**IF GOD WANTED US TO HAVE UNLIMITED FREE ENERGY HE’D HAVE PUT A GIANT FUSION REACTOR IN THE SKY**

By Jon Ullman
Chapter ED

As we speak, monopolies are unleashing an unprecedented attack on Californians’ access to the sun.

The changes proposed in California would “decimate the cost effectiveness of rooftop solar,” according to the Sierra Club.

Having worked on clean energy and climate issues in Florida and California, I’ve seen what happens when a monopoly seeks full control. Don’t let California go down that path. One quick way is to tell Governor Newsom to Save California Solar here: https://tinyurl.com/CAsaveSolar

Both California and Florida investor-owned energy corporations are seeking to stall the rooftop solar market with help from a national web of utility industry lobbyists and think tanks. Florida-based, anti-rooftop NextEra is known as a large clean-energy contractor to SoCal Edison among others nationwide. Its monopoly, Florida Power and Light (FPL), not only is extinguishing the solar rooftop market, but only providing 3% of utility solar. Meanwhile, FPL generates close to 75% of its electricity from fossil fuels. NextEra has become so brazen; it may be a threat to democracy itself. Two years ago, Florida State Senator José Javier Rodríguez (D) lost reelection by 34 votes to Héana García, Republican founder of Latinas for Trump … but a “ghost candidate” who shared the same last name as José Javier Rodríguez, received 6,000 votes. The real Rodríguez is an FPL watchdog and rooftop solar advocate endorsed by Sierra Club Florida.

The Miami Herald and Orlando Sentinel revealed that Alexis Rodríguez was paid to siphon votes, through a web of dark money consultants working closely with Florida Power and Light, a NextEra Energy company. Alexis Rodríguez took a plea deal and is now helping prosecutors. NextEra’s connection to the loss of José Javier Rodríguez continues to make headlines in Florida as more people who carried out the scheme are charged.

I don’t think California is Florida yet, but it must repel the utility power grab.

We need a lot more utility-scale and rooftop solar in California, but no monopoly should ever be allowed to own the sun. Again, tell Gov. Newsom to Save California Solar: https://tinyurl.com/CAsaveSolar

You can also call his office at 916-445-2841, M - F from 9-5. Be patient if lines are busy and keep calling. Here’s a sample script.

“My name is … and I live in … I expect Governor Newsom to take a stand against the Solar Tax and in favor of making rooftop solar more affordable for middle- and working-class people, not less. I see this issue as a test for Governor Newsom’s commitment to addressing rate hikes, blackouts and air pollution. I expect him to side with the people, not the utilities. Thank you.”

**Meet our leaders**

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair
Santa Barbara Showdown

Marking the January anniversary of the 1969 oil spill, the Santa Barbara Independent posed the provocative question, “Is Big Oil Dead in Santa Barbara?” It called recent developments “curious,” unlikely they would not have been imaginable even a few years ago.

“Oil platforms — immovable anchors on our horizon — are oil platforms no more. For the mirror images of oil platforms off of Santa Barbara, the sun is rising.”

The sun is rising.

First of the year brings appointments and elections of our hard-working volunteers in the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club. That means those citizens are putting in huge hours without pay to serve their community for the greater good of the environment.

But first a shout-out to our retiring treasurer Richard Hunt who’s served us without complaints and some humor over 45 years! Thank you.

As we speak, monopolies are seeking full control. Don’t let California go down that path.

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Showdowns...

continued from page 1

Federal Showdowns

Unfortunately, the Build Back Better Act with all its great and desperately needed climate provisions failed to pass last year after a dramatic rejection by Senate Joe Manchin. Let’s hope it gets resurrected.

In addition, the Public Lands Protection Act including the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act were stripped out at the last minute of a must-pass Senate bill in December. However, some good things related to chemical cleanup of PFAs, toxics, and climate change resilience and preparedness did make it into that end-of-year defense bill.

In addition, the San Luis Obispo counties is making progress towards designation with a carve out for offshore wind. That Morro Bay Wind Energy area is waiting for environmental review for leasing.

The Biden administration is also expected to issue a draft of a 5-year offshore oil leasing plan in the coming months, which is NOT expected to include the Pacific Ocean.

Oil Settlements

The SB County District Attorney announced a settlement related to the March 2020 oil accident and spill that released 4,533 gallons of oil into the Cuyama River, threatening the Switchecho, a Penstemon, drinking water source for Santa Maria valley.

It was found on Jan. 24 that the truck was driven at an unsafe speed, causing the oil tank to detach from the truck, and roll down an embankment into the river. The driver of the truck, Jesse Villasana, pled guilty to a misdemeanor and his employer, Golden Valley Transfer, Inc., has agreed to pay $514,320 in reimbursement for clean-up of the spill, remediation, and penalties.

EAEVSDROPS

“Nuclear energy has been creeping up in public estimation, despite its long record of unfulfilled promise and catastrophic missteps.” — Michael Hiltzik, LA Times columnist, warning on Jan. 9 about moves to reconsider Diablo Canyon’s expected shutdown in 2024, quoting then (1960’s) Sierra Club Director David Brower jokingly describing nuclear reactors as “complex technological devices for locating earthquake faults.”

Residents in Ventura County are gearing up for a battle that will come to a head this spring. Multiple initiatives will be on the ballot in June regarding the level of environmental review required for oil drilling under what have been called “antiquated” oil industry permits.

Currently Ventura County has two oil industry permitting processes. It is the only county in California with these so-called “antiquated” permits issued in the 1960’s, 40’s, and 50’s. These old permits have no expiration date, no limit to the number of wells drilled and are exempt from health and safety reviews that now apply to newer permits.

As a result, there are about 3,800 active oil wells in the county that can be drilled deeper, use more complex and expensive drilling methods and be expanded without environmental reviews. Over 127,000 acres of our farmland, open spaces and watersheds could be affected by these types of permits.

Last year, a majority of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (Steve Bennett, John Zaragoza, and Linda Parks) voted to bring an end to this dual permitting regime and use a simple, consistent process for new oil drilling.

According to public records, the oil industry spent $1.5M to bring the issue to voters to decide an outcome on the June ballot. June primary voters will determine whether the 2-tiered permit structure remains in place, or whether instead all new wells will be subjected to modern environmental review.

To learn more about Ventura County’s oil and gas program, go to: https://vcrrma.org/oil-and-gas-program

Oil review faces June referendum

Ventura County Oil and Gas Development

Do one, two, three, or even more of the issues below bother you? Interest you? Upset you? Make you feel some action is needed toward better management?

~ Off-road vehicles mopeds, electric bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, jet-skis, etc., whether creating noise, conflict with hikers, or impacts to ecosystems.

~ Overflight noise impacts at parks.

~ Bicycle trail conflicts and unsuitable uses.

~ Accessible recreation.

~ Recreation fees charged non-motorized trails into mechanized-motorized trails. This mechanism used conflicts with potential future wilderness designations among others.

Help solve offroad conflicts

To help or learn more contact Sub Team Chair Karl Forsgaard.

karlforsgaard@comcast.net
The Sierra Club volunteers in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties work hard for the environment, social justice, free public hikes and more. They can also have fun.

That happened at the annual December holiday event that gave a capsule view of the Los Padres Chapter’s wins and challenges.

“We have ‘wins’ this year, it was a difficult year and sometimes you can get down,” said Katie Davis, our Chapter Chair.

As always, the club is about its members and volunteers. A special shout-out went to Richard Hunt, our treasurer for 45 years who’s retiring this year, not only doing the books under the club’s complicated rules but helping with fundraising. He never wanted credit for it, but as member David Gold said, “Richard, we’re making a fuss.”

“I’ve been happy to do it, as opposed to picking up trash and stuffing envelopes, with my background I could do it!” he said.

Another key member who is also retiring is Terese Norris (see story back page) who was instrumental in creating the wildly popular Wilderness Basics Course in 2010. Fun stuff included Holiday Food Tips from Gerri French, a kayak trip raffle, a David & Goliath Award, more Spanish language prospects and the “award winning Condor Call” and editor” which has a print and online version, and its features are part of a blog Condor Call Currents. All of which helps reach more citizens with issues.

Some of the ‘wins’ include lobbying for 100% Community Choice energy now, a reality in both counties, success in convincing SoCal Edison to use a huge battery storage system instead of a petroleum powered Peaker Plant, a revival of Outings, stopping Cat Canyon oil fields, a likely success against Exxon using trucks to energy now under construction and lobbying for alternative energy, to name a few.

Andrew Christie of our sister/brother chapter in San Luis Obispo was effusive in our chapter’s support of the proposed Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary that was first proposed 40 years ago by Chumash leader Fred Collins and now under study by the feds.

“The Los Padres Chapter really worked the levers with politicians to build that support. We believe we’re on the road to a win.”

Richard Hunt, out of the office for some fresh air.

By Jim Hines

An ode to the land

An Ode to the land

On how I walk on thee, soiled

By Jim Hines

An ode to the land

An ode to the land

The Ventura Sierra Club’s jaunt to Santa Cruz Island to do environmental task was not all work as the dolphins and other marine life are part of the experience. (Photo by Nina Danza)

An Ode to the land

By Jim Hines

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An Ode to the land
How to dunk the junk mail

Editor’s Note: Every week seems to bring news of the worsening climate crisis and the urgency of needed action, but it can be hard for an individual to know where to start. This year we will feature specific actions you can take authored by UCSB lecturer in environmental studies, Deborah Williams.

How to dunk the junk mail, starting with cancelling unwanted catalogues and other junk mail.

Every year about 180 million trees are cut down for junk mail and 28 billion gallons of water are consumed in support of its production. The average American adult receives an astounding amount of junk mail annually — about 41 pounds of it. How much do you receive?

Every tree that is cut down for junk mail is a tree that could have been left standing to absorb carbon dioxide, provide habitat, and support other important ecosystem services. Junk mail is also annoying, as well as a win/win/win. And it’s easy.

Editorial Board: Here are some quick ways to stop getting junk mail and unwanted paper waste:

- Catalogues: Register with Catalog Choice, a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving trees and water — while reducing greenhouse gas and solid waste — through eliminating unwanted catalogues. Once you are signed-up (no charge), every time you receive an unwanted catalogue, it’s easy to go on the site and cancel it. www.catalogchoice.org

- Member catalogues/magazines: For some member organizations — such as Costco — you will need to go into your member account and change your preferences so that you do not receive their magazine or other information by mail. For Costco, click My Account, then select Preferences.

- Credit and insurance card solicitations: As recommended by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, you can opt out of prescreened offers of credit and insurance for five years by calling 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visiting www.optoutprescreen.com/?rf=opt-out

- Go paperless: For utility bills, bank statements, and other official mail, whenever possible, choose to go paperless. If there isn’t a paperless option, ask for one.

- Share this information with others.

- Additional thoughts: When you stop junk mail, you will save approximately 20 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.

According to a study funded by NASA, the creation of pulpwood generates the highest carbon release of all wood products. In its 2018 annual report, the USPS reported distributing over 77 billion pieces of junk mail (AKA standard presorted) annually.

When junk mail (junk mail (aka standard presorted)) is distributed over 77 billion pieces of mail, it is estimated to use approximately 20 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.

EAVESDROPS

The cultural transformation and fight for justice inside the Sierra Club mirrors our work externally. We cannot realize our mission or goals externally if we are not living our values and empowering all of our people internally.

- Michael Bruno, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, who stepped down at the end of 2021. He predicted, “The next generation of leadership will bring great things to the Club.”

Condor is John’s collection of magazines, flyers and whatever. He promises to read more online and cancel junk mail, just like the story says. New Year’s resolution? Watch this space. (Photo by John Hankins)
WBC cancels

Bad news for our Wilderness Basics Course community, it’s not going to happen this year, again for the third year due to the pandemic.

The WBC board members voted unanimously to cancel the popular class for 2022 due to the risks posed by the Omicron variant.

Discussion brought up the following key points:

- Gathering indoors with such a contagious strain increases the likelihood that any WBC class could be a spreader event.
- Some of our key committee members did not plan to participate in-person this year and the first few classes would have difficulty functioning without them.
- We have no backup backpack leaders. If just one leader were not available, we would have students who would be out of a backpack, or it would require rescheduling.
- Given the challenges, there was a risk that students would not receive the usual highly organized training and the WBC brand could suffer.

Thanks to each and every one of the 35 volunteers for all you’ve suffered.

In 2020, Ventura Land Trust finalized the acquisition of Harmon Canyon. The property opened to the public for the first time and community members flocked to its trails. Seasoned hikers and first-time trail users alike could explore the preserve and revel in its natural beauty. The opportunity to connect with nature was suddenly abundant and close to home.

Jan 20: Surfrider Foundation has asked me and our chapter to sign into a letter declaring “an ongoing ecological disaster at Ormond Beach in Ventura.” Here’s a link to a YouTube video, it’s disturbing: https://youtu.be/gZGeLGMHSuw

Jan 28: I am supporting (“on behalf of the Sierra Club”) a $5 million grant request from the City of Ventura for projects along the Ventura River Parkway Trail within the City. Repaving new access, new fencing, down lighting, greening along the trail, signage and public art on flood walls would all be part of this.

- Editted by John Hankins

Ocean Science Education Bldg.
514, SB CA 93006.

Dec 20: Official request to Interior to remove the name “Squaw” Creek from the Los Padres National Forest behind Fillmore has now been placed on the Secretary’s list of offensive geographic names, which would include nationwide renaming on federal public lands.

Dec 28: Build Back Better legislation appears dead, so it’s time we all push pressure on the federal government, perhaps to use Executive and Judicial orders. I talk with VP Harris’ climate advisor about this.

Dec 26: Our website is: www.VenturaLandTrust.org

Dec 15: New Yorker Magazine wrote an obituary for Gray Wolf OR-93 which walked from Northern CA to Ventura, calling us a “beauty exurban county.”

Dec 17: NOAA is inviting public comment through Feb 24 on a draft plan for the 2022 marine resources assessment for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. To comment online: Use Docket # NOAA-NOS-2019-011 when you log in: www.Regulations.gov

Jan 11: Another $10 million is allocated via Gov. Newsom’s budget towards the construction of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass in the Agua Hills area.

Jan 18: I just finished speaking on behalf of the Sierra Club to the Organic Gardening Club of Ventura County, which invited me back. A great group of people. I have engagements to speak to garden clubs (it used to be Rotary Clubs!).

Hitch your legacy locally

What do you want your legacy to be?

A planned gift to the Los Padres Chapter will create a legacy that provides for a sustainable and healthy future for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Naming the chapter as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, or other estate plans creates a significant, meaningful, and enduring impact for the Chapter.

You can also choose to list the chapter in your life insurance policy, IRA, or other retirement plan. Whatever strategy you choose, planned gifts give you the benefits of remaining in full control of your assets during your lifetime and the ability to modify your gift to address changing circumstances. As a bonus, under current tax law, there is no upper limit on the estate tax deduction for your charitable bequests.

Most donors define their gifts as a general-use gift. This type of gift is most helpful to the Chapter because it allows us to direct funds to our most crucial conservation priorities. However, if you have a specific environmental or program interest, or if you wish to establish an endowment, we would be happy to assist you in planning a gift that meets your interests and the long-term goals of the Chapter. If you do decide to include the Los Padres Chapter in your plans, we hope you’ll let us know. This information helps guide our long-term planning and allows us to express our thanks to you and to our community.

To request more information or to notify us about your plan, please contact Fundraising Chair, Emily Engelson: emilyengelson@gmail.com

Jim dares to predict 2022

Editor’s note: 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 starting the first week of December. Jim is our chapter vice-chair and conservation director who belongs to many wildlife groups.

Dec 4: Heads up, took part in a Zoom meeting of the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) yesterday. They are concerned about upcoming elections in 2022 and the number one area it’s concerned about is Ventura County where two fossil fuels industry backed initiatives will be put on the June 2022 ballot. See story pg 23.

Dec 6: Wildlife Team Update: Top priority is to resist wolves as endangered, also policy to protect endangered species. Group monitored wildlife and horses and banned killing contests.

Dec 8: Land Setback because the U.S. Senate will NOT allow any national public lands bills, including the Central Coast Heritage and Protection Act and the Valley Corridor Protection Act in the National Defense Authorization Act which will go to President Biden this week.

Dec 9: A 3-minute film about the proposed Chumash Heritage Monument Sanctuary was released: https://youtu.be/Comk1shumI7

Dec 23: Ventura chapter of the Sierra Club is working to remove the name “Squaw” Creek from the Los Padres National Forest behind Fillmore. More information is at: https://www.sierraclub.org/ocal/lp-arboretum.

Jan 5, 2022: Wildlife Team has recently visited and spatially supported a petition to designate the southern portion of steelhead trout as endangered, which includes rivers in Ventura and SB counties. (Jim is Chair of the Team). More info here:

https://lcp.org/wp-environment/wildlife/steelhead/

Jan 11: Another $10 million is allocated via Gov. Newsom’s budget towards the construction of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass in the Agua Hills area.

Jan 18: I just finished speaking on behalf of the Sierra Club to the Organic Gardening Club of Ventura County, which invited me back. A great group of people. I have engagements to speak to garden clubs (it used to be Rotary Clubs!).

Trust balancing conservation and recreation

The Sierra Club agrees and has started free public outings at the Canyon. However, this incredible opportunity for our community undoubtedly impacts our native plant and animal populations.

In 2020 a preserve visitor documented killing a rattlesnake and shared the experience via social media.

- Consistently, bags of dog poop are discarded alongside the trails, rather than carried out for proper disposal.
- Social trails pop up in designated restoration areas that have been marked as off-limits.
- How do we justify these continuing impacts? If we really are a conservation organization, shouldn’t we just keep Harmon Canyon off-limits to the public?

I wrestle with this question continually. I know that Ventura Land Trust is providing an opportunity for our community to connect with nature, and that the power of these connections cannot be understated. Some of the greatest conservationists credit their life’s work to an early experience in nature that moved them to fight to protect the very places that inspired them.

When people have a connection to nature, they are more inclined to enjoy it, to advocate for it, to work toward its health and vitality. Lovers of nature and users of our preserves support our mission via membership, donations, volunteers, and in many other ways.

And, as it turns out, responsible management of a landscape can go a long way in mitigating the impacts of visiting humans. On our preserves (where they are allowed), dogs must be kept on a leash. No off-trail travel is permitted. Preserves are closed when significant weather events create hazards for human visitation.

With proper planning and execution, Ventura Land Trust’s conservation goals can be met while accommodating public access. The best path? You can help us make this a reality by contacting us to help balance conservation and recreation at Harmon Canyon: docente@venturalandtrust.org

Our website is: www.VenturaLandTrust.org

Hines Chronicles
OUTINGS

Editor's note:

For Ventura County outings, Go to:
www.MeetUp.com/SierraClubVentura

For Conejo Group outings (east Ventura), ask to get on its email list or visit its website:
ConejoGroupOutings@Gmail.com

February 12
GIHRLART ROCK, VIA RATTLEBANE TRAIL. Hike on a wondrous canyon views to Gihrlart Rock. Moderately Strenuous 5.5 mt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 / roberts2@sierraclub.org

February 19
HIKE EAST COLD SPRINGS TRAIL TO EAST CAMINO CIELO. Very strenuous 9 mi out and back 2675’ elevation gain. Optional summit Sisquoc Peak. Bring lunch and rain 2.5 liters water. Group size limit 7. Meet at Cold Springs Trailhead on E Mountain Dr. Monte Carlo. 9am. Limited parking, carpooling is encouraged. DALE 805-886-1674 (SB)

February 27
TRIPPELS. Hike up West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Coquema Lake and the Pacific Ocean. Moderate-strenuous 5 mt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEXANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

March 12
FLORES PEAK FROM GIBRALTAR ROCK. We will drive Gibraltar Rock, above the Rattlesnake Trail. We will then hike a steep, little-known trail to Flores Peak. Some rock scrambling and agility required. The Wednesday hikes sometimes call this The Medicine Circle. Elevation gain about 700 feet in only a half mile! Please bring a snack or lunch and a liter of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. ROBERT 805-685-1283 / roberts2@sierraclub.org

March 19
HIKE FRANKLIN TRAIL TO OHV ROUTE. Very Strenuous 16mi out and back, 4610’ elevation gain. Depending on group this can be a timed hike not completing entire distance so as to return at 4:30PM. Bring lunch and rain 3.5 liters water. Group size limit 7. Meet at Capistrano High School parking lot (4180 Foothill Rd.) at 7:30AM. DALE 805-886-1674 (SB)

March 27
SNYDER TRAIL. Hike up from Paradise to the remains of Knapp’s Castle. Enjoy breathtaking views of mountains while eating lunch. Moderate 7 mt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEXANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

SIGHTINGS

We’ve got links revisiting 2021

By John Hanks

Here’s what we’ve been up to the last two months, pandemic allowed! Lots of good info, links. And fun at our meetings.

Covid Precautions

We will be observing any state/county rules effective at the time of the outing. Each participant should observe these rules and take any additional precautions that they deem necessary to protect their health. In addition, the following rules will be observed on Sierra Club outings.

* If you feel sick, please do not attend the outing.
* Each participant will fill-out a sign-in sheet with clear contact information.
* Masks will be required for any indoor activity such as carpooling.
* Masks are optional outdoors.
* Group size will be limited, depending on the type of outing.

Jan 25: WASCO what? The group recently formed to address all things water. It is Watershed Alliance of South Coast Organizations, a coalition of both non-profit, companies and educational institutions. Catherine Mullin (SB Group) asked us to sign onto it as efforts are being made to lobby their senators. The club’s statement: “We will challenge voter suppression in every forum, for as long as it takes, until we can create a democracy that truly works for everyone.”

Jan 9: California Compliance Officer Ruth Muzzin has gotten approval to serve as our Chapter Compliance officer.

Jan 8: Public Access fees to the coastal area of Hollister Ranch is still in the cards, but an appellate court avoided a secret settlement crafted by state agencies in a Coastal Court lawsuit, mostly siding with the Gaviota Coast Trail Alliance. Our Sierra Club sides with the Alliance.

Jan 6: Cottagehill Vigil was held at the Sierra Club office in Santa Barbara. For details of this and other events:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdpLsVSLjLQ

Dec 31: Richard Hart’s Highlights is to enjoy, eye candy! Our talented like leader, photographer and writer sent us a link to highlights of 2021, which include “Love at UFO Landing Pad, Octopus, Elephant Seals, Nit Wit Ridge, Gaviota Wind Cave, Merriam’s Cactus, Ojo San and much more. Go here:
https://i0.wp.com/www.highlightstheyear.com

Dec 25: Major Win stopping Cat Canyon oil projects in the Santa Maria area was revisited by the Environmental Defense Center. These oil projects were stymied by the EDC and its clients, our own Los Padres Chapter and SBCCAN. The last of the three projects was withdrawn in November, avoiding 1.5 million metric tons of CO2emissions over the lifetime of the project. See video by attorney Tara Messing thanking our chapter:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgHdpLsVSLjLQ

See story pg. 3
The talks are back!

The popular monthly series of talks about hiking, backpacking, and our local natural history has returned after a hiatus due to the pandemic. Although in person talks have yet to resume, the presentations are being live-streamed via Zoom.

The talks for February and March should be of particular interest to hikers of the Southern Los Padres.

- Feb. 17, 5:30pm – No NIRA Now What? with Bryan Conant from the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA)

Oh no! NIRA is closed and I can’t hike my favorite Manzana Trails . . .

- Feb. 17, 5:30pm – Waterfalls of the Santa Barbara and Ojai Mountains with James Wapotich

Our local mountains are surprisingly rich in the number of waterfalls and cascades they hold. When enlivened by the rain, these scenic destinations become more compelling.

This talk will highlight close to two dozen different waterfalls and cascades in the mountains behind Santa Barbara and Ojai, and will feature a mix of relatively easy to reach places, as well as more remote locations in the San Rafael and Dick Smith Wilderness areas.

Wapotich shares images and stories from his hikes to these picturesque places. He has hiked many of the trails in our local backcountry as a backpacker, trail guide, and author of the Santa Barbara News-Press hiking column, “Trail Quest”.

To register for the talks, go to the Santa Barbara Public Calendar: https://tinyurl.com/EventSHLbDea

You may also contact Wapotich on his email list announcing future talks: wapotich@charliyahoo.com

Honoring Ansel Adams

A special virtual Zoom program in honor of Ansel Adams on what would have been the iconic photographer’s 120th birthday is happening at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature on Sunday, Feb. 20 from 2-3pm

Entitled "Sharing the Light: Ansel Adams Exhibition," the presentation will reveal more about what he worked, what motivated him to expose film to light, and his magical and sometimes irreverent sense of humor.

Suggested donation: $5; register here: https://tinyurl.com/AdamsZoom

Wildling Museum’s number is (805) 686-8315 and website: www.WildlingMuseum.org

Indian Creek is an example of a waterfall upstream from Indian Creek Camp (Dick Smith Wilderness) that Bryan Conant calls “a perfect 10.” Below, Manzana Creek is seen from above as it heads toward the San Rafael Wilderness. Photo by James Wapotich who you can reach at: www.songsofthewildness.com

We are so grateful to donors

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our many generous donors and volunteers.

We Appreciate You, the 120 donors from Santa Maria, Oxnard, Camarillo, and Ventura to Westlake Village, Thousand Oaks, Goleta, Moorpark, Santa Barbara, Sylvelon, Lompoc, Newbury Park, Port Hueneme, Oakview, Summerland, Ojai, and Carpinteria, all of whom supported the Los Padres Chapter’s Annual Appeal in December 2021.

Your support has leveraged grants for environmental protection and community engagement across Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Your generosity makes it possible for the Los Padres Chapter to address climate disruption, fight for clean renewable energy, and protect our local wildlife and wild lands.

We are sincere when we say we cannot do our work without you.

You are:

Patty Manpearl
Judith Long
Ellen Ines
Sarah Jacobs
Ann James
Richard Yamamoto
Jack and Spencer Sawaske
Linda and Curt Smith
Richard Yamanoto

$100
Merrill Berge
Jeffrey Boyle
Margaret Connell
Vicki Dodge
Mary Foster
Rosalyn Gold
Robert Hull
Mr. and Mrs. James Hartle
Mark Hauser
Cynthia Hellyer
David Landescker
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Philip McKenna
Ed and Christie Moore
Chris Mott
Terry Pessati
Margery Richards
Edward Rose
Jack and Spencer Sawske
Richard Yamanoto

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Tanya Atwater
Richard Bartley
Gerry and Beverly Ching
Betsy and Larry Daugherty
Katharine Hunter
Jane Perner
John Stuelnepal
Bill Zeldis

$500
W.F. Busch

$5000
Dick Mazess

While Adams’ striking images and exacting technique have been well documented over the years, what is less shared is a view of the man behind the camera. This presentation will reveal more about who Adams was as a person, how he worked, what motivated him to expose film to light, and his magical and sometimes irreverent sense of humor.

Suggested donation: $5; register here: https://tinyurl.com/AdamsZoom

Wildling Museum’s number is (805) 686-8315 and website: www.WildlingMuseum.org
WBC leader changed lives

By John Hankins

It all started with a public notice in the 2009 issue of Condor Call:

“For the first time ever, the Los Padres Chapter is sponsoring a Wilderness Basics Course beginning January 20 (2010), thanks to the efforts of organizer Teresa Norris and a cadre of volunteers who will share their expertise.”

Teresa initially got permission from the chapter’s Executive Committee, then put a couple of articles in the Condor Call. Suzanne Tanaka and Alisse Fisher were first on board, then Kim Homan, Marc ‘Roadkill’ Hertz, John Hankins, Irene Rauchsenberger, and Kurt Pressler came on board to bolster the team.

It sure worked, starting with about 25 students and a continuous rise to 60 or so. Many who took the course became trained leaders and then circled back as WBC staffers.

Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic shut the class down for the last three years, and Teresa is retiring as the ongoing Chair of WBC. Fortunately, the current WBC board is determined to revive it in 2023 (see separate story).

At the chapter’s December holiday party, Teresa was given the Wilderness Hero Award and the club is searching to place an overlook bench in her honor, hopefully on her favorite trail in the Fillmore area where she lives. Los Padres ForestWatch is also on the search.

“Whatever we do, it won’t be enough,” said David Gold, an at-large member.

“Thanks, it’s been a joy of mine over the 14 years, I didn’t consider it work. It’s been a wonderful community. In the beginning there wasn’t a community, then they got to know each other and now it’s a community . . . always my hope from the beginning,” she said.

From the start, WBC’s topics included backpacking clothing and equipment, first aid and safety, water filtration, map and compass, fitness and much more, notably tips from experienced hikers that you won’t find in books.

It grew in reputation and other outdoor experts from wilderness groups and authors became speakers: Los Padres Forest Watch, the Forest Service, Los Padres Forest Assn., backcountry writer Craig Carey. Search and Rescue members became a favorite.

“The one night a week evening lectures will set the stage and prepare you for the real-life adventure that awaits you and your group on the trail,” said the chapter’s December holiday party program.

WBC often had a ‘warning’ that it could change your life. And it did, with all ages, families and couples taking it together and even experienced hikers learning something new. Some were timid at first, others anxious to learn more to feel safe and comfortable in extreme wilderness.

This is Teresa Norris’ legacy.