Moderately strenuous 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200'. Get ready to see eye-popping views up and down the coast. We will ascend the fire road to the peak and return via Trespass trail at a moderate pace, or about 2 mph. This is a 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 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

August 5

ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree/rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate hike with some rock hopping, 4-5 mrt. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283/event@swt.org

August 8-12

CENTRAL NEVADA BACKPACK: Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome consists of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." The trip



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 nearby, the Sespe Valley showing the creek and Hines Peak. (Photo by Pete Scifres)

begins on the North Twin River, near Carver, at an elevation around 6300 ft. We will hike in 3 miles to our first camp. The next day another 5 miles and camp. On day 3 we do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to the top of 11,773 ft. Arc Dome, 12 miles r/t with 4100 ft. elevation gain. Day 4 sees the start down South Twin, with a camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out. 16 miles, 3000 ft. elevation gain with backpacks. Limit 12. DAVID HARDY 702-875-4826 hardyikers@embarqmail.com email preferred.

August 11

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. Expect to get wet. Due to potential heat, bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit, hiking shoes and sandals for water crossings. Meet at 9am. Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

August 11-12

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT: Perseid Meteor Shower Campout. Another fun trip to the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. This should be a good weekend for the Meteor shower since it's the dark of the moon and the Black Rock is a really remote area. We'll be camped

mid-playa and will probably visit nearby hot springs plus have a potluck Saturday but expect a pretty large group. Bring food and water but we'll have portapotties. No campfires! LNT. Leader is very familiar with the area. Sign up after 8/1 with DAVID, 775/843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

August 19

SUMMERLAND LOOP: A 4-mile hike and urban walk through the back hills of Summerland. We'll use little used paths, starting at Oceanview Park, to walk the trails above Summerland, returning on the back streets of the town. Steep sections make this Moderate, not Easy. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. Bring water and a light snack. ROBERT 685-1283/event@swt.org

August 25

BARON RANCH TRAIL: A 7.5 mrt moderate hike on a trail on the Gaviota Coast. This trail leads us high into the foothills for great views of the coast and valley. We'll include the upper loop in our route. Although mostly on old ranch roads, the route starts rising steeply towards the rear of the valley, then transfers to a trail leading us to the 1200' high point. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

September 1

TRESPASS TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200. Get ready to see eye-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 cardio conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Hiking shoes and at least 2 liters of water required. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

September 2

FREMONT TRAIL: Park on East Camino Cielo and walk North along ridge used by Fremont to cross the ridge into Santa Barbara. Superb views of valley. Easy-Moderate, 4

mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

September 8

LAKE CACHUMA & 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. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

September 15

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL CANINE HIKE: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 4 mrt. with 1000 foot elevation gain. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at Bank of America parking lot at 3790 State St. 9am. Hike limited to four dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire/extreme heat cancels. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

September 22

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)

September 30

MT. PINOS: Long carpool to Mt. Pinos, then a strenuous 14 mrt hike with 3600 feet elevation gain/loss from Mt. Pinos to Cerro Noroeste and back. This hike takes place at an altitude between 7600 - 8800 feet with some steep sections, so only come if you know you can hike at altitude. Wear hiking shoes/boots, hat, bring at least three liters of water, snack, lunch. Meet at 8am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)



**SIERRA CLUB**  
LOS PADRES CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 31241  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Santa Barbara, CA  
Permit No. 9



## GREETINGS FRIENDS

# Region rife with wildlife

### 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 Chesebore 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 osprey (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.

Chesebore 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.

There is nothing more fascinating than to watch sea lions frolic on the beach at one of the largest protected sand dunes on the west coast at Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge where the Santa Maria River meets the ocean, or the seal haul-out off the cliff of Carpinteria just south of the state beach.

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](mailto:Membership@FriendsOfCondors.org)

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

[tours@friendsofcondors.org](mailto:tours@friendsofcondors.org)



Bear on display at Ojai Ranger Station. Bobcat and mountain lion on display at Ojai Ranger Station.  
Elephant seal smile (Photos by Condor John Hankins)