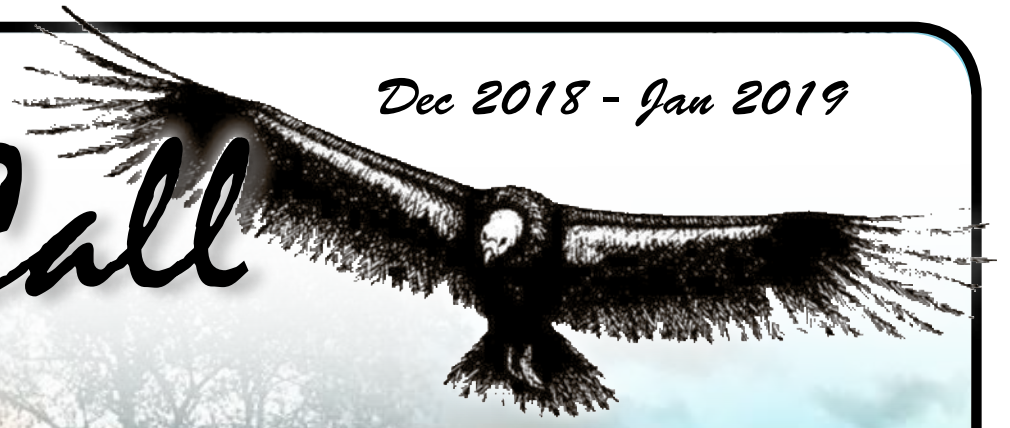


Vol. 18, No. 6 of 6

Dec 2018 - Jan 2019

# Condor Call



© Photo by Suzanne Tanaka

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

Clean Power ... Fired up ... Petro tricks ... Wild Ed ... 1969  
Pgs 1,5                      Pgs 1,4                      Pgs 2,7                      Pgs 1,5                      Pg 7



Wilderness Basics Course will take you to the coolest outdoor places in the region, like Lizard's Mouth. Early bird prices are now in effect. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

## Our wilderness course inspires graduates

We gather outdoors experts and teach each other how to be safe, comfortable and enjoy the outdoors so much more when knowledge and experience lead the way. Our 2019 classes start Feb 6 with evening classes day and overnight adventures, including car camp. Camaraderie always comes along.

But don't take our word for it, Wilderness Basics Course graduate Gabe Valdez took it Feb-March. After two solo backpack trips, he sent the letter below:

*obstacle I faced. Six months ago, I had never backpacked overnight. This last solo was three days and three nights. Again, I appreciate all the work you put into the course because I couldn't have had this life experience without it.*

*I want to be involved as a volunteer and perhaps being trained to be a co-leader for next year's WBC.*

*Thank you!  
Gabe Valdez*

### WHAT IS WBC?

Volunteer leaders teach people the skills to enjoy the wilderness in 8 classroom sessions and guide the students on 4 exciting outings.

Evening classes will be held in Ventura in February and March 2019. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers who desire to get out and see our beautiful backcountry!

See our flyer on pg 5.

To register:

<http://bit.ly/LPWBC19>

For information, call (805) 524-7170 or send an email or online here:

[lospadreswbc@gmail.com](mailto:lospadreswbc@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/lospadreswbc](https://www.facebook.com/lospadreswbc)

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



*Teresa (and everybody from WBC),*

*I completed my second solo (first was in the Sespe) to the Mineral King area of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park. I want to thank you all because everything I learned in the WBC made my trip safe and exciting.*

*I never felt unprepared for any*

## ELECTION RAP

# Celebrate victories, then keep resisting

*Editor's note: Our chapter political co-chairs, David Gold and Alex Pujo, collaborated on this report.*

Sierra Club members can celebrate a tremendous election victory, nationwide, statewide



Our Get Out the Vote efforts included buttons to nudge people to the polls during a SB Group potluck. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

and at home in the Los Padres Chapter of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

We want to thank all who worked so hard to achieve this result. It will reap important benefits.

The election tidal wave swept anti-environment leadership out of control of the House of Representatives, to be replaced by members who care about our air, water, climate and health. This will present an insurmountable obstacle to any Trump administration legislative attempt to further its anti-science, pro-fossil fuel, pro-extraction agenda.

Statewide, "everyone we endorsed for statewide races won—and at least one was running against an outright climate-change denier," said Kathryn Phillips of Sierra Club California. "Then there are the races for seats in Congress. I am so happy to report that not a single climate-change-

*continued on page 3*

# Condor Call

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

Dec 2018 - Jan 2019



## VENTURA 1st IN NATION

# We commit to 100% clean power

*Editor's note: Thanks to the National Sierra Club, Theresa Tran and David Haake of the Angeles Chapter and Katie Davis of our Los Padres Chapter for contributing to this historic announcement ... a collaborative effort!*

Ventura County made history in late October by becoming the first county in the country to set a renewable energy default of 100 percent.

It joins the cities of Ventura, Ojai, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, South Pasadena, Culver City, Santa Monica, Rolling Hills Estates, and West Hollywood in setting the new standard for a future powered by renewable sources, like wind and solar, by selecting the 100 percent default with Clean Power Alliance (CPA), launched just this year. Now, individual residential customers can choose among three options ranging from 36 to 100 percent renewables at different costs.

"I think this is the most

## Go log on to new blog

The Los Padres Chapter has added a new interactive blog on its website, and the first one is about the important topic of more oil companies trying to tap into local petroleum sources at a time when we are promoting renewable energy.

The blog was started and is administered by Jon Ullman, the chapter's new Executive Director. You can find it here, incorporating photos and videos:

<https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org/blog>

Two other groups within our chapter also have blogs. They are:

**Santa Barbara Group:**

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

**Ventura Sierra Club:**

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>

The chapter blog's first entry is about citizens attending an informational meeting in Sisquoc about Kern County oil companies wanting to put in up to 750 new oil wells in North Santa Barbara County (see story pg ? or read the blog). Also, there's a blog entry about The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District unanimously setting a goal of 100% clean, quiet zero emission buses by 2030.

You can help spread the word about the blog's content using Jon's instructions:

"The link can be copied on social media or emailed. If you are using Chrome go into settings and attach an extension called "Feeder." Then press the orange RSS button on the blog. You'll see the blog show up on your browser and get a notice every time a new one has been posted."

"We are working out the kinks of this system, one of which is to incorporate an email subscription."

significant vote I have ever made in terms of being able to address climate change," said Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, a member of the CPA.

"All of us were impacted by the Thomas Fire, an unusual December

fire (followed by the Woolsey and Hill Fires also affecting Ventura County in November) that's part of a larger and frightening trend of increases in fire and weather disasters linked to climate change," said

*continued on page 2*



This congratulatory notice was seen coast-to-coast via a national Sierra Club press release and blasted it on the website as an example to follow.

# Youth go to court on climate inaction

By Pam Bury

Thanks to all who attended the rally in Isla Vista October 28th in support the young plaintiffs in the historic Juliana v. United States climate lawsuit (#YouthvGov). The rally was sponsored by 350.org Santa Barbara with co-sponsors: Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition and Sierra Club, Santa Barbara Group.

The trial was scheduled to begin in October in Oregon's Federal District Court, but the Supreme Court temporarily halted the case in order to consider a request from the Trump administration that the trial not be allowed to proceed and be more narrow in scope. The Supreme Court declined to intervene and on Nov. 21 the District Court judge asserted it should go to trial and any appeals should occur after the trial rather than before.

"It is upsetting to watch the people in charge completely disregard my future by allowing further delays," said Miko Vergun, 17, one of the plaintiffs. "I feel like the people leading this country are failing young people like me."

Our freedom depends on a climate system that will sustain human life. The twenty-one youth who filed suit hope to show that the federal government has a duty to prepare and implement a Climate Recovery Plan to protect our basic and most fundamental rights.

There is a classroom toolkit for teachers--highlighting the youth's

climate case is a way to engage students in discussions about climate change and the environment, and about how the justice system works. The kit includes a great half-hour slide show Pathway to Climate Recovery.

To keep up with the latest details on the case go to:

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

### COVER PHOTO

This beautiful scene in the Middle Matilija area sort of survived fire and flood this year, but not all was spared. Two of our Wilderness Basics Course leaders said the trail was hard to follow, was washed out in places and they couldn't find a campsite rumored to be gone. Check conditions on page 6 before you go on forest trails. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka)

### EAVESDROPS

"Raise the green power goal."

~ LA Times editorial advocating for 100 percent clean energy. Sierra Club California has had this goal for years and is asking members to donate to continue being ahead of the curve. In 2002 the state's first target was only 12% coming from renewable sources; current target is 50% by 2030, yet California will easily meet that by 2020!

To help and for info, go to: [www.SierraClubCalifornia.org](http://www.SierraClubCalifornia.org)



Pier 421 on Ellwood Beach should be gone within a year due to California State Lands working to dismantle the region's old and crumbling oil infrastructure. (Photo by Katie Davis)

## ENERGY RAP

# Oil going; Exxon says 'truck it'

By Katie Davis

### Beachy Clean

The ugly and crumbling piers on Ellwood beach in Goleta will be plugged and sealed by the end of January and may be completely gone by the end of 2019.

Finally, California State Lands has budget and staff working away on our legacy oil infrastructure. They have mapped three additional leaking wells on Summerland beach and are working on plans to plug them. They will identify leaking wells and seeps in Goleta too.

Also, State Lands is plugging wells on and near Rincon Island in Ventura County and Platform Holly in Goleta. Removing this platform will be a major undertaking as it's among the largest ever removed. And since it's cheaper to remove multiple offshore platforms at once, we may bid adieu to several other large offshore platforms in the coming years.

It's a good thing too. The platforms in our channel are old and

decrepit, increasingly expensive to maintain and operate.

### Exxon Be Gone

The holdout is Exxon. Its three platforms on the Gaviota coast have been shut down since the Plains Pipeline oil spill in 2015, but they are doubling down.

Exxon has submitted an application to restart offshore production and truck the oil along the 101 and the windy 166 to Kern County. Trucks are the least safe way to transport oil. If we are dependent on 101 as our main artery, just wait until we add 70 explosive oil tanker trucks every day. An oil tanker truck doesn't just explode in an accident, it burns for a long time, shutting down the road in both directions.

Many localities prohibit oil trucks from driving through tunnels, over bridges, or near water. Waiting behind the trucking proposal is an application by Plains, which was just convicted of felony negligence for causing the 2015 oil spill, to build a whole new 123-mile pipeline along the same route.

This would be a major project, bulldozing a 100-foot swath along

the entire route, crossing three rivers and shallow aquifers and locking in Exxon's offshore production for decades to come. Exxon is also a parent company of AERA, which is proposing a major expansion of onshore oil production here as well.

### EAVESDROPS

**"This is a very direct line of how an oil spill is literally costing us, still, years later."**

~ Ocean advocacy group Azul, on how California offshore rigs may cost taxpayers millions of dollars when a company goes bankrupt, notably referring to Venoco filing bankruptcy after the 2015 Refugio oil spill and Rincon Island problems off Ventura County.

### Climate Conflicts

Meanwhile, in October the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a shocking report written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies that says we need to transition off of fossil fuels as soon as possible or face a global and catastrophic climate crisis by 2040 – parts of the world will be uninhabitable.

Debra Roberts, co-chair of the group concluded, "The next few years are probably the most important in our history."

Here in California, scientists have connected the increase in devastating fires we've been experiencing to climate change.

In New York, the Attorney General announced he was suing Exxon for lying to shareholders about climate change. Exxon knew the science but did everything they could to cover it up. Something to keep in mind as Exxon gives out reusable bags at places like the Goleta Lemon Festival, hoping we'll let them keep on drilling long past when the scientists say we need to just stop burning fossil fuels.

### Charged Up

If you don't think it's possible to get off fossil fuels fast, just look at Ventura. The county and most of its cities took one giant leap forward when they voted in October to set 100% renewable energy as the default plan for residents when they launch their community choice energy program in 2019. (See Clean Power Alliance story on page 1.)

Or look at the Santa Barbara MTD, which voted on November 20 to set a goal of transitioning its entire fleet of diesel buses to 100% electric buses by 2030. Where there's a will, there's a way. And the will is growing fast.

## 100% clean power...

continued from page 1

our Los Padres Chapter vice-chair, Katie Davis, who added, "thanks to Ventura for leading the way."

"The good news is that the cost to move to clean power is now minimal due to the rapidly decreasing cost of renewable energy and efficiency," she added.

Ventura County joined with Los Angeles area jurisdictions to form the CPA. It is a locally operated provider that purchases clean and renewable electricity at lower or competitive costs than investor-owned utility Southern California Edison (SCE). More cities and counties are expected to join this trend.

SCE will continue its responsibility to provide transmission, distribution, maintenance, and customer services.

The idea is to empower customers by offering them a choice for their source of energy. CPA does so by offering three rate options each with a different percentage of renewable energy: 36% renewable energy at 1-2% less cost than SCE's 34% renewable energy base tier, 50% renewable energy at 0-1% less than SCE's base, or 100% renewable energy at 7-9% more than SCE's base, but 5% less than SCE's comparable green tier. The best deal – most renewable energy per dollar – is 100% renewable. It's just a few bucks more for a lot cleaner plan. And energy efficiency incentives could help residents reduce their energy bill.

Each city and county participating in the program had to choose a default plan for customers who don't pick one. The benefit of choosing the 100% tier option as the default is that it enables municipalities to leap ahead in meeting clean energy goals. The

state of California is committed to using 100% renewable energy by 2045 (via SB 100 and SB 2002 bills), but Ventura County will be most of the way there next year – 25 years ahead of schedule. It also will reduce air pollution from gas-fire power plants. Oxnard in particular, which has been fighting new gas power plants on their beaches, is well aware of the negative health impacts and health costs of fossil fuel power plants and opted for 100% renewable energy default. It will also increase the number of clean power jobs in our region and provide an economic boost. Renewable energy is creating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy, and the more we invest, the cheaper it becomes, while natural gas is subject to price spikes and disasters like the Aliso Canyon blow out. Low income customers in the CARE program will get the default plan, including 100% renewable energy in jurisdictions that selected that default, for the same discounted rate they currently pay SCE. And anyone else can choose to pick between the plan options at any time.

CPA service to residential customers will start early next year, while commercial and public customers are already receiving energy choice options. For details go to: <http://cleanpoweralliance.org/>

CPA buys renewable energy from numerous sources outside the region, but it also wants to enhance the ability to develop renewable energy locally, helping the economy and providing new jobs. For more on the benefits of the 100% default, see: [www.greenbydefault.org](http://www.greenbydefault.org)

A full list of CPA's member jurisdictions in Los Angeles and Ventura counties are listed on its website.



Exxon protest new drilling was in July during scoping hearings, EIR is expected soon. Protest will continue against Exxon's proposal to truck its oil; see adjacent story. (Photo by Katie Davis)

## Santa Paula oil appealed

Environmental groups presented their opening arguments on Nov. 7 in the California Court of Appeals, asking a three-judge panel to require additional environmental review before allowing the expansion of oil drilling in Santa Paula Canyon.

The groups' 58-page brief outlines legal and factual reasons for appealing a lower court's ruling that allowed 19 new oil wells and continued operation of 17 existing wells to proceed with minimal environmental review.

The new oil wells would be located along the Santa Paula Canyon Trail, a popular hiking trail that serves as a gateway to waterfalls, swimming holes, backcountry campsites and endangered species habitat in the Los Padres National Forest.

Despite objections from nearly 1,000 hikers and local residents, as well as overwhelming expert scientific testimony, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors narrowly approved the oil wells on a split 3-2 vote in 2015, relying in large part on an outdated environmental impact report prepared in 1978.

Los Padres ForestWatch, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Citizens for Responsible Oil & Gas then filed suit in Ventura County Superior Court over the county's failure to conduct a new study of the environmental risks. That court ruled in favor of the oil company and the County earlier this year.

The groups' appeal seeks a review of that decision.

More information is available on the ForestWatch website: [www.LPFW.org](http://www.LPFW.org)

## Condor Call

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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**Celebrate...**

*continued from page 1*

denying, Trump-backing member of the House from Orange County will be going back to Washington. Each is replaced by a Sierra Club-backed candidate.”

And the same goes for Steve Knight, one of our top priorities to retire. That House District (CD25) includes Simi Valley in our chapter’s area. He has one of the lowest lifetime environmental ratings in Washington due to votes against clean air, clean water and climate sanity. Our members played a key role in replacing him with Katie Hill, who calls climate change a crucial health and safety issue for her district. Her win by an astonishing eight points shows how deeply out of touch Republican Knight was with local voters.

Our endorsees and steadfast allies in the House -- Julia Brownley (CD26) and Salud Carbajal (CD24) -- will continue to represent most of our members. Their two districts were critical battlegrounds in the previous midterm election, but in this year’s tidal wave Rep. Brownley won by a resounding



Sierra Club members Ma and Pa urged everyone to get out and vote on Nov. 6, as did so many others. Posted on Facebook, the image got hundreds of hits and scores of shares. Pitchfork was for prodding, spatula for enticement, American Gothic. (Photo by Condor John)

61-38 spread while Carbajal won with a comfortable 58-42 spread (preliminary results).

These enormous victories will help further many of our local goals, like re-introducing the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act and the Rim of the Valley Corridor Protection Act to better protect our forest and wildlife corridors.

Similarly, Assembly members Monique Limón (AD37) and Jacqui Irwin (AD44) will continue their work to further California’s international leadership in fighting global warming. They will be joined by newly elected Assembly member Christy Smith (AD38), a friend of the environment who won a hard-fought battleground race against one who had a terrible environmental record, and William Ostrander (AD35)

In Santa Barbara County voters defeated a veiled attempt

by oil interests to control the Board of Supervisors with the creation of a Citizens Commission to redraw district boundaries with Measures H (which we tabbed as Horrible). Measure H2018 -- a seemingly innocuous “popular initiative” to redraw boundaries after the 2020 census -- was instead a sneaky attempt to shift control of the Board to the oil-friendlier North County by the criteria used to select commissioners.

Voters approved instead a competing measure (G2018) with a fair selection criterion and many public hearings, so we dubbed that G for Good.

The Blue Wave extended

**Group News**  
The public is welcome to our programs

**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, either at Carpinteria IHOP or by phone. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)  
~ Chapter website and blog at: [www.sierraclub.org/los-padres](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres)

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month except Dec. 18. Meets at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes, 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](https://www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub)  
<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

**ARGUELLO GROUP**

~ 3rd Fridays most months for SB North County Group at 7pm, 6pm if a potluck is planned. General meetings and programs held at Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 3346 Constellation Rd. Need a ride or offer a carpool? Contact Janet Blevins: 717-4160 or [janro48@gmail.com](mailto:janro48@gmail.com)  
Keep in on our Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup>  
~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**

~ 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)  
~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog: <http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>  
<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>  
~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: [www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

**CONEJO GROUP**

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at [ConejoGroup@gmail.com](mailto:ConejoGroup@gmail.com)  
Otherwise, 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)

**EAVESDROPS**

**“You’re definitely not seeing corporations slow down their appetites for renewables under Trump.”**

~ Malcolm Woolf of Advanced Energy Economy, indicating the Trump push-back on campaigns for 100% renewable energy is becoming irrelevant because the free market is demanding renewables.

**Learn about razing dam**

Come learn about the progress of the Malibu Rindge Dam project that is like the idea of removing Matilija Dam in the Upper Ojai region.

The free event is at 5:30pm. Jan. 8 at the Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. in Ventura, featuring Jamie King, an environmental scientist with State Parks. It is part of the Ventura Sierra Club’s Venture(a) Out educational series.

Malibu Creek should benefit from the removal as the dam is 90 years old and filled with

sentiment. Upstream of Malibu Lagoon, which recently underwent an environmental restoration, its removal will likely result in return of endangered steelhead trout due to 10 additional miles of creek access, among other benefits.

The 100 ft. high dam, built for cattle and farming support in the 1920s, has been off limits to visitors since 2014 for safety issues. One major obstacle is managing sediment removal, a typical problem with dam removal that also plagues removing Matilija Dam.

**KATIE MULLIN**

I have served on the Santa Barbara Group executive committee since 2012.

The group is at the forefront of providing a voice for local environmental concerns. It is a powerful advocacy for our natural resources and I have been happy to serve on behalf of our county’s environmental issues. I would like to continue helping our Club continue this work.

Foremost I believe that humans as a species must lower our carbon footprint. I am an avid proponent of increasing local bicycling for transport and making public transport the travel choice for everyone.

Climate change is real and becoming increasingly problematic. Extreme weather, such as our drought and fire conditions, will impact everyone in our county. Ocean acidification will change the planet’s ecosystems leading to mass extinctions. For these reasons I am opposed to any fossil fuel extraction in the county.

Rather we must get to 100% clean energy use. We must actively increase our renewable energy sources as well as decrease our fossil fuel use especially in the transportation sector.

Land must be kept wild to ensure there is enough space for wildlife and plants to flourish. Undeveloped land must be enjoyed responsibly by people knowing that we are there as guests.

**MARTHA SADLER**

I’m proud of the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group’s powerful advocacy in fighting new oil development and unsafe extraction methods. I will continue to support climate-friendly energy sourcing -- with particular emphasis on projects that are both sustainable and local, where hawk-eyed local environmentalists can keep tabs on them.

As ever, my heart belongs to the wilderness and its protection, from the mountains to the ocean. But maintaining connections to nature even inside the urban footprint, for people asked to live in increasingly dense built environments, is also one of my primary concerns.

**JIM TAYLOR**

I have been a member of the Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee for two years, and currently serve as the Group’s Treasurer.

I am a self-employed software developer. I live in Carpinteria, and serve as vice president of the Carpinteria Valley Association, an environmental and town planning watchdog organization founded in 1964.

Issue include closely following South County politics and oil and gas industry issues.



**CONEJO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE**

**Conejo Group**  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT  
(No candidate statements available)

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the Condor Call.

**Mail ballot before Dec. 31 to:**  
Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 106 Quails Trail, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

**Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) persons, including the write-in option if you wish.**

In alphabetical order:	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member
Elizabeth Macgovern	_____	_____
Ellen Sanders	_____	_____
Hugh Warren	_____	_____

Write in candidate if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # (from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name)

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE**

**Santa Barbara Group**  
Executive Committee Ballot  
(see candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the Condor Call.

**Mail ballot by Dec 31 to:**  
Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara CA 93130

**Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 (THREE) people, including write-in option if you wish**

In alphabetical order:	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member
Catherine (Katie) Mullin	_____	_____
Martha Sadler	_____	_____
Jim Taylor	_____	_____

Write in candidate if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card)** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

**SIGHTINGS**

# Fired up to enjoy, explore, and protect

By John Hankins

Fired Up! Our activism, events and outings in October and November continued amidst election mania, because that's what we do for the environment ... persist. Yet, after Nov. 6 we have increased hope that our efforts will make even more difference.

Here is a list of our volunteer work and actions during that period. Please join us; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Oh, and if you want to donate, go to:

[www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000](http://www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000)

Another important list is our current Outings which are free for all; see pages 6&7. You see, when we're not resisting and politicking, we are likely outdoors, enjoying what we intend to protect.

Dec 1: **Restoration Day** on Hedrick Ranch land along the Santa Clara River; organized by its Conservancy and Sierra Club members helping to restore the ecosystem.

Dec 1: **SB Group** Holiday Party is always a popular event; time to relax and have a good time and eat (mostly) hand-made food with members and friends. Held at Unitarian Church.

Nov 20: **Plus, the Bus** Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) Board of Directors voted on a goal of 100% clean, quiet zero emission buses by 2030. Santa Barbara MTD already operates 14 all-electric buses with no tailpipe emissions. In a little more than a decade, all 106 buses serving the SB South Coast could be quiet, clean, comfortable and carbon free.

Nov 15: **Holly Go-lightly** was the subject of a State Lands public update on Venoco quitclaiming its interests in Platform Holly and Ellwood Beach Pier leases. See story on page 2.

Nov 14: **Beach potluck**, an annual social affair by the Santa Barbara Group included tasty food and an optional beach walk.

Nov 13: **Saving the Fox!** The rare Channel Islands fox was the subject of "The Interconnections Between Land & Sea." It was another successful Venture(a) Out event featuring Friends of the Fox folk Pat Meyer and Keri Dearborn. See story this page.



Adults and youth all pulled together in various rallies recently. Above, it was celebrating after the vote at Ventura City Hall for 100% clean energy goal (see story pg 1) by Sierra Club, Clean Power Alliance and others (Photo by Katie Davis).

Below a rally at Isla Vista supporting the #youthgov climate trial sponsored by SB Group, 350.org, Standing Rock Coalition and others. (Photo by John Bury) Find out more about the trial at: [www.ourchildrenstrust.org](http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org)

Nov 12: **Outdoor Therapy** Forum hosted by SIERRA magazine Editor in Chief Jason Mark in conversation with Children & Nature Network, and Club partners about outdoor recreational therapy, especially for under-resourced youth and military veterans. We joined the forum to explore how the "Science of Awe" is broadening the environmental movement from a public health perspective. We're involved in scientific research with the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley:

<https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/>

Nov 6: **Loop Trail**—Sierra Club and Friends of the Santa Clara River were awarded a non-monetary grant from the National Parks Service for a study of the work we do with all ages along the Santa Clara River Loop Trail.

Nov 4: **Garden Restoration** event at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery

sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club.

Oct 28: **#TrialOfTheCentury** rally co-hosted by the Santa Barbara Group to support school-aged kids suing the federal government over inaction on climate change.

Oct 23: **"Magnificent Seven"** cities and Ventura County officials voted to set a goal of 100 percent renewable energy sources via the Clean Power Alliance, according to Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis, whose article was posted this day on the Club's national website and as a press release to the nation. Also see story pg 1 and Katie's article here: <https://tinyurl.com/RenewableEnergyPledge>

Oct 23: **Community Oil** meeting in the Sisquoc elementary school led by our chapter about large oil projects proposed nearby and over drinking water aquifer. See story on pg 7.

Oct 14: **Potluck breakfast** along Shoreline Park by the Santa Barbara Group, a long-time social tradition with a beach walk too.

Oct 16: **Master Bike Plan** for city of Goleta adopted, of which the SB Group contributed to and supported.

Oct 11: **Building electrification** panel was great success at UCSB Sustainability Summit. Several cities in our chapter are participating in a state study of carbon-neutral building codes. See story on page 5.

Oct 11: **Groundswell Rising** film that visually shows the risks of fracking and oil and gas extraction was shown at Standing Sun Wines in Buellton by the Santa Ynez Valley Community Action Alliance. Group Chairs Rebecca August (Arguello) and Katie Davis (SB) honed in on the local threats.

**Help lead our club**

Be a nominee or nominate a member to serve on the Los Padres Chapter's Executive Committee, which requires participants from both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The ExCom is where you can really make a difference and help build a legacy of good work. The Sierra Club prides itself on being a grass roots organization that reflects the values of local communities, and that could be you.

For more information, just contact David Gold at 805 642-7748 or email: [davidgold4@aol.com](mailto:davidgold4@aol.com)

Oct 2: **Bus benefits** via electricity was detailed by our Exec Director Jon Ullman at the MTD Board meeting; it worked ... see Nov. 20 item.

## What's up after election?

By Jim Hines  
LP Chapter Chair

I want to thank each of you for working so hard to get progressives who care about protecting our environment elected at the local, state and national level on Nov. 6.

Your work highlighted the importance of protecting our national public lands and waters, wildlife, clean air and water.

I know that many of you were out canvassing neighborhoods for candidates locally and several of you even traveled to other states to help, plus working phone banks to get out the vote for the environment.

But we still face some challenges at the national level.

The new environmentally friendly House of Representative will NOT be seated until Jan. 7th. That leaves two months of a very anti-environment House and Senate. So, while 2019 will be easier for us, there is still that interim.

The House will be our firewall to stop environmentally destructive actions by the Trump Administration in 2019 and 2020.

I am meeting with members of

Congress who will take over in January. The most powerful group in the House, the Committee on Natural Resources, deals with all national public lands and waters as well as wildlife issues and oversees the Dept. of the Interior.

We will talk about issuing subpoenas to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and several of his deputies, requiring them to come before the committee in January and testify under oath about the Secretary's work occurring behind closed doors with those who seek to eliminate America's national parks, national monuments and other public lands in the western U.S.

I will help write the background info for the subpoenas (I have had quite a few meetings with the Secretary since he took office in March 2017) and I hope to be in the hearing room when he testifies and is questioned under oath.

I am also working on a national campaign to have Zinke removed from office.

So, get ready folks, while you all did a great job this election season we can't sit back and say everything is OK; we still have work to do.

But we also need to remember how important it is for each one of us to get out in nature and relax, renew and reconnect.

For the wild, Jim ...



## Fun facts about fox

By Rachel Enevoldsen

Fun and important facts learned at the recent Venture(a) Out in the County program on Nov. 13 about the rare Island Fox include:

~ Some native seeds don't germinate well on the Channel Islands unless they pass through the gut of these little cuties.

~ Island Fox females can control their pregnancy rates, so captive breeding programs must take into account the need to separate the females from the males between pregnancies.

~ This ongoing effort is under constant threat. Radio monitoring collars are expensive and need to be refurbished and replaced. There are new dangers from infectious diseases, new parasites and ticks, habitat threats from drought and other environmental changes.

Valuable new technologies like microchips, DNA sampling from blood and whiskers can provide researchers about fox dietary changes and health.

If you're lucky enough to visit a Channel Island you will almost certainly have the pleasure of sighting one of these gregarious critters. All six islands have opportunities.

If you're up for longer than a day visit, Sierra Club has an upcoming organized camp trip planned May 11-12. For details go to:

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

Also, Sierra Club California offers six 3-Island weekend cruises per year. See next issue (Feb/March 2019) for details.

Keri Dearborn and Pat Meyer gave us a fantastic presentation. The audience was riveted with these fun and important facts for over an hour, then enjoyed a Q & A.

Did you know that foxes eat fruit and insects? Some islands need to protect their fox population from



speeding cars and open trash cans. Different skin samples provided size comparisons between mainland and Island fox types.

We saw slides of foxes climbing in trees, hiding in plain sight, and frolicking in the grass. I was a good year for pups in 2017, but we still need to be vigilant. Low rainfall in 2018 could reduce their resources.

You might want to consider becoming a Fox supporter, just ask at: [islandfoxnews@gmail.com](mailto:islandfoxnews@gmail.com) [www.islandfox.org](http://www.islandfox.org)

**Venture(a) Out in the County**  
a Sierra Club Educational Series

**Tuesday January 8, @5:30-7pm**  
**EP Foster Library Topping Room**  
(651 E. Main St., Ventura FREE PARKING IN REAR)

**Speaker:**  
**Jamie King,**  
*Environmental Scientist*  
*California State Parks,*  
*Angeles Division*

**Malibu Creek ecosystem restoration project:**  
**An overview of current efforts to**  
**remove Rindge Dam**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
Info: [SierraClubVentura@gmail.com](mailto:SierraClubVentura@gmail.com)

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## EVENTS



Dec 8: **Grunion Greeter** author and sustaining Sierra Club member Eileen Ryan McMillan will sign her new children's book "The Little Greeter, A Grunion Tale" from noon to 2 at the Bookstore in Lompoc. Book is based on her family's adventures during April-May grunion runs on our local beaches.

Dec 9: **Holiday Party** Ventura Sierra Club 4-6pm at the Ventura Bike Hub 490 N. Ventura Ave. Members and supporters welcome, bring potluck hors d'oeuvres to share. This is, a waste and alcohol-free event; RSVP and more details and a coupon here: <https://tinyurl.com/PartyWithSierraClubAtHub>

Dec 13 **Holiday potluck** and digital photo show by the Conejo Group, featuring your digital shots and most tempting food. Held at 7pm Cameron Center, 288 Greenmeadow Drive, Thousand Oaks. Bring food to share and favorite drink; all members and friends invited; come early to help setup. Details via 341-6295 or 492-3061. Digital photos must be submitted at least 10 days prior at: [ConejoGroup@gmail.com](mailto:ConejoGroup@gmail.com)

Dec 15: **Tamarisk Removal Day** along the lower Santa Ynez River, thanks to ForestWatch stewardship program. To sign up contact: [bryant@LFPW.org](mailto:bryant@LFPW.org)

Jan 8: **Restoration project** about efforts to remove the 90-year-old Rindge Dam now filled with sediment features State Parks' Jamie King, an environmental scientist. This is part of the Ventura Sierra Club's *Venture(a) Out* educational series and is free at 5:30pm at the Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. in Ventura. The overview of Malibu Creek's ecosystem and removal of the dam is like efforts to remove Matilija Dam in the upper Ojai area.

# Gaviota Coast is still being saved

By Marc Chytilo

The accomplishments in 2018 along the Gaviota Coast are significant and exciting, but it's not saved yet, as per legendary Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas who said: "The coast is never saved, it is always being saved." Here's a wrap:

**Ranch Access:** When the Hollister Ranch overreached and coaxed the Coastal Commission into a sweetheart Settlement Agreement that would have likely ended any future efforts to gain public access along the coastal property, an alliance of groups stepped into the breach.

Judge Colleen Sterne granted the Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance's request to intervene to question the Settlement, with a court hearing on the flawed Settlement Agreement set for January 14, 2019.

The Alliance was formed by the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, California Coastal Protection Network, Santa Barbara County Trails Council and COASTWALK/California Coastal Trail Association. The Sierra Club is a "Supporting Organization". The Alliance is dedicated to responsibly opening Hollister Ranch for all people. To keep apprised and/or join the effort, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/GaviotaAlliance>

**Preserve Protects:** This year began with the extraordinary preservation of the 24,500-acre Bixby Ranch thanks to the singular contribution of Jack and Laura Dangermond and the hard work of The Nature Conservancy staff. This transaction protects 11 miles of iconic

coastline and over 37 square miles, including the fabled Point Conception.

**Gaviota Coast Plan** was finally approved in October, after ten years in the making.

The GavPlan includes numerous policies, development standards and actions that strengthen protection for the area's biological, historical and cultural resources. It will protect and expand sustainable agriculture, enhance the visual features of the State Scenic Highway corridor and expand coastal recreational opportunities.

**Oil Stepping Out!** Freoport McMoRan (fcx.com) will shut down and remove the entire Pt. Arguello Unit, including dismantling the oil and gas processing facility next to 101 near the Gaviota curve and eventually removing platforms Hermosa, Harvest and Hidalgo. See page 2 oil wrap.

**Tajiguas Landfill:** 2018 saw the first-ever commitment by Santa Barbara County to forgo future expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill, accomplished as part of a Gaviota Coast Conservancy lawsuit.

Tajiguas is the State's last active landfill in the coastal zone, and its retirement cannot come soon enough. As part of the settlement, the County committed to completing a public trail on Baron Ranch from Highway 101 to the ridgetop and to prepare a master plan for Baron Ranch allowing only recreational and agricultural uses on this 1000-acre parcel owned by the county.

In a related effort, the Conservancy is working with farmers to promote regenerative agriculture on the Gaviota Coast.



The private Hollister Ranch, looking west to Pt. Conception, an area where the Gaviota Coast Alliance is fighting for some public access. (Photo courtesy of Gaviota Coast Conservancy)

## Learn to Backpack



We offer thorough training for adults and teens of various levels of fitness who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company. A dedicated staff of leaders will share their skills and stories in eight classroom sessions and during several exciting outings in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Training classes are held from 7-9:30 p.m. in Ventura, February 6 through March 27.

Local experts will demonstrate hiking techniques, equipment, outdoor clothing, navigation, wilderness first aid and safety, weather, water filtration, cooking and wilderness ethics, among other important topics. Students will apply this wisdom by participating in day hikes, camping and backpacking trips in our beautiful mountains.

Join us and the many people who have found new insights, enjoyment and adventure in the outdoors. Warning: it could change your life.

### Class starts February 6, 2019

[lospadreswbc.org](http://lospadreswbc.org) • [facebook.com/lospadresWBC](https://facebook.com/lospadresWBC)  
[lospadresWBC@gmail.com](mailto:lospadresWBC@gmail.com) • (805) 524-7170

Register now!

<http://bit.ly/LPWBC19>

Prices start at \$175. Student rate also available.

Register before January 16 to receive an early bird discount!



## Hike leader Sladek is a Local Hero!

*Editor's note: The Santa Barbara Independent announced its important Local Heroes list for 2018 and Sierra Club hike leader Al Sladek is one of them (see text below). We are gratified that the larger community now knows what we've always known: Al is one of our chapter's crown jewels as a hike leader and environmental ambassador. The Indy's 32-year-old tradition to honor "amazingly selfless people" just before Thanksgiving "remains our proudest and most meaningful annual achievement." Here's the link to all the Local Heroes: <https://tinyurl.com/SBIndyLocalHeroes2018>*

host the night's hike. Sometimes it's Romero Canyon. Often, it's a popular route in between; he has a handful of favorites.

"We head up about an hour and a half and turn around," said the 76-year-old, who ventured from home at 15, served in Vietnam, got an engineering degree from UC



Photo by Paul Wellman

### Al Sladek Trail Leader

Al Sladek shows up. Every Friday at 6 p.m., he steps to the edge of the fountain in front of Santa Barbara Mission to make an announcement. The gathering crowd may be small or large, the weather hot or cold, or somewhere in between. Doesn't matter if it's raining or if darkness has already arrived, as it does this time of year. It's time to hike, and Sladek is calling out this week's trail, as he has done steadily for the past 44 years, ever since starting this Friday-night offshoot of the Sierra Club's popular Wednesday-night hikes.

By 6:15 p.m., Sladek—an avid jogger who routinely puts in 25 miles weekly—has encouraged hikers to carpool to the trailhead and hike at their own pace, paired up or in small groups of friends or strangers.

"The important thing," he said, "is that everybody has somebody to hike with." And if somebody needs a flashlight, he may have an extra. Sorry, no dogs and no smoking. Westward on the front county, Arroyo Burro Trail may

Berkeley, and eventually landed at Delco in Goleta.

Coming down the mountain, everybody's encouraged to regroup for pizza downtown and, once a month, back to the Valle Verde senior-living community—where Sladek has lived for the past five years—for a potluck and slideshow. "I just enjoy hiking and meeting hiking people," he said. "It's just a fun thing to do."

### EAVESDROPS

"At the Energy Department, Rick Perry has struggled. Although he may aspire to malevolence, he has managed only mediocrity."

~Sierra Club Exec Director Michael Brune about the worst of Trump's environmental henchmen. Perry's coal-and-oil first attempts have been thwarted by the courts and commissions. As for the other two who are "so uniquely awful" -- Andrew Wheeler (EPA) and Ryan Zinke (Interior) -- "they are impossible to choose between them."

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

### Chapter increasing statewide reach

*Editor's note: Since being hired as our chapter's executive a few months ago, Jon Ullman has dived right into the key issues and problems throughout our region. Here's his report to the Executive Committee that includes important collaborations statewide.*

By Jon Ullman

Electric not gas in buildings concluded a UCSB panel when our Los Padres Chapter hosted the Building Electrification event at the Sustainability Summit on Oct. 11.

I moderated and helped organize the panel, which included Rachel Golden, Sierra Club's Electrification organizer/expert in Oakland; Garrett Wong, Sustainability Manager for the City of Santa Monica and Sean Armstrong, a leading designer of all-electric homes at Redwood Energy in Arcata.

The panelists presented information that fracked gas is unsafe, unsustainable and unnecessary and, through a one-time, up-front investment, can be replaced by all-electric buildings powered by the wind and sun. Panelists also debunked a gas company claim that renewable natural gas make the greenhouse gas acceptable calling it "greenwashing".

We also focused attention on the aging Goleta underground gas reservoir surrounding UCSB, the Santa Barbara Airport, natural areas and beaches and a large mobile home park. The reservoir is the cousin to Aliso Canyon, site of the largest gas leak in history.

Later, Katie Davis (SB Group Chair) and I attended the Sierra Club California meeting in San Luis Obispo where we met leaders from around the state and participated in the Energy and Climate Change committee meeting. We also attended a panel that included National

Political Director Ariel Hayes, National Board of Directors President Loren Blackford and California Director Kathryn Phillips.

Attending a Climate Justice Network meeting in Santa Maria was next in which we created priorities and coordinated our involvement in pressing climate justice issues from Oxnard to Santa Maria. The Network is a coalition of environmental and social justice groups including Sierra Club, 350.org, CAUSE, Food and Water Watch, Community Environment Council, Future Leaders of America, among others.

The goal of 100% all-electric buses by 2030 was a great victory when the Santa Barbara Metro Transit District Board voted to commit to it on Nov. 20. We (Jon and Katie) "generated more than 150 emails and secured 20 organizations to sign on to a letter endorsing the goal." Rallies also helped. Read the letter here: <https://tinyurl.com/CleanBusLetter>



# 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. Note that most of Santa Barbara County is in the new 805 overlay zone so dial 11 digits from landline phones (1-805-number). 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.

December 6  
**ROSEWOOD TRAIL - ANGEL VISTA:** Moderate 3.5 mrt with 700' elev. gain. It is a well maintained trail with lots of foliage. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead. From the 101 Fwy. take Lynn Road west past Ventu Park Road to the next left at Regal Oak Court. The trailhead is on the left near the end of Regal Oak. FONTAYNE HOLMES 1-805-300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

December 8  
**CALABASAS PEAK via SECRET TRAIL:** Moderate 6 mrt route with views of the Santa Monica Mountains and the San Fernando Valley. Bring water, food and wear appropriate clothing and sturdy lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for

**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):

<b>Los Padres National Forest Districts</b>	
Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538
<b>Other Areas</b>	
Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Conejo Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514
<b>Forest Notes</b>	
For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest's website: <a href="http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF">http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF</a>	
<b>Regional Hike Info</b>	
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:	
<a href="http://LosPadresSierraClub.org">http://LosPadresSierraClub.org</a>	
<a href="http://www.SBSierraClub.org">www.SBSierraClub.org</a>	
<a href="http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com">www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com</a>	
<a href="http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com">www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com</a>	
<a href="http://www.LPForest.org">www.LPForest.org</a>	
<a href="http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org">www.VenturaCountyTrails.org</a>	
<a href="http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com">http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com</a>	

carpooling. JOHN HOLROYD 1-805-495-6391. (CJ)

December 9  
**RATTLESNAKE TRAIL - ROCKY PINE:** Hike up Rattlesnake Trail and the Tunnel Trail Connector to an old primitive trail leading to Rocky Pine Ridge for lunch. Some rock scrambling. Strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

**HOLIDAY PARTY** with Ventura Sierra Club: Raise a (reusable) cup at a combined party with Ventura Bike HUB, our monthly meeting host location. Cookie decorating, potluck hors d'oeuvres, spiced cider and good cheer in a festive store setting. Members and their families, volunteers and donors welcome. Waste and alcohol free. Time: 4-6pm at 490 N. Ventura Ave. Ventura. Ques: [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com) (VEN)

December 10  
**CAMARILLO CALLEGUAS CREEK PATH:** This is a 4-5 mile walk on paved bike trail along the Calleguas Creek. The path winds along the east side of Camarillo and serves as a connector between the city's north and south sides providing safe passage under the 101 Freeway. Along the way, the trail passes the Village at the Park Sports Complex, Camarillo High School, and Pitts Ranch Park. Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water, and a hat. Bathrooms are available in the parking lot. Meet in the parking lot at the Pleasant Valley Fields at 9am. 150 Westpark Ct., Camarillo. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

December 13  
**LOWER NEWTON CANYON:** Moderate 5.4 hike with 750' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug soled shoes. Take N 101 Fwy. to Kanan Road, south on Kanan to Newton Canyon Parking lot just before the third tunnel. Meet at 8am. FONTAYNE HOLMES 1-805-300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND DIGITAL PHOTO SHOW:** The Cameron Center will be the site of our potluck and photo show, 288 Greenmeadow Drive, Thousand Oaks at 7pm. Bring your favorite digital photos or prints to share. Digital photos must be submitted at least 10 days prior to potluck to: [ConejoGroup@gmail.com](mailto:ConejoGroup@gmail.com)

**Meetups & Ongoing Outings**

**Santa Barbara**

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

Bring your most tempting dish and favorite drink for a Holiday Celebration. HUGH WARREN 805-341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 805-492-3061. (CJ)

December 15  
**GAVIOTA EAST:** A hike from the former site of Gaviota Village to an overlook above the Gaviota tunnels. This is an easy to moderate 3.5 mrt hike with 450 ft elevation gain. We will be hiking in a little visited part of Gaviota State Park, East of US101 on the ocean side of the mountains



The 'Skunkworks' in 1969 where Yvon Chouinard (S on shirt) ended up making game-changing climbing equipment. It still exists and still being used next to the more modern but still game-changing Great Pacific Ironworks Patagonia store and offices in Ventura. See Sierra Club's ultimate tribute to Chouinard on back page. (Photo © by Tom Scott)

(Gaviota Coast). Most of the hike is on a little used dirt service road but includes a small section of original pavement of historic Hwy 1. Bring a light lunch and water. 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 me ([gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)) for instructions. GERRY 1-805-964-5411 (SB)

**TOPA TOPA BLUFFS Annual Christmas Potluck:** Strenuous 16 mrt hike with 4,487 ft. of elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluffs (elev. 6,300 ft). Fun, revelry and scenic views of the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands. Light snow is possible. Please bring 10 essentials and food or drink to share with the group. Meet at 7:30am at the new gate on Sisar Canyon Rd. that is below the old parking area. Dog friends welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: STEPHEN BRYNE 805 794-1150. (VEN)

December 17  
**LOS ROBLES/Los Padres Loop**

Trail: Start time is 9am from the trailhead, which is at the end of Greenmeadow, not Moorpark Rd. There is a bathroom and water there. This is a moderate 5 mile loop with app. a 700 ft. gradual elevation gain. The trail starts and ends in partial shade, but the rest is exposed. Our route will take us through a small part of the extensive COSCA trail system which, with the city of Thousand Oaks and Thousand Oaks Park is responsible for building and maintaining miles of public hiking and biking trails in the area. There

will be views of Newbury Park and Thousand Oaks and enjoyable strolls through the oaks. Hiking shoes, hat and water are required. Snacks optional. Meet in the parking lot at the trailhead near the bathroom. 307 Greenmeadow Ave. 91361. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

December 20  
**EMMA WOODS AFTERNOON HIKE:** 1:30pm - 3:30pm, meet at the Mission Plaza Parking Lot 115 W. Main Ventura (Main Street side in the Vons parking lot); [https://www.google.com/maps/place/34°16'53.1"N+119°18'09.7"W](https://www.google.com/maps/place/34°16'53.1) If you were busy with errands and missed your hike, join us on this easy, dog-friendly hike! Starting at the parking lot, we'll walk to the Ventura Bike path and through Emma Woods via the River trail to the beach. A soothing walk along the coast brings us back to the bike path. This 4 mile hike will be walked on a mix of pavement, dirt trail and sand. Please bring water and sunscreen and wear comfortable walking shoes. Hiking poles are useful for some. Dogs must be on a leash. Open to non-members but everyone will be required to sign a Sierra Club waiver at the outset. Contact JUDITH Laurentowski 1-805-509-2026, [j.laurentowski@gmail.com](mailto:j.laurentowski@gmail.com) (VEN)

**OLD CABIN SITE:** Moderate 6 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Bring, water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Take 101 Fwy. to Lynn Road west to left turn at Wendy Drive to Potrero Road. Park and meet at 8am in the dirt lot next to the trailhead on Potrero. FONTAYNE HOLMES 1-805-300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

December 24  
**VENTURA HARBOR AND SETTLING PONDS** Meet at 9am in the parking lot along Harbor Blvd. just south of Spinnaker. From there

we will walk through the Christmas decorated Harbor Village and harbor to the Channel Island National Park center, turn around and follow the road back to the settling ponds for a short walk around. That will bring us almost to our cars at 11:30am. This will be a 4 mile flat loop on pavement and dirt. Hopefully, we will be able to see some wildlife at the ponds! Prepare for sun and bring water. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

December 29  
**RATTLESNAKE to FLORES PEAK:** Hike up Rattlesnake canyon to Gibraltar Road. We will follow the road to a steep, primitive trail and scramble up 700 feet to Flores peak. We'll have a short break at the top for lunch. Strenuous 8 mrt. There is some rock scrambling and exposure involved so must be comfortable with heights and ledges. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. KRISTI email: [sbhikergirl@cox.net](mailto:sbhikergirl@cox.net) (SB)

**SIGNAL to Firebreak Rd to Valley View Loop 8 - 12am** This hike is a 1174 ft gain, 6.2 mile moderately trafficked loop trail located near Ojai that features beautiful wild flowers and is rated as Moderate. The Trail offers a number of activity options and is accessible year around. Dogs are also welcome but must be animal friendly, trail trained, and on a leash. Directions: From hwy 150 in Ojai, go north on Signal St to the National park sign. You can park on Signal (preferred) or you can turn left at the sign and park in the parking lot. Please bring a medium to light removable layer for changing temperatures. Carry at least 2 liters of water and please bring a light but high caloric snack. Anything brought on the trail will be packed out. Start/End - 34.45995, -119.24587 For more info, contact VICTORIA at [victoria.a.perez@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.a.perez@gmail.com). (VEN)

December 31  
**LAKE CASITAS WALKABOUT:** Meet 9am, park outside the lake/campground entrance gate or along the road. 11093 Santa Ana Rd. Carpooling recommended. We'll walk in through the gate and either go left to the point, or if the path is muddy, right and walk on the road. Either way, it's about a 6 mile out and back. Wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat. Bring water and cash, if you want to stop in the store for a popsicle. We should be back to our cars about 11:30am. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

January 4  
**HILL CANYON AFTERNOON HIKE:** 1:30pm - 3:30pm, (Hill Canyon parking lot off Santa Rosa Road) [https://www.google.com/maps/place/34°13'35.6"N+118°5'48.5"W](https://www.google.com/maps/place/34°13'35.6) Too much to do in the morning? No time to walk the dog? Join us in the afternoon to walk about 4 miles, out and back on the Hill Canyon Trail. This easy, dog-friendly walk starts by crossing the Conejo Canyon Bridge and goes past the stream and through wooded Hawk Canyon to the intersection with the Western Plateau trail where we will turn around. Please bring water and sunscreen and wear comfortable walking shoes. Hiking poles are useful for some. Dogs must be on a leash. Open to non-members but

*continued next page*

**Outings...from page 6**

everyone will be required to sign a Sierra Club waiver at the outset. Contact JUDITH Laurentowski 1-805-509-2026, [j.laurentowski@gmail.com](mailto:j.laurentowski@gmail.com) (VEN)

January 5

**POTRERO JOHN:** Trail follows a beautiful canyon up Potrero John Creek, crossing it several times, winding through pine trees, climbing to a waterfall. 6 miles round trip, 1272 ft gain. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, and layers. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at Ventura carpool. TERESA 1-805-746-6030 (VEN)

January 6

**GIBRALTAR ROCK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL:** Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderately Strenuous 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 / [event@swt.org](mailto:event@swt.org) (SB)

**PIEDRA BLANCA TRAIL TO PIEDRA BLANCA CAMP:** Take Hwy. 33 to Rose Valley turnoff. Trail head at Lion Campground at the end of the parking lot. Carpoolers meet at Von's parking lot, Ventura; Harbor Blvd. entrance at 9am. Hike starts at 10am. 5 mrt/600' elevation gain. Bring 10 essentials, food/water, warm gear. Rain forecast on Friday, high water in Sespe Creek, or 85 degrees cancels. KIM 805-983-2147 (VEN)

January 7

**SISAR CANYON:** This is a beautiful canyon in Upper Ojai that can get you into the Los Padres backcountry, but today we are going to do a short hike up the fire road to one of the many overlooks of Ojai Valley. We'll

## Give gift of Island trip

One of the greatest gifts you can give is a memorable experience. And even better when it is with good company and proceeds stay local.

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Signups taken on our meetup site ONLY. Trip will sell out so please get your reservation soon!

See all details and instructions at:

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

park on the right side of the market parking (corner of Hwy 150/Sisar Cyn. Rd) then walk up the paved road (first mile) to the turnoff for Sisar Canyon. Then we will continue about two more miles to where the fire road almost twists back on itself. This is the overlook and offers a beautiful view of the Ojai valley. The hike is about 6 miles out and back. It's a gradual but constant uphill to



Our Wilderness Basics Course takes you to unique areas in our backcountry, such as the historic Dabney Cabin shown here, a 7-mile hike with rustic campsites. WBC enrollment is now open and begins Feb 6. Early bird prices are good until Jan. 16; see flyer on pg 5 for details. (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)

the overlook but is in the shade along the creek. Depending on the weather, the 2 creek crossings may have water. Meet at 9am and plan on finishing about 12 noon. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

January 12

**NORTH FORK MATILJA TRAIL 23W07:** 8am - 12am: This is a 6.2-mile 593 ft. gain moderately trafficked out and back. Features a waterfall. Dogs and horses are allowed on the trail. Please make sure your dog is on a leash and animal friendly. Directions: Southern access point is the same trailhead as the Murrieta Trail 24W07. Leading off to the right after the second stream crossing, the trail enters the wilderness and follows the year-round creek. From the gate 1.48 miles is Matilija camp. Please bring a medium to light removable layer for changing temperatures. Carry at least 2 liters of water and please bring a light but high caloric snack. Anything brought on the trail will be packed out. Start/End - 34.50527, -119.37476. For more info, contact VICTORIA at [victoria.a.perez@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.a.perez@gmail.com). (VEN)

January 13

**DIVIDE PEAK:** Very strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss from Matilija trailhead to Divide Peak. Experienced hikers only. Great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, all 8 Channel Islands are visible. Wear lug-soled shoes, bring at least 3 liters of water, lunch, and snacks. The weather can vary greatly during the course of the hike, so bring layers accordingly. For those coming from Santa Barbara meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 7:30am (note early start time) to arrange carpool to trailhead. For those in Ventura meet 8am at Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 1-805-479-7063/1-805-644-6934 (SB)

January 14

**VENTURA URBAN WALK:** We'll walk up the stairs from the Mission to the cross, over to Kalorama and follow it down to the pier. From there it's to the fairgrounds via the beach, up the bike path, and back to our cars. It's a 5-mile easy loop, with some elevation up the stairs. Weather permitting, we should get some beautiful ocean views. The route is on pavement, unless we walk to the end of the pier, so good walking shoes are recommended. Wear a hat and sunscreen. Bring water, there are restroom stops along the way. Meet at 9am in the Vons parking lot at the corner of Ventura Ave. and Main St. We should return to the cars about 11:30am. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 (VEN)

January 19

**BUENA VISTA LOOKOUT VIA ROMERO CYN:** This short but steep moderate hike will take us to one of

the scenic lookouts on the Buena Vista - Edison Catway. We'll start at the Romero Cyn trailhead, hike up the steep fire road to the lookout. After pausing for the scenic view, we'll return via the Romero Canyon Connector and the main canyon trail. 3.5mrt, 800 ft elevation gain. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from south of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me ([gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)) for instructions. GERRY 1-805-964-5411 (SB)

**PRATT-FOOTHILL-LUCI'S LOOP:** Explore part of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Valley View Preserve one year after the Thomas fire. Clockwise from Pratt Trail, ascend to Foothill Trail, descend on Luci's Trail and back via Shelf Road and surface streets. Distance approx. 3.5 mi, elevation gain approx. 1000'. Meet at 8am Pratt Trailhead (34.460218, -119.250224). Bring water, good footwear only please. More than light rain cancels. NINA [prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com](mailto:prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com), (VEN)

January 20

**MISSION RIDGE:** Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 / [event@swt.org](mailto:event@swt.org) (SB)

January 21

**GRIDLEY/PRATT LOOP or SHELF RD:** For this hike, there will be 2 options. Those of you who wish to do the entire 6-7-mile, 1300 ft. elevation gain loop can join me. Those who would like a flatter slower trail will follow Judith Laurentowski to the end of Shelf Rd. and back, about 4.75 miles. Both groups will begin the hikes together from the Shelf Rd. trailhead and walk to the end of Shelf Rd. at Gridley. Here my group will go left and continue up the canyon to Fuel Break Trail and follow it to Foothill/Pratt and down to the original trail head and our cars. Hike begins at 9am. Parking at the trailhead is limited. So let's consolidate cars at the Rotary Community Park n ride in Ojai at 8:45am. It's on your right soon after turning onto HWY 150 from HWY 33. For more info, contact MAUREEN 805-657-8735. (VEN)

January 28

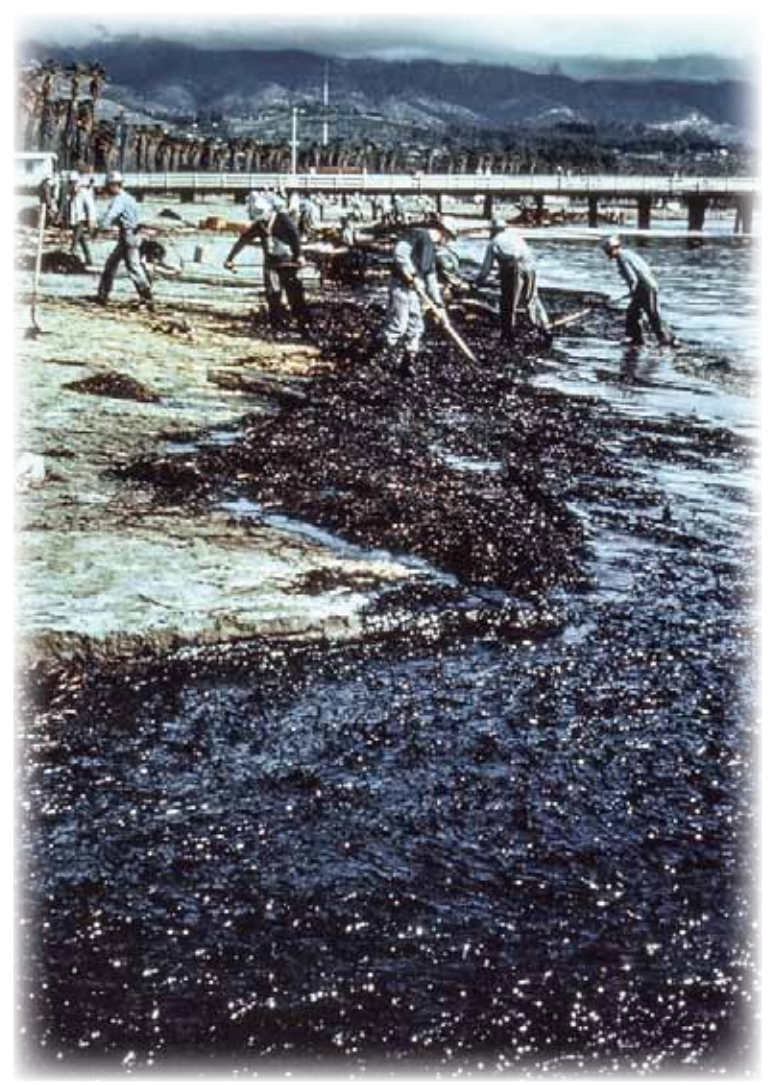
**CARPINTERIA BEACH/BLUFF WALK:** The seal rookery will be closed this time of year, so it matters not about the tide this time. Low tide is at 10:50am so we will still have lots of beach to explore. Meet in the Bates Beach parking lot near the restrooms for a 9am start. This is an easy 6 mile walk with a short rock climb up and a short sandy descent. Plenty of bathrooms are along the way. Dogs are not allowed on the State Beach. Check the weather and dress accordingly. As always, bring water, hat and sunscreen. For more info, contact MAUREEN 805-657-8735 (VEN)

February 6

**LOS PADRES CHAPTER Wilderness Basics Course:** 8 weeks, Learn to Backpack class starts Feb. 6, but fills up early. Registration opened Nov. 15. Pre-registration essential at:

<http://bit.ly/LPWBC19>  
[lospadreswbc@gmail.com](mailto:lospadreswbc@gmail.com)

# It's been 50 years, we're changing gears



The 1969 oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel did fuel the environmental movement, although Rachel Carson ("Silent Spring") came before as did Thoreau and John Muir. Worse has happened since (BP in the Gulf etc.). In response, Sierra Club members were among those who helped create and collaborate with local groups. Journalist Bob Sollen, an active Sierra Club member in Santa Barbara, wrote the book on it in 1998: "An Ocean of Oil - A Century of Political Struggle over Petroleum off the California Coast." History repeats, but the club is still right there in the thick of the resistance. Join us.

## EAVESDROPS

"I am amazed at the publicity for the loss of a few birds."

~ Union Oil president Fred Hartley's infamous comment after the Platform A oil blowout on Jan. 29, 1969, then the largest blowout in U.S. history. It spilled three million gallons of oil into 800 square miles of ocean, killing more than 3,600 seabirds and countless marine mammals and fish. Read the history at:

[www.tinyurl.com/OilspillSB1969](http://www.tinyurl.com/OilspillSB1969)

# Onshore oil spills too

*Editor's note: A more detailed account of this threat and links to comment are at:*

<https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org/blog>

**By Jon Ullman**

Recently, 65 residents gathered in a rural elementary school auditorium just a few football fields away from a massive oil project proposed on top of Santa Maria's water supply.

Residents learned about three Kern County oil companies' plans to triple production in Santa Barbara County during the October event. The 760 new wells proposed in Northern Santa Barbara County, as close as 1,900 feet from Benjamin Foxen Elementary in Sisquoc, would threaten groundwater and cause air pollution and noise.

Speakers from four local non-profit health and environmental groups detailed those threats.

"This could essentially turn into one of the largest oil fields in California," said Katie Davis, Santa Barbara Group chair. "Are we going to be Kern County here or maintain the rural character of this area?"

Companies are seeking permission to heat water to 500 degrees and inject high pressure steam into the ground to loosen up heavy oil.

These "enhanced oil recovery wells" require a vast amount of energy and water. Heating the steam will use more gas than all of Santa Barbara County's homes, Davis said.

Each of the three companies will need from 7 to 8 million gallons of fresh water said Alicia Roessler, Staff Attorney for the Environmental Defense Center. Roessler said the project would be among the top 10 percent of carbon-intensive oil projects in the world due to the energy-intensive thermal extraction methods used to drill for the heavy Cat Canyon oil.

"If we don't advocate for our own water and own health, nobody else is going to," said Rebecca August, President of Safe Energy Now, an organization supporting fossil-free energy in Northern Santa Barbara County. She is also Chair of the Arguello Group.

Other impacts include destruction of native habitat, including hundreds of mature oak trees.

Santa Barbara County is expected to decide on the first application from bankrupt ERG Energy this winter. The draft EIR for Aera Energy, may be released before the end of the year, followed by PetroRock this Spring.

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## Chouinard deserves coveted John Muir award

By John Hankins

The Sierra Club's most coveted accolade, the John Muir Award, was given to Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard of Ventura this year.

A climber who took part in Yosemite's golden age of big wall climbing ("Wall Rats"), Chouinard as a teen started forging pitons and selling them out of his trunk. That led to founding the Chouinard Equipment Company and later Black Diamond, which furthered the "clean climbing" movement to partly replace pitons with equipment that had less damage to rock (cams, nuts, chocks etc.).

It is said that Chouinard was partly inspired by the writings of John Muir for developing his environmental ethic, which has stood for over 125 years to *Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet*.

He went on to create Patagonia in the 1970s; embracing sustainability and

responsible practices and inspiring other companies to contribute at least one percent to local eco-groups. His wife Malinda, who he met while climbing, was a key part of his success as she is to this day.

"Patagonia's business model is truly inspiring," said Sierra Club President Loren Blackford. "It is a blueprint for other businesses, large and small, to follow." Blackford also noted that Chouinard has been a leader in opposing the Trump Administration's anti-environmental efforts.

That's for sure. This year he challenged the Trump Administration due to the White House tenant ordering "the largest elimination of protected land in American history," when Interior slashed public lands in Utah.

"I'm not going to sit back and let evil win," he said famously under the headline posted on Patagonia's website: "The President Stole Your Land." Patagonia filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration's actions, and it countered with a petty response: "Patagonia: Don't Buy It", using the federal 'bully pulpit' and taxpayer funds to boycott a private company.

Instead, sales multiplied.

Then, when Patagonia received a \$10 million windfall due to Trump's "irresponsible tax cut" the company announced the whole amount would instead be turned over to grassroots groups fighting for the environment. Patagonia

also started fundraising efforts to help the groups even more. For info go to:

[www.Patagonia.com](http://www.Patagonia.com)

Here is the club's tribute to Ventura's most famous resident:

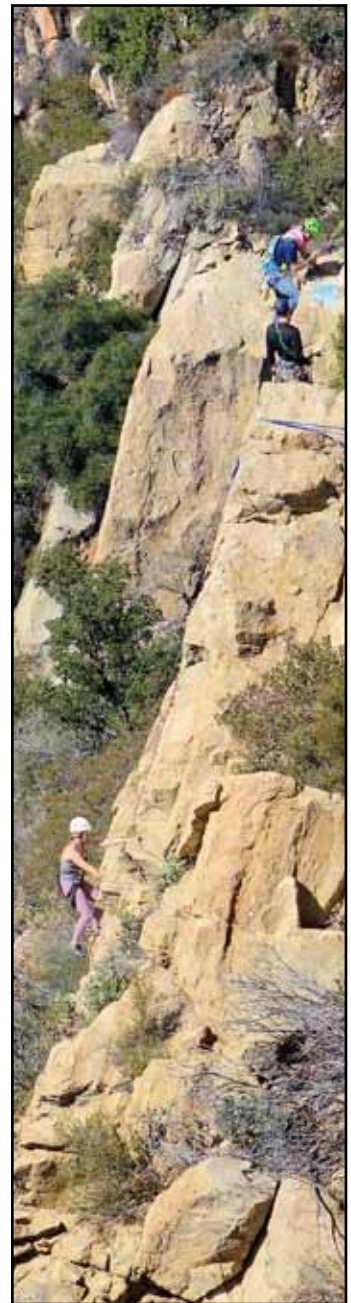
*"The club's top award, the John Muir Award, went to Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard."*

*"A rock climber who built a leading outdoor apparel company, Chouinard as a teenager started to make gear to meet the needs of his friends to climb in a clean, minimalist, self-reliant style partly inspired by the writings of John Muir. In the 1970s, Chouinard launched Patagonia, a clothing company for whom sustainability and responsible practices are core to the business. It has given more than \$89 million to grassroots environmental organizations and has encouraged other companies to contribute at least one percent of their annual sales to environmental causes as well."*

*"More recently, Chouinard and his team at Patagonia have started a venture capital fund called Tin Shed Ventures, which invests in start-ups that offer solutions to environmental problems, as well as Patagonia Action Works, a new platform to connect customers with nonprofit environmental groups to take meaningful action to protect our planet."*

For a full list of the 2018 awards, go to:

[www.sierraclub.org/awards](http://www.sierraclub.org/awards)



Gibraltar Rock overlooking our coast is used by hundreds every year, but clean climbing equipment helps retain its face. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)



Yvon Chouinard, during launch of Patagonia's Unbroken Ground campaign in 2016 in Ventura. (Photo by Condor John)