

Vol. 22, No. 6 of 6

December 2022 - January 2023

Condor Call

Journal of the Sierra Club's
Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter



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JOIN THE CLUB - ONLY \$15 - FREE BAG - SIERRACLUB.ORG

Wilderness Basics Course is back



<https://tinyurl.com/WBCopen>

Catch the smiles from previous Wilderness Basics Course students and leaders, a hands-on and class experience to ensure you are safe and comfortable on a simple hike or an overnight backpack. Serves a wide range of abilities. All leaders trained to stringent Sierra Club qualification. (Photo by Anna Szymkowiak-Chung). Early Bird (and discount) Registration is here: www.tinyurl.com/WBCopen

Good news for the new year

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair

Good News for the New Year

Our region always seems to be engaged in fights over destructive oil and gas projects. At the same time, we increasingly suffer from droughts, heatwaves or wildfires made worse by climate change caused by burning those fossil fuels.

It can seem an intractable problem, and yet, there is much to cheer in the new year. Here is some good news on the energy front for our region:

~ The Strauss Wind project near Lompoc is almost complete and ready to power on in 2023. It is expected to provide enough energy for 44,000 homes.

~ Santa Barbara School District [jumped out ahead](#) of every other district in California by

installing 4.2 megawatts of solar across 14 district locations and six microgrids with battery energy storage for backup power and peak demand charge reduction.

The benefits are not just providing 90% of the energy use for these schools but enabling critical service and emergency staging areas during grid outages.

~ Community Choice Energy programs are now procuring clean and renewable energy for residents and businesses across Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and spending millions on programs to benefit our region. They are embarking on a faster transition to renewable energy that the state requires, and the profits from these organizations are reinvested in the community rather than going to utility shareholders.

~ The Ellwood piers on Haskell's Beach in Goleta are

rapidly being demolished and removed once and for all, finally ending the dirty, century-long practice of drilling for oil on our beaches.

~ Eight offshore oil platforms are also slated for permanent shut down and removal in all or part. The state is handling plans for those in state waters—including Platform Holly off Goleta and Rincon Island in Ventura. The feds are [prepping plans](#) for decommissioning those located past the three-mile limit in the Santa Barbara Channel.

~ Exxon's Oil Trucking project was denied. It would have involved restarting offshore platforms that have been shut down since the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill and sending 25,000 oil tanker trips every year on Highway 101 and hazardous Route 166. Exxon is suing Santa Barbara County over the denial, but the County -- along with interveners including the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, will mount a robust defense. (For details see "Exxon Selling" on pg. 2)

~ Thousands of proposed new oil wells in Santa Barbara County have been defeated or withdrawn, and the state is finally starting to admit that our groundwater could be put at risk from such drilling in Cat Canyon. Exxon and Shell are also selling off their onshore oil company, Aera Energy. While this raises worries about [future liability](#), it is also a sign that the major oil companies are no longer betting on heavy, extra-polluting California oil.

~ This fall state lawmakers passed [Senate Bill 1137](#) that requires 3,200 foot buffer zones between oil wells and homes and schools. The oil industry is currently gathering signatures to try to put the law on hold until a future election.

But the fact that it passed and was signed by the governor -- after years of failed attempts -- shows that

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Wind turbines are being erected along Lompoc-area hills and coming online fast, expected to power on in 2023. The Strauss Wind project will provide enough energy for 44,000 homes. (Photo by Rick Skillin)

Voters had surprises

By Chapter election staff

In an election full of surprises where a dreaded, nation-wide red wave failed to materialize, local results were good, but not perfect.

Every candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club did very well in Santa Barbara County. Salud Carbajal was sent back to congress (CD24) and Gregg Hart was elected to the State Assembly (AD37).

Municipal elections, previously held at large, are now conducted by district.

In Goleta, our own Luz Reyes-Martin (Chair of the SB Sierra Club Group), was elected to District 1 and Councilmember James Kyriaco was elected to represent District 2.

Monica Solorzano ran unopposed for Carpinteria District 1; Gloria Soto won reelection to Santa Maria District 3 with a very close vote. Spencer Brandt was reelected to the Isla Vista Community Services District and Kathleen Werner was reelected to the Goleta Water District, now representing District 2.

In Ventura County our endorsees swept our legislative races as well.

Julia Brownley won reelection to Congress (CD26) despite her district becoming significantly tougher. (Part of the reason it got tougher is the pro-environment city of Ventura has been shifted away

from her district to Rep. Carbajal's District.) Assemblymembers Steve Bennett (AD38) and Jacqui Irwin (AD42) also won reelection by large margins, as did Rep. Brad Sherman (CD32) and Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (AD46) whose districts include small portions of the county.

The very bad news in Ventura County is at the Board of Supervisors.

For more than 20 years, Ventura has enjoyed the benefits of a strongly pro-environment Board. In the aftermath of the Roberts Court unleashing unlimited corporate election spending, oil companies and developers have spent huge sums to flip what not long ago was a 4-1 pro-environment board.

With environmental stalwart Linda Parks termed out of what was now the swing seat on a 3-2 board, the defeat of endorsed environmentalist Claudia Bill de la Pena by former Assemblyman Jeff Gorell in District 2 means a marked turn. We will have our work cut out for us at the board to protect our open space, air, water, and clean energy.

In the city of Ventura our results were mixed. Our endorsed candidate Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios won in District 4, but Marie Lakin lost very narrowly in District 5 to Bill McReynolds.

COVER PHOTO

Looking from La Cumbre Peak towards Cathedral Peak, SB and Islands in the distance. Photo by Anthony 'TrailHacker' Biegen, our long-time outdoor, trail and humor hacker. Contact him and see lots more here: www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com

EAVESDROPS

"It will go a long way in supporting our ongoing approach to modernizing public transit and further improving the quality of life for Santa Maria residents. With these funds, Santa Maria Regional Transit will complete the final phase of transitioning to zero-emission vehicles and be carbon-free by 2024."

~ Transit Service Manager Gamaliel Anguiano announcing a \$6.6 million grant to purchase six electric buses.

Help lead club

Two at-large seats on the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter Executive Committee are available for 2023-2024 (2-year term). As a member, you are at the center of the one of the most effective environmental groups upholding the National Club's motto of "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet."

The ExCom (governs the SB-Ventura Chapter and consists of five at-large elected seats, and an appointed representative from each regional Group. You must be a member of the Sierra Club and be able to attend monthly meetings of the ExCom, which are currently held online.

Selection by the ExCom is done at the January 2023 meeting. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee listed below.

Gerry Ching - gching@cox.net
David Gold - davidgold4@aol.com
Martha Sadler - marthasadler@yahoo.com

New leader is uniquely qualified

Ben Jealous is the Sierra Club's new Executive Director who is an experienced civil rights leader, community organizer, coalition builder and social justice activist.

The decision was unanimous from the Board of Directors in November 2022.

In a statement, the board declared: "We're thrilled to welcome Ben to our organization. Ben's passion for the outdoors,



Ben Jealous
Sierra Club ED

commitment to fighting for the environment, his work leading People for the American Way, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), makes him uniquely qualified to lead the Sierra Club at these intersections as our journey continues to create a healthy and sustainable planet for all.

More about his fascinating background is here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/meet-ben-jealous>

"Folks call him a unifier, peacemaker, collaborator, and coalition builder -- exactly what the Board of Directors decided the Sierra Club community needs right now," said the club's president, Ramón Cruz. Plus, "He will be the first person of color to lead the Sierra Club in its 130-year-old existence."

Early in Ben's life, he spent his time in nature and communities devoted to activism, from growing up in a neighborhood of oceanographers in California to summers spent with his grandparents during the civil

rights movement in West Baltimore.

The first protest Ben organized at school was against timber clearcutting. He worked as a journalist exposing "cancer clusters" in rural parts of Mississippi and was the youngest person to serve as president and CEO of the NAACP, which launched its climate justice program under his leadership.

"My parents raised me to understand that the American experiment is both ongoing and fragile," he said after hearing of the vote, "when planetary preservation is a human rights issue, we all need to consider pivots in our lives. Too many leaders still think that we can only create a growing economy if we sacrifice people, the wild, and even the planet itself."

"This is a flawed 'either/or' mindset with its roots deep in our nation's history of colonialism."

As an author, he has a new book being released in January (2023), called "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free: A Parable of American Healing."

Good News...

continued from page 1

the industry's tight grip on the state is finally weakening, thus enabling health and safety measures and climate legislation to win.

~ In November, Ventura County passed an ordinance requiring all-electric new construction. So far [68 jurisdictions](#) in California have passed similar laws to phase out gas and decarbonize our buildings. Santa Barbara County is expected to do so soon. What's more, the State Building Code that takes effect in January strongly encourages all-electric buildings.

~ Local buses and fleets are going electric. Santa Barbara MTD has 14 all-electric buses now with nine on order out of a 114-bus fleet, which has committed to be 100% electric by 2030. Santa Maria has two all-electric buses, 17 more on order and expects its smaller bus fleet

to be 100% electric in just a couple of years. Meanwhile, the Clean Air Express 75-mile commuter service from Santa Maria to Santa Barbara got its first all-electric bus earlier this year, powered entirely from solar panels in Goleta.

~ People-powered commuting may become more of a reality with the approval of bike paths, including the San Jose Creek Bike Path and Old Town restriping projects in Goleta, the Modoc Path in Santa Barbara, and a Carpinteria path to Rincon. Plug into transportation planning for [Santa Barbara](#) or [Ventura County](#).

~ In August President Biden signed the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), the largest investment in climate action in U.S. history. Analysts predict it will result in a 40% reduction in U.S. emissions by 2030. The \$370 billion investment will go a long way in helping us rapidly scale up renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Haskell's Beach will be a bit more natural after the Ellwood Piers are removed, helping to end the century long practice of drilling oil on our beaches. (Photo by Katie Davis)

HINES CHRONICLES

Never giving up...

Editor's note: By popular demand, we continue with the Jim Hines Chronicles, which reflects the emails by our premier lobbyist on the ins and outs of environmental activism and is chock-full of information. This covers the last two months and begins with a comment overview. Jim is our chapter vice-chair and conservation director who belongs to many wildlife groups.

By Jim Hines.

It all started with the defeat of ballot measures A and B in June 2022 and continued with the election of an anti-environment majority on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. Gone are the great environmental visionaries such as the late Carmen Ramirez and the termed-out Linda Parks.

Even in the City of Ventura, the

leader of the SoCal Building Industry Assn. was elected to City Council.

Ventura, the county of my birth, is changing folks, the fossil fuel industry reigns supreme politically, and while many citizens of our county want clean water, air and protected open space, clearly voters at the polls think otherwise.

Local Chambers of Commerce were able to get people who support the paving over of our lands and people who support the fossil fuels industry elected to various city councils around the county.

I weep for my Ventura County, my ancestors came to this region in the 1840s. Gone are the open spaces I enjoyed as a kid, farmlands paved over, abundant wildlife of past times, now endangered.

I grew up with green hills, now paved over; I grew up with flowing creeks, now dammed; I grew up with Condors on our ranch property, now critically endangered; I grew up with wildlife freely moving throughout the county, I now see dead wildlife on our roads.

Yes, we have successes, two national park units, one national forest, one national wildlife refuge and one national marine sanctuary offshore, but even those so-called protected areas face daily challenges to their existence.

I won't give up fighting for the natural heritage of Ventura County, the county of my ancestors

Oct 6: **Wildlife Team** Sierra Club CA will be setting up meetings over the next few weeks with all 12 CalTrans districts staff to discuss how it will implement a wide-ranging law signed by Gov. Newsom to create protected wildlife over- and under-passes and other road, highway and safety features to protect wildlife. See AB 2344 for full text, passed unanimously.

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An Exxon platform now shuttered off the Gaviota Coast -- due to Plains Pipeline oil spill -- and unable to transport oil. Using trucks on highways, increasing pollution and hazards, has so far been rejected. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

Exxon selling out

First came the news in September that Shell and ExxonMobil agreed to sell their joint venture, Aera Energy, with more than 23,000 wells in California, to German asset management group IKAV for an estimated \$4 billion.

Aera accounts for about a quarter of California's oil and gas production, largely from pumping in Kern and Ventura counties. Aera had also recently sought to re-start an old Exxon field in Cat Canyon in Santa Barbara County, though that project was pulled after intense opposition.

Shell has been shedding its more carbon-intensive assets, and ExxonMobil said they plan to focus on, "low-cost-of-supply oil and natural gas."

This seems an admission that California heavy oil is not worth pursuing, at least according to the oil majors, and raises questions about who will be left to pay for abandonment and cleanup of oil wells in the future.

Then in November, ExxonMobil announced it was taking a \$2 billion loss on a highly leveraged sale of their troubled Santa Barbara offshore oil and gas field that has been idled since the 2015 pipeline spill. The sale comes after an effort to restart production

and truck the oil on our freeways and state routes was denied by the county.

ExxonMobil is loaning 97% of the \$643 million purchase price to Sable Offshore, a company run by industry veteran James Flores, so he can attempt to restart production in 2024. The only way that could happen is if Sable uses the badly corroded pipeline that caused the previous oil spill. The prior operator, Plains Pipeline, was found criminally negligent of failing to maintain that pipeline, which was judged so unusable that Plains had applied to build a whole new pipeline. Now that effort is on hold.

ExxonMobil's proposal to loan money to a 3rd party to buy their Santa Barbara operation and try to restart the old, corroded pipeline seems like a desperate bid to get around all these impediments and avoid liability. Sable faces many obstacles to restarting the damaged pipeline, the aging offshore platforms and polluting onshore facilities.

The various sales need to be approved by the county, and the pipeline would have to pass rigorous testing and get necessary permits. If Sable is unable to restart production, ownership will revert to ExxonMobil in 2026.

Condor Call

SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Go solar and support the Sierra Club
\$1,000 rebate for you; \$1,000 for the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club has partnered with SunPower to bring you a great deal on solar panels, the future of energy. Editor Condor John did it five years ago and recommends it highly, especially in 2022 with a 26% tax rebate that will drop to 22% in January. Check out this fantastic deal with a simple online appointment here:

<https://tinyurl.com/RunSonRun>

Chronicles...

continued from page 2

Oct 12: **I can't believe** the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, the CA Native Plant Society, Nature Conservancy and 20 other environmental organizations support the use of the deadly wildlife and ecosystem killing herbicide Glyphosate (Roundup) by their letters of support for Roundup use last week. The letter written by Erin and me on behalf of Sierra Club California was the only letter opposing its use.

Oct 18: **A most dangerous** member when it comes to our national public lands, is Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) who will be speaking in Santa Barbara Oct. 21 at the Hilton. He is in a tough re-election fight, and should he prevail, (*Editor's note: he won a third term*) I can't begin to tell you the power he will wield. He opposes the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, Rim of the Valley Corridor and Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, as well as being our major foe in protecting public lands in Utah including Bears Ears National Monument, where I first met him. He doesn't like to meet with people who support protecting our nation's treasured natural resources and he can be quite rude and arrogant during meetings. Lee also took part in the January 6th attack and is being investigated for his role in that insurrection.



Oct 21: **Caltrans study** on ways to protect wildlife crossing the 101 freeway in the Gaviota pass area is well underway. You can learn about the study here: <https://tinyurl.com/WildXing>

Nov 2: **Information Guides** on platform decommissioning off our coast: <https://tinyurl.com/DecomOil> <https://tinyurl.com/DecomGuide>

Nov 3: **Never give up** in defense of open space and wildlife habitat. U2's guitarist The Edge (David Evans) has approached the state about purchasing his 200-acre property for open space on Malibu's Sweetwater Mesa, for which he fought to build mega-mansions. Nothing solid yet, but the fact that he approached the state is a big step forward in preserving this special place in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Nov 7: **One of our chapter's** highest 30 x 30 Conservation Plan properties will soon be in the protection of the National Park Service. It's the 1200-acre Mansdorf property along PCH in Ventura County and documents were signed today.

Nov 9: **Going to be** challenging lobbying in DC this coming year for us. While Santa Barbara and Ventura counties were our bright spot in yesterday's elections (for legislative offices, see story pg 1), Ventura's Board of Supervisors lost its eco-majority. In January we will face a hostile House Republican majority. Examples: Ryan Zinke (former Trump Interior Secretary) won a seat representing a Montana district, and Utah voters reelected Senator Mike Lee.

Nov 30: **Rough month** for wolves in America and for those of us in the Sierra Club who work on protecting wolves. A Montana judge lifted the ban on hunting wolves in Montana and this now includes the Yellowstone wolf pack. Wolf hunting, even wolf pups in their winter dens continues in the National Parks in Alaska. Congress still will not pass a national wolf protection act despite our lobby efforts.

~ Edited by Condor John

SB GROUP

Option to vote online

Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot

(See candidate statements this page)

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

Mail ballot by Dec 31 to:

Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara CA 93130

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

In alphabetical order:	1 st member	2 nd member
Catherine Mullin	_____	_____
Geordie Scully	_____	_____
Jim Taylor	_____	_____

VOTE VIA THE INTERNET IF YOU'D RATHER HERE:

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupVote2022>

Write in candidate if desired: _____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) _____

4,000 parked cars

(Editor's note: The author is a co-founder of Friends of Ormond Beach. You can follow the Friends on Instagram and email the organization at: saveormondbeach2019@gmail.com)

By Christina Zubko

After hearing over five hours of public comments about the 34-acre Glovis Port Expansion Project, the Oxnard Planning Commissioners certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and granted the Special Use Permit (SUP) on Oct. 19.

About 200 people attended the highly contentious Oxnard Planning Commission meeting and dozens more attended virtually, including the Sierra Club which opposed the action.

Several labor unions were represented along with social justice activists and environmental groups such as CAUSE, MICOP, the Sierra Club, and Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation

Lines were clearly drawn between those who support the Port with its promise of jobs and progress and environmentalists, biologists, and social justice advocates who oppose the further industrialization of South Oxnard, citing an incomplete FEIR and possible negative health impacts.

National Resources Defense Council pointed to legal flaws in the FEIR such as ignoring the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Senator lauds Leah

By Tina Smith

In August, President Joe Biden signed historic legislation to address the climate emergency, acting to significantly lower emissions by 2030.

Leah Stokes, a political science professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was a powerhouse contributor to this effort. Leah is a thoughtful leader, researcher, expert communicator, and organizer all rolled into one dynamic—and very fun—person.

As we worked on the legislation, she provided invaluable insight on the policy. She helped build the coalitions and grassroots power to get the bill passed. And she recognized that one of the most efficient ways to reduce emissions is to clean up our electric sector,

CAUSE condemned it for its failure to review long-term plans for the project after 3-5 years. Records show that planning documents from the Port call for larger expansion projects, including expanding to a 250-acre storage location further down Hueneme Road. However, this information was omitted in the FEIR, which could constitute an illegal practice known as "piecemealing."

The Port argued that this project is temporary and will create jobs, many under a union.

Commissioner Steve Nash, who once worked at the wastewater treatment plant on Perkins Road, sided with Hueneme teacher Cori Raffaelli who described the environmental view her students see every day along Perkins Road: wastewater treatment plant, papermill, Superfund site and now a parking lot.

In the end, Chair Daniel Chavez chastised both sides for not working together and admonished speakers for invoking the name of the late Carmen Ramirez to promulgate their position. He added that egos needed to be set aside.

Vice Chair Ronald Arruejo moved to approve the project with two amendments, one to address the automated sprinkler system for landscaping and to address costs of cleanup after it expires. Katherine Connolly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

and then use that cleaner electricity to power our homes, transportation, and industry. She grasped both the policy and the politics, and she never gave up.

Whether you see her on MSNBC or at an academic meeting, Leah's commonsense thinking will blow you away. She has an uncanny capacity to translate scientific facts into language anyone can understand. Her work over the past two years has been instrumental in gathering people from the environmental movement, academia, and the clean-energy sector to work together for change. We'll experience the results of her remarkable leadership for decades to come.

~ Smith, a Democrat, is a Senator for Minnesota



Jim Taylor



Geordie Scully



Kate Mullin

EAVESDROPS

"Bird deterrence programs have allowed a lot of falconry hobbyists to move out of their parents' basements."

~ Tajiguas Landfill guide Sam Dickinson quoted by Karen Telleen-Lawton in *Noozhawk* about a falconer and his birds which chase seagulls from the Gaviota Coast facility "after seabirds were found to be fouling the ocean a half-mile away."

Candidates SB Group

Editor's note: We are now offering a vote by internet, in addition to mail-in ballot (cut from the Condor Call).

Only Santa Barbara Group members are allowed to vote for Ex-Com, cast your ballot online here: <https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupVote2022>

Jim Taylor has been a member of the Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee since 2016, is the Group's Treasurer, and serves on the Political Committee.

He is a self-employed software developer from Carpinteria, and serves as VP of the Carpinteria Valley Assm., an environmental watchdog organization founded in 1964.

Jim also serves on the Air Pollution Control District Citizens' Advisory Council. He closely follows South County politics and energy issues.

Geordie Scully currently serves as a District Representative and environmental advisor to State Senator Monique Limón.

She received her MSc in Environmental Sustainability with distinction from the University of Edinburgh. Geordie undertook her undergraduate degree at UCSB and has lived here for the past 13 years.

Geordie has worked in policy, education, and environmental. She also serves as a County Women's Commissioner and is particularly passionate about increasing the use of renewable energy, localizing the economy, and environmental justice issues.

Katie Mullin has served on the Santa Barbara Group ExCom since 2012. She says, "I have been honored to work on behalf of our county's environmental issues. As a veterinarian I am committed to the health of all species including the land they live on. I am an avid proponent of bicycle safety on our roads and an advocate for generating our energy needs from clean sources.

Moving forward I believe our county can be a template for a Clean California.

Most meetings continue online for now

Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, via internet for now. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

~ Chapter website and blog at: www.SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. For details and to follow the South Coast area, contact:

<http://www.sbsierraclub.org>
<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 will keep you informed on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup ~Volunteers needed; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or: RebeccaAugust@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ For board meeting dates, times and location email: 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 send an email request to:

ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com.
 Or view the Conejo Group website:
www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura
www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings

Saving Gaviota from land and sea

By John Hankins

"The coast is never saved. It's always being saved."

(Quote from legendary CA Coastal Commission director Peter Douglas, who helped write the Coastal Act. He passed away in 2012.)

As a full house boarded the Condor Express on Sunday Oct. 23, the anticipation of a trip along the Gaviota Coast was palpable and the weather as perfect as you could wish.

A pleasure cruise yes, but it had much greater meaning of saving a most unique coast that spans 76 miles and some 200,000 acres that has always faced intense development pressures to this day.

It lies between Coal Oil Point and Point Sal. Within are significant archaeological sites, preserving at least 9,000 years of prehistory and marking sites of several Chumash villages inhabited through the early 1800s, including the largest Chumash village that existed anywhere.

As Nancy Black of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC) put it, the cruise was "In honor of the long Chumash history in this area and to grow our community circle."

And who better to be along than Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Tribal Chair of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash) along with a dozen Chumash neighbors. Also, four GCC board members, including President Greg Helms, formed part of this circle along with

GCC staffers Janet Koed and Black and a couple of attorneys, who often act as the tip of the spear against development pressures.

Tagging along was our Sierra Club scribe noting that the chapter has always been close in heart, soul and activism with the Naples Coalition (now merged into the Conservancy).

Julie noted the cruise "can be the start of a relationship . . . to bring back the natural world."

Highly likely, as GCC is governed by the "Three Pillars": *Preserve* the rural character of the Gaviota Coast and encourage regenerative agriculture practices, *Ecological Integrity* and *Public Access*, goals the Sierra Club shares.

"The stories, songs and conversations were an exceptional and unexpected gift," Koed noted. "And then to have the blessing of other family, the whales and dolphins, as well as whoever else was accompanying us above and below, completed the inspiring journey."

Other highlights included "Aleqwel Mendoza and his wife, Marissa Mendoza, delighting folks on the foredeck by breaking into spontaneous song singing in Chumash, in sync with a huge community of dolphins who surrounded us, dancing in the bow wake. At least one humpback whale showed flukes, staying nearby for a lovely, good while," Black observed.

The Chumash also spoke of the "swordfish people" who were starving



The cruise allowed us to connect the sea, shore and inland hills as a unified system. Gaviota Coast Conservancy's cruise featured the public, activists and Chumash sharing a common ethic. Onshore is Naples coastline, long sought for development. At right, Chumash leader Julie Tumamait-Stenslie quietly gazes at the shore where her ancestors thrived in villages and the history of where we are today. (Photos by Condor John Hankins)

inland and came to the Gaviota Coast to find food. It was said that when a whale was available it was wholly used for its meat, oil and its bones for chairs etc.

More recently, Santa Barbara County approved a Gaviota Coast Plan, and the CA Coast Commission certified it in 2018 "intended to preserve the rural character." Read it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGaviotaPlan>

Gaviota coalition goals are to preserve the view sheds, restore the biodiverse habitat, maintain wildlife corridors, protect the sensitive coastal bluff, and provide appropriate public access, recognizing the extreme sensitivity the Chumash Peoples have for this land.

As anyone who's driven Hwy 101 along the Gaviota Coast, you can see it already contains a lot of development, such as the county's Tajiguas landfill, Chevron and Exxon oil processing sites (now shuttered), various parks, Bacara resort, a few hundred single family homes scattered mostly in agricultural areas and Hollister Ranch.

What is most heavily opposed is



Friendly dolphins pplied around the Condor Express and a whale finned us. GCC President Greg Helms was the Emcee full of historical and current fights to preserve the area. (Photos by Condor John Hankins)

creeping development from Ellwood west.

Most of it is hidden seeing it from the ocean, except Brad Pitt's residence. Pristine beaches, natural bluffs rising to the hills tell a more ancient and future story of protecting what is precious.

It's worth a trip to GCC's website

for more detail, and to join in on the circle to save the Gaviota Coast, you may donate:

<https://www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org/>

There is also a great video called "The Hidden Coast" by Justin Faerman. Check it out here: <https://vimeo.com/15027814>

Election results Nov 2022

Happily, all our legislative endorsees won, as did all our local endorsees but two, both of whom lost narrowly, 51-49.

Unfortunately, one of those was a huge one -- as long feared, for the first time in more than 20 years, Ventura County no longer has a pro-environment Board of Supervisors. The oil industry has made flipping the Ventura Board a major priority (all made possible by the Roberts Court's appalling Citizens United decision, which in this case allowed oil industry SuperPACs to swamp numerous races with money.)

We have beaten them in several of those races, but this narrow loss marks the end of a golden era for the environment in Ventura County. We stand poised to mobilize, and to litigate where appropriate.

~ Editor's Note: A Boldface with an underline denotes candidates we endorsed.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Salud Carbajal -- CD24 **61-39**
Julia Brownley -- CD26 **55-45**

(No other House seats are primarily Santa Barbara-Ventura.)

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

Gregg Hart -- AD37 **58-42**
Steve Bennett -- AD38 **61-39**
Jacqui Irwin -- AD42 **55-45**

(No other Assembly seats are primarily Santa Barbara-Ventura)

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE -- No Senate seats that are primarily ours are up this year -- Monique Limón is mid-term and represents most of the Chapter

VENTURA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
Claudia Bill de la Pena -- 2d District **51-49**

VENTURA CITY COUNCIL

Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios -- 4th District **59-41**
Marie Lakin -- 5th District **51-49**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Carpinteria City Council
Monica Solorzano -- District 1 **91-9**

GOLETA CITY COUNCIL

Luz Reyes-Martin -- District 1 **58-41**
James Kyriaco -- District 2 **57-43**

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

Kathleen Werner -- District 2 **71-29**

ISLA VISTA CSD

Spencer Brandt -- At Large **45-29-24** (2 elected)

SANTA MARIA CITY COUNCIL

Gloria Soto -- District 3 **50-49**

"I'm grateful for electromagnets"

By Jon Ullman

Chapter E.D.

Before consuming what was on our Thanksgiving plates, my wife offered those around the table an opportunity to express gratitude. I said that I was grateful to be with all the friends and loved ones assembled around the table. That was true.

But there was something else I really wanted to say, as I my lowered head felt the warmth of the cranberries and stuffing.

I'm grateful for electromagnets.

I wanted everyone to know the plate in front of them was cooked on an induction stove, a machine so wonderful, it should be toasted with wine. I decided not to delve into electronics during our humble display of appreciation, but I feel compelled to tell you in advance of the Holiday season.

In short, an induction stove, is an electric-powered high-quality, reasonably priced stove that won't kill you. This is not always easy to find.

Consumer Reports last October found "alarming" levels of NOx gas released in their testing of gas stoves. They advised consumers to open windows and doors in addition to using the vent fan while cooking. They said fans should be on even when boiling an egg.

<https://tinyurl.com/NOxKitchen>

This comes on the heels of studies by Stanford and Harvard

scientists showing that indoor gas stoves were producing significant amounts of dangerous methane gas and 21 hazardous air pollutants like hexane, and toluene. Exposure to some VOCs raises risks for asthma, cancer, and other illnesses. More info here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NYTNOxKitchen>

<https://tinyurl.com/GovNOxKitchen>

The electromagnet induction stove for homes was first unveiled commercially at the Chicago Century of Progress Fair in 1933 by a General Motors subsidiary, Frigidaire. The electromagnet ovens had one drawback - they made an incredibly loud buzz. The technology was suitable for industrial plants, but not American kitchens.

In Europe and Asia, the superior quality of cooking outweighed the buzzing sound and induction stoves took hold.

From the 1970s through 1990s companies like Westinghouse and Sears Kenmore still produced induction stoves but couldn't fix the buzzing sound. But in the 2000s, they did.

Today, Frigidaire, Samsung and LG make standard-sized four-top induction stoves for the U.S. market. Major retailers like Lowes, Home Depot, Best Buy, Walmart and Amazon sell induction stoves online, even though big box retailers rarely put them on the display floor. The price of a standard-sized

name brand induction stove/oven dropped to \$1,000 this year.

Induction's superpower is precision and speed. Water for tea or hot chocolate boils in less than a minute. Boiling water to cook pasta or corn on the cob takes half the time as before. The countertop stays cool to the touch.

Magnetic induction from the moment of its invention was always the best technology for cooking. It only needed to be perfected and mass produced. And now that it has, it can be yours.

Ventura County will require all-electric new buildings starting on Jan 1, 2023. Santa Barbara County, Goleta and Carpinteria are now in the process of phasing out gas in new buildings just as the City of Santa Barbara did last year. Nearly 70 California municipalities have already phased out gas in new construction. More detail at and search for California cities':

<https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/>

Please contact Santa Barbara County officials to do the same: <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/ask-santa-barbara-county-to-phase-out-gas>

Note: Now there are huge rebates to allow existing houses, apartments and condos to switch over to safe, efficient and comfortable all-electric buildings (that also charge EVs) and are powered by the sun, wind and batteries. To learn more email me with the subject "clean power" at: jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

Climate Watch

We're not helpless!

May the New Year bring you new strength, new hope and new dreams." ~ Lailah Gifty Akita

Have you made your New Year's Resolutions yet? There has never been a better and more important time than now to embrace win-win, Climate-Action New Year's Resolutions.

Fortunately, our Sierra Club Chapter has a very helpful and localized starting point for doing so.

Throughout the year, *Condor Call* has published articles with specific, win-win suggestions on actions individuals can take to reduce our carbon footprint. All these articles are now available on the Chapter's website here:

<https://tinyurl.com/PracticalClimateThings>

Beyond all those tips, let us know your ideas, and we'll share them if you let us know via email:

santabarbara.group@sierraclub.org

Would you like to reduce your use of plastics? Choose among the explicit and easily implemented recommendations in the "Reducing Plastic Pollution" article, such as eliminating the use of big plastic bottles for laundry.

What about stopping all those annoying and wasteful catalogues and other junk mail? Check out how

to do this in the article "How to stop unwanted catalogues and other junk mail."

Are you interested in reducing your water use? The article "How to save water and money during drought" is filled with specific recommendations, with links to launch your actions.

Or maybe, this is the year to resolve that you will go solar (in whatever ways you can, even if you do not own the home in which you live) or use an electric car. Two articles cover how to do so: "Go Solar" and "Gas Prices Too High? Here's How to Save \$ with an Electric Car!"

Condor Call Editor Condor John has already applied many of the tips after reading the articles while editing, notably slashing publications, harvesting rain water, shower water in a bucket to flush, installing solar panels (via the Sierra Club, see ad on pg. 2) and buying an EV.

"I'm saving money, too," he said.

Let's make 2023 the best year ever for reducing our individual and collective carbon footprint. As Sierra Club members, we know what is at stake, and how important it is to walk-the-talk.

Happy, low carbon 2023!



Where are we and what's there? Am I lost? All your questions can be answered by taking the WBC class. Shown is a prior navigation outing near the Danielson Monument. (Photo by Annette Preciado)

Savvy outdoor class reopens

After a three-year hiatus due to Covid restrictions, the ever-popular Wilderness Basics Course is back to give you the skills and knowledge to confidently go hiking and backpacking.

As important is the fun and camaraderie that can literally change a person's life and outlook as we enjoy our local trails and camps.

"I'm so thankful for the return of WBC, I missed it so much. WBC is back, Woooooohooo!!!" wrote Alisse Fisher who's been there from the start in 2008.

Dates are from Feb. 15 through April 5, 2023, consisting of eight classes Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30 pm, held at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura, 93003, overlooking the city and ocean.

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.

You will learn and enjoy new skills with a dedicated volunteer staff and meet new friends interested in the outdoors. The course is presented by the Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club and more details and registration are here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WBCopen>

The class lectures (presented by local experts in the field) will demonstrate backpacking equipment, wilderness ethics, wilderness first aid & safety, weather, water filtration, cooking, map & compass instruction, backcountry clothing, and many other topics.

Speakers typically include Search and Rescue, fitness instructors, outdoor book authors, first aid and trained hike leaders.

WBC staff

There were lots of meetings on reviving our famed Wilderness Basics Course, stopped by the last three years due to Covid.

But you know what? There was so much excitement to again provide a fun and educational experience to those who want to be safe and savvy outdoors that many of the WBC board members have returned with a few new faces.

They include Scott Nelson, who was active in the Wilderness Travel Course of the Angeles Chapter and is now a naturalist with the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. He was unanimously chosen as Chair due to his wide experience.

Returning board members include Sean Coles, Alisse Fisher, 'Condor' John Hankins, Marc 'Roadkill' Hertz, Jim Hines, Teresa Norris, Cara Peden and Patty Peinado.

To learn more or to sign up for the 2023 WBC, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/WBCopen>

Class outings are scheduled on weekends for the following dates in 2023:

Feb. 18: Conditioning hike

March 4-5: Car Camp (overnight)

March 18-19: Backpack Trip 1 (overnight)

April 1-2: Backpack Trip 2 (overnight)

There are some restrictions due to Covid that you are agreeing to follow when you sign up for the class, they are:

~ For class indoors, face masks covering the mouth and nose will be required. Lecturers will be unmasked and socially distanced while presenting.

~ Vaccine or tests are not required for the course, but note you will be potentially on a trip with individuals vaccinated and unvaccinated.

~ Please stay at home if you are

sick or experiencing any possible Covid symptoms.

~ These Covid policies are set by the Sierra Club nation-wide. They will be reviewed for possible changes January 31, 2023.

Early Bird Registration Prices last through January 31, so sign up now!

Discounts are available for Sierra Club members and for students (ID required).

Couples enrollment options can be applied to any two people signing up together for additional savings.

Please note that a service fee applies for each electronic purchase. Students are expected to provide and use their own equipment for outings (backpacks, hiking footwear, tents, etc.), though WBC does have some equipment for loan in limited supply and rentals are available through local outdoor stores.



The drought is so serious in Western Ventura County that it has laid bare land where the Hines Family lived. In his column below, Jim Hines reminisces of its history from when Lake Casitas took over. (Photo contributed)

Drought reveals land

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends,

Oh, water I seek ye . . . clouds no more gather.

The land where my father held my hand when I was a little boy while we walked together is visible once again . . . visible living history for me. Little kid me . . . on my little pony . . . the land was brave, and I was strong.

Land of my ancestors is alive again; its watery covering is no more.

This is Lake Casitas, drying up as I walk today. I was here, yes I was here before the land was covered with water...the dam was built and the lake created . . . I was here . . . I watched from atop my horse . . . I grew up and the waters rose. And now I walk as the lake shrinks . . . on the land we farmed, on the land I rode my horse on. The land has returned, and I am there to witness history.

This little boy grew up and wandered far from the land over the years but now has returned to watch the land reclaim itself from its watery grave.

The dam (Casitas Dam) killed two creeks, Santa Ana Creek (the eastern boundary of our ranch) and Coyote Creek (the western

boundary); wild creeks no more as their lower reaches made up Lake Casitas, now those lower reaches -- where I fished as a young boy -- are exposed to flow free again, but not entirely free for the dam still stands.

When I was a small boy, I watched a land disappear, now as an adult I watch a land appear . . . what magic nature has. Man taketh away, nature brings back.

The impacts of climate change have taken water from the sky and in return given our land the dryness of a desert. Man needs to learn that a powerful dam is no match for Mother Nature.

We need to learn to live in harmony with nature, not expect nature to bow to our material whims.

That small boy watched with little understanding at the time the land was disappearing; now this grown man understands that you cannot take advantage of nature and not pay a price. It was false to think that Casitas Dam could sustain the population of the Ojai Valley and the city of Ventura.

Be still Jim and sit quietly by the dwindling lake and feel the land of your ancestors, the land of your childhood return.

~ For the wild, Jim



Change Powered By People:
Reflecting Back and Looking Ahead

Please support our work at <https://tinyurl.com/SB-VtaDonate>

THANK YOU!

Dear friends and members

In the spirit of giving thanks, we'd like to express our thanks to YOU! Thank you for all you do to support the Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter even through the toughest of times. You are the backbone of our grassroots team working together to make life better in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Together we are defending our public lands and wildlife, protecting our shared air and water, and empowering local residents to fight back against pollution and destructive development . None of this would be possible without you. You are helping ensure that everyone has fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, and wild places to visit. You are protecting the planet and the people we love.

Our local leaders are working closely with President Biden's administration, local county supervisors, and partner organizations to fight climate change and ramp up the fight for environmental justice on all levels. You can check out our blog for updates on local work here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura/blog>

And, you can also renew/upgrade membership here (free bag):
<https://tinyurl.com/SBVclubOnline>

Thank you for believing in the power of our environmental work here locally in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. As we celebrate the end of 2022, we look forward to a brighter future ahead as we continue to gather together in our precious wild spaces on guided [hikes](#) that inspire and delight.

Thank you for your involvement and support throughout 2022!

Santa Barbara-Ventura Sierra Club

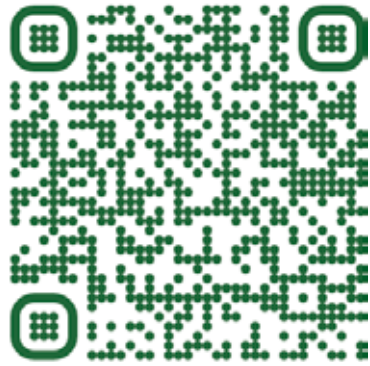


Take a Hike!

SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

UPDATES: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura



HIKE WITH CLUB



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.

A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

See updated listing of all outings via the QR code (above) or: <https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites. See Group News on page 3 for links.



HIKE LOS PADRES

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	865-0416
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.

www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-ventura

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



Al Sladek's Friday evening hikes, this one to Hidden Benches and Edison Catway. It's an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mrt night hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet 6pm at the Santa Barbara Mission, leaves 6:15pm sharp! Bring a flashlight. Optional potluck or pizza afterward. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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-ers' or saunters.

Given that Sierra Club's co-founder John Muir was one of history's greatest saunters, 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."

(Editor's note: Taken from Visit Ventura website with light editing to include Santa Barbara! Photo:

<https://www.facebook.com/SteveACattanach>

Click to access all hikes

Most of the many free Sierra Club Outings are usually listed here for a two-month period. However, we have found that planning that far ahead may change due to weather, Covid restrictions, closures etc.

So, we ask that you now rely on the many Meetups and websites for the chapter and some others. For our chapter Meetups go to Group News box always on page 3, otherwise, here we go:

The chapter's website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

A very special personal website run by Diane Soini which includes our chapter hikes, blogs, connections and a dragonfly on the screen:

www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com

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

<https://visitventuraca.com/biking-hiking/>

Los Padres National Forest is the turf for Los Padres Forest Association and it's the 'bible' for the forest as it shares amazing information gleaned from hikers and others outdoor sites.

Here's its hiking site (see QR code too)

www.HikeLosPadres.com

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has a handy Trailfinder for our phone. Go to:

www.ovlc.org/trailfinder

Going a bit more afield, the LA Times has published a trail guide for the SoCal region here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NearUsGuide>

Even more! UCSB's Deborah Williams created a new and expanded website as part of her "Public Lands and Waters" class. Here's the link:

<https://50greatpubliclanddestinations.org/>

HARMONY AT HARMON

Dogs welcome to share trails

By Dan Hulst

VLT Preserve Director

For dog lovers, there are few things more enjoyable than setting out for a nice hike with your furry companion.

For avid birders, there are few things more annoying than having the bird you're observing startled by a dog.

This contrast in emotion is just one of many circumstances that makes managing dogs in nature preserves a delicate balancing act. And while leashed dogs are allowed at Harmon Canyon, there are rules that help reduce conflicts.

Providing opportunity for our community members to connect with nature alongside their pets is important to Ventura Land Trust (VLT), but so is our mission of protecting wildlife habitat. At Harmon Canyon Preserve, VLT has chosen to allow dogs, but only in the southern third of the canyon, closest to the trailhead.

This regulation is in place to reduce the impact of dogs, while providing owners a place to recreate with their pets. Did you know that the presence of dogs can both temporarily and permanently impact the way wildlife inhabits an area?

Dog urine and feces leave lasting scents in wildland areas that repel wildlife long after the dog has gone home for the day. Restricting dog access to the southern third of the canyon leaves the northern two thirds less prone to habitat degradation, and ultimately strikes a balance between the desire of our community to hike with their dogs and our mission to be responsible stewards at Harmon Canyon.

In addition to restricting the places dogs can enjoy Harmon Canyon, VLT has also developed a set of rules aimed at reducing user conflict between dogs, dog owners, and other preserve visitors. On the preserve:

~ Dogs must always be on a leash no longer than 6' in length.

~ Waste must be bagged and placed in one of the two available disposal cans, at the trailhead and at the dog

turnaround point on Harmon Canyon Road, about 2.5 miles away.

~ Please do not bag your dog's waste and leave it on the side of the trail,

~ Dogs may not accompany cyclists on the preserve.

Connecting our community to nature is a major priority for VLT, just as protecting the valuable biological resources of our area. Please help us strike this delicate balance by following the rules laid out above.

Although they can't speak up, the plants and animals will thank you!



Yes, you can bring your dog to Harmon Canyon, within the rules above, say the 3D's: Dennis Kulzer (workhorse trustee), Dan Hulst (Preserve Manager) and Derek Poultney (former ED) with his dog, shown proudly on the canyon's Earth Day grand opening. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

Docent training at SBMM

The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum is looking for people to join its next 11-week docent training program, beginning Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9-10:30am. through March 25, 2023.

Do you enjoy meeting and talking with people from Santa Barbara, all of California, across the U.S., and around the world? Do you want to share your love and knowledge of our harbor and coast with visitors? Do you have at least three hours a week to volunteer? Then consider becoming a docent at the Maritime Museum.

The public is invited to attend the first class to decide if they want to continue and become docents.

Docents study and learn about the native Chumash people, commercial diving and fishing milestones, the museum's flagship *Ranger*, the Channel's military history, and Santa Barbara as a key birthplace of the environmental movement.

Docent Diane Kirchner said, "I have to admit that I love being in the museum. I learn something new every day, and it's fun to share tidbits with our guests. They are always so appreciative."

For more information, contact Jesse Baker-Lorelli, Guest Services Manager, at 805 456-8748 or:

jbaker@sbmm.org

To apply, complete a volunteer application at:

<https://sbmm.org/volunteer>



Chris Stubbs is the new Los Padres National Forest supervisor, promoted from deputy (since 2019). "I look forward to collaborating with stakeholders . . . in a challenging, changing environment," he said. He'll get his chance, stepping in to handle the largest and perhaps the most controversial project ever for this forest. Follow for projects:

<https://tinyurl.com/LPForestPlans>

Audubon field trip

How to sign up for a field trip for the Ventura Audubon group:

Go to the website url and fill out your name, contact info and select the trip you want to attend:

www.venturaaudubon.org/field-trips

Light drizzle does not necessarily cancel trips, but heavier rain will. For all trips, please wear appropriate clothing (layers are suggested), comfortable shoes, and bring snacks, water, hats, sunscreen, binoculars and field guides.

Questions or need help, email fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org

For the Santa Barbara Audubon, go to:

<https://santabarbaraaudubon.org/>



Kids enjoying nature at a Ventura Wild program. The nonprofit offers home-school and after-school programs, forest preschool programs, bilingual programs and summer camps. (Photo by Kaitlyn Newett, Ventura Wild Educator)

Kids 'get' the outdoors

Ventura Wild's mission is to connect children to nature and instill a deep sense of belonging by nurturing awareness, knowledge, skills and stewardship in the natural world.

Now enrolling, it's an education program of Ventura Land Trust, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It offers home- and after-school programs, forest preschool programs, bilingual programs and summer camps.

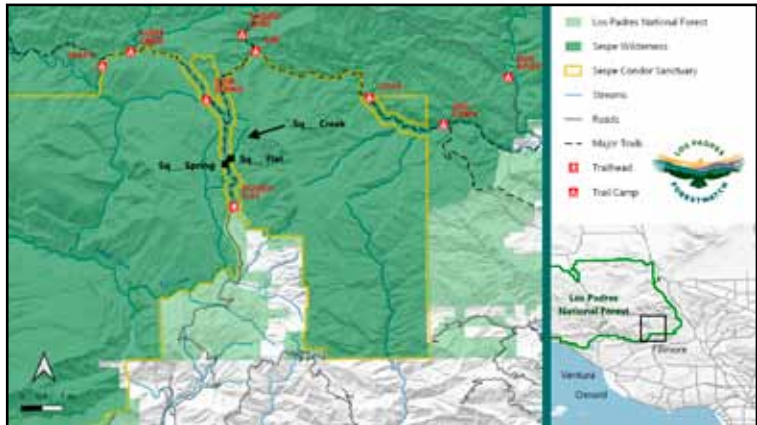
Registration for the winter session for the program "Ventura After School (7 - 9 yrs old), which will meet at the Ventura River Estuary.

You can find information on all our program offerings and registration details by visiting: www.venturawild.com

EAVESDROPS

"Nancy Pelosi was a stay-at-home mom of five kids, a chapter she credits with teaching her everything she needed to know about how to herd and hound politicians."

~ Annie Karnie, commenting on Pelosi's announcement to step down as Speaker of the House after decades of service.



Offensive name change

Editor's note: U.S. Interior Department does not use the word 'squaw' anymore but, when necessary, they reference it with "sq__". The policy has been adopted by the local ForestWatch organization.

Interior has renamed hundreds of places that had derogatory terms or historical taint, and there are three locations within the Los Padres National Forest that have been changed from using the word 'squaw'.

Over 600 Sq__ names exist throughout the nation, and are being changed. Locally, the three places renamed in Los Padres National Forest are:

- ~ Sq__ Flat renamed **Kahus Flat** (Bear Flat in English . . .),
- ~ Sq__ Creek renamed **S' o" Kuku Creek** (Devil's Water Creek),

~ Sq__ Spring, renamed **Saputiwah Spring** ('Seeps Out Spring).

The names were vetted and recommended by the local Chumash people.

They are all within an area of about 125 acres in size in the Sespe Wilderness north of Fillmore (see map).

EAVESDROPS

"You need to get your car out of the ocean."

~ Advice from the SB Sheriff's Office to the owner of a Tesla found partly submerged on Carpinteria's Sandyland shoreline. The owner said she drove onto the sand, then the tide came in (it is illegal to drive onto the beach). Lesson: Teslas don't surf.



Teslas don't Surf - A lady drove her Tesla onto a Carpinteria shoreline beach just because and the tide caught up with it, but she walked away. Search and Rescue responded to ensure no one was hurt. (Photo contributed)

SIGHTINGS

Hannah-Beth, Bush and berths

By John Hankins

The last two months were busy and rewarding with some good stuff (see story pg. 1), notably gains against pollution and some advance for climate change locally. Check out the stories and links below.

Please join our activities and activism; see **Group News** box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved or enjoy free hikes. We encourage all to go outside on your own or by MeetUp; check out lots of outings on pages 6&7.

Donations help a lot, and the money stays here at home; do not pass go, but go directly to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Dec 6: **Localized Webinar** about how climate change is affecting us right here, by the SB Community Environmental Council. It's past the date but NOT too late to see on the website:

<https://cecsb.org/>

Dec 6: **Ventura River Trail** Improvements Project event at Westpark Community Center, Spanish interpretation services and materials provided. "We've received overwhelming support for this project that will provide improvements that benefit an underserved area of our City and will greatly enhance the accessibility and amenities of the trail," said Mayor Sofia Rubalcava. Stay in touch here:

www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Ventura-RiverTrail

Dec 4: **Bike Clean & Fix It Day** solving climate change one bike at a time, sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club. Keep up on all kinds of volunteer actions here:

www.meetup.com/sierraclubventura/

Dec 3: **Water - Weed** newly planted native area at Ventura's Kimball Park, sponsored ongoing by the Ventura Sierra Club. Join (see link Dec. 4).

Dec 1: **Cruise ships:** SB Harbor Commission hosted a public meeting through its subcommittee to collect input from the community about the future of its cruise ship visits, which impact the community and the ocean. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is monitoring the issues and offers information on its website.

www.sbck.org

Nov 21: **Solar Rights Alliance** is asking the public and Sierra Club members to lobby CA Gov. Newsom and CPUC telling them that the latest rooftop solar proposal is still too extreme. Go here:

www.solarrights.org

Nov 21: **Diablo Canyon Nuclear** Power Plant may stay open after its original closure date of 2025, due



Cruise Ships are berthing off Santa Barbara in numbers not seen in years. SB Harbor Commission has a subcommittee gathering public sentiment, pro and con. To keep apprised, go to:

www.sbck.org

to a conditional award to PG&E of about \$1 billion from the federal government and a recent state law (SB 846) allowing a potential forgivable loan of \$1.4 billion. Sierra Club California opposes extending the plant's life.

Nov 18: **WBC is BACK!** Enrollment opened today for this popular Wilderness Basics Course. Early Bird prices below, and see story pg 5. Check it out here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WBCopen>

Nov 13: **Hannah-Beth Jackson** honored for her prolific career over 23 years in the state legislature, recognized nationally. A constant friend of the environment and known for writing bills that expanded maternity-paternity leave, established a strong equal pay law, and required gender diversity on corporate boards in CA. And so much more. To carry on her legacy, go to:

www.sbcan.org/



Hannah-Beth Jackson
(See Nov. 13 notice)

Nov. 7: "**Chumash Resume** their obligation as co-managers of the nation's newest national marine sanctuary off the central California Coast (SB-SLO) and have ecosystem-management experience going back millennia." Headline in *Sierra Magazine* about our local National Chumash Marine Sanctuary. Read the whole fascinating story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ChumashTomol>

Oct 21: **Caltrans pondering** ways to protect wildlife crossing the 101 freeway in the Gaviota pass area now under way. Learn about the study here:

<https://tinyurl.com/101GaviotaPlan>

Oct 20: **Ambitious Campaign** to Protect Our Climate announced by the SB Community Environmental Council. Details:

<https://tinyurl.com/CECclimateDrive>

Oct 16: **Pre-5-K Clean Up:** Ventura Sierra Club helped Friends of the Santa Clara River put on a 5K run on the location of a future river trail from "Inland to the Sea".

Oct 15: **Annual Potluck Picnic** at 9am for breakfast with optional hike, held at Shoreline Park.

Oct 13: **Forest Op-Ed** about the Los Padres Forest plan called an 'ecological restoration project' by Andrew Christie of our sister Chapter in San Luis Obispo opposing it. He writes: "In 2003 George W. Bush introduced the Healthy Forests Initiative, which my colleagues in the Sierra Club immediately dubbed "No Tree Left Behind" (A windfall for logging companies). Lobby for a full EIR and read the full op-ed here:

<https://tinyurl.com/AbhorForestPlan>

And comment on the plan here:

<https://p2a.co/mlxZW1V>

Oct 12: **Special Outing** to the Moorpark Zoo by our Conejo Group. Prior to the zoo, an optional hike was offered at a section of the Sunset Hills Trail.

Oct 11: **We won again!** Ventura County Supervisors just voted 4-1 to phase out gas by requiring new buildings be 100% electric with a few exceptions. Long voted no. Applies to unincorporated Ventura County. It joins the cities of Ojai, Santa Barbara and 60 other municipalities across California. "This win's for Carmen Ramirez who made it happen."

Oct 9: **Help keep** a pro-environment majority on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, one of our first calls to action before Nov. election.

Oct 4: **We won** our vote in Santa Barbara County 3-2 to move forward on a gas ban health and safety ordinance, and next Tuesday (Oct. 11) is the first reading of Ventura County's reach code ordinance

What will your legacy be?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now, yet enable a powerful movement and vibrant outings programs for years to come.

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PHOTO: ESTHER CHASE

SIERRA CLUB

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KATIE DAVIS

Local Hero 2022 Santa Barbara Independent



Editor's note: Our Chapter Chair Katie Davis was honored this year by the Santa Barbara Independent's Local Heroes award. Below is a reprint, by permission, with some extra prose. (Photo by Ingrid Bostrom)

By Jean Yamamura

Katie Davis and her family moved to Summerland in 1970, where the first offshore oil wells in the nation were drilled. She was just a baby at the time, one year after the infamous 1969 oil spill, but by 2012 she was training with Al Gore on the reality of climate change.

Her name has now become synonymous with Santa Barbara progressives' fight to end fossil-fuel production in the county.

Davis worked for a Santa Barbara start-up in the 1990s, finding an audience for the new concept of online meetings they'd pioneered. She was grateful for the company's flex-time options, as she had children, two kids that crystalized for her what the future held.

"We did everything we could," Davis recalled, to decrease their carbon footprint. "We put solar panels on our house. I think I bought the 7,000th Nissan Leaf produced. I advocated at our co-working space and organized volunteers to work

on a website with NOAA on ocean acidification."

Davis began offering her climate change presentation to groups in Santa Barbara, including the Sierra Club. "That gradually took over my life," she said. The Sierra Club went from being a hiking group to an essential partner for nonprofits like the Community Environmental Council (CEC) and the Environmental Defense Center. *(Editor's note: Our chapter has always been more than a hiking group with its generations-long community activism; able to handle recreation, conservation and fighting in the political realm.)*

She recalled visiting every city councilmember with Michael Chiacos of the CEC to talk about 100 percent sustainable energy. "The nice thing about that approach was as cities began to do it, California saw the momentum. Now we have President Biden saying the national goal is for 100 percent clean energy."

Meeting climate goals this decade is important, she said. "There is a pathway, but it matters a lot what we do now. Will the atmosphere warm in a way we can deal with, or will it spiral out of control?" The next decade really matters."

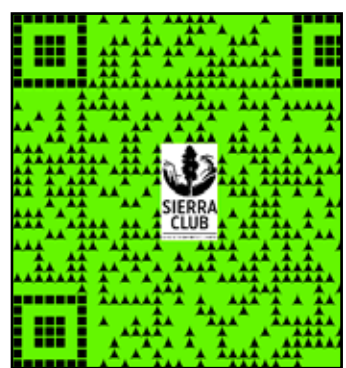


Monarch butterflies at Ellwood Eucalyptus Grove are "returning this year in good numbers . . . with great delight." So reports Sierra Club hike leader and photographer Robert Bernstein in *Edhat*. He's been visiting the Goleta spectacle since the 1980s. Over time, numbers declined with almost none seen here two years ago. "Last year there was a moderately good return, but not in the Ellwood Main Grove. But this year, they are back in their old home at Ellwood Main Grove," Bernstein said.

EAVESDROPS

"I am trying to electrify my home in Santa Barbara . . . now we're going back and forth about what kind of heat pump I can use. None of the system is oriented around climate being the most important thing."

~ Leah Stokes, political scientist at UCSB, quoted in Ezra Klein's Op-Ed in the *New York Times*.



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.

EAVESDROPS

"Whether it be a banana slug, unfamiliar mushroom, or a large toad with glowing eyes in the dead of night, please refrain from licking," announced the National Park Service on its Facebook.

~ Seriously, a warning about Sonoran Desert (and Cane) toads which secrete a hallucinogenic substance than can also be smoked."



<https://tinyurl.com/WBCopen>