Our big oil resistance

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair
Earth Day Teach-in
Earth Day started as a teach-in. We are continuing that tradition by hosting a panel discussion on Earth Day this year as a way to start a conversation about the Santa Barbara County Community Environment Coalition’s education initiative at Alondra Park. Look for us on the Climate Action Stage.

Our theme: Santa Barbara’s Big Oil Resistance: You will learn about Santa Barbara’s deep love and history with oil, the impacts of oilless coastal oil production in the region, and our efforts to protect Santa Barbara County and the planet.

License to Spill
An oil startup, Sable, was shut down with a massive oil spill in 2021. Sable’s plan was to drill for oil onshore and offshore in Santa Barbara County, with the potential to release as much as 1 billion barrels of oil.

BY COURTNEY ZOPATO

If you have a printed Condor Call in your hand, you can tap into this QR code to get a full color version that has hot links! Try it.

Health on the Ballot
Big Oil is drilling dangerously close to the homes of two million people in California—and putting them at higher risk of asthma, birth defects and cancer. That’s why in 2022 Californians burned fossil fuels next to homes, schools and other sensitive locations to fulfill public health needs. Big Oil’s lobsters should be held accountable.

The oil industry is set on trying to overturn even these modest health and safety protections. The California State fracking ban was passed with a two-thirds majority in 2022, and then prohibited those extraction methods entirely in 2027.

The four biggest banks in America are the four biggest financiers of fossil fuel extraction in the world. We can, and must, call on these banks to move money out of dirty energy projects and finance more clean energy instead.

EAVESDROP
“...Ben Jealous of the Sierra Club Club and the Sierra Club's John Killion writing in the Guardian UK, concluding "If Chase, Citibank, Welle Farge and Bank of America no longer fund new fossil fuel projects, it makes the climate fight easier.”

Goleta approves Ag protection

No more oil indeed. Instead, let’s seriously consider a strong effort for renewables, such as these wind turbines. Sierra Club and community leaders attended the Strauss Wind Farm, Goleta, with great wild places.

The Los Angeles Times wrote: "The four biggest banks in America are the four biggest financiers of fossil fuel extraction in the world. We can, and must, call on these banks to move money out of dirty energy projects and finance more clean energy instead.”

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The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors heard presentations from property owner and developer represenatives who want to convert agricultural land to new housing developments, the Goleta City Council directed city staff to look at steps to place an extension of the city’s current agricultural land protection before Goleta voters this November.

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Editor’s note: A standing avetion to ForestWatch for honoring 16 local extracurricular media outlets that are covering Women’s History Month. Clearly a lot of research work was done. We are presenting their chosen stories below due to space we edited the descriptions, so please read the full notices and see the photos on the website: https://bit.ly/women-leaders-of-central-coast-public-lands

By Los Padres ForestWatch

This Women’s History Month, Los Padres ForestWatch is honoring sixteen extraordinary women—who through actions large and small—have played an integral role in protecting public lands and wa-
ters throughout California’s central coast region.

Their stories inspire us and remind us that strength, determina-
tion, and hard work are some of the best tools we can use to protect and defend the places we love.

And what do you know, some of us are Santa Barbara Club members, no-

tably Anne Van Tyne and Kathleen Campbell. Many others worked with the Sierra Club and may have been members.

This list is not exhaustive, and it focuses specifically on groundbreaking work protecting public lands and waters they are.

Anne McMahon: From Cambria to Goleta

She was a relentless crusader for environmental protection and preservation. In 1984, Anne McMahon led efforts to secure the 200,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument from other acquisi-

ations.

Anne Van Tyne “Grand Dame of the Environmental Movement” (1944-1993).

Anne was Sierra Club’s Chap-

ter Chair for many years and led efforts to secure the 200,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument from other acquisi-

ations.

She worked her way up even-
tually retiring as Los Padres Na-
tional Forest supervisor in 2007.

Anne served on the Channel Islands Na-

tional Park Commission and the Ventura County Planning Commission.

Gloria Brown “Black Woman in Green” (Goleta, 1951-2021)

Gloria Brown was a leader in the U.S. Forest Service from 1974 to 2007 and was the first Black woman for-
est supervisor.

She co-authored a report called Woman in Green: Gloria Brown and the Unmarked Trail to Forest Service Leadership.

Jam Hambler: “Champion of the Common Man”

Jan is a wildlife biologist who has worked to bring our endangered California condors back from the brink of extinction since 1976, tracking down the last known con-

dor in the wild. She is one of the founders of the Sierra Club Audubon and curator of condor archives at SB Museum of Natural History.

Janice McFarland “Forest Arch-

aeologist, Robinson R. Rege, Jr.”

Janette worked as an archaeol-

ogist with the U.S. Forest Service, and her studies helped us better understand the relationship of the Chumash to the Monterey Pine.

She was also steadfast in re-

porting sexual harassment and dis-

crimination within the agency, serv-

ing as a whistleblower and filing more than two dozen complaints that led to Congressional hearings and investigations, making her the subject of national media and threats to her personal safety.

Joy Parkinson “British Birder Ex-

traordinaire” Santa Barbara (1924-

2013)

Joy was a founding member of Santa Barbara Audubon, spear-

heading its response to the 1969 blowout and oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel.

She was instrumental in get-

ting the land around Lake Los Cerritos dedicated as a county park and organized a campaign supporting passage of the Wilder-

ness Act of 1964.

Julie Tuamatusa: Chumash Elder and Educator, Ojai Valley

Julie’s ancestors were raised in the Los Padres National Forest, and she is well-known for her Chum-


casch cultural education programs with local schools and community groups.

She is the founder and for-

cer of the Barbareno-Venn-


troilles Indian Band and works tirelessly to protect cul-

turally important landscapes.

Kathleen Goddard Jones: SLO Defender of the Dunes (1907-2001)

Julie helped found two local Sierra Club chapters in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, which were the attention of two national groups.

She was an advocate for the creation of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.

Linda Krop: A Force of Law - Santa Barbara

Linda has served as Chief Counsel at the Environmental De-

fense Center since 1999 where she and her legal team represent com-

munity groups (notably our Sierra Club) seeking to protect coastal, open space, and natural resources. She has protected the Santa Barbara Channel by defeating sev-

eral oil and gas development pro-

posals and compelling the retire-

ment of forty federal offshore leases.

She has protected several coastal open spaces from development at Elwood Mesa, Carpinteria Bluffs, and Heart Ranch. She preserved the Sanas of Los Padres National Forest and served on the Channel Islands Na-

tional Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council for fifteen years, where she advocated for the first network of marine reserves.

Linda teaches Environmental Law at UCSB, inspiring the next generation of environmental law-

yers.

Lois Capps: A Conservation Con-

gress member, Santa Barbara

Lois Capps served as the federal representative for central coast communities for nearly two decades. Her record is exemplary: she introduced the legislation that resulted in the establishment of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, to ban oil and gas development on the Na-

tional Forest, to stop the Adventure Pass, to study the feasibility of a coastal National Park, to help expand the network of wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers. Her achievements more than earned her a 95% lifetime score from the League of Conser-

vative Women.

Marlene Braun: Legacy for the Santa Barbara Channel

Marlene served as the first federal representative for central coast communities for nearly two decades. Her record is exemplary: she introduced the legislation that resulted in the establishment of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, to ban oil and gas development on the Na-

tional Forest, to stop the Adventure Pass, to study the feasibility of a coastal National Park, to help expand the network of wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers. Her achievements more than earned her a 95% lifetime score from the League of Conser-

vative Women.

Mary has contributed thou-

sand of volunteer hours in Los Padres National Forest. Pick any trail and she’s likely helped main-

tain it, protect, or used it on a mission with the Upper Ojai Search and Rescue. She has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year for Ventura County for her years of service. Mary was an ad-

mired speaker at the Sierra Club’s Wilderness Basics Course.

Nancy Sandburg Santa Barbara

Nancy served as a wildlife bi-

ographer for the National Park Service for two decades on the Mendocino, Tongass, Rio Grande, and Los Pa-


des National Forests.

Nancy has received several awards for her work; how-


ever, she became the subject of ha-


Where does the Sierra Club stand on the health of native plants and animals ahead of commercial grazing op-

portunities? "This is a completely new, advanced degree in soil science. A change of administrations in Wash-


ington, D.C. has enabled the Sierra Club to pursue a re-

newed agenda in conservation of keeping with Marlene’s vision.

Mary Looby: A Mighty Volunteer, Ventura

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sand of volunteer hours in Los Padres National Forest. Pick any trail and she’s likely helped main-

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mired speaker at the Sierra Club’s Wilderness Basics Course.

Patricia Weinberger: Defender of Pine Mountain & Ojai (1926-2016)

Pat was a leader in organizing citizen groups to protect forest and wildlife.

She was a member of the Sierra Club and worked tirelessly to protect hundreds of endangered feds and toads.

Sally Reid: A Wilderness Legend, Pine Mountain Club (1919-2002)

Sally Reid was one of the most important conservation leaders in our region for nearly 80 years.

She served on the expansion of a freeway through Ojai, was instrumental in protect-

ing the Lake Casitas watershed from development, fought for the protection of the Ventura Channel, and thwarted a plan in the early 1970s to construct open-pit phos-

phate mines on the south slope of Pine Mountain.

Pat founded and led two grass-

roots groups: the Pine Mountain Stream Association and Citizens to Preserve the Ojai, and the Ventura Environmental Coalition.

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roots groups: the Pine Mountain Stream Association and Citizens to Preserve the Ojai, and the Ventura Environmental Coalition.
Goleta's going green

In time for Earth Month, the city of Goleta has unveiled its new environmental campaign — Go Green Goleta/Vamos Verde Goleta. “It’s not just a slogan, it’s a genuine call to action to encourage all of us to take steps, both big and small, to protect our Goleta now and for the future,” said the city in a press release. The tag line for the campaign says it all — “Our To... all of us to take steps, both big and small, to protect our environment.”

“Go Green Goleta umbrella. The campaign aims to educate community members about the programs and motivate them to act in their everyday lives to make a difference.

New life for plant

A new life for the notorious Santa Clara Water treatment plant in Santa Paula is on the horizon, with a new owner telling Ventura County supervisors that he will clean up the site and use it for a contractor’s storage yard.

Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Primary Results

All of our endorsed legislators advanced to the November General Election. Note: For the US House and California legislature, the top two finishes advance to the general. (Those we endorsed are listed below in boldface.)

US House of Representatives

Sal Cardoza – CD24 54% Thomas Cole 37%
Brad Sherman – CD23 62% Larry Thompson 19%

California State Senate

Monique Limón – SD21 – 62% Elija Mack 38%

California Assembly

Gregg Hart – AD7 – 68% Sari Dominguez 40%
Steve Bennett – AD8 – 62% Deborah Bailey 38%

Read our blog

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, via internet for now. Email Secretary Ginny Ching for the agenda: gccvo@cox.net
~ Website and blog at: www.sbsierraclub.org

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 2nd Tuesdays, 11-12pm of each month. For details and to request a request to: http://www.sbsierraclub.org
~ Monthly meeting at the local courthouse. Call 805-966-2288
~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara
~ We are on Facebook: https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraclub
~ Chapter website and blog at: www.SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura

VENTURA NETWORK

~ For board meeting dates, times and location: visit our website https://www.sbsierraclub.org
~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog: https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SierraClubVentura https://www.flickr.com/photos/SierraClubVentura
~ New MEETUP site for bike rides, outings etc: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

CONJOE GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you send an email request to: ConjoelGiggle@gmail.com.
~ Or visit the Conjoel website: www.sbsierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura www.sbsierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/Lifeflg
By Deborah Williams

In April we continue to feature specific climate action ideas, authored by Deborah Williams who is a UCSB lecturer in environmental studies.

Everything we put into our mouth has a carbon emission history. Some foods – like beef and lamb – have an exceptionally large climate change footprint. To calculate the greenhouse gases (GHG) associated with the food we eat, there are seven components to consider:

1) Land use change including deforestation and conversion of carbon-rich soils to cropland.
2) Air travel and commercial and recreational aviation.
3) Nitrous oxides from cattle, rice paddies, farm machinery, etc.
4) Animal feed, 4) processing, 5) transport, 6) retail, refrigeration and more
7) Packaging from production to port

Animal feed and conventional feedlot cattle have the highest GHG footprint of any beef-related process. Although beef and lamb are high-end cuts that can command a premium price, their climate and health impacts are significant enough that even people who eat meat should consider reducing their consumption.

We can also take one or more additional steps in lowering our food carbon footprint by reducing our consumption of cheese, chocolate, coffee, tea, fruit, shrimp, palm oil, dairy products and pork. A plant-based diet is without question the most effective per-spective.

5) We can make a choice about which areas we eat and the greenhouse consequences of our food consumption. Fundamentally, we can make choices on a meal-by-meal basis to reduce our carbon footprint, which is empowering.

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By John Hankins

So much will be happening this year in the political and environmental realms, making it a good time for us to persist with a positive attitude to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the planet (Sierra Club fashion).

Check out the stories and links below and thoroughly explore this issue as we look back and forward.

Please get involved and have fun too. Join our activities and activism here and at the stories below. Visit www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000 for more information and links below and throughout the website.

Resources, rains, appeals, bad and good news!

April 1: Official notice of successful end to Exxon Trucking court case!!!

Exclusion points provided by Katie Davis of Sierra Club Attorneys, informing us that the Environmental Defense Center was successful in halting any idea of transporting offshore oil via trucks.

March 30: EY Tax in New Jersey will be the highest in the nation, thanks to Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat. Beginning in July, NJ owners will pay an annual $250 tax rate to seek offshore oil and land-based natural gas. The state is gradually increasing the tax to $2,000 by 2020, and if that happens, the state will require four years of registration fees upfront, including the new line.


Happened at the Channel Islands visitor center via the Ventura Land Trust’s 2024 Environmental Speaker Series. Joseph Brandt, the condor expert at Fish and Wildlife, and Barbara Parks, “It’s really saddening ... these birds that we’re losing.”

March 25: Los Padres Forest Watch honors women leaders of environmental success. A must read, see story pg. 7.

March 20: Storms Rescue by Ventura County aviation unit. Multiple groups of stranded hikers on the Sespe River Trail, in the Los Padres National Forest, east of Fillmore area were announced to be rescued. Overall, the state will require four years of registration fees upfront, including the new line.

March 28: Open House held at the Mt. Pinos District Office to provide an overview of upcoming fuel-break projects along Tecoa Ridge, Frazier Mountain, and adjacent to the Pine Mountain Community College. The issues are controversial. Find more from Forest Service and the citizen coalition who spoke against these forest management issues.

April 16: Beautify Goleta is a year-round program to clean up trash throughout the City and on this date 32 volunteers collected 257 pounds of trash that otherwise would have made its way into our creeks and waterways. Sign up to participate in future events at www.CityofGoleta.org/ Beautify-Goleta

March 8: Prescribed burns in the Camino Cielo area were announced to start this month through the end of the year. Total burn acreage for the project is about 450 acres but broken up into smaller burns, which could burn repeatedly and not be totally dependent on the weather. Such burns will be announced. Website on this and other Prescribed burn activity are here: www.OurAircan

March 7: California appeals court ruled unanimously that Kern County violated the law by using a flawed process for determining oil and gas permits for four major onshore natural gas projects in Kern County. The court announced that it was rejecting the Kern County’s plan for determining permits for four major onshore natural gas projects in Kern County. The court’s decision means that the plans will be subject to additional scrutiny and analysis. The court’s decision is a major win for environmentalists and communities opposed to the projects.

March 16: Blue Water Ball at the California Academy of Sciences.

Looks like Chief Peak above Ojai is getting older and gray. No that’s snow – on Easter Sunday. The Chief’s face laying down is easier to pick out with that snow on top, making it easier to see them to their full glory in our lifetime.

March 21: Final decision on the fate of the condors is announced. The State of California, the federal government, and the U.S. Department of the Interior have reached a decision on the fate of the remaining wild condors. The species will continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act.
The global organizer of Earth Day -- www.earthday.org -- declared this year’s theme to be: Plan- et vs. Plastics. 

“This theme is committed to advocating for widespread awareness on the health risks of plastics, rapidly phasing out single-use plastics and pushing for a strong U.N. Treaty on Plastic Pollution by the end of 2024.”

SANTA BARBARA: Easter Day is officially April 22, but celebrated April 27-28 in Santa Barbara at Alameda Park, April 27 from 11am to 7pm and Sunday, April 28 from 11am to 6pm. Now in its 54th year, the community-organized festival is one of the longest-running Earth Day celebrations in the country and is one of the largest Earth Day festivities on the West Coast. Presented by the Community Environmental Council (CEC). More info at: www.sbeearthday.org or https://www.facebook.com/sbeearthday

A special treat will happen Saturday, April 27 between 1-2pm at the Climate Action Stage. Join our Sierra Club to learn about Santa Barbara’s decades long fight against oil expansion both on and offshore, the spills and climate impacts that have shaped the fight, inspiring wins against some of the largest oil companies in the world, and the next phase in this frontline fight to protect our health, our environment and our world!

Panelists-speakers will include three from the Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter: Jon Ullman, Director; Emily Engel SB ExCom, and Wendy Santamaria, Labor Organizer, SB ExCom.

Also, Linda Krop, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center, Ken Hough, Co-Director, Santa Barbara County Action Network and Sarah Siedschlag, Environmental Programs Advisor, UCSB Associated Students.

Green Car Show will happen all day both days of fun, education, networking and talking to visitors about electric cars and charging issues. We will be co-located with a booth providing information on the Save-California-Solar Program. Want your car to participate? Register at: https://driveelectricearthday.org/4119

Our Chapter’s Transportation Director and EV Advocates leader Kent Bullard went out and bought himself a Tesla Cyber Truck to show during the EV shows during Easter Days and Beyond. According to Eoin Musk, the design unveiled in 2019 was inspired by Blade Runner and “Wet Nellie”, the Lotus Esprit driven by James Bond in The Spy Who Loved Me, which doubled as a submarine. Now, it doesn’t go underwater (yet)! Photo by Cathy Bullard.

Our blue Planet, Earth!”

Some event highlights include a blessing by Chumash Elder Alan Salazar, following by opening remarks by our City of Ventura Mayor, Joe Schroeder. Then, a series of live performances by Inukheck Art’s Mariachi Band & Ballet Folklorico; local singer and writer Olivia Willhite’s Ukulele Surf Pop; Jazz by Cabrillo Middle School Jazz Band “A” & Ventura High School Jazz Combo, with ending performance by ‘Strange’, an outstanding local Youth Rock Band.

Patagonia’s Child Development Center will lead the Kid’s Zone activities; Bike Valot Park- ing will be available, and all are encouraged to participate in inter- active games, the Earthly costume contest, and trivia to win prizes.

Green Car Show too, thanks to Kent Bullard of the Sierra Club and EV Advocates. The most current Electric Vehicles (EV) led by Siera- n Club Ventura will be displayed. Want your EV car to be part of it? Register here: https://driveelectricearthday.org/4119

Also Ventura Excopt on Sun- day, April 28, 11:30am to 4:30pm at the Ventura Charter School, 2086 Cameno St. (off Ventura Avenue, west side). If you would like to help coordinate and have an EV show-case, please contact Kent Bullard: kentbullard@gmail.com

OJAI - Join us on Saturday, April 20th for our Earth Day Ojai Hike & Trail Clean Up. Start the day at Republic of Pies at 10am. The vans will then depart and take us to the trailhead in Ojai. The hike is a 2.9 mile loop which should take us just over 3hrs. After our hike we’ll have a picnic before returning to Republic of Pie. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

THOUSAND OAKS - Arbor/Earth Day: Saturday, April 20, 10am to 2pm. Sierra Club and EV Advocates will have a show of EV vehicles, coordinated by Brian Fletcher. Want you car in the mix? Register at: https://driveelectricearthday.org/4119

Most events feature EV shows

Ventura: Earth Day Festival will return to downtown Ventura on Saturday, April 20 from 11am – 4pm at Park Plaza on East Thompson Street. This year, hosted by the MERS Foundation in collabora- tion with the City of Ventura Sus- tainability Division and over 40 environmentally minded not-for- profit organizations, governmental agencies, transportation and utili- ties industries, outdoor recreation businesses, and sustainable food and goods vendors.

The Ventura Earth Day Festi- vals 2024 theme is “A celebration of our Blue Planet, Earth!”

Most events feature EV shows
From our Mountains to the Sea: Where to go?

“Maybe they shouldn’t be called hikes. Maybe that defeats the joy and the purpose. I don’t like either the word ‘hike’ or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains – not ‘hike’!”

It’s a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages asked where they were going, they would reply, ‘A la sainte terre’ (To the Holy Land). And so they became known as ‘sainte-terre’ or ‘saints’.

Given that Sierra Club’s co-founder John Muir was one of history’s greatest saints, we should not only allow him his grumpiness, but give it profound consideration. And there is no better place than the Ventura - Santa Barbara region to amble in the great outdoors and give anything consideration.

As a wise soul once said, “It’s only in the great open spaces that we find ourselves.”

Our Sierra Club led a hike to Mt. Pinos a while back where this rock pile is located. Check out our link and others (below) welcoming hikes to just about everywhere locally. (Photo by Jean Paul Tummler)

It’s bloomin’ wildflower season

By Los Padres Forest Assn.

If you’ve been out in the forest or driven around the Central Coast recently, you likely have noticed the wildflowers beginning to blanket the green hillsides across the Los Padres.

It’s that time of year to start checking all your favorite wildflower spots ... Lower and middle elevations are starting to really show off with fields of fiddleneck, goldfields, buttercups, sky lupines, chick liones and of course, the iconic California Poppy.

Diane Sinni which includes our chapter hikes, maps, connections and a dropping-by-the-screen:

Visit Ventura has a lot of information about hikes in the county and the Channel Islands. Go here:

https://www.visitventuraca.com/biking-hiking/

Los Padres National Forest is the turf for Los Padres Forest Association and it’s the ‘table’ for the forest as it shares amazing information gleaned from hikes and others outdoor sites. Here’s its hiking site (see QR code too):

http://www.lpforest.org

A very special personal website run by

EVENTS

April 14: Bike Clean & Fix It Day revived! By-monthly events need volunteers to help with light mechanical work or clean-ups from 9am to noon. Bikes are often given to kids. Always at the Ventura Bike Hub 490 N. Ventura Ave. Call for all dates (805) 641-2665 or visit: www.bikeventura.org

April 20: Wildflower/Weed Show at the Agriculture Museum, 926 Railroad Ave., Santa Paula from 11am-3pm. Special hour at noon as Antonio Sanchez gives a demo of CA native plant foods. Biodiversity and pollinators too!

April 24: Deadline to vote for Sierra Club’s Board of Directors. All members should vote. Go here https://tinyurl.com/SClubElectInfo

May 12: Last day to provide feedback on the city of Ventura’s Land Use map. You have an opportunity to provide feedback on specific parcels across the City. Go to: https://www.planventura.com/

June 9: Green & Blue! A coastal celebration every year for the SB Environmental Defense Center. It’s the largest and most successful fundraiser, that brings guests together to enjoy exciting live and silent auctions, environmental heroes, and special speakers. Run 6-9pm at the Rancho La Paltera & Slow House. Details at: https://www.environmentaldefensecenter.org/events

Herb hikes

Lanny Kaufner is ‘walking’ again, and you can join him and his wife Rondia, celebrating 48 years of Herb Walks.

As you can see, the walks are quite varied for enjoyment and learning, such as a first aid walk and workshops, foraging, man-made set, wild food etc. Lanny is the author of Medicinal Herbs of California and was taught by Carl Clokey.

Check out the events and sign up at https://herbwalks.com

April 14: Ojai Wild Food Experience with Lanny and Rondia, 10am -3pm.
April 20: Herbe Walk on San Antonio Creek Trail in Goleta 11am-12:30pm.
April 24: Full Moon Sunset Nature Hike and after-party (optional) at Ojai Valley Brewery, 9am-4pm.
April 27: Herbal First Aid walk and after-party (optional) at Ojai Valley Brewery, 9am to noon. Bikes are often given to kids. Always at the Ventura Bike Hub 490 N. Ventura Ave. Call for all dates (805) 641-2665 or visit: www.bikeventura.org

https://www.herbwalks.com
Tread lightly, marvel deeply
By Laura Pavliscak, Ventura Land Trust
Conservation Director

Spring has sprung and the vibrancy of leaf and bud, bird song and butterfly wing are upon us. It's always a good time to be outside here in beautiful Southern California, but never a better time than in the mesmerizing ephemeral technicolor of our busiest growth season when shrub, tree, vine and seed awaken to the moisture and warmth of this nurturing time. But here in the most populated region of the most populous state in the country, it is a worth reminder that our engagement in wildlife isn’t impact-free, and there are meaningful ways to support our beloved natural spaces.

In Ventura’s first landscape-scale publicly accessible natural area, Har- mont Canyon Preserve, Ventura Land Trust supports over 150,000 visitors each year—that’s about 30% more than the total population of the City of Ventura! While we celebrate the community interest, and we strive to provide sustainable public access, we can’t do it on our own—only you can make it happen.

Well-intentioned people that pick flowers, collect animals, walk or bike off trail, trample the fragile wet envi- ronment of the creek, leave garbage, and let their dogs roam may not realize how damaging their seemingly small adul- ignances are when multiplied by the extraordinary number of visitors to the preserve.

And in this tender green window of spring, it is precisely because our growing season is so dramatic that makes it so fragile—seedlings, new plant growth, and new generations of wildlife occur in response to the limit- ed resources provided by our one wet season per year, and often only in aver- age or above average rainfall years like this one.

So please do your part to support our spectacular and well-loved open spaces. Stay on marked trails, leave only footprints and take only photos, memories.

Let’s practice low impact, high appreciation love for our natural areas and harvest only gratitude and won- der. And let’s provide this example to our kids: the future conservationists, con- servationists, ecological stewards, and wonderers who will care for and be inspired by these extraordinary wild places after us.

EAVESDROP
“The Earth Day” festivities are more than just a weekend of activities; it’s a catalyst for change, inspiring attendees to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and to think more deeply about their role in environmental stewardship.”
— Michael Luzzato, CEO of CarpEvents and SB Festival Co-Director.

Beware of oil organizers

Editor’s note: We rewrite with the popular Jim Hines Chronicles, re- flecting the emails by our premier lobbyist on the joy and sorrow of environmental activism. This covers the last two months (Feb-March), for a vice-chair of our Chapter and Ventura Network. He is available as a speaker.

Jim Hines

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CEI has partnered with unions, farmers, law enforcement, business leaders and others to gain expanded support for the oil and gas industry in Ventura County. They do not fear the environment and the movement.

They claim that if you vote against the oil and gas industry you are voting to kill jobs and make gas prices go even higher than they are now. And sadly, many believe them.

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Feb 1: Ever drive along Highway 101 between Ventura and Santa Barbara at night and see a huge number of brightly lighted signs shining in the in the Santa Bar- bara Channel? They are often com- mercial fishing operations that are competing with one of the most valuable food sources for whales, dol- phin and sea lions etc. Several people have asked me about the impact of the commercial squid fishery on these tiny but important creatures.

So, I am diving into the world of commercial squid fishing, interna- tionally how fish fish here and the loss of a creature so small that it does not even have a support organization.

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Feb 22: Ventura City Council had its first meeting of the year in this region that became a national goal three years ago. They had 30 to 30 designations in the whole state of California let alone in our region.

I brought the subject up to council staff recently... and I knew it. the answer has to do with 2024 being an election year.

I am at wits end as to what to do and many of you have suggested we should flood the White House. So, we will attempt to do just that. . . not sure what else to do. But giving up is not an option.

Feb 23: My friend Christina at our partners the Gaviota Coast Conserva- tion in our work to protect the Gavi- ota Coast sent me this about the El Capitan Canyon expansion plan.

https://tinyurl.com/ElCapPlan

She hopes the Sierra Club will show up and speak on this issue.

Feb 25: Out in the real world away from the Sierra Club bubble I find so many differing perspectives on pro- tecting our environment. I have been speaking to various law enforcement organizations and many of them be- lieve that the Sierra Club is very anti- law enforcement. I am increasingly finding that they play a major role in electing anti-environment candidates.

March 7: Our chapter’s largest land protection bill will not see the light of day on Capitol Hill now that vot- ers have decided to put Adam Schiff against Steve Garvey for Congress. Ventura County Valleys Corriente Protection Act would have created a 300,000 acre preserve in eastern Ventura coun- ty and western LA county to be man- aged by the National Park Service as the largest protected wildlife corridor in the United States. After yester- day’s election the bill is now dead... the Republicans in the House will not advance this bill to help Schiff.

March 8: President Biden did it, he took two seconds out of his state of the union address last night to men- tion “conserving 30% percent of America’s land and waters by the year 2023...” good job Mr. President. Now, let’s act.

March 9: What a beautiful Saturday after so much rain. From gardening to March 12: It is the start of another busy month in our work to protect the envi- ronment and I started off by attending the Ventura meeting of California Energy Independence (CEI) as part of my efforts to learn more about what our adversaries are doing and planning.

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https://sedgwick.nrs.ucsb.edu/store

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Sustainable solutions

The Sierra Club hopes you are enjoying these beautiful first days of spring with the sun shining high in the sky and wildflowers coming into bloom.

By now you should have received our letter in the mail updating you on the state of our chapter. We hope you have had the chance to open it and look at all the work being done on the Central Coast every day to protect our local wildlands and wildlife. From advocating for renewable energy to promoting environmental justice among our most vulnerable local communities, the Santa Barbara - Ventura Sierra Club is hard at work and virtually all are volunteers.

Despite the obstacles, we have come a long way in the last four years and our work continues. Your investment in the resistance is turning the tide.

Santa Barbara County recently blocked Exxon Mobile from reopening its faulty pipeline off our coast. And Supervisor Joanne Hartmann was re-elected just a few weeks ago.

Our opponents continue to move ahead with an agenda that sacrifices public health and safety for short-term profits and will likely lead to further damage to our precious wildlife and wildlands. We know that with growing support for sustainable solutions we can achieve victories that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and at the same time improve our quality of life, making the Central Coast a healthier, happier, more resilient community.

In the coming months, look for new announcements about the fight for more renewables, increased protection of public lands, and expanded programs on environmental justice. Because of your support, we are moving toward sustainable solutions across Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Thank you for making this progress possible, it’s good for all of us.

If you want to help out by giving a donation, it will be put to good use. Follow this link: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura-ways-to-give

With your support, we can protect our health and our environment to create a better future for all.

There is so much on the line on California’s Central Coast — from stopping the oil and gas industry from continuing its damage out of sight and out of mind, to addressing climate change through large-scale wind and energy projects, the growth of a green economy, and schools to end terms in State and other local public and private programs. As we work to protect vulnerable wildlife and habitats, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Wildlife Refuge are just two examples of this commitment.

Please Support Your Chapter Today! www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura/ways-to-give