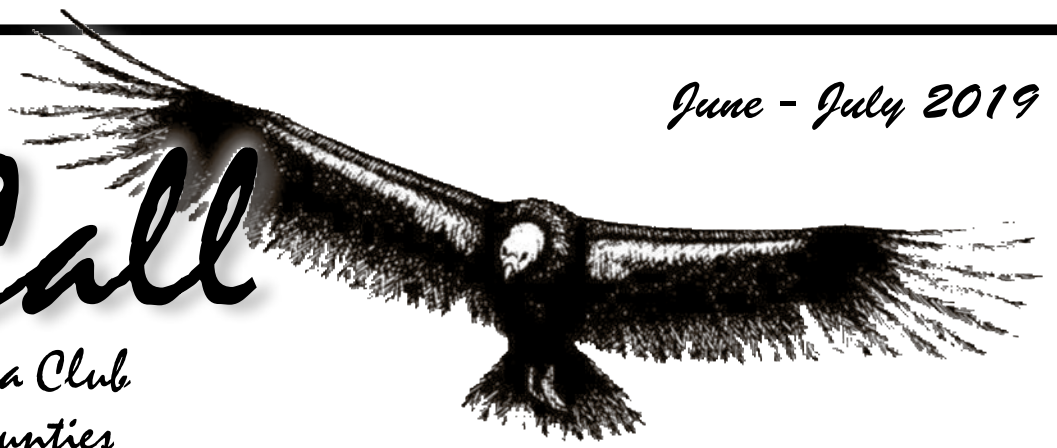


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June - July 2019

Condor Call

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



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Condor Call

June - July 2019

TOWN HALL

Green New Deal resonates

by Liz Lamar

It was a packed house in the Topping Room of the E.P. Foster Library on a rainy Sunday afternoon. People hung on to every word uttered by the panelists who discussed the merits of the Green New Deal.

The Sierra Club collaborated with the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led organization called to bring "town halls" like this one throughout the country to build momentum for the resolution. People are hungry for bold climate action and the Green New Deal provides avenues for change. With a focus on achieving climate and social justice, the Green New Deal is an opportunity for a better future.

As Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said, "A Green New Deal can create millions of family-sustaining union jobs upgrading our infrastructure, making our communities more resilient to the climate crisis, retrofitting and weatherizing our buildings, restoring our ecosystems, and moving our country to a 100% clean, renewable energy economy."

Adam Vega of California for Pesticide Reform spoke about the role of small scale, organic farming for a healthier ecology and encouraged residents to push for bans on pesticides in which harm people and planet.



Adam Vega spoke about pesticide reform and organic farming. (Photo by Elaine Fragos)

Oxnard Mayor Pro-Tem Carmen Ramirez spoke about how collective action can generate better environmental policy for communities. Daniel Berchenko of Sunrise Movement Central asked us to contemplate what it would mean for the planet if Trump was reelected in 2020 and compelled us to make sure climate change is centered in the upcoming presidential debates.

RL Miller of Climate Hawks Vote urged the audience keep up the pressure our members of congress to support the Green New Deal.

If you would like to advocate for the climate, join the Green New Deal working group! Contact Liz Lamar for details:

elisabethlamar@hotmail.com

Read the Green New Deal proposed legislation here:

<https://tinyurl.com/GNDtext>



ESA threat

May 17 was Endangered Species Day, which is just a date to remind people animals cannot speak for themselves.

This year, it came on the heels of a United Nations Biodiversity report that asserts extinction rates are accelerating at unprecedented levels. Meanwhile, the Trump Administration is doing all it can to devolve the Endangered Species Act while the club and others are fighting them in the courts.

The Sierra Club is part of the Endangered Species Coalition where you can find more information and educational materials at:

www.Endangered.org

Support the club's work locally and nationally by joining, donating or volunteering. One of our methods is to 'adopt' a wild animal. Go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/AdoptAnimal>

As for local action on injured animals, there is a wildlife helpline (805) 681-1080) and help via the Wildlife Care Network for the region at:

www.sbwcn.org

EAVESDROPS

"If you have put a windmill in your yard or some solar panels on your roof, bless your heart. But we will only green the world when we change the very nature of the electricity grid - moving it away from dirty coal or oil to clean coal and renewables. And that is a huge industrial project ... like the New Deal ... it has the potential to create a whole new clean power industry to spur our economy into the 21st century."

~ An early (2007) use of the phrase "Green New Deal" by journalist Thomas Friedman in *The New York Times*. Here's the full text of the 2019 proposed bill:

<https://tinyurl.com/GNDtext>

COVER PHOTO

A solitary Giant Lupine stands over the southern end of the Carrizo Plains National Monument, hinting at wildflower blooms. Submit your 'wow' photos like this, see page 5. Photo by Dan Holmes, who's conducting the contest for Ventura Land Trust: www.DanHolmesPhoto.com



At EDC's TGIF, Chapter Chair Katie Davis gave a rousing speech about solutions, while Exec Director Jon Ullman held a sign promising a break from political pap by taking you on a trip to three of the Channel Islands...see page 5 for details. (Photo by Jim Taylor)

We have solutions

The Sierra Club's motto of: Explore, Enjoy and Protect the planet "is needed now more than ever," said our Los Padres Chapter Chair Katie Davis to an enthusiastic gathering at the Environmental Defense Center. The occasion on May 10 was at its famed TGIF mixer, which the chapter co-sponsored that evening.

She started out with questions on how many species are at risk of extinction? One million! According to a recent UN report and the audience reacted. "The good news is - we know the problem and how to solve it," she said and ticked off the good and bad news.

Solution #1 is protected areas. Many hands when up when asked who has been to the Channel Islands and she used this local success story to assert there is "scientific proof that protected areas work." Next to her was our Exec Director Jon Ullman, carrying a sign and ticket opportunities for anyone to go to the islands on a 3-day, 3-island hopping adventure. That would be July 20-23; contact for that trip is:

camille.m.collett@gmail.com

Solution #2 is political with

climate change as the top priority of Democratic primary voters, she noted. "The 2020 election is the most important in the history of the planet."

Solution #3 is to stop burning fossil fuels in transportation and buildings. "The good news is that we can do that," citing over a hundred cities that have committed to 100% clean energy, notably city of Santa Barbara and Ventura County joining others from Hawaii to Puerto Rico.

"Electrify everything," she said noting that its cleaner and cheaper. Already SB County voted to electrify its fleet and the Puente gas fired plant in Oxnard was rejected with SCE now proposing a 195 MW battery storage facility instead.

Solution #4: Stop building new fossil fuel infrastructure, such as fighting against the Trump Administration's push to open on- and -offshore sites for new drilling, and locally stopping over 700 wells at Cat Canyon, not allowing Exxon to truck its oil and stopping Ventura County fracking.

"This is the fight of our lives. Let's go win it!" she exclaimed to applause and cheers.

And you can help!

By Emily Engel

Massive oil expansions in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are a broad threat to protect natural habitats, biodiversity, essential natural resources and future generations on the Central Coast. Together we can make a difference, but this critical work needs your help.

For years, the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, Environmental Defense Center and SBCAN, have been working with a broad coalition of environmental and community groups to oppose the oil expansions and foster renewable energy sources instead.

Currently our chapter is engaged in campaigns that:

~ Challenge oil expansion and transportation that pose critical threats to our communities and environment,

~ Support a community-driven, renewable energy economy in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties,

~ Partner with environmental justice organizations to improve urban air quality and issues of inequity,

~ Educate the public about our unique natural areas through public events and free outings (see pages 6&7),

~ Hold local, state and federal agencies accountable for their duty to protect the environment and climate.

This critical work needs your help. Your contribution will help us continue to build on previous victories and ensure future success.

Visit our website to make a contribution, sign up for a hike or to learn more about how you can participate at:

www.lospadres2.sierraclub.org

Or go directly to the donation page:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Or mail your contribution to Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130.

Thank you, your generosity is a key to continued success!

EAVESDROPS

"Exxon's inadequate response to climate change constitutes a serious failure of corporate governance."

~ No, that's not a quote from an eco-group, it's from a group of Exxon's own shareholders filing a proxy fight against all the firm's directors at its May 29 annual meeting. The group has been after Exxon to respond since 2005, hence the challenge.



ExxonMobil's plan to resume offshore drilling by using up to 70 trucks per day to transport the oil was met by resistance outside the SB County Administration Building on May 4. No decision yet until Planning Commission gets it in the fall. (Photo by Gabriel Vargas)



Our children are an important part of the resistance against pollution and for climate change solutions. Here are two of them taking part in the May 4 rally against ExxonMobil using its trucks to transport its offshore oil. (Photo by Gabriel Vargas)

WE'RE TRYING, KIDS

Energy success, setbacks & sighs

By Katie Davis

BATTERY SUPPORT

When Sierra Club and our allies first started fighting the proposal to build a fourth power plant on the Oxnard beach, chances of success seemed slim.



SCE announced plans to build the Puente gas-power plant in Oxnard and refurbish the old and polluting Ellwood peaker in Goleta. The community and environmental advocates demanded that they consider renewable energy instead. Regulators eventually agreed, and Puente became the first gas plant to be denied in the state of California.

In April SCE announced plans

for 195 MW of battery storage projects in Oxnard, Carpinteria and Goleta that will save ratepayers the hundreds of millions of dollars it would cost to build new power plants, reduce pollution and begin our transition to 100% renewable energy.

FELON FOLLY

Sitting through the all-day Plains Pipeline sentencing hearing on April 25, just before Earth Day weekend, was a disheartening lesson in the difficulty of holding oil companies like Plains accountable for even the most egregious criminal acts.

Convicted by a jury of felony criminal negligence in causing the 2015 Refugio oil spill, the judge fined Plains only \$3.3 million dollars, far less than the \$1.2 billion that the prosecutors wanted. The judge

claimed the fine was the max allowed by law and acknowledged that it was insufficient to deter future criminal conduct (Plains revenue is nearly a billion dollars a week).

Calling it a “loophole in the law,” the judge also claimed he couldn’t impose probation or other conditions requiring safer operations because he can’t send a corporation to jail and so has no enforcement mechanism. Meanwhile, Plains Pipeline has applied to build a new pipeline through Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern county.

TRUCKING EXXON

Protestors rallied in front of the Santa Barbara County Building on May 6 against ExxonMobil’s application to truck crude oil 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – up to 70 trucks a day – along coastal highways through Santa Barbara County, a dangerous proposition. If Exxon gets its way, it would be able to re-start its three offshore oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel, all of which

Frack your comment here

Over 150 activists rallied to protest the Trump Administration’s draft plan to open more than a million acres of Central California public lands to oil drilling and fracking, including more than 110,000 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Our Sierra Club Chapter was there in force, helping many other groups show opposition with signs and chants at Santa Barbara City College where the Bureau of Land Management’s held a public hearing as part of its 45-day public comment period lasting until June 10. The National Environmental Policy Act requires the BLM to accept written comments only, so here’s where you can do just that: <https://tinyurl.com/FrackComment>

If the new draft plan is approved, it would end the existing moratorium, allowing the BLM to lease California federal public land to oil companies in Santa Barbara, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Ventura counties.

Representatives of local politicians were there to speak out against the plan, notably Salud Carbajal, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Monique Limón and SB County Supervisor Joan Hartmann.

have been shut down since the 2015 Plains Pipeline oil spill.

We shouldn’t have to choose between coastal oil pipelines and oil tanker trucks; both imperil marine wildlife, coastal communities and climate. This project will come up for a decision by the SB County Planning Commission in the fall. The Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara are already on record in opposition.

VENTURA BAN

Ventura County temporarily outlawed new cyclic steam oil wells after scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey reported they had found petroleum-related gases in wells supplying irrigation water on the Oxnard Plain. The Fox Canyon Aquifer provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Ventura County residents and irrigation water for thousands of acres of prime farmland. Supervisors will decide in June whether to extend the moratorium for a full year.

CIRCULAR LOGIC

After contentious discussions in May about greenhouse gas emissions and water contamination related to ERG’s proposal to expand cyclic steam oil production in Cat Canyon, near Santa Maria, the SB County Planning Commission allowed a continuance to Aug. 14.

This is one of three projects totaling 760 wells, which would triple onshore oil production in the county. Meanwhile, the oil companies’ application for an “aquifer exemption,” which would exempt certain groundwater basins covering 30 square miles of Cat Canyon from the Clean Drinking Water Act, is being processed by state regulators and the EPA, with a hearing in Santa Maria held on June 5.

Get this circular logic: They can grant the exemption if they determine the water is too contaminated to use as drinking water, but the companies have been making illegal injections of contaminated wastewater into these same aquifers for years.

OILGARCHY

Hundreds showed up at hearings May 21-23 in Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara on the Trump administration plans to open up public lands for oil leasing and their faux review of the risks of fracking.

This comes the same month as the Interior Department finalized its rule rolling back regulations on blowout prevention that the Obama administration had spent six years putting into place after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the largest marine spill in history. Both are part of the larger policy of outrageous deregulation and land grabs taking place under this administration.

Blame Trump’s Interior Chief David Bernhardt, a former oil and gas lobbyist, and his Chief of the EPA Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist. Top that off with former Greka oil lobbyist (which accrued a record 1,700 environmental violations in SB County) Mike Stoker, specifically overseeing our western region 9! We already know him as a former Santa Barbara County Supervisor who gutted the APCD and perennial loser running for Congress, State Senate and Assembly.

EAVESDROPS

“Had Plains properly maintained the pipeline, had Plains responded to the change in pressure in the line immediately, and had Plains reported the spill in a timely manner, the damage could have been completely avoided or at least vastly decreased.”

~ Environmental Defense Center attorney Linda Krop testifying in SB Superior Court that the company “must be held fully accountable” for spilling oil along 150 miles of coast and ocean areas during that 2015 Pipeline break near Refugio State Beach.



4-H is Head Heart Hands Health, but 3-H is so different. It’s the three offshore oil platforms that many believe should be shut down permanently, notably our Chapter Exec Director Jon Ullman holding the sign. (Photo by Gabriel Vargas)

Ships brake for whales

Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are providing money as an incentive for ships to reduce speeds while going through the Santa Barbara Channel, reducing air pollution and the risk of hitting migrating whales.

The Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) program was started in 2014 by local Air Pollution Control District agencies and protection groups like the Environmental Defense Center, based on similar programs from ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Because of its success, it will continue this year. To date there has been a lack of formal action from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

however, NOAA sanctuaries are part of the VSR voluntary program requesting that ships over 300 gross tons slow to 10 knots during the peak whale feeding season.

There is now Senate Bill 69 navigating the legislature which asks the state Air Resources Board to develop a similar voluntary program, which the Sierra Club supports.

Kristen Hislop of EDC noted “recent increase in observed ship-strike related whale fatalities along the California coast,” while the local APCDs noted “very cost-effective emission reductions” due to the program, which has enlisted over a dozen shipping companies willing to comply.

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



Here's a local example of some attempt to ensure rainfall is recharged into the ground via some green flood control measures on the north bank of the Santa Clara River. (Photo contributed)

Groundwater pollution is critical

By Jon Ullman

California groundwater is critically important to our survival. It accounts for up to half of our water supply. You'd think our state would do everything in its power to keep that resource pristine.

In Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, agricultural industry's pesticides and fertilizers and the oil and gas industry's products and wastes are starting to pile up. The signs that we are not protecting our groundwater are blazing through

the headlines.

~ A [New York Times story](#) on the cause of the 2015 Aliso Canyon gas rupture printed recently:

In a 258-page report, investigators said that groundwater had corroded the metal lining of a more-than-50-year-old underground well, leading to its rupture at 892 feet below ground. The report also said that SoCalGas, the company that owns and operates the natural gas well, did not meaningfully investigate or analyze more than 60 previous leaks at the complex.

~ The [Ventura County Star reports](#) estimated 1,200 residents in El Rio told to stop using tap water after high levels of nitrates are found.

"An estimated 1,200 El Rio residents were cleared Friday to start consuming their tap water again after nitrate contamination in their small, private water provider led to a state prohibition for much of the week."

~ And [Ventura County imposed a 45-day moratorium](#) on new steam injection oil wells after the U.S. Geological Survey reported evidence of groundwater contamination from oil operations in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Kern counties.

(Ventura County Supervisor) Steve Bennett said recently that he was calling for the moratorium partly because Peak Oil is proposing to drill 79 wells that would operate with steam injection into tar sands beneath the Fox Canyon Aquifer... "We can't take a chance with our water supply," said Kari Aist, a Ventura woman who said she is concerned about climate change and public health issues.

~ Finally, [we are fighting the Trump Administration's efforts](#) to frack and drill on public lands – lands that are preserving our watersheds, groundwater and our above-ground stored water reserves.

Some 150 environmental activists rallied Thursday, May 23, with signs and chants at Santa Barbara City College to protest the Trump Administration's draft plan to open more than a million acres of Central California public land and mineral estate, including more than 110,000 acres in S.B. County, to oil drilling and fracking.

From the Santa Maria Groundwater basin to the Fox Canyon aquifer, the protection of our groundwater is non-negotiable. Los Padres Sierra Club and its four groups will be fighting hard this year. Come join our team of activists.

To get involved, send an email to:

jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

Heritage Act worthy of Congress approval

The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act has been reintroduced to designate nearly 250,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness. The legislation also establishes a 400-mile long Condor National Recreation trail, stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County.

When formally announced on April 10, it carried the support of a wide range of stakeholders, including the local chapters of the Sierra Club, Central Coast Wild Heritage Coalition, Los Padres ForestWatch, CalWild, Wilderness Society, Keep Sespe Wild, Condor Trail Association, and Vets Voice Foundation, among others. The wilderness designation is the highest form of protection the government can give to a public land. It prohibits roads, vehicles or permanent structures, as well as logging and mining.

"With this (Trump) Administration taking action to open up public lands and national monuments to oil and gas drilling, it is more important than ever that we act to permanently protect our open spaces that provide invaluable local watersheds and recreational outdoor activities that we enjoy on the Central Coast," said Rep. Carbajal, coauthor of the bill (HR 2199).

"California is home to some of the nation's most scenic wild spaces

and boasts the nation's largest outdoor economy," said Senator Kamala Harris, coauthor of the bill. That's why I am proud to partner with Rep. Carbajal to provide comprehensive protections for the Central Coast and establish the 400-mile-long Condor National Recreation trail."

Representatives Julia Brownley (CA-26), Katie Hill (CA-25) and Jimmy Panetta (CA-20), who also represent portions of the Los Padres National Forest, co-sponsored this legislation in the House.

"We are so fortunate to be surrounded by gorgeous public spaces, including the Los Padres National Forest," said Rep. Brownley.

"The Act will strengthen environmental protections in this region and preserve this important part of our natural heritage for future generations to enjoy."

Los Padres Chapter Vice-Chair Jim Hines said, "I will be working with our Sierra Club National Public Lands office in DC to get this bill passed by congress and onto the President to be signed into law."

The bill is supported by nearly 500 Central Coast landowners, businesses, elected officials, farmers, ranchers, civic leaders, wineries, recreationalists, and outfitters. It will help to sustain the ecological future of 468 species of wildlife and more than 1,200 plant species.

Go here to see a detailed map: www.CentralCoastWild.com

We miss Bob & Tomi

Editor's note: Bob and Tomi Sollen were literally Giants of the Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club, based in the Santa Barbara Group since the 1960s. Both have now passed away, and we honor them here and thank them profusely for their years of tireless work for the region's ecology (a word Bob preferred, see story on page 7).

The region around Santa Barbara reacted with sorrow at the news that the reporter who broke the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill story, Robert Sollen, died on May 10 at age 97 following by three years the death of his activist wife Tomi, who passed on Oct. 17, 2016.

Sollen was a reporter for the *Santa Barbara News-Press* when "An Ocean of Oil" (the title of Sollen's 1998 book) began coming ashore. He pursued the story with one front-page story after the next, documenting the attempts at cleanup, the politics, and the protests that are widely considered the birth of the 20th century's environmental movement that also gave birth to the first Earth Day a year later in 1970 and creation of Environmental Defense Center, Community Environmental Council and Get Oil Out!

Sollen worked at the *News-Press* from 1963 to 1985.

Reporter Melinda Burns, who followed Sollen in working at the *News-Press*, wrote in *Edhat*: "He was the dean of local journalists, the Boswell of the environmental movement."

"Sollen had seen it all coming. Two months before the black tide sullied Santa Barbara's beaches, he

launched his new beat with a five-part series about the threat of an oil spill during the offshore drilling boom in the Channel – and won a national award for conservation writing from the Scripps-Howard Foundation for his prophetic warning."

Born in 1921 in Michigan, Sollen graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a major in political science and journalism. After his *News-Press* retirement in 1985, he taught at UCSB, served as a county planning commissioner, and was active on the boards of numerous environmental nonprofit groups. He was also a regular contributor to the *Condor Call*.

He married his wife Tomika Sollen in 1970. She was born June 26, 1920, in Berkeley to Japanese immigrants. The whole family was evacuated in 1942 to Tanforan and the Tule Lake concentration camps where the Federal Government detained West Coast Japanese Americans during WWII. Tomi was 22 at the time.

When she moved to Santa Barbara in 1962, she became active with the Sierra Club, Audubon and CEC. Tomi said, "with the Sierra Club, my main interest was political. It was a chance to work with a group to endorse environmental candidates."

Bob Sollen shared his wisdom during a local forum in 2009 asserting: "We are still addicted to treating nature abusively through over-consumption, greed, control, management, arrogance, and living for the day. These are at new levels of intensity in the history of homo sapiens."



Tomi and Bob Sollen feted by our Sierra Club in 2005. They were a major part of the Los Padres Chapter for years, and active in other eco-groups. In 1996 the *Santa Barbara Independent* honored them with its Local Heroes Honor Roll. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Blog spots & Photo shots

Our chapter and two of its groups have blogs that are fun and informative to read. Also, check out our Wilderness Basics Course photo library about how much fun it is to take our hikes.

Chapter:

<https://LosPadres2.SierraClub.org/blog>

SB Group:

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

Ventura Group:

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>

WBC photo library:

<https://tinyurl.com/WBCphotoLibrary>

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

~ Chapter website and blog at:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. Meets at Impact Hub, 1117 State St. View the calendar, hikes, issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at:

www.SBSierraClub.org

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

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

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

~ 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

CONEJO GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at ConejoGroup@gmail.com

Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

SIGHTINGS

‘Persist’ may be our middle name

By John Hankins

Wildlife corridors, bike-friendly drive, ubiquitous oil fights and more potential wildlands were all issues where our chapter was deeply committed during April and May, and it showed with TV and newspaper coverage and large audiences at rallies and our educational events.

It's what we do all year. If any of this resonates, please join us; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Don't forget to join any of our free outings (see pages 6&7. Oh, and if you want to donate, go to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

May 26: **Town Hall** for Green New Deal featuring Sierra Club, Climate Hawks and CAUSE at the Foster Library in Ventura. It's part of the ActionNetwork.org and stressed “the right to good jobs and a livable future.”

May 23: **BLM hearing** at Santa Barbara City College about Trump Administration expanding oil/gas leases on public lands brought out standing room only crowds with the Sierra Club a key component of the opposition, conducting a press conference before the hearing began.

May 21: **Battery storage** is a better option for gas peaker plants in the Goleta area, said Chapter Chair Katie Davis at a preliminary hearing about SoCalEd's future plans.

May 18: **Wildlife Corridor** ordinance becomes operative on this day after a Ventura County supervisors hearing in March that made certain revisions, such as excluding all properties within

the LP National Forest from the overlay zone but including the Tierra Rejada Valley in the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas. Sierra Club is a key proponent of the corridor issue, but two lawsuits have been filed. For details go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/WildlifePassPlans>

May 16: **CPUC meets** in Oxnard, a rare sighting of the California Public Utilities Commission on our turf in which energy issues matter. Sierra Club (Katie Davis, Liz Lamar etc.) had lots of input to speak up for transportation, building electrification and zero-emissions.

May 16: **Amgen Tour** was a major event to promote bike transportation. The *Ventura County Star* quoted our Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza with this subhead: ‘Cycling enthusiasts’ chip in to help’: “Nina Danza, stationed along Figueroa Street downtown, rode her bike from east Ventura to her volunteer gig. *‘Bike transportation and Sierra Club have the same long-term goals – zero emissions,’* said Danza. *‘Ventura calls itself a bike-friendly town, and it is. But it could be doing so much more,’* such as accomplishing the citywide Bicycle Master Plan. *‘It’s time to put their money where their mouth is,’* she concluded.

May 14: **Coyote Call:** Another great educational event by the Ventura Sierra Club which invited Justin Brown, Ecologist with the National Park Service, to Foster Library to talk about “Understanding SoCal Coyotes.” Part of the Venture(a) Out education series. We howled! Also, *Ventura Reporter* wrote a feature about it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CoyoteLivin>

May 10: **EDC TGIF** co-sponsored by our Los Padres Chapter had our Chair Katie Davis give a rousing speech about stopping oil development and supporting renewable energy and climate change. Enthusiastic ovation followed; read story on pg 1.

May 9: **Green Deal Rally** featured “street theater” in front of Rep Julia Brownley’s office in Thousand Oaks to nudge her to co-sponsor the deal. While sponsored by 350.org, Sierra Club was a supporter.

May 8: **“Our Wild Neighbors,** NPS expert talks about coexisting with coyotes in Ventura, a feature published in the *Ventura Reporter* about the Ventura Sierra Club’s Venture(a) Out education series, which happened on May 14.

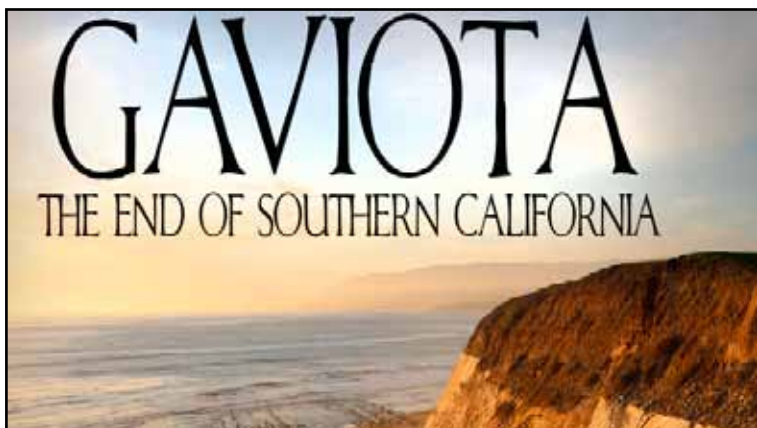
May 6: **Exxon Be Gone** was the theme of eco-groups and the public asking the SB County Planning Commission not to allow Exxon to transport its offshore oil via trucks, up to 70 per day every day. Request was made due to Plains Pipeline being down since it broke in 2015 near Gaviota State Beach.

April 30: **Assault & Battery:** SoCal Edison announced it would give up its assault on the Oxnard Beach by replacing its planned Puente Gas Plant with a 195 Mw battery storage facility in the El Rio industrial area instead, which is zoned M-1. “They said we couldn’t stop it!” said a proud Carmen Ramirez, mayor pro-tem of Oxnard. Sierra Club was one of the key groups fighting this long fight.

Continued on page 7



Sierra Club was there during Earth Days (top photo down): Katie Davis & Alex Pujo at SB event, Prof. Jim Danza speaking at Ventura College, Teresa Donegan, Pam Smith and Monica Stanley at Ventura along with kids Hazel & Leif in tent. (Photos by Robert Bernstein, Nina Danza and Condor John)



Ventura Sierra Club invites all to a special screening of “Gaviota: The End of Southern California,” a locally produced film that premiered to an overflow during the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

This free showing starts at 5:30pm Tuesday, July 9 at the Topping Room at EP Foster Library 651 East Main St. Ventura.

Join the optional meet and greet afterward with a visit to a local micro-brewery.

The screening is part of the Ventura Sierra Club’s series of local science and environment programs call Venture(a) Out!

The 42-minute film was written and produced by Santa Barbara filmmakers Shaw Leonard and Tamorn Chase over a period of five years. It dives into one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world.

It takes you from the ocean floor of the Santa Barbara Channel to the peaks of the jagged Santa Ynez Mountains. The wild journey crosses paths with breaching humpback whales, red-tailed hawks and elusive mountain lions. Over fifty unique wildlife species that are found on the Gaviota Coast are documented. With nearly 90% of Southern California’s coast lost to development, the preservation of this coastline is the last bastion of hope for wildlife fighting to survive against a world closing in on them.

It is a monumental collaboration of artists, activists and environmental organizations that documents the ecosystem of wildlife, plants and geological marvels that thrives in our region like no other place in Southern California. It is also a popular recreational area for camping, hiking, surfing, scuba diving and photography.

Since the film was made, a “stunning development” occurred when the Nature Conservancy acquired over 24,000 acres that surrounds Pt. Conception extending from Jalama Beach Park to Hollister Ranch. Called “the Crown Jewel of the Gaviota Coast,” it was purchased via the generosity from Jack and Laura Dangermond donating \$165 million.

The Gaviota Coast spans 76 miles of coastline from Coal Oil Point in Goleta to Pt. Sal west of Santa Maria, and the film will show it to you in all its glory.

Club presence felt at Earth Days

Our Los Padres Chapter was seemingly everywhere during the many Earth Day events in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties with the theme of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the planet.

The biggest event was the two-day affair in Santa Barbara, which started the first Earth Day locally a year after the ominous 1969 oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel. Here is member Robert Bernstein’s account:

SANTA BARBARA

Earth Day drew a crowd of many thousands over April 27-28 at Alameda Park. A highlight of the event was the Environmental Hero Awards ceremony, hosted by State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. Filmmaker James Cameron was on hand to deliver an Environmental Hero Award to his wife, Suzy Amis Cameron, who has published a book called “OMD: Change the World by Changing One Meal a Day”.

She advocated eliminating meat from one meal each day. She claimed that this has the same greenhouse gas effect over the course of a year as eliminating a round trip drive from coast to coast. She said that James Cameron’s films were more about a future of gloom and doom than of a better, hopeful future. But his world view has become more positive since adopting this OMD plan. For photos and videos of the whole event, including her presentation, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/SBearth2019>

Our own Sierra Club booth was very popular. People were invited to spin the wheel to answer

an environmental question. Correct answers won a small treat: Organic fig, chocolate peanut butter cup, carrot or orange.

We also handed out a Sierra Club fact sheet based on the site “America’s Autos on Welfare”. It documents over \$500 billion/year in subsidies for private motor vehicle use in the US.

It was a brilliant combination. People lined up non-stop to spin the wheel and do their best to answer the questions. It was a chance to talk about a variety of environmental issues. The food treats were a big hit! Special thanks to Martha Sadler for creating a successful Sierra Club booth and Alex Pujo for creating the spinning wheel.

“Thanks to Jim Taylor especially for the Channel Islands display as well as the million-acres posters, to Jon Ullman and Katie Davis and whoever else worked to get signatures on cards for the supervisors, and to all for engaging in such a friendly way with the crowd. The big new sign about hike lists was a draw too and by the way we moved a lot of Condor Calls,” Martha added.

The Sierra Club also had a booth on April 25 during Santa Barbara City College’s Earth Day events.

VENTURA COUNTY

This year Earth Day April 27 in the city of Ventura was held at Plaza Park rather than the beachside promenade and it was well received.

Teresa Donegan, Pam Smith and Monica Stanley, along with kids

Hazel and Leif helped set up the booth which has not only Sierra Club materials and Condor Calls to hand out but also a small tent and gear advertising our popular Wilderness Basics Course (WBC).

Far away past Ojai was Wheeler Gorge’s Open House also on April 27 and our WBC crew was there talking about and handing out materials for backpacking and hiking in as safe and comfortable way. Staff members included Tim Grant, Denise Coulter, Alisse Fisher, and Anna Szymkowiak-Chung, among others.

A bit earlier than the official Earth Day, we had a presence at the city of Oxnard Earth Day April 13.

A special Earth Day event was held on April 29 at Oxnard College, hosted by the Sierra Club and Santa Clara River Confluence. It featured “dynamic workshops” and speakers “to have a more meaningful time and place to spend Earth Day.”

It certainly was, as a panel featured “On Climate Change and Environmental Justice.” One of the speakers was our own Jim Danza, associate professor of Geology, and Irene Rauschenberger offering insight on local climate issues. Others included Keynote speaker Dr. Omar Clay, Environmental Physicist on Climate Change and Environmental Justice, Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez, Food and Water Watch organizer, Tomas Morales Rebecchi, VC Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety organizer Adam Vega and Central Coast Alliance for Sustainable Economy organizer, Lucia Marquez.

EVENTS



Santa Cruz Island beckons. (Photo by Camille Collette)

June 13: **Channel Islands talk** and show by Dirk Rosen about "Recovery and Demise of Marine Protected Areas in the Channel Islands." Starts 7pm at Santa Barbara Maritime Museum 113 Harbor Way; details at: <https://sbmm.org>

June 15: **Last Days of Dinosaurs** at 11am with a hands-on event for all ages by educator Richard Wade at Wheeler Gorge Visitor's Center, 1707 Maricopa Highway.

June 16: **Nature Walk with Chumash** Elder Julie Tumamait, starts at 11am Wheeler Gorge Visitor's Center, 1707 Maricopa Highway..

July 9: **Meet Filmmaker** Shaw Leonard for Q&A after seeing his popular 42-minute film: "Gaviota: The End of Southern California," about one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world, the Gaviota Coast. It debuted in 2017 at SB Film Festival after five years of

adventures during filming. A must-see; 5:30pm at the Ventura Library Topping room, sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club; free but donations are happily accepted.

July 20: **Restoration Day** just up from the Ventura River Mouth is looking for volunteers. Part of Ventura Land Trust helping to revitalize the Ventura River, its Willoughby Preserve is where the homeless used to camp but is now cleaner and open to the public. Let's keep it that way. Clean-up is 9am to noon, meet at Main St. Bridge along the bike path (Main & Peking Streets). Go here for details of this and other VLT events: www.VenturaLandTrust.org

Aug 13: **Summer Potluck** with live music sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club, all are invited. A Zero Waste and No Alcohol event at North Bank Linear Park, next to 9844 Rio Grande St. Ventura. Go here for details: www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura

Aug 17 **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** is outdoors again this year. Quality films of course along with live bands, food trucks, high-end raffle along with VIP Experience Pass. At the Ventura County Credit Union campus (ocean views!) 2575 Vista Del Mar Dr. in Ventura. Early bird price is \$25 before July 1. On sale now, click the Film Festival tab at: www.VenturaLandTrust.org



Jim Hines writes (below) that "we move much too fast in our society to see what really needs to be seen, the miracle of life as nature intended it to be." Looks like this couple is taking that advice during a hike above Goleta. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Embrace the natural world

By **Jim Hines**
Greetings Friends

Wild land touches each of us in different ways, our history with it allows us to seek the newness of our future.

By exploring our natural world and all that is within it, we learn about ourselves as we, as a society, have a basic human need to connect with all that which is wild.

Be bold, allow yourself the beautiful experience of the great outdoors. The quiet of mother earth, the loudness of ocean waves, the screech of a hawk in flight, the peacefulness of a meadow in full bloom with wildflowers, the excitement of watching whales breach, the tenderness of new born fawn with her mother deer, the amazement of seeing mountain lion tracks and the gentle brightness of a star filled sky.

All these priceless experiences are available to each of us. For what are we when we are out in the natural world? We are free from the shackles of our society; we are free as we allow nature to take over. Rise early to watch the sun come up, holds hands with one you are close to as you walk along the beach. Laugh with friends on a lakeside picnic and covet the specialness of all in the natural world which is more powerful than us.

We move much too fast in our society to see what really needs to be seen, the miracle of life as nature intended it to be.

Whether you are on a day hike

EAVESDROPS

"We are all artists. It is part of being human. The wish to express one's feelings and share one's thoughts about the world we live in is universal and takes many forms. To make our own art, in our own spirit, is a way we strengthen our ties with each other."

~ Ada Babine, an icon of our Sierra Club chapter and throughout Santa Barbara County, in an editorial to the *Santa Barbara News-Press*. It was reprinted in the *handout* for her memorial on Jan. 26.

of Cheseboro Canyon Natural Area, or on a weeklong backpack through the Sespe Wilderness, camping by Lake Casitas, bird watching at Ormond Beach, island hopping Channel Islands National Park, beach combing the Gaviota Coast, deer watching in the grasslands of the Santa Ynez Valley, picnicking at Figueroa Mountain or a simple bike ride along the Ventura River Parkway.

You will be amazed at the power our natural world has over you. The positive feelings which come to each of us as we experience nature in our own way can be a very enlightening and rewarding experience.

So, go forth and see, feel, hear, smell and embrace the outdoor experience, your life will be changed in a positive way. Let the journey in nature begin.

For the wild, Jim.

Submit your 'wow' photos

Ventura Land Trust wants to see your wildlife, landscape or scenic beauty photos from all photographers, amateur and professional.

Submit three original digital images, to be considered for inclusion in VLT's first ever Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit.

The submission deadline is July 13 and there is a \$20 fee to enter. VLT's panel of judges will select three winners and a group of finalists whose images will be featured in an art exhibit/sale to be hung on the walls of Rincon Brewery in Ventura, 4100 Telegraph Rd., from September

through November.

"The photo contest is a wonderful way for photographers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to celebrate the natural beauty that surrounds us everyday" said Dan Holmes, Ventura photographer and lead judge of the contest.

"Whether taken in a backyard, by a local stream or in a national park, all submissions will be judged on subject, composition, framing, lighting and overall 'wow' factor."

For more information and to download the contest application, click on the Photography Contest tab at:

www.VenturaLandTrust.org

Ahoy! Islands await you

Join the Los Padres Sierra Club July 20-23 for a 3-day, 3-Island adventure exploring the Santa Barbara Channel Islands.

Board your bunk on the Truth Saturday evening (July 20) in the Santa Barbara Harbor and wake up Sunday to begin our exploration of San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands. This trip will be full of sea life, trails to hike on, natural history, unique island plant and animal life, and kayaks, wetsuits, and snorkel gear

to rent and explore the beautiful ocean.

Trip costs only \$730, which includes food and bunks (single or double) with pull curtains for privacy.

The boat returns to Santa Barbara Tuesday evening (July 23). Proceeds benefit Sierra Club California.

Space is filling up already, so contact Camille at (949) 468-6212 or: camille.m.collett@gmail.com



Ventura Sierra Club's first overnight adventure to Santa Cruz Island was momentous, magical and paradise. Not only did the group have a tiny island fox go by its tent, Mother's Day was literally celebrated by this mom and her two daughters. Go to VSC's Meetup for future trips. (Photos and comments by Nina Danza)

Take 'trips with a cause'

Summer Adventures, Fall Scrambles, and So Much More

Unsure how you'll be spending the summer? Have no fear—your vacation plans are in safe hands with us! Our diverse trip lineup—from summer to fall and beyond—has just about anything your intrepid heart may desire, including family

getaways, raft journeys, canoe/kayak trips, lodge-based adventures, volunteer vacations, international treks, and so much more.

See all trips throughout the year and sign up soon because they won't be around for long! Go here: <https://tinyurl.com/TripsWithACause>



VENTURA LAND TRUST Presents



WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

**Saturday,
August 17th, 2019**

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

**PURCHASE YOUR
TICKETS TODAY!**
www.venturalandtrust.org

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

Local Sponsors







National Sponsors










Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

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. See box this page.

June 7
AFTERNOON HIKE, PARADISE FALLS: Meet at the Hill Canyon Trailhead at 1pm (back about 3pm) 10241 Hill Canyon Road, Camarillo. Walk about 5 miles, out and back to Paradise Falls. Please bring water and sunscreen and walking shoes. Hiking poles are useful for some. Dogs must be on a leash. Rain or temperatures over 85° on the day cancel the hike. JUDITH, 805-509-2026 (VEN)

June 8
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 then 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 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

June 10
OJAI BIKE PATH through Oakview: Meet 8:45am at the Oakview Community Center, 18 Valley Road for a 6 mile walk along the bike path. We've done the beginning and end of the path; today we take a bite out of the middle. This is an easy relatively flat walk with about 500 feet of elevation gain that takes us through the rural backside of Oakview. Sturdy tennis shoes are fine but prepare for sun exposure. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

June 16
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 and a light lunch. Sun protection is recommended as there is limited shade. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. Rain cancels. GERRY 805-964-5411 (SB)

June 16-21
PARUNUWEAP CANYON: This is a canyon not frequently visited and is east of Zion. It is not in any park or any other boundary. No permit is needed. This is a 30-mile round trip backpack when the water conditions are best. There are several side slot canyons to explore along the way and the main canyon becomes a narrows similar to the Zion Narrows. Moderate backpack. DAVID HARDY 702-875-4826 (Southern Nevada Group). Email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com

June 17
SISAR CANYON: The first 3/4 of this trail is a shady, gradual, uphill walk along a flowing creek, then to an overlook with views of the Ojai Valley. Moderate, 6.5 mile out and back, with a 1200 foot elevation gain. There will be 2 creek crossings, possibly with flowing water. Meet in the store parking lot on the corner of Sisar Rd. and HWY 150 at 8:45am. MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

June 22
HORSESHOE BEND: Moderately strenuous 9 mrt to Horseshoe Bend, Manzanita trailhead in the San Rafael Wilderness. Expect all day adventure; 1.5 hr caravan to trailhead and approx. 5 hr hike. Many water crossings require shoes you can get wet and hike. Bring swimsuit for swimming holes. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, and sunscreen.

Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 8am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

June 22
PRATT TRAIL: 7:30-12:30. 9.6-mile trial with roughly 3,011 in elevation gain is ranked difficult and is moderately trafficked near Ojai. Great for viewing wildflowers and accessible year around. This is a leave no trace hike. Make sure to bring a light warm layer that can be removed when it becomes hot. Bring 2L+ of water and a high caloric snack. We will be moving at a moderate pace. Meet near the trailhead in the dirt parking lot off N Signal Rd. VICTORIA (VEN) at: victoria.a.perez@gmail.com

June 24
LOON POINT & Equestrian Trails: Meet in the Loon Pt. parking lot at 8:45am. From there we will make our way down to the beach and up the trail to Lookout Park. Low tide is 9:28am. Next, we wander along the equestrian trail of Summerland, through orchards and eucalyptus trees and return. Total distance is 5-6 miles with about 500 ft of gain. There is some shade along the way but is otherwise exposed. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

June 29
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL Canine Hike: a wooded canyon with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 4 mrt. with 1000-foot elevation gain. Well behaved dogs welcomed; must be leashed, hikers without dogs also welcome. Bring snack and water. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at Bank of America parking lot at 8am, 3790 State St. NOTE EARLY START TIME. Hike limited to four dogs so call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. SALLY 805-689-7820 (SB)

July 1
SHELF ROAD: Choose your own ending hike. Meet at the Ojai Rotary Park at 8:30am to consolidate cars, then drive to the Shelf Rd trailhead at the end of Signal St. Those wanting a shorter, flatter hike will walk to the end of the trail at Gridley St., and return. This is about 4 miles and is dog friendly. The rest of us will climb 6-7 miles, 1200 ft and make a loop via , Shelf, Gridley, Fuel break and Pratt trails. Tennis shoes are fine for the flat version but wear sturdy boots for the trek up Gridley. Prepare for sun exposure. MAUREEN 805-657-8735. (VEN)

July 4-7
FOURTH OF JUPLAYA in the Black Rock: This will be a busy weekend in the Black Rock as many

Burning Man Attendees use this as a "shakedown weekend" for their gear. Possible One-Day Ham License class. Typical events include visits to hot springs and the Emigrant Trail. No firm schedule set at this writing and few facilities but we'll probably have porta-potties. Signups after 6/15! DAVID BOOK, 775-843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

July 7
ARROYO HONDO: Scenic West Ridge trail to get good views of the canyon and the coastline. A moderate 3 mrt, 600' gain. After a lunch break outside the historic Adobe, take a leisurely stroll around the canyon floor. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from

Rec shooting ban extended

The U.S. Forest Service has extended a ban on recreational target shooting throughout the los Padres National Forest until at least January of 2020, pending an updated study on Endangered Species Act habitats.

Exceptions include persons hunting during open seasons (with a license) and target shooting in designated target areas, which are the the Ojai Valley Gun Club near Sespe Creek in Rose Valley, and the Winchester Gun Club on Camino Cielo above Santa Barbara.



Our Wilderness Basics Course again spent Earth Day at the Wheeler Gorge Open House with Tim Grant and Denise Coulter behind the table and a goat herd behind! Others who helped were Dante Dobie and Alisse Fisher. (Photo by Anna Szymkowiak-Chung)

north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

July 7
OXNARD BEACH HIKE: 10am. 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, except power plant, few people; birds, seals and dolphins. See McGrath Lake, Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve, high sand dunes. Bring snacks, water. KIM HOCKING 805-983-2147 (VEN)

July 8
CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH: Low tide is predicted for 9:01am at 0.2 ft; an opportunity to view tide pools and make it up the beach and around the point to Linden Ave. without getting wet. Return via the State Beach Campground and bluffs. Distance about 6 miles and mostly flat. Meet at 8:45am at the Rincon Beach parking lot near the restroom. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

July 13
CHUMASH TRAIL to Mugu peak via La Jolla Valley hike. Meet at the Chumash trailhead at 9am, 743 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu. We'll then hike through the La Jolla Valley and loop back to Mugu peak. The initial 900 ft ascent up the Chumash Trail is strenuous, not recommended for beginners, but we will go slow and take breaks. After that the hike through the valley is easy, followed by the final climb up to the peak for a total of 8 miles and 1800 feet of elevation gain. Bring 2 liters of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain cancels. GERARD 805-212-0798 (VEN) baileygerard@hotmail.com

July 14
ROMERO CANYON LOOP: Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream, then down abandoned road with beautiful views for lunch. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 (SB) event@swt.org

July 15
WILDWOOD FALLS: Meet at Hill Canyon parking lot at 8:30am. The bridge is still out, so we will walk along the creek to the water treatment plant and the ever-flowing falls. Moderate 5-6 mile lollipop hike with an approx. 600 ft elevation gain. Bring at least a liter of water and sun protection. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

July 19
AFTERNOON HIKE, Ventura Beach Bike Path: Meet 1pm at Vons, corner of N. Olive and W. Main St., park nearest to Main St. Two and four legged friends welcome on this dog-friendly (leashed) hike, although we do have to share the bike path with runners and bikers! Although this is mostly an out-and-back walk on pavement, tide permitting, we will walk back along a short stretch of beach and on the Emma Woods River Trail. Wear sturdy shoes, back about 3pm. Rain or temperatures over 85° on the day cancels. JUDITH, 805-509-2026 (VEN)

July 22
VENTURA URBAN WALK: This is a favorite hike of the group that starts through the Botanical Gardens, offering a beautiful view of the city and coast, ending along the promenade at Ventura Beach. Meet at 8:45am in the parking lot of Main Street Vons in the Mission Plaza. The 5-6 mile loop starts with

continued next page

Conditions
A number of campgrounds and roads in Los Padres National Forest are closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats and species or are under repair. Before you go into the local backcountry, it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted all are area code 805):

Los Padres National Forest Districts

Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

Other Areas

Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Conajo Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Notes
For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info
There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:
<http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
www.LPForest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

Santa Barbara

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

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

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

Friday evening social hike for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mrt evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)

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

Ventura

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

Outings...from page 6

a short climb to the cross but is otherwise mostly flat. Tennis shoes should be fine. Bring water and wear sun protection. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

July 26

PIEDRA BLANCA: Moderate 6.4 miles hike with an elevation gain/loss of about 700 feet. Start from the Piedra Blanca trailhead off Rose Valley Road, get our feet wet in the Sespe Creek and pass through majestic hundred-foot-high white rock formations. Then into Piedra Blanca Creek watershed to Twin Forks camp for lunch. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Meet at 8am at Seaward & Harbor carpool location. TERESA at 805-746-6030. (VEN)

July 28

ROCKY PINE RIDGE - Short Route: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree and rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate with some boulder hopping and agility required, 4 mrt. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 (SB): event@swt.org

July 29

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: Meet at the Bus stop behind the government center on Hill St. in Ventura for the 8:30am bus to the Santa Barbara Courthouse. We will walk up to the museum from there and spend a couple hours exploring before returning to the library for our 15:38 return bus. Bring your lunch and beverages. We can stop at Alice Keck Park to eat and check out the turtles. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

August 3

THREE POOLS beyond Seven Falls: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-898-1240 (SB)

August 11

MIDLAND SCHOOL Lovers Loop: We'll explore one of the Midland School trails on this moderate 3 mrt hike. Partially shaded trail has great views of Grass Mt. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. This hike involves a 1 hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara,

EAVESDROPS

"Eliminating non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-compostable products and reducing packaging is by far the most effective, and least expensive way to protect human, wildlife and environmental health."

~ From Sierra Club California noting two bills that would do just that and urging members to support them: SB 54 and AB 1080.

you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 805-964-5411 (SB): gching@cox.net

August 12

CONDOR CALL outings due soon: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2019 thru January 2020 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at: gching@cox.net

August 18

TRESPASS TRAIL - GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to moderate hike from Gaviota Peak-Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail.

World Oceans Day Events

June 7: **World Oceans Day** Ventura will be celebrated from 2-6pm at Harbor Cover Beach, 1867 Spinnaker Dr., part of a world-wide event. This year the official focus is on reducing plastic pollution, coordinated by Paso Pacifico and Surfrider. It's a first for Ventura and includes activities, info, live music, food etc. For details go to: www.WorldOceansDayVentura.org

June 8: **World Oceans Day** Santa Barbara goes from 10am to 2pm at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way with lots of free family activity stations and featuring the Lost Art of Love Letters. Heal the Ocean, Cousteau Ocean Futures Society and Channel Islands National Park are just some of the participants. FREE admission to the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf that day.

June 8: **World Oceans Day** Cleanup at 8am at Surfer's Point and Ventura Pier area sponsored by Surfrider; meet at end of California St; all supplies supplied!

About 4mrt with side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swimsuit for hot springs. Also, water and snack or light lunch. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 (SB): event@swt.org

August 24

RED ROCK TO GIBRALTAR DAM: Hike up the road to Gibraltar Dam, then back past a popular swimming area. Moderate- strenuous 6.5 mrt. Optional side trip to old mercury mine adds 4 miles. Bring swimsuit, wading shoes, lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-898-1240 (SB)

August 25

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, 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 for instructions. GERRY 805-964-5411 (SB): gching@cox.net

September 8

CAMUSA CONNECTOR TRAIL: Hike a short portion of the trail starting from the SY River and ending at a good lookout spot for a light lunch. Great views of the Lower Santa Ynez recreation area. 3 mrt. 800 ft elevation gain. Bring a light lunch, water, sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 805-964-5411 (SB): gching@cox.net

September 14

SNYDER TRAIL: Hike up from Paradise Road to the remains of Knapp's Castle. Enjoy breathtaking views of mountains while eating lunch. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-898-1240 (SB)

Sightings...*continued from page 4*

April 27: **Wheeler Gorge** had an open house and Sierra Club had an information booth there thanks to Chrissy, Anna, Denise, Alisse, Dante and Tim. The visitor center is run by the Los Padres Forest Assn. as a hub for information, education and resources.

April 26: **KEYT Katie:** Our Chapter Chair Katie Davis was featured on TV headlined "Environmental Groups react to Plains All-American Pipeline's \$3.3 million fine." Check it out here: <https://tinyurl.com/TVcastKatie>

April 23: **Betterments** is what the county calls renovations to a Watershed Protection District proposal along the Santa Clara River. You can bet the Ventura Sierra Club was there with 'better mints' such as a bike path, education center and vegetated surfaces along the proposed levee north of the 101. Thank our flood control expert, Nina Danza.

April 10: **Wilderness Act** was reintroduced by Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). Known as Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (HR 2199), Carbajal invited the public to take a hike to experience the beauty of our backcountry on April 6. (See story on pg 3)

April 9: **Tar Sands Ban** was introduced to Ventura County supervisors to declare an oil moratorium for at least 45 days to determine source of methane contamination in the Fox Canyon aquifer system (Oxnard area), due to proposals for steam injection oil production. The supervisors officially voted for the 45-day moratorium on April 23 at the urging of CFROG which had full support from Sierra Club.

First aid for hike leaders

We welcome and encourage all Chapter hike leaders to attend a half-day training in Wilderness First Aid, presented by Matt May of 4Points Expeditions. This class fulfills the first aid course required every two years (new requirement, instead of every four years) for hike leaders, and the Los Padres Chapter has generously funded it.

The training will be held at Church of the Foothills in Ventura from 8am to noon on Saturday, Sept. 21. Need help set up chairs and sign-in at 7:30am.

The next time we offer it will probably be the fall of 2021. If your first aid certification will expire before then, this would be the time to update your knowledge and get recertified. Even if you've recently completed a first aid course, you are still eligible to enroll, since medical knowledge changes rapidly from year to year.

For questions contact Teresa Norris at:

teresahnorris@earthlink.net

To enroll, contact your Group Outings Chair:

Santa Barbara Group, Tony Biegen abiegen@cox.net

Conejo Group, Walt Zabriskie conejohiker@verizon.net

Arguello Group, Rebecca August rebeccaagust@mac.com

Ventura Group, Teresa Norris teresahnorris@earthlink.net

Sierra Club Los Padres

Tuesday evening August 13, 2019 5-8 PM

North Bank Linear Park

(next to to 9844 Rio Grande St., Ventura)

ANNUAL SUMMER POTLUCK

BYO: entree and side dish to share, reusable cup, plate, utensils, chair/blanket... beverage of choice
Water provided (no alcohol allowed)
Leashed dogs ok
LIVE MUSIC!

**A lot to learn about amoral natural forces**

Editor's note: This was the last article – of so many over the years -- that Bob Sollen wrote for Condor Call way back in July 2011. We reprint it with pride because what he said then is as true today as it will be in the future. RIP, Ecologist Robert Sollen.

By Robert Sollen

I'm not a scientist. I'm a superannuated writer still probing for the meaning of words. It took me about 30 years as an "environmental" writer to conclude that environmentalism is not a word. Not in science, anyway. Its supporters and detractors use the word to convey what they want it to mean, leaving their audiences to assume the context and how the word applies.

It stems, of course, from the word *environment* which means everything around us. That includes ourselves -- body and mind as our nearest environments and the cosmos as our most vast and extensive. But adding *ism* to *environment* does not make it an identifiable movement or a science. It lacks specifics required by science.

The American Heritage Science Dictionary does not include the word environmentalism. Elsewhere, attempts at defining it vary flagrantly, referring to it variously as a social movement, philosophy, ideology— even as a science—either in combination or individually. Many attempts at defining the movement become tautological, falling back on the very word *environmentalism* to help define it.

Members of the mass movement arising in 1969-70 should have been identified as ecologists, not environmentalists. But ecology, as a new science, wasn't yet sufficiently recognized to catch on for what was needed to restore the planet as a habitat for plant and animal species. But "environmentalists" knew what they wanted, given the increasing assault on the natural planet, and made remarkable progress despite the inappropriate name they adopted.

Ecology is an immensely broad and definable scientific study with many sub-studies, equally clarified. It encompasses many long-established academic fields. It examines the

interaction of living organisms with each other and with their specific environments, and the effects (or consequences) of those interactions. It explores how organisms, including humans, establish their habitats in compatible natural environments, called ecosystems. Fluctuations within these systems can occur extremely slowly, gradually, or rapidly, depending on changes in natural forces or other disturbances such as human interference.

Upsets force some organisms -- microscopic or massive -- to find new ecosystems with conducive climates, sufficient supply of water and food, compatible atmosphere, security

EAVESDROPS

"We may live in a post-truth era, but nature does not."

~ An op-ed headline in the LA Times by Cynthia Barnett, offering numerous facts, and: "That truth will flood in torrential rains ... it will sear in extended droughts ... it will sweep into coastal homes ... while the wealthy can move or bunker up and the poor will be left to face the truth directly."

from predation and opportunity for propagation. These upsets can stem from obvious alterations such as forest clear-cutting to the invisible loss of microscopic organisms which may be impossible to detect.

Ecology is an engaging field, dealing as it does with the requirements for sustaining life. It demonstrates that natural forces are amoral and immutable, and that we are among the many life forms that must comply and adapt, not control or defy. Ecosystems sustain life in *their* way, not to accommodate communities of life forms.

We "environmentalists" have made progress in coping with many natural upsets and anthropocentric interference in the last half century. But we have a lot to learn about sustaining life on the planet. Ecology teaches how this can be done. Few environmental impact reports have that capacity.

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RAPTORS VS RODENTS



By: Elizabeth Sieglinger

You know you have a rodent infestation by the evidence of chew holes and scat. You could call a pest control service or purchase poison bait or traps, but that's a waste of money and poisons have unintentional impacts on wildlife.

There's a better way: Ecologically Based Rodent Management (EBRM) uses raptors, rodents' natural enemies, to prevent infestations before they begin. If life has taught me anything, it is that problems are always harder and more expensive to fix than they are to prevent.

Rodents are essential in healthy ecosystems because they disperse plant seeds into new areas, and some build habitat for other animals, like the California ground squirrel builds habitat for burrowing owls. But they are also food sources for raptors,

Rodenticides negatively impact more than just the target animals. In Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, they have been found in the tissues of bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, owls,



White Tailed Kite was flying just close enough for Denise Dewire to catch this great pose. Kites are raptors and do eat those tasty rodents. www.flickr.com/photos/denisedewirephotography

hawks, dogs, raccoons, bald eagles, ravens, crows, deer, foxes, squirrels, kangaroo rats, badgers, and beavers!

Also, humans. In 2017, the Poison Control Center reported rodenticides were responsible for 77,999 (about 4%) single exposure human poisonings nationwide. Of those affected, 33,211 (about 43%) were children ages 5 or younger.

Raptors are simply more effective than rodenticides. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District adopted county wide EBRM after studying its effectiveness around levee systems. Plus, the programs were

more effective and cheaper than rodenticides. In fact, a family of barn owls can remove 3-5 thousand rodents in a 4-month breeding cycle!

The presence of raptors adds fear into their prey's daily lives which influences their behaviors, including feeding and reproduction. This concept, known as Landscape Of Fear (LOF), ultimately reduces reproduction rates and population size. This can prevent rodents from infesting your spaces.

Raptors need our help because urbanization destroys crucial raptor habitat. Property owners are critical allies in providing much-needed raptor habitat in urban and suburban areas by installing nesting boxes and perches. Installing both ensures habitat for many types of raptors since diurnal raptors can occupy the same geographical space as nocturnal raptors like owls, because they work at different times of day.

Where do I start?

Follow the RAPTOR acronym and complete steps to invite raptors in your ecosystem, adapted from

the Hungry Owl Project at: www.hungryowl.org

- **R** - Remove attractants (food, pet food, trash); eliminate shelter (shrubs, vines, debris).
- **A** - Attract beneficial raptors- install nesting boxes and perches.
- **P** - Prevent entry- seal all access points even holes as small as 1/4 -1/2 inch.
- **T** - Trap humanely- with mechanical traps, avoid glue.
- **O** - Outreach to your community, push to use raptors over rodenticides.
- **R** - Resolve to eliminate rodenticides from the entire community.

For more detailed information, go to:

- www.BarnOwlTrust.org
- www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org
- www.RaptorsAreTheSolution.org

For nesting box orders: www.clawonline.org

Plans to build your own, search for Building Barn Owl Boxes at Audubon: www.scvas.org

