

Vol. 20, No. 1 of 6

February - March 2020

Condor Call

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



© Photo by Pete Sciffres

High stakes ... Hotter faster ... Microgrid ... Elections ... Beach neglect
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"Come away, O human Child! To the Waters and the Wild..." so said William Butler Yeats, the rest of which is "...with a fairy, hand in hand, for the world's more full of weeping than you can understand." Sierra Club says so too, with its ethic to show human children and adults the waters and the wild so we can understand. (Photo of Ezra McKinney by Morgan McKinney near Burney Falls)



The year of High Stakes

By Katie Davis

High Stakes Election

With a wide-open field of contenders in the Democratic Presidential Primary and with California's Primary Election moved up to March 3, the state has a meaningful role to play. Local races will determine whether we protect our lands and waters and pursue a renewable energy future, or reverse course and double-down on increasingly risky and unregulated fossil fuel development. Mail in ballots are dropping now.

Supersize Stakes

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which took place in the wake of the first massive oil spill in Santa Barbara. It comes after the hottest decade on record, when consensus on need to act on climate is so high the Oxford dictionary chose "climate emergency" as the 2019 phrase of the year, and when a nationwide public opinion poll found 8 in 10 people oppose increased drilling.

Vote on March 3 to ensure we're not left behind.

Voter Suppression

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: <https://tinyurl.com/OilspillSB1969>

~ by John Hankins

The SB Independent recently exposed voter suppression by "Rock the Vote SB," one of the fake non-profits supporting Bruce Porter, a candidate with a history of taking tens of thousands of dollars from oil PACs and vying to unseat 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann.

His "non-profit," which was shamelessly discouraging voters from registering and voting, received a cease and desist letter from Rock the Vote National. Porter wouldn't disclose the donors or who is funding the "Bruce Porter Fund for Student Resilience." He even boasted in a letter to his supporters that their effort was successful: "There are 1,400 fewer new voters registered in Isla Vista than this time in 2016."

Fighting Feds

The Trump administration recently announced plans to open a million acres of public lands in Santa Barbara, Ventura and surrounding counties to fracking and drilling despite 16,000 comments opposing the faulty environmental report. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is managing the give-away, run by anti-federal government lands

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COVER PHOTO

The magical Sespe Wilderness shows fall colors shot about a mile east of Piedra Blanca trailhead, along the Sespe River. (©Photo by Pete Scifres)

Our leaders continue

Our Los Padres Chapter officers are doing such a great job, virtually all of them were reelected to another two-year term on Jan. 23.

The one change is that very long-time officer and former chair of the executive committee, Mike Stubblefield, decided not to run for his at-large seat in favor of Liz Lamar of Oxnard, who was approved.

The ExCom applauded Mike's long and effective service to the club, but he said he's not giving up his activism, which centers around air quality issues in the Ventura region.

"I'm going to be involved with getting the two old - and now shuttered - power plants on the (Ormond) beach torn down and removed ...that will likely consume a great deal of my time." Another project is the "hairbrained scheme" by the Port of Hueneme to drive its overflow

cars to a vacant lot in Oxnard, he said.

In addition to Liz, Alex Pujo of Santa Barbara and David Gold of Ventura retained their at-large seats.

The ExCom officers who were reelected are Chair Katie Davis (Santa Barbara) and vice-Chair Jim Hines (Ventura), continuing a rather neat split between our two counties.

Others reelected were Treasurer Richard Hunt and Secretary Gerry Ching, both from Santa Barbara.

The Santa Barbara Group also had incumbents reelected from the December ballot. They are Robert Bernstein, Katie Davis, Alex Pujo and Luz Reyes-Martin.

Conejo Group also had a ballot with no challengers; they are: John Holroyd, Marcey Pascual, Stephanie Scher and Joanne Sulkoske.

COMING HERE

Forces of Nature

Imagine Bill McKibben, Yvon Chouinard and Dr. Jane Goodall coming to our area over the next few months.

It's true and includes many others in UC Santa Barbara Arts and Lecture's *Forces of Nature*, "a timely series recognizing five decades of environmental activism, education and research, building upon Santa Barbara's legacy as the birthplace of the modern environmental movement."

Others sponsoring the series aiming at "a hopeful tomorrow" are the SB Museum of Natural History, Community Environmental Council and the Fisher family in memory of J. Brooks Fisher.

Taking part is the Sierra Club, of course, which was right there during Union Oil's 1969 Platform A blowout in the Channel, drawing national attention. The spill led to the first Earth Day in 1970 and, arguably, our region's identity as the birthplace. The club will have a presence with information an hour before the March 5, April 26 and April 29 events.

Others taking part include Los Padres ForestWatch, Environmental Defense Center, ChannelKeeper, Climate Justice Network and Land Trust for SB County, among others.

The series started on Jan 14 with Katharine Hayhoe on "Science in a Fact-Free World." She was the perfect beginning, having credentials like a 2019 United Nation's "Champion of the Earth" honor. For more information on each event, go to:

www.ArtsandLectures.UCSB.edu

Here's the schedule, some are free and so noted:

Feb 29: **Bill McKibben**, founder of 350.org in a 50th anniversary celebration of UCSB's Environmental Studies Dept., 7:30pm Campbell Hall.

March 5: **David Wallace-Wells**, author of "The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming" talking about Surviving the World; 7:30pm at the New Vic in SB.

March 31: **Dr. Jane Goodall** on "Gombe: 60 Years of Discovery" at 7:30pm, Arlington Theater.

April 13: **Kandi White** on "Environmental Justice and Indigenous Communities." She is the lead organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network; 7:30pm Campbell Hall, free.

April 22: **Jane Lubchenco** on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day whose topic is: "From a Rude Awakening to a Bold New Vision: The Path from a Disastrous Oil Spill to a Sustainable Future," 7:30pm Campbell Hall, free.

April 26: **Yvon Chouinard**, founder of Patagonia with clips from the film "This Land" about America's 640 million acres of public lands; at 3pm Granada Theater, free.

April 29: **Naomi Klein**, journalist and author about "The Case for a Green New Deal" at 7:30pm Granada Theater.

May 4: **Elizabeth Rush**, author of a Pulitzer Prize finalist honor "Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore," 7:30pm Campbell Hall, free.

Green builder's home defies and electrifies

By Jon Ullman

Green builder Dennis Allen shows me his electric induction stove; it's sleek and modern even despite being more than a decade old.

He ordered it from a European company, where induction stoves are common. Today these electromagnetic stoves are popular in American households, not just because they are healthier and better for the climate, but because they are extremely precise.

Allen has always been ahead

of the curve when it comes to sustainable building, and he wants others to follow in his footsteps.

His Santa Barbara house is a wonder - he designed it to require no heat or air conditioning. In any season, it is the perfect indoor temperature. He does this by circulating radiant heat from the sun in winter to other parts of the house. In the summer, he blocks the sun from the outside. Electricity and hot water are provided by solar panels.

The gas company is afraid of all-electric buildings. They know they work well and unlike gas can be hooked up to solar panels or utility renewable power. When used with a heat pump (to provide heat and air conditioning), all-electric homes are cheaper to operate. Gas, once thought to be a better environmental choice for California, turned out to be just another dangerous fossil fuel.

Scientists have discovered that fracked gas, with its potent methane leaks, is as bad as coal for climate change. They've also discovered that stove gas flames are unleashing

a toxic stew of chemicals into our lungs such as nitrogen and carbon monoxide and formaldehyde. And then there are the uncontrollable leaks like Aliso Canyon and explosions that level neighborhoods.

The Sierra Club and Community Environmental Council are working with local cities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to establish building codes that favor all-electric new construction via incentives. Already 23 cities in California have passed new codes and we want our cities to join them.

These building codes don't mean you need to switch. They will however tilt the scale in favor of fully electric new construction, powered by renewable energy. The benefit to buyers and renters is significant: Utility costs will be less. Indoor air will be safer. The planet and its people will be safer.

Last December, Allen demonstrated a small induction cooktop at the Sierra Club holiday party. He showed people how it

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Dennis Allen's electric induction stove, a precise temperature cooker that is better for the climate and cooking. (Photo by Jon Ullman)

WBC BEGINS

See pg 3



We're becoming hotter faster

Editor's note: Based on NOAA data, "the coastal curve that bends south from Santa Barbara ... to the Mexican border is warming at double the rate of the country," noted the Washington Post in a December article. Below is an excerpt, read the whole story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LocalCchange>

2020 Year of high stakes...

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zealot William Pendley who last month moved BLM's offices from DC to the Chevron Corp office building in Colorado. Sierra Club is among a group suing over the plan and its inadequate environmental review. Another plan to open Pacific Ocean waters to oil leases is pending release after the 2020 election.

Steaming Sands

Aera's Cat Canyon oil project is expected to come up for a decision by the SB County Planning Commission as early as March. Start sending your emails of opposition.

The kind of tar and oil sands development proposed here is the worst, most polluting kind of oil in the world with emissions twice that of conventional oil and a greater

"Since 1895, the average temperature in Santa Barbara County has warmed by 2.3 degrees Celsius, according to The Post's analysis. Neighboring Ventura County has heated up even more rapidly. With an average temperature increase of 2.6 degrees Celsius since

risk of spills. Fields using cyclic steam have been shut down in Kern County after massive spills.

The proposed Cat Canyon projects would access oil so thick they have to truck lighter oil in to put down the hole and then truck the combined oil back out again. The steam engines used to melt the heavy oil would be powered by fracked gas from Texas and the resulting oil would be trucked to refineries elsewhere.

Every month 13 million barrels of fuel oil and other petroleum products are exported from the west coast. We need not add to the global glut.

Fossil-Free Future

We need not become a fossil fuel sacrifice zone. California's goal of 100% renewable energy and millions of electric vehicles is on track, and our region is leading the way with a wide range of active projects. They include the Strauss Wind project, Tajiguas Resource Recovery project, converting waste into renewable energy, large battery storage projects, new solar ordinance, Community Choice Energy, county building renewable projects, and Santa Barbara County buying electric vehicles.

These will create hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars of tax revenue.

preindustrial times, Ventura ranks as the fastest-warming county in the Lower 48 states.

"Warming here already has exceeded the threshold set in the 2015 Paris climate accords ... Offshore, the warming ocean has depleted once-expansive kelp forests around the Channel Islands and has thrown oyster, crab and urchin harvests into disarray.

"The (Santa Barbara) city's legacy tells a story about how progressive it is on environmental matters," said Leah Stokes, a political science professor at UC-Santa Barbara, who specializes in energy and environmental politics. "But in our own backyard, we are not nearly as progressive as we think."

Green builder...

continued from page 1

could boil water in just three minutes. He cooked meatless Beyond Burgers on a precision stove costing just \$70. The crowd was amazed. You will be too. Join Dennis Allen in electrifying your own home and supporting building codes to electrify new buildings in your city.

What can you do?

~ Support the Sierra Club's all-electric new building campaign,



"Go Johnny, Go": Ojai Mayor Johnny Johnston using a sledgehammer to decommission the city's old gas-powered leaf blowers in favor of clean battery electric equipment. The bash occurred during an event marking its certification on Dec. 12 as a "Green Zone" city, the first in Ventura County. Meanwhile, in Santa Maria, landscapers are fighting proposed CARB bans of gas-powered equipment, arguing the batteries aren't enough for large projects. (Photo by Austin Widger, published with permission from the Ojai Valley News)

seeking new codes. We'll need you to contact policy makers in your city and county. To get involved in this exciting campaign: send an email to: jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

~ If you have an all-electric home, showcase it with the Sierra Club also by sending me an email.

~ Stuck with gas? Go electric, one appliance at a time. Buy a

magnetic induction cooktop and a small electric oven. They are available online or in stores. Use electric room heaters instead of gas and save money on electricity with a "time-of-use" plan that's cheaper after 9pm.

~ Ullman is Executive Director of our Los Padres Chapter.

EAVESDROPS

"It (the EPA) is working a revolution in values, as commitment to responsible partnership with nature replaces cavalier assumptions that we can play God with our surroundings and survive."

~ Part of a speech on establishing the Environmental Protection Agency in 1973 by then-President Nixon; Congress passed the landmark law 355 to 4.

Steaming over risky drilling

By Marie Lakin

In June of 2011, a sinkhole of super-heated earth swallowed an oilfield worker in Kern County. That field had been producing heavy oil for decades utilizing the high-pressure technique of water heated by natural gas and injected into the earth.

In May of last year, a leak which grew to 1.34 million gallons of crude oil and produced water was discovered in the Cymric Oil Field in Bakersfield. Chevron was fined more than \$2.7 million for this massive leak, one of the largest in state history. High-pressure steam injection was also used in that field.

Although there are various methods utilizing steam, the most scrutiny is being placed on high-pressure injection that fractures the surrounding formation. A moratorium ordered by Gov. Gavin Newsom in November focuses entirely on new steam injection projects using that technique.

In Ventura County, the Board of Supervisors put a moratorium on all new cyclic steam oil drilling in an area near Oxnard where petroleum-related gases were discovered in the Fox Canyon Aquifer, and the operator was also shut down for multiple permit violations. The aquifer supplies water to more than 700,000 residents.

Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG) and the Sierra Club pushed hard for this moratorium.

Scientists working in the Orcutt field near Santa Barbara found evidence of oil-field fluids in water wells near other cyclic steam and acidizing operations.

But it is important to note, many fields are not affected by our governor's new moratorium because they do not utilize high-pressure steam. In the Oxnard field, while steam is injected into the tar sands there, it is not high pressure.

California is ground zero for steam injection in the U.S. to dilute heavy oil usually in fields that are nearly played out, often in shallow formations which tend to be near to water sources. It is extremely energy and water intensive.

And while hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") gets much of the attention, a permit to frack hasn't been pulled in Ventura County since 2015.

Anneliese Anderle, a retired petroleum engineer who oversaw well abandonments in California, said massive steam flood in some tar sands fields contributed to shut steam injection down due to "subsidence," or the sinking of the land. She has many other concerns.

"The alternating cycles of steam injection, soaking and production put considerable compressive stress on the production casing as it heats, expands and cools," Anderle said. "This also may cause failure to the cement that bonds the exterior casing to the formation. Cement failure can then lead to pathways for the high-pressure steam to migrate to the protected freshwater aquifers and possibly to the surface."

We do have new regulations in place which govern underground injections of all types, including steam.

California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) -- the new name of the former Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) -- is now fining oil companies for "surface expressions," the geologic ruptures that caused oil to flow unabated out of the ground in the Cymric Field.

This is not enough. California has been a leader on climate, yet we have the most carbon-intensive and risky drilling practices in the nation. It is time to phase them out and work toward a fossil-fuel free future.

~ MarieLakinis Communications Director of CFROG.

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

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



The Santa Barbara Group and friends celebrating a year's worth of hard work on Dec. 8 and giving out awards to those who went above and beyond; see photos of winners on Pg. 3. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

SOUTH COAST

Microgrid is power of future

The Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) has unanimously approved an ambitious initiative with the Clean Coalition and Sage Energy Consulting to stage solar-driven microgrids and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) at schools throughout the

District.

It will erect solar and energy storage that can provide long-duration resilience, along with EVCI that supports District staff and students during the day — and provide overnight charging options for neighbors who have challenges installing electric

vehicle chargers where they live.

Schools are ideal sites for solar-driven microgrids, because they are located throughout our communities and often serve as emergency shelters. With large parking lots, schools are also well situated to benefit from solar parking canopies and EVCI.

The school location effort follows the Clean Coalition's Goleta Load Pocket Community Microgrid, showcasing "the power system of the future."

The Goleta Load Pocket, a disaster-prone, transmission-vulnerable 70-mile stretch along Santa Barbara's South Coast, provides the perfect opportunity for a comprehensive Community Microgrid that will bring the area an unparalleled trifecta of economic, environmental, and resilience benefits, according to Clean Coalition.

A Community Microgrid can act as an electric island from the larger grid during a power outage — whether it's caused by a natural disaster or any other event — providing indefinite backup power via renewables for critical community facilities such as fire stations and emergency shelters. During regular grid operations, the GLPCM will continue providing the benefits of clean local energy to the community.

The first stage for the Goleta Microgrid is within the Montecito Upper Village. It is currently going through a Request For Proposal process, with construction expected to start sometime this year.

To learn more, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/GoletaMicrogrid>

Keep islands WILD

The Los Padres Chapter is forming a new campaign called Channel Islands WILD!

It's a bold Sierra Club campaign to protect Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary and lobby for a northern expansion.

The campaign has and will continue to take part in planning sessions for the update to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan. A public meeting on Jan. 24 was held at the Santa Barbara Zoo regarding the update, via the Sanctuary Advisory Council, an official advisory body that consists of experts and agencies. Information on the SAC and issues are at: www.ChannelIslands.NOAA.gov

The SAC's Conservation Working Group includes a Sierra Club representative, Dr. Katie Mullen.

The campaign expects to lobby Congress to declare wilderness land designation via the management plan, which has never been acted upon but is in process of being updated.

It comes at a time when the federal government is proposing new oil development in the Pacific, with more specific plans revealed sometime this year. The campaign will resist those proposals, starting with the Secretary of the Interior.

Another issue is banning use of all long line nylon nets used by the commercial fishing industry to catch a targeted fish species. But those same nets entangle and can kill marine life, notably whales, sea otters, dolphins, seals, diving sea birds and sea turtles.

There are also plans to lobby members of Congress for legislation which would create

Parks at risk

Our national parks and other public lands are some of our nation's most valuable resources.

Unfortunately, a recent proposal from the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee -- a lobbyist-loaded advisory committee created by disgraced former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke -- would grant deals to its members by leasing park campgrounds to corporations.

They've proposed a plan to lease public campgrounds to private entities and open sites for commercialized services, such as shops and food trucks, while hiking fees and limiting discounts for seniors. This sweetheart deal would allow corporations to rise prices and shut out working families and elders on fixed incomes, among others.

"Don't let them," said the Sierra Rise action arm of the club. Add a comment on why you think we must keep our public lands public here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NoToCampPlan>

several underwater sea mounts, sea caves and sea canyons as national marine monuments in the Santa Barbara Channel, which would prohibit undersea mining.

To discourage Japanese whaling in federal waters off the coast of SoCal, the campaign intends to meet with the Japanese Consul General.

There are moves afoot to remove Santa Rosa Island from the national park, which the campaign opposes.

"Channel Islands WILD! team members will fan out across the chapter's region of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, to the state Capitol and the halls of power in Washington DC to meet with decision makers and speak at events and rally like-minded groups to make absolutely certain that all wildlife and wild places in and around the Channel Islands stay wild," commented Jim Hines who started the campaign on behalf of the Sierra Club. He is the chapter's vice-chair.

Hines said it's in keeping with the club's 127-year old tradition "doing what we do best, protecting wildlife and wild places."

Get involved or keep apprised of the campaign on the Sierra Club's website here: <https://tinyurl.com/ChIslandsWild>

Awards of appreciation



SB Group Chair Katie Davis was recognized on Dec. 8 with the Most Valuable Player Award "in recognition of her unequalled Tireless Engagement, Multi-Tasking, Commitment, Dedication, Selfless Giving, Responsibilities, Professionalism, Leadership, Enthusiasm, Motivation Knowledge and Activism" (shown with Bill Woodbridge). And below, Award of Excellence to Dennis Allen "For Pioneering Green Building Construction Techniques and Educating, Advocating and Advancing the Art and Practice of Sustainability" (see story pg. 1). Giving him the award are Davis and ExCom member-at-large Alex Pujo. (Photo Robert Bernstein)



Sign up for our Wilderness Basics Course (see article below) and you too can experience backcountry adventures like Patricia Peinado's "fun in the sun club hike" with Sierra Club on Mt Pinos. (Photo by Anna Chung)

WBC begins Feb. 19

Wilderness Basics Course begins Feb. 19, the premiere and popular hands-on course that will make you savvy and safe in the backcountry or even on a day hike, sponsored by experts of the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club.

The WBC does sell out each year, so don't delay; to sign up or learn more go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/2020WBCsignup>

Eight classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30pm Feb.19 through April 8, at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura.

The class lectures are comprehensive and local experts will demonstrate equipment, wilderness ethics, first aid, weather, water filtration, cooking, map & compass, clothing and safety. Students will gain experience by participating in several outings including day hikes, a car camp, and backpacking trips in our local mountains.

All outings offer students a choice of difficulties ranging from low-moderate to strenuous, with multiple trip options.

Patty Peinado is one of the scores of students who graduated from the WBC. Here's what she says:

"I am a proud WBC graduate. Every class was well planned and informative. I learned to carry the Ten Essentials on each hike and how to be prepared and safe in the wilderness.

"The staff offers opportunities for day hikes as well as two backpacking trips. Every topic one could possibly imagine is covered such as backpacking equipment on display for participants to view the variety of gear available. I was happy to see tents set up, sleeping bags, mattress pads, backpacks, stoves, etc. for me to examine.

"Each participant is given a compass and a complete guide to backpacking book. I definitely felt fully prepared to go out into the wilderness with friends and backpack after the 8-week course. Sign up today!"

For questions, call (805) 766-9920 or email and check out Facebook:

lospadreswbc@gmail.com

www.Facebook.com/lospadreswbc

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 15 East Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes, issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at:

<https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraClub>

<https://TWITTER.com/SBSierraClub>

<https://www.INSTAGRAM.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara>

<https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara>

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group would like to restart regular meetings and programs. Keep informed on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup ~ 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



In January, hike leader Robert Bernstein's Playground outing in the hills above Goleta had a record 27 people show up. "It was a challenge to have so many people as there are many places where people have to file through one at a time, but everyone had a good attitude and was patient and helpful," he said. In addition to this and other photos, he added videos to his post. Check them out at: <http://swt.org/hikesierra/play-2020-0105>

GREETINGS FRIENDS Natives save water

By Jim Hines
Greetings Friends:

Would you like a beautiful yard that is low water use? Then let's go native, California native plants that is.

We have so many wonderful and easy to grow natives ranging from large shade tree species to flowering shrubs, groundcovers and flowering native bulbs.

Southern California plants

EAVESDROPS

"Peas Lettuce Romaine"

~ The battle cry on shirts and signs by folks who want the Saturday Farmers' Market to remain at its Santa Barbara Cota Street location (also a commuter parking lot M-S), which is picked for a new police station instead. The advocadoes did turnup but were squashed by a 4-2 vote that they shallot get their whey.

are naturally adopted to our region, so take minor maintenance after being established.

Need a blooming focal point? Plant a lovely cerise flowering native Redbud. Want to create shade from the hot summer sun? Then you will be planting native Sycamores or Alders.

Allow Spring to be filled with blooming native shrubs such as California Lilac (Ceanthus species) noted for their blue or white blossoms in abundance; there are groundcover varieties, or medium size and large growing shrub varieties available.

Have a shady spot in your yard? No problem, use flowering current and gooseberry shrubs as well as red flowered sage.

One of the real standouts in my garden is the native Matilija poppy, a large shrub (growing 6' x 6') with giant "fried egg" colored flowers. Overwhelming beauty when in full bloom, which



is the case with mine from April until October.

When you are out walking in wild areas keep an eye out for various native plants that you like and then ask your local garden center to order them for you if not in stock.

Gardening with California native plants is an enjoyable experience and they add richness and beauty to any garden setting.

Election basics

The Tuesday, March 3, 2020 election is a Presidential Primary that includes races for County Supervisor, State Assembly, State Senate and House of Representatives (Congress).

The California Voter's Choice Act is a new law passed in 2016 allowing counties to conduct elections under a new model which provides greater flexibility and convenience for voters.

This new election model allows voters to choose how, when, and where to cast their ballot by mailing every voter a ballot (deadline to ask for a vote-by-mail is Feb. 25), expanding in-person early voting and allowing voters to cast a ballot at any vote center within their county. Too, if you miss the registration deadline (Feb. 18), you must go to your county elections office on or before election day to complete a conditional ballot (often referred to as "Same Day Voter Registration").

For new voters or those who have changed their address, name or political party preference, voter registration deadline is Feb. 18 (online or postmark); go to:

www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov

Sierra Club does not offer endorsements on all issues or candidates. The endorsements go through a rigorous process to ensure they meet the club's high standards.

Coast access appealed

The Sacramento based Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) is suing the state of California over enforcement of AB 1680, Assembly member Monique Limón's bill which gives the people of California beach access at the private Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota Coast.

"The PLF is no friend of public lands, I can tell you," remarked our vice-Chair Jim Hines.

All 133 Hollister Ranch property owners are being represented "pro bono" by PLF. The law, which Gov. Gavin Newsom signed and went into effect in January, asserts the public must be allowed to enter the ranch by land and access some of its 8.5 miles of shoreline by April 2022. Further access would be phased in but needs to have a plan hammered out. Sierra Club is just one of several environmental groups that have long fought for access.

Limón told the *Los Angeles Times* that "regrettably, this lawsuit is not a surprise. This has been Hollister's go-to for almost four decades — they fight access to a public beach in the courts," she said adding "the need for this legislation speaks for itself."

PLF is a high-powered legal firm which is against government regulation, and takes on what they perceive as illegal actions by states and the federal government across the western U.S.

Several staffers left PLF to take positions in the Dept. of the Interior after President Trump took office, Hines noted, "thus having an influence on national public land actions."

Your account

Sierra Club has created **My Account** for new and current members to make it easier to manage your own interface, instead of depending upon the staff to do simple tasks.

The portal allows you to update your own mail and e-mail, customize the types of e-mails you get from the club, review your donation history and renew membership, among other errands. If you have a name change, that requires a phone call (415) 977-5653.

Simply go to the foot of the club's home page to find a Create Your Account button or simply to log into your current account there: www.SierraClub.org

Channelkeeper creates dive map

Channelkeeper has crafted its own Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve Dive Map for SCUBA divers and others who want to learn more about the Santa Barbara Channel's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). See it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/AnacapaDiveMap>

The map is available online and in print form at local dive shops. It highlights prime dive spots, and features detailed illustrations of

underwater terrain and links to special videos of each location so that divers and non-divers alike can see what this awesome underwater park has to offer.

The map is part of Channelkeeper's ongoing work to promote access and enjoyment of the Santa Barbara Channel's MPA network. MPAs create safe havens for marine wildlife to reproduce, grow and replenish adjacent areas,

leading to stronger and more resilient marine ecosystems overall. MPAs are not only valuable for protecting coastal ecosystems, but also provide recreational and economic benefits.

Help others learn what MPAs have to offer by sharing this map with your friends, and don't forget to check out Channelkeeper's other dive maps (for Naples Reef and Coal Oil Point) in its growing MPA Dive Atlas.

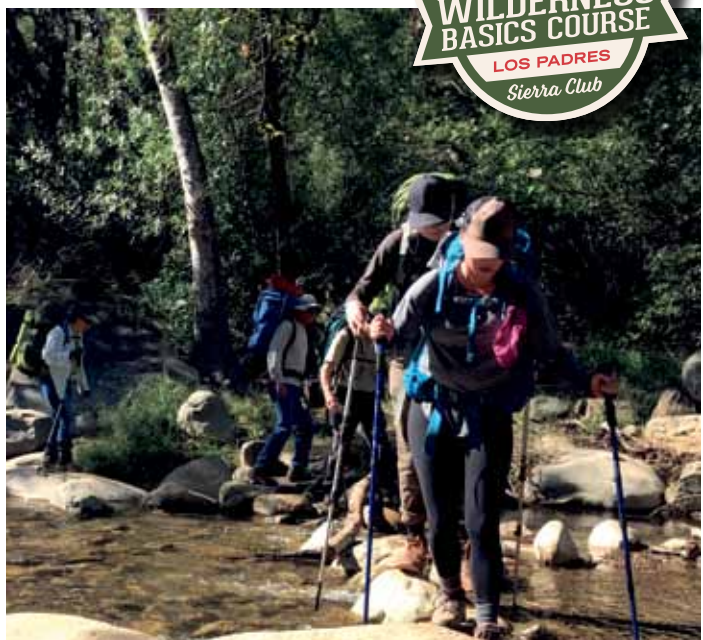
LEARN TO BACKPACK

AN 8 WEEK COURSE IN VENTURA

Wednesdays, 7:00–9:30 PM

+ four exciting wilderness outings!

February 19 – April 8, 2020



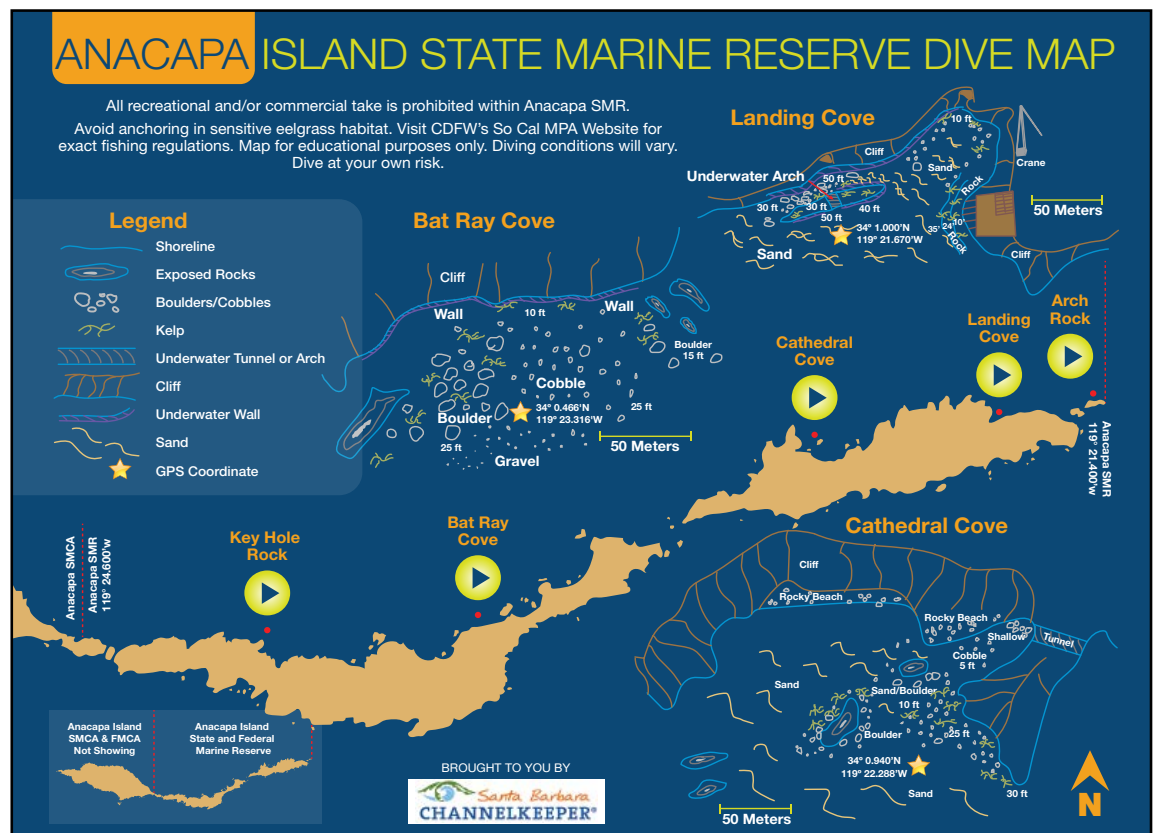
Topics covered include equipment, navigation, first aid, cooking, & more!

Prices start at \$190 (student rate available)

All levels welcome

Register at LosPadresWBC.org

lospadreswbc@gmail.com | 805-766-9920



SIGHTINGS

Local tornado a wake-up call

By John Hankins

Did you hear about the tornado heading for Santa Barbara that missed and hit Ventura instead on Christmas Day? Mother Earth's climate change present to those who are skeptical perhaps?

We are serious about climate change and have bold plans, as our work below proves. Lots of moves to protect and restore our lands and animals, cleaning up beaches and rivers, and actions against fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy, all adhering to the Club's motto of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.

We do this all the time. 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 (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), do not pass go,



Pick leader Stephanie Truong of Food Forward proudly shows product gleaned from a local backyard. (Photo contributed)

Gleaning with Food Forward

Food Forward is a local nonprofit that collects excess fruits and vegetables from backyards, public properties, farms, Farmers Markets, and wholesale markets around Ventura and Los Angeles counties. It then donates 100% of the fresh produce to local food banks and agencies that feed people needing it.

In preparation for a very busy 2020 citrus season, Food Forward is seeking folks interested in being trained as volunteer Pick Leaders across Ventura County, who work part-time to harvest food, fight hunger, and build community.

If you're interested in becoming a Pick Leader or an Event Leader for one of Food Forward's other food recovery programs, call 630-2728 or email:

ally@FoodForward.org
www.FoodForward.org



An example of the club's "Art and the Green New Deal" which invited members and friends to share their art about the climate crisis. This one is from ARRT of Maine. To see more of the artists' works nationwide, go to: www.SierraClub.org/art-green-new-deal

but go directly to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Feb 1 **Restore and protective work** at the Hedrick Ranch Nature Preserve along the Santa Clara River hosted by the Ventura Sierra Club.

Jan 20 **Ormond Beach cleanup** hosted by Ventura Sierra Club to honor Martin Luther King Day, a national day of service. (Note: Pt. Hueneme council member Steven Gama leads a beach clean-up at Ormond every Saturday from 8:30am on. Meet at Parking lot C south of Hueneme Pier at Alaska 261 memorial).

Jan 19 **Roundtable talk** at the Ventura County Democratic Party in which our vice-chair Jim Hines "proudly represented the Sierra Club" on matters including upcoming elections, wildfires, economy and environmental issues; held in Camarillo.

Jan 18 **New trail** evolving near the Fillmore Fish Hatchery called the Sespe Cienega Native Plant Trail saw scores of volunteers working on native plants in preparation for a grand opening.

Jan 16 **Valley Sierran** printed an article by our vice-chair Jim Hines on his work with the club's Cal/Nevada Wildlife Team, noting a lot of success in 2019, especially launching the Mountain Lion protection campaign. Coming up in 2020: Winning for Wolves!

Jan 14 **KCLU broadcast** mentioned the Sierra Club when reporting on the coalition that has sued the federal government to block Bureau of Land Management's plan to allow oil and fracking on over a million acres in our tri-counties region and others. Others are Los Padres ForestWatch and Wilderness Society.

Jan 14 **Reaching Out** to the Ventura Audubon Society, our vice-chair Jim Hines told the audience about the club's work here locally and nationally, focusing on defending wildlife, protecting the forest, Channel Islands and cherishing national public lands in the west which are under siege by the Trump Administration. "Sierra Club is proud to be partners with the Ventura Audubon Society" on many issues, he said.

Jan 12 **Hedrick Preserve** along the Santa Clara River got a helping hand from the club's call for volunteers to restore and protect the river and its habitat. Thanks to all who participated!

Jan 11 **Act on Act** was the message from our chapter to thousands of people on our email

list to support the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, which would increase land and protections for the Los Padres National Forest via SB 1111. To learn more, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/HeritageAct2199>

Jan 10 **Food & Photo** show happened after the club's Friday hike by Robert Bernstein at SB Valle Verde Retirement Center; attendees brought their favorite potluck food to share. Highlights were the club's excursion to three of the Channel Islands on a live-aboard boat.

Jan 8 **Activists Listen**, according to our vice-chair Jim Hines who sent out an email asking folks to contact U.S. Senator Kamala Harris to support and fight for the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act "... and already about 200 people have sent me DONE emails." Jim says, "I love our activist teams, they care, and they take action." You can too, pick your topic at: www.SierraClub.org

Dec 26 **Bold Plans** by our chapter were laid out by an email blast that noted "2019 has been an outstanding year..." and listing top priorities (stop oil/gas projects in favor of renewable energy and protect wild places) which include

BULLETIN:

Renewable energy wins! On Jan 28 SB supervisors rejected 3 appeals of Strauss Wind Project near Lompoc, which now may be built by year's end. Important victory made TV news with our Executive Director Jon Ullman, who said 27 groups and unions supported project; vote 4-0 (Adam absent).

our popular free hikes. But "we can't do this work without your help" and the blast asked for donations which you can do here:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Dec 25: "**Tornado Warning for... Central Santa Barbara County ... at 9:30 pm PST, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was over the water moving north at 45 mph ... take cover now!**" Alert from National Weather Service, tornado was off a bit; it did hit the Ventura coast instead and caused some minor damage, SO ...Are you ready now to help Sierra Club fight Climate Change?

Dec 14 **Nature Preserve** work at the Hedrick Ranch, which has been protected for wildlife and Santa Clara River restoration for many years with the help of Sierra Club volunteers.

Dec 8 **Holiday Party** SB Group, resting on our laurels for a year's worth of hard work and play saving our planet and neighborhoods.

Dec 2 **Bike Lane** and greener, more river-friendly project for the proposed Olivas Park Specific Plan saw Sierra Club members lobby for such changes at the Ventura City Council. Upshot was "not a big decision, just to require a protected bike lane. No other adds made to the planning for levee access, recreation or river value, just a hopeful desire," said Nina Danza, Chair of Ventura Sierra Club and a key advocate.

EVENTS

Feb 1 – June 15: "**Starry Nights: Visions of the Night Sky**," an awe-inspiring exhibit that started with a Feb. 1 reception; exhibit runs through June 15. Includes telescope images from Goleta's Las Cumbres Observatory, nocturne paintings and more. Details at: www.WildlingMuseum.org

Feb 19: **WBC first class:** We typically sell out for our annual Wilderness Basics Course, but there's still time for an amazing indoor and outdoor adventure. See ad on page 4 call 766-9920 or go to: <http://tinyurl.com/2020WBCsignup>

Feb 19: **Rare Plants** of SB County and why they matter, with Dr. Heather Schneider, a free event at 7pm Los Olivos Hall, 2374 Alamo Pintado Ave in Los Olivos.



Feb 29: **Bill McKibben** speaking on "Our Changing Climate: A global Movement of Reform, 7:30pm. Campbell Hall UCSB, part of the Forces of Nature series of

events.

<https://tinyurl.com/GlobalReform>

March 5: "**Surviving the World: Making the Best of a Burdened Planet**," with David Wallace-Wells at 7:30pm at the New Vic, 33 W. Victoria St SB which will be tabled by the SB Group.

March 8: **Anacapa Island** "day in Paradise" trip to help with restoration and an island hike and exploration. Limited to 25; signups and all information at: www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura

March 19: "**The Man Who Discovered the Sea**," Hans Hass who began his diving career in the 1930's and was the first filmmaker to bring back images of sharks and whales in their natural environment. Leslie Leaney will show film and educate about this "Pioneer of the Pioneers" event 7pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Details at: <https://SBmm.org>

March 10: **Condor Comeback**, a true conservation success, will be a free event by the Friends of the California Condor, part of our Venture(a) Out educational series at 5:30pm Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., Ventura.

March 30: "**We the Voyagers: Our Moana**," a film screening with Mimi George about the Polynesian culture that built the first canoe that navigated across the Pacific and still use ancient designs and carry on sustainable life. Film and Q&A starts 7pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Details at: <https://SBmm.org>



A condor father fussing over his chick in the Condor sanctuary. Learn more about how these birds were plucked from the brink of extinction, attend the event shown below. To see condors in the wild, email:

FriendsOfCondors@gmail.com

(Photo courtesy of Fish and Wildlife Service)

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

Tuesday March 10, 5:30-7pm
EP Foster Library Topping Room
(651 E. Main St., Ventura FREE PARKING IN REAR)



The Comeback of the
California Condor
FRIENDS OF THE CALIFORNIA
CONDOR WILD AND FREE

A true conservation success, Condor recovery will be described by experts including how the species has adapted to multiple challenges in the American West.

FREE ADMISSION

Info: SierraClubVentura@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY



2020-March, May, July, September, November



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.

February 5
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: Meet at 4pm at the Mission Buenaventura fountain at 211 E. Main St for a slow paced 2 hours, 5-mile loop, 300-foot gain and loss from the Mission fountain up to the Sierra Cross down to the Harbor Pier and back to the fountain. This is not a moderate pace. Leisurely walk to the Sierra Cross, across the vehicle roads that lead to Kalorama St. down to Front St to the Ash St. pedestrian overpass to the Ventura Pier and back via Figueroa St. to the fountain. There is free parking in the Ventura County Museum parking lot (100 E. Santa Clara St.) and some other lots on 200 E. Santa Clara St. The time is 4 pm to 6pm. Rain cancels and dress appropriately for weather forecast. Wear appropriate shoes for pavement hiking/walking, head or flashlight and water. Leashed dogs are welcome. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

CONDITIONS

Campgrounds trails and roads in Los Padres National Forest can be closed, have restrictions due to habitat protection, repair or weather. Before you go into the backcountry ensure you check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (805 area unless noted) are:

Los Padres Forest Districts

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

Other Areas

Santa Monica Mtns	370-2301
Conejo Park	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Information

For updated info, maps, news releases, and other goodies:
<http://FS.USDA.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info

Lots of local info on websites that give you varied info on outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, work opportunities and much more.

- <https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>
- www.LPForest.org
- <https://LPFW.org>
- www.HikeLosPadres.com
- www.SBSierraClub.org
- www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
- www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
- <https://SBTrails.org>
- www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

February 8
PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3000' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. Wear hiking shoes or boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. The weather can vary greatly during the hike, so check out the forecast for Rose Valley at Weather.gov and bring layers accordingly. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8am (Seaward and Harbor in Vons parking lot near Chase Bank). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet in front of Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA at 7:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 1-805-479-7063 / 1-805-644-6934 (SB)

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN: Meet at 9 am at 155 Sulphur Mountain Rd for a 5.5 mile, 3-hour uphill hike. It's about a 1000 ft. elevation gain. Parking is on Sulphur Mountain Rd. The trailhead is at the end of the road. Slow to pace moderate with periodic stop, not for beginners due to distance and elevation gain. The trail is a wide, dirt packed vehicle road with some runners and bicyclists sharing the road with us. and offers beautiful views. Wear sturdy trail shoes, sun protection; bring water, snack and walking poles if desired. Leashed, well-behaved dogs are welcome. Leader does not check phone/computer after 7am on 12/8 for attendance/cancelations. Arrange carpooling on your own. Rain cancels. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

MOUNT PACIFICO LOOP TRAIL: 9am. Mount Pacifico Loop Trail is a 11.8 mile moderately trafficked loop trail located near Palmdale, California that features beautiful wildflowers and is rated as difficult. Guest speaker Jim Danza will be educating us on the watershed and why it is important. We will meet in Fillmore at Starbucks off the 126 to carpool up to the trailhead. Please bring 2-3L water, snacks, lunch, and a layer to change in and out of due to weather. We will be moving at a moderate pace, please be sure you can keep up. Additional questions email VICTORIA vic.vohland@gmail.com (VEN)

February 9
RINCON TO CARPINTERIA HIKE: We'll start from Rincon Beach Park, hike a bluff trail above the beach with great views of the Channel Islands. After crossing the railroad tracks, we'll ascend to the Carpinteria Bluff Trail, following it to the seal viewing overlook. Lunch at

Tarpits Park. Return by the beach if the tide is favorable. 4mrt, easy to moderate. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from south of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

February 10
SHOOTING STAR TRAIL: This moderate hike in Thousand Oaks is 6.2 miles with a 1007 ft. elevation gain. If the shooting stars are blooming it is a beautiful sight. Meet at 08:45 in the parking lot at the end of Avenida de Los Arboles, (940 Bright Star Circle). The terrain is exposed and rocky at times. Leashed dogs ok. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

February 12
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

EAVESDROPS

"Hike trails at the speed of sheep."

~ Amy Alipio in NatGeo about adventures in Wales, which has AONBs, an official and poetic designation meaning Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

February 15
HABITAT WALK COAL OIL POINT RESERVE: Easy 3 mi loop from 9 -12. Take in Devereux Cr -Monarch Sanctuary-Ocean bluffs Beach walk-Devereux Slough. Bring water and snacks. Meet Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA. 9am Dale 1-805-886-1674 (SB)

SATWIWA LOOP TRAIL: Old Boney, Fossil and Upper Sycamore Loop. 9am Meet at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa, 4121 Potrero Rd, Newbury Park, CA 91320, drive down to the furthest parking lot where the road ends. We'll hike at a moderate pace for 7 miles with 1700 ft. of elevation gain. There are some steep sections so this hike is not recommended for beginners. Bring 2 litres of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain or excessive heat cancels. For more info. Contact GERARD 1-805-212-0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com (VEN)

SESPE CIENEGA NATIVE PLANT TRAIL: 9am- 12pm Join us in creating the Trail! We'll be planting, weeding, mulching, and doing trail maintenance. Learn about the public access and restoration vision for the upcoming Sespe Cienega site. To find the event, follow the sign to the Fillmore Fish Hatchery from the 126 Freeway. Some parking is available; always cool to carpool! Bring plenty of water, closed toed shoes and a sun hat. Tools and gloves provided, bring your own if you like. Address: Fillmore Fish Hatchery, 612 E Telegraph Rd · Fillmore, CA. For questions, contact HOLLY hollyjessicawright@gmail.com (VEN)

February 16
GAVIOTA CAVES: Hike up about 500 feet from Gaviota beach and explore the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above and proceed to overlook. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Light colored long pants are recommended. Moderate 4 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 (SB)

February 17
LOON POINT: Meet at the Loon Point Beach Parking lot (2777 Padaro Lane) in Summerland at 8:45am. This is a 6 mile easy loop walk on shady equestrian trails followed by a beach walk. The elevation gain is about 400 feet. Low tide is at 12:14 so we will do the beach last this time. Leashed dogs are ok. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, (805) 657-8735. (VEN)

February 19
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

February 22
CATHEDRAL PEAK/LA CUMBRE PEAK: From Mission Creek hike up to Cathedral Peak, steep and rocky in places. Continue up to La Cumbre Peak for lunch. Views include "Three Pools" and the full coastline. Pass by an echoing canyon. Return down Tunnel trail. Very Strenuous 8 mrt, 3500 ft elevation gain. Hundreds of knee-high steps and some Class 2 rock climbing. Bring gloves, lunch, water. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME! ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

February 23
GOAT ROCK/RANGER PEAK: View miles of rolling hills covered with sweeping fields of golden grass in the San Rafael Wilderness. We'll climb Goat Rock then make our way to Ranger Peak on this strenuous 7 mrt with 2,148' gain. Cardio conditioning is a must! It can get hot and there is little shade so be prepared. Hiking shoes/boots, Minimum 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid is required. 45 minute drive to trailhead. Rain cancels. Please sign up via Meet-Up. KRISTI (SB)

February 24
LA JOLLA/SYCAMORE CYN SHUTTLE HIKE: Everyone meet at 8:30am in the Sycamore Canyon Campground parking lot, 9000 Pacific Coast Hwy. We will leave

Gun limit in forest

The current Forest Order prohibiting recreational shooting has been extended until June 30, due to increasingly high fire danger conditions in the extended weather forecast and the potential for a wildfire sparked by shooting.

Despite recent winter rainfall, live fuel moisture levels across the Forest did not significantly recover and are currently hovering just above the 60 percent critical threshold. Predictive weather forecasts indicate persistent, strong offshore wind events through April that will likely further reduce fuel moisture levels.

Under this Forest Order, discharging a firearm is prohibited except in the designated target ranges at the Winchester Canyon Gun Club and the Ojai Valley Gun Club. Persons hunting during the open hunting season and having a valid California hunting license are exempt.

A violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

cars for the end of our hike, and drive back to La Jolla parking lot to start our hike. This is a point to point moderate hike of 6-7 miles with about 1000 ft elevation. The ocean and island views don't get much better! Parking in both lots require a paid permit unless you have an annual parking pass. No dogs allowed on the Ray Miller Trail. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

February 26
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

March 1
ROMERO CANYON to Buena Vista benches: Short but steep 3mrt morning walk to hidden benches. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 /event@swt.org (SB)

BACKBONE TRAIL: Kanan Rd. to Zuma Ridge 10am. 5 mrt hike with 354' ascent. Easy pace. To carpool meet at the Ventura Von's at Harbor & Seaward parking lot near Harbor entrance at 9 a.m. Otherwise meet at 10 a.m. in parking lot on Kanan Rd. across from W. Newton Canyon Rd. Rain or 85 degrees forecast the day before cancels. No reservation needed and no limit. KIM HOCKING 1-805-983-2147. (VEN)

March 2
WESTERN PLATEAU & HAWK CYN: Meet in the parking lot at the end of Hill Canyon Rd. in Santa Rosa Valley park at 8:45am. The hike is about 5.5 miles long with app. 600 ft elevation gain. This is an easy lollipop hike that goes through open rolling hills and down shady Hawk Canyon back to Hill Canyon. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

continued next page

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, 770-7656. (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

March 4
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA
PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

March 7
JALAMA BEACH TO POINT
CONCEPTION ON THE GAVIOTA
COAST: We'll walk a beautiful and remote beach with possible views of migrating gray whales. 10 mrt near low tide (-1.2 ft @ 2:21pm) with a 30 minute break midway. The trailhead is at Jalama Beach County Park, 65 miles north of Santa Barbara. \$10 p/car fee. Expect cold, windy conditions and tar blobs on the beach. Appropriate for anyone with good cardio fitness. MUST have 1 liter of water, food, and sun/wind protection. Expect an approx. 7 hr excursion. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am. If you are coming from the north, please notify me in advance. Rain cancels. ELLEN 1-805-717-4099 (SB)

ARROYO VERDE PARK: Meet at 8:45am at the first restroom for a 3-mile, 1 ½ hour, slowly paced uphill hike. The park is at the corner of Day Road and Foothill Rd in Ventura. Free parking is on Foothill Rd. We take the west trail and slowly hike up to the highest point in the park (up to the fence of the avocado grove). This is a short but steep hike and not for beginners or fast hikers but for those who want to condition for future steep hikes. Periodic stops and inviting views are in store for us. Leashed dogs are welcome. There is no shade so wear or bring appropriate sun protection, water, sturdy shoes, and poles if desired. Rain cancels. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

EAVESDROPS

"Thanks to LED lighting, U.S. electrical consumption for lighting will drop more than 40% by 2030 ... in turn saving over 50 power plants' worth of energy, and potentially reducing 185 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions..."

~ Part of a UCSB press release on Nobel Prize co-winner Shuji Nakamura of UC-Santa Barbara who, along with two others, unlocked the technology for white LEDs. A comment on the web noted the "breakthrough ranks up there with Edison, Westinghouse and Tesla ... yet most Americans have never heard of him."

March 8
GAVIOTA STATE PARK LOOP: A 4 mrt moderate hike in the Northwestern section of the park with great views of the eastern section and the Hollister Ranch. We'll include the Yucca, Hollister and the newly re-opened Woodland Trail. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

HEDRICK RANCH NATURE AREA: See Feb 1 writeup for details. For questions, contact HOLLY hollyjessicawright@gmail.com (VEN)

March 9
COZY DELL: Choose Your Own Ending. Park in the dirt across from the trailhead on HWY 33 at 8:45am. Those of you who want to take the 2 mile hike up to the river and turn around for a 4 mile r/t hike are welcome to do so. The rest of us will cross the river and complete the Cozy Dell/Foothill/Pratt loop to add 3 miles and 500 ft of elevation. The trail is rocky in spots. Trekking poles may help. Leashed dogs ok. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 11
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA
PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

March 14
FIR CANYON: Long car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mt. Moderate but steep in a few places, 6.5 mrt, 1800 ft elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

March 15
CARPINTERIA BLUFFS: Morning walk past Seal Rock, flower fields and over bluffs. Children welcome, bring water and a snack. Slow paced 3 miles or so. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 /event@swt.org (SB)

March 16
HARBOR ISLAND TRAIL: Meet at 8:45am near the bathrooms, 1247 Chesapeake Dr., Oxnard for a 5.5 mile flat, easy walk around the Seabridge channels. Prepare for sun exposure. Tennis shoes are suggested. Well behaved



Great news ... the ever-popular Cold Springs Trail was finally and officially reopened on Jan 12, 2020 (mostly of it closed due to debris flow on January 9, 2018, in the wake of the Thomas Fire). "The trail is in really good shape," said our hike leader Tony Biegen. The trailhead (shown) begins off E. Mountain Drive in Montecito and "is much nicer than it was before the debris flow. No big steps." (Photo by Tony Biegen)

leashed dogs are ok. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 18
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA
PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

March 21
ROMERO CANYON: Moderate to strenuous hike up an iconic Santa Barbara canyon to a gorgeous 360 view of Los Padres. 6 mrt, 2100' gain, approx. 4 hrs, expect some steep spots and height exposure. Weekly cardio conditioning recommended. Two liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid is a must. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

SESPE CIENAGA NATIVE PLANT TRAIL: Join us in creating the Trail! We'll be planting, weeding, mulching, and doing trail maintenance. Learn about the public access and restoration vision for the upcoming Sespe Cienega site. Follow the sign to the Fillmore Fish Hatchery from the 126 Freeway. Some parking is available, always cool to carpool! Bring plenty of water to drink, closed toed shoes and a sun hat. Tools and gloves are provided, bring your own if you like. Hatchery, 612 E Telegraph Rd Fillmore. For questions, contact

HOLLY hollyjessicawright@gmail.com (VEN)

BACKBONE TRAIL: Sandstone Peak and Mishe Mokwa Trail Loop: 9am. One of the most beautiful hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains featuring stunning sandstone formations and breathtaking views from the top of Sandstone Peak. We will hike at a moderate pace for 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1300 feet. Meet at Mishe Mokwa Trailhead Parking Lot (1.5 miles E of Circle X Ranch, which is located 5 miles from Pacific Coast Highway on Yerba Buena Road in Malibu). Alternately, from Westlake Village, exit on Westlake Blvd from the US101, and follow it S for several miles as it merges with Mulholland highway. Turn right onto Little Sycamore Canyon and it will become Yerba Buena Road as you cross the county line. Proceed on Yerba Buena Road for about 3.5 miles to trailhead (about 1.5 miles before you hit the Circle X Ranch Ranger Station) Bring 2 litres of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain or excessive wind/heat cancels. For more info. Contact GERARD 1-805-212-0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com (VEN)

March 23
SHELF ROAD: Choose Your Own Ending Hike. Meet at the Rotary Park parking lot on HWY 150 (Ojai Ave) at 08:30 to consolidate cars. Those of you who would like, can walk to the end of Shelf Rd, turn around and head back for a 4.5 mile flat easy walk. The rest of us will walk to the end of Shelf, turn left and make the Gridley/Foothill/Fox or Pratt Loop for a total of 7 miles with a 1295 elevation gain. Leashed dogs are ok for the shorter walk. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 25
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA
PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

March 28
JESUSITA TRAIL TO
INSPIRATION POINT: Moderate to strenuous 6 MRT 1300 ft elevation, bring poles for creek crossings, high water will cancel hike. Bring min 3 liters water and lunch. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA. 9am, Dale 1-805-886-1674 (SB)

March 29
CHORRO GRANDE: Strenuous

10 mrt hike with 3200' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. The hike starts at 4000' and climbs steadily for 5 miles to 7200', ending up on the Pine Mountain Ridge near Reyes Campground. Wear hiking shoes or boots, bring water, snack, lunch. The weather can vary greatly during the hike, so check out the forecast for Reyes Peak at Weather.gov and bring layers accordingly. Meet at 8am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor in Vons parking lot near Chase Bank). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet in front of Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #G-141, Santa Barbara, CA at 7:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 1-805-479-7063/1-805-644-6934 (SB)

March 30
EMMA WOOD BEACH: Meet in the Vons parking lot on Main St. in Ventura at 8:45am. Low tide is at 9am so hopefully we can walk the beach up to the Emma Wood Campground along the shore. It's a great place to view dolphins if they're out playing. The walk is about 5.5 miles and flat. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

April 5
UPPER OUTLAW TRAIL -
ARROYO HONDO: A 4 mrt moderate hike to a high point in the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. This trail rises steeply from the canyon floor giving us views of the entire canyon, we'll stop along the way to view the Tajiguas Landfill with its extensive landscape. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

EAVESDROPS

"Feeling good about that compostable cup you bought your juice in? It is very unlikely it will actually get composted. Sorry."

~ Op-ed subhead in the LA Times about the drive to find alternatives to single-use plastic and how hard it is to compost or recycle. It's conclusion? The greenest alternative is the oldest one: use re-usable containers!



Here's your destination for the March 8th Anacapa Island "day in Paradise" trip to help with restoration, an optional island hike and exploration sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club. (Photo by Kurt Preissler; www.RollingPlanter.com). Limited to 25; signups and all information at: www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura

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Ormond Beach neglected

Editor's note: This alarming story about Ormond Beach neglect is particularly gloomy for the Sierra Club and other eco-groups which have spent decades working toward the dream of a world-class habitat. Please get involved.

By Christina Zubko

For decades, agencies have been developing the Ormond Beach Restoration and Access Plan (OBRAP) which seeks to balance the need to conserve wildlife and its habitat with the need for public access.

Despite that, last year proved to be one of the most devastating, as recent photos reveal the trash that remains behind due to neglect and no enforcement. This comes at a great cost through loss of habitat and wildlife, indicating public pressure is necessary to save its rich legacy.

Ormond Beach is uniquely located at the interface of the urban/residential community of Port Hueneme and a globally important bird area (IBA) at Pt Mugu Navy

Base, near Oxnard. IBAs are a critical link in global migration routes, and Ormond is home to over 200 species of migratory birds and 25 species of special concern, including the snowy plover and California least tern.

It is also one of the last remaining beaches in SoCal that contains an intact dune-marsh transition zone.

Located in Oxnard, the Ormond Beach wetlands are managed by three agencies: the city of Oxnard, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC).

Improper Stewardship

With those three agencies responsible for protecting the habitat of Ormond Beach, it is difficult to imagine the level of neglect it sustained in 2019.

In 2016, Oxnard adopted an ordinance to regulate human activity, such as camping, fires, altering dunes and tampering with fencing and signs. Last year, starting with the discovery of a man-made trench that ran from the lagoon to the ocean, all these activities were

occurring with zero enforcement. By July, about 50 encampments mushroomed throughout the wetlands area. Water samples revealed the presence of high levels of the E. coli (from a human source) and enterococcus bacteria in the lagoon. Also, the wetland habitat sustained damage from extensive trash.

Cynthia Hartley (President, Ventura Audubon Society), reported that eggs from snowy plover nests had been taken, monitoring equipment had been stolen, and fencing and signage had been removed or 'repurposed'. Oxnard city officials cited several reasons why they did not act, including a strapped budget, challenging terrain and the "Boise decision," which prevents municipalities from making homelessness a crime.

Three drains discharge into the Ormond Beach Lagoon: The J Street Drain, the Oxnard Industrial Drain, and the Hueneme Drain, all of which add to the volume of trash.

Yet in 2019, Cal Coastal Commission Officer Tina Segura did not find Oxnard in violation of its local coastal plan.

Cost of Negligence

Poor stewardship costs both money and time.

Recently, TNC spent about \$40,000 for removal of homeless encampments. Oxnard allocated money to provide regular police patrols, but officers state that paying for this is unsustainable. In January, the SCC paid for the cleanup of Perkins Road.

Port Hueneme has also stepped up to clean Ormond Beach and paid for a tractor and dumpsters. A council member, Steven Gama, conducts weekly beach cleanups that cross over the city lines. Another February cleanup on the east side of Ormond



The at-risk snowy plover chick and egg has extra protections at Ormond Beach during the nesting season March through September; see story on page 5 for cleanup opportunities. (Photo courtesy Ventura Audubon Society)

Lagoon is planned.

In January alone, over 300 volunteers from environmental groups gave over a thousand hours of their time toward Ormond Beach cleanup.

Currently, several encampments still exist on the toxic Halaco slag pile, adjacent to the wetlands; Oxnard Police say they do not have the right to go on to that property and Wayne Praskins, with the Environmental Protection Agency, states that his hands are tied, so it's likely that the encampments will spread back onto both TNC and Oxnard properties.

The Greatest Cost

The greatest cost, however, is the loss of habitat and wildlife. In 2019, at least three fires were started on TNC property by squatters. The three agencies continue to state that they lack the required resources to maintain and manage the Ormond Beach wetlands.

If so, the public must continue its pressure on the three agencies to find funding solutions that not only save taxpayers money but also that respect volunteers' time and save Ormond's rich habitat from constant neglect.

~ Christina Zubko is a volunteer journalist, one of the founders of Friends of Ormond Beach (FoOB). Get involved via FoOB on Instagram and Facebook or email her: saveormondbeach2019@gmail.com



Just some of the immense amount of trash cleaned up every week and during special events on Ormond Beach. Thanks to Steven Gama, Port Hueneme city council member, who conducts weekly cleanups and who also took this intriguing photo of a trashy lady ("Where's the Rest of Me?")