History of wilderness is epic

Editor, Condor Call (died 2012) and knew about epic Commission (from 1985 to 2011, ensure, as the 1964 Wilderness Society and many being saved” -- the Sierra Club, coast is never saved. It’s always would exploit it. To parallel Peter Wilderness Act, may you never page 3. (Photo by Bonnie Freeman)

Happy 50th anniversary, The drive to preserve now sauntering its way through (HR 4685), introduced in May and Coast Heritage Protection Act the LP Forest and Carrizo Plain Sespe and Chumash. Rafael, Dick Smith, Matilija, Lucia, Garcia, Machesna, San designated wilderness areas: Act (1973). Air Act (1963), Clean Water Act 1970 (assessing impacts), Clean is a nexus, other legislation comes

The exciting part is we might Our local Los Padres management in 1933, (1949) remains “ (1949) remains the massive Colorado River led a national campaign against Brower of the Sierra Club, they the first draft of the Wilderness the Wilderness Society created our local San Rafael Wilderness under a fall sky. (© Photo by Jeff Jones, ~ Howard Zahniser of ~ In 1924, while ~ In 1974, California ~ Wilderness areas are "Debate is Over" sign at New York Climate March. (Photo by Shannon McComb) New York cop at peace during largest climate rally ever. (Photo by Joelle Woodson) Mother holding child during the Chumash blessing on the Ventura Pier. (Photo by Ron Whitehurst) That’s Shannon McComb of the Ventura Sierra Club holding the Save the Whales sign during the New York rally. (Photo by Michael Mascarenhas) A panorama of some participants of the Santa Barbara Climate March. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

We endorse . . . Rallies rally . . . SCAPE . . . Outings . . . Outdoor Ed Pgs. 1, 6 & 7 Pgs 1, 2 Page 3 Pgs 4-7 Page 5
SCAPE helps chapter

By Jim Hines

“Our Wild America,” a Sierra Club campaign to protect America’s great wild places, took me to Washington DC for four days in September, meeting with a number of different Senators and Representatives to advocate for passage of 30 different bills to protect important wilderness areas.

While the call of the wilderness pulls me to walk, seek solitude and reconnect with nature, that week it was time to expand protections for our nation’s unique natural areas. So off came the hiking clothes and on went the suit and tie.

Our group of advocates from around the country gave our reasons for protecting unique areas such as the Tongass National Forest (Alaska) to the hardwood areas of Cherokee National Forest (Tennessee), the coastal islands of Maine, the canyon lands of Utah and the California Desert.

Locally, our Wild America campaign includes the proposed conservation of the Santa Ynez Mountains, a portion of the Sierra Nevada Sanctuary (federal waters from southern Monterey County to Pt. Conception in Santa Barbara County), more wilderness lands in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plains National Monument and the creation of the San Gabriels Mountains National Monument.

I also met with the staff of the senate and house committees which oversee public lands legislation and talked with the senior staff of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service.

By coincidence, we were on the Hill on the day the House of Representatives passed our Nevada Wilderness bill (HR 433) inclu ding our long sought protections for Nevada’s most fragile ecosystems.

To protect what is fragile, what is beautiful, what can never be replaced ... it all boils down to the power of Congress. While wilderness is the place for me to be, those past four days was where I needed to be, protecting what we have for our wildlife species, our own desire for places of unique beauty and for future generations.

For details of the campaign, search for “Our Wild America” at www.SierraClub.org.

Mr. Hines goes to Washington

By John Hankins

The People’s Climate March on Sept. 21 was a shout heard round the world as people took action at over 2,700 events in at least 150 countries -- and locally in Santa Barbara and Ventura -- “but it was also heard seven blocks away at the United Nations,” said Sierra Club’s Executive Director Michael Bruno, speaking from the New York rally.

“Ultimately, though, the most important message ... was one of empowerment,” Bruno emphasized.

And so it was in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, where the issue of climate change centered on the petroleum industry and taking practical actions.

“One important local angle is Santa Barbara County’s Measure P (on the Nov. 4 ballot). This would ban new oil projects that would cover its costs. By coincidence, we were well when he wrote, “the sight of so many people from so many different backgrounds, all united behind the same rightious purpose, was both exhilarating and humbling. I’m sure I wasn’t the only one thinking, ‘So this is what it feels like to be part of history.’” Our job now is to build on this incredible moment.”

Energize the election

By Fran Farina

When the Sierra Club Santa Barbara County Political Committee met in July, we were concerned with the number of races on the ballot. How could our committee of seven handle so many races in such a short time?

Well, a funny thing happened when the nomination period closed: Most of the races were uncontested so the incumbents automatically won another term.

It’s always a problem with voter turnout in a mid-term election. People just don’t think it’s as important so they don’t vote. Those that do are HPVs – high propensity voters. Unfortunately, they tend to be older, more conservative, and less concerned with environmental issues. And that is our challenge.

We need to motivate our family, friends and colleagues to become engaged in this election. We need Sierra Club volunteers to phone bank and walk precincts. We need contributions and house parties to support our candidates and issues.

By the time you read this, the Nov. 4 election will be less than a month away and people will already be voting by mail. Please volunteer and support our candidates and issues like Measure P. And be sure to let them know that you are with Sierra Club. In the candidate statements you’ll find websites and phone numbers to volunteer.

Fran Farina is Political Chair of the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter for Santa Barbara County.

Meet a “Force of Nature,” Heidi Harmon, during her talk on “Climate Change Crisis, What To Do About It, Starting Now,” at the Arquiduo Group’s program at 7 p.m., Oct. 17 at the Lompoc Presbyterian Church, 1660 E. Berkeley. She is running for Assembly in District 35 (see story on page 6). When she emailed Editor Condor John asserting, “Let me know if you need anything else from me.” he replied, “Since you are a Force of Nature, how about making it rain?” She responded with this picture and the comment, “I’m trying!” Follow her efforts at www.facebook.com/heidi4assembly. (Photo by Mark Velasquez at Atascadero Lake)
Our N.Y. rally reporter part of a new energy

Editor's note: The author was our chapter’s Environment Editor in 2007 when she was only 13 years of age, given for her activism against offshore LNG facilities. Now she continues that ethic as a college student and our correspondent at the largest (for climate change protest in New York.

By Shannon Gilkie-McComb (New York, Sept. 2014) — It is hard to imagine any issue in which there will be a more profound effect upon our survival as climate change. So, in the pre-dawn hours of September 21, I rushed to board one of three buses leaving from my university, (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute near Albany) to make the 3-hour trip to New York City.

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SEE condors
Join the Friends of California Condors Wild and Free as we celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge week with a tour of Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge and another of Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, with a good chance of seeing condors.
Both refuges are normally closed to the public except on these very special occasions.
The tour of Bitter Creek starts at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 12 and a week later the Hopper Mt. tour starts at 8 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 19.
Contact Carol for details or to make a reservation at: tours@friendsofcondors.org

EAEVS DROPS
“If I’m wearing lipstick, she won’t kiss me because there’s palm oil in it.” — Valerie Rockefeller Wayne, about her 8-year-old daughter who lectures her about the destruction of palm oil plantations. The anecdote is part of a story detailing how the new generations of oil palm farmers are divesting assets tied to fossil fuel companies.

Photo ops at SM mountains
An exhibit and photo contest about the Santa Monica Mountains closes Oct. 1 at the Visitor Center at Gillette Ranch.
The exhibit features works from Tom Gamache’s book “Range on the Edge – The Santa Monica Mountains,” and he and Van Webster will be reviewing the submissions and conduct an awards and critique event from 2-4 p.m. at the Center on Nov. 2. The center is located at 26786 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas. Also coming up in a December photo workshop led by Tom and Van. For more information, go to: www.tomgamache.com

Visit Roger
Roger Zimmerman, who’s been active for 20 years in the Los Padres Chapter and Arguello Group, is in a Santa Barbara nursing facility since he became incapacitated and has a need for active Sierra Club visitors to keep him in the loop.
“This is an appeal to our companions in conservation, hiking, and technical mountaineering, to drop Roger a line monthly,” writes Roger Connor, chair of the Arguello Group.
Most important right now are Sierra Clubbers to come as friends and swap a few tales with him at Alto Lucero Transitional Center, 3880 Via Lucas, room 550, which is near La Cumbre Plaza. You can usually drop by unannounced between noon and 7 p.m. or contact the front desk at 667-4661.
For more details call Jerry at 928-3598.

SANTA CLARA RIVER
We’re keeping it clean
The inaugural year of the Santa Clara River Gateway Site for Coastal Clean Up Day was a great success on Sept. 20, and so was a separate fundraiser.
Not normally open to the public, the site attracted 40 volunteers who took out more than a ton of trash (2,060 pounds) from the river banks at Hwy 101, including tires, refrigerator and mattress foam, and a few cases of beer.
It was a big spiritual lift to see people of color, local school students, local politicians, and many residents who just cared,” Damra remarked, adding she hopes it becomes a twice-yearly event.
Notable volunteers included bike leader Stephan Bryne, County Supervisor Steve Bennett and his aide Brian Brentnam, Ventura County Board member Eric Nasamura, and family, and students from Foothill Technology and Rio Mesa High.
To see photos, go to Danza’s Facebook at: http://tinyurl.com/SCIara-River-Cleanup.

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Ongoing Outings

Ventura Every Monday Morning

EASY WALKS: at 9:30 a.m. every Monday for easy to moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. Airing time tradition, the walk is 2 to 3 miles and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 493-0797.

Ventura Every Wednesday

URBAN EVENING WALK: Weekly hike in Ventura meets across from the Mission at 6:30 p.m. every Monday for easy walks in the Ojai and Ventura areas. Call Karen at 495-6391.

Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends

SOCIAL WALKS: Every Friday evening (6:30–9:30 p.m.) walk in the Santa Barbara front country, back to back roads. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission, 202 E. Yanonali St. Bring a flashlight and a light snack (no drinks). Call Michelle at 684-1124.

SUNDAY WALK: On a 5.10 mile round trip hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission. Bring water and a flashlight, preferably head lamp. Hike is designed for families with young children. Call Kim at 684-1124.

MODERATE AND STRENUOUS hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. At the Mission at 6:30 a.m. and hope Ave. at 9 a.m. Call 684-1124.

Angelou Group Newsletter

October 11

OUTING NOTES

Key to outing locations listed in parentheses at the end of each listing.

— Amigo Group —

(SB) — Santa Barbara Group
(SV) — Sierra Vista Group
(V) — Ventura Group
(CJ) — Conejo Group
LA — Los Angeles Chapter

The public is welcome at all outings listed unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch and at least 3 liters of water.

Some outlines of outings are available on the internet.

OCTOBER 2014

OCTOBER 18 – 17

HIDDEN POND LOOP: Moderate pace, strenuous 10.9miles with 1500’ elev. gain. Enjoy the beautiful fall vistas. Lunch at Ranch Center. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Saticoy St and Fred’s. Call JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground west of Frenchman Rock. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

October 11

SUNSET HILLS TRAIL: Moderate 6.6mrt hike with a lake and urban mountain views. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at the trailhead in the parking lot. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

October 11

FRED'S FALL HIKE: Moderate 6.10mrt hike at the end of each listing) which includes some scrambling and agility. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Sunset Hills Blvd. turning right Fwy. toward Moorpark; exit at the trailhead at 9am. Directions just before the Shell Station on Highway 101, turn left on 12. (about 0.7 miles to the trailhead)

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Ending at the Nov 8-9 Desert Mojave Fest' Nov 1, heading Nov 2.

November 1

STATE HIKE: Very strenuous 17.5 mile hike. This up-and-down (5000') hike covers parts of 9 different trails on the front range. This is a fast paced hike for experienced, conditioned hikers only. Leader: Allen required. Plan for a all day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

November 4

BEACH CLEAN UP: 10 am-12 noon. Living on the coast means loving the sea! Los Padres Sierra Club has 'adopted' the beach at the end of Seaward in Ventura as part of our Adopt-a-Trail program. We'll clean up debris provided, bring water and sun protection. Families welcoming unaccompanied ages 16 to 18 allowed with waiver signed by parent or guardian. (Walking the Ventura Sierra Club FB page ‘notes/ventura-sierra-club/youth-participant-waiver-english’ 787181651144080) Contact: NINA 991-1679 (VEN)

November 5

PT. BUCHON- BEYOND MONTANA DE ORO, SLO COUNTY: Moderate 7 mrt with little elevation change. This is a scenic Pacific Ocean bluff trail side from the south end of Montana de Oro State Park out to the Pacific Ocean. Laguna Beach. Bring binoculars, water, lunch, and clothing suitable for the weather. Meet at 0845 for car-pooling in Santa Maria at the north end of Home Depot parking lot at Betteravia and Bradley, just west of freeway 101. Always check with the leader since hikes are subject to re-scheduling, route changes, and other changes. JERRY CONNOR 928-3588 (AR)

November 6

URBAN HIKE TO FRANCESCHI RANCH PARK: Meet the Mission, walk through the Riviera, then up the '100 steps' to a great view of the city and harbor Return via Las Tunas Rd. Some steep sections. Moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 585-1283 (SB)

November 8

MONTANA DE ORO, SLO
BLUE BEACH: (3682), 10 mile round trip, 2700 elevation gain) We ascend Romero Canyon trail to the ridge, loop around and over Blue Peak back to the saddle, and then descend also by old Jay Peak Trail to the park for refreshments. Bring water, snacks. MUST WEAR HELMET. Under 18 requires accompanying parent/guardian. Meet at 9am in the park before retracing our steps. We’ll also take a special side trip to explore the effects of the low lake level. Easy Smt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am.

November 14

SWEETWATER TRAIL: A hike from the Bradbury Dam look out to the Lake Cachuma County Park. We’ll explore a portion of the park, before retracing our path, and then take a special trip to explore the effects of the low lake level. Easy Smt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions (gerryg@cox.net). GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

November 15

MISCHIE MOKWA-SANDSTONE PEAK LOOP: Moderate 6 mile, 1450 elevation gain, loop hike with great views all around. We will hike by Echo Cliffs and Balanced Rock.

Look: Outdoor classes is on the horizon

By Irene Rauschenberger

Accon: noun (14th century) a fit of intense feeling: outburst. This definition of an earlier time is still true today as hiker and Sierra Club devotees go trailblazing. Whether on the dais or trail, experiencing access has its “rewards and sometimes (taking one into unanticipated situations). For hikers that is where the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club has stepped up in support of the Wilderness Basic Course.

It promotes the mission to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club — through teaching the skills needed for a rewarding wilderness experience. Now, the Wilderness Basic Course reaches out for the sixth annual 2015 program, scheduled in eight classroom sessions and several adventurous outings during the months of February and March.

The dedicated WBC chieftains — Teresa Norris and Alisse Fischer — deserve much recognition for the annual program planning that has the support of returning staff and alumni to make it all happen.

Students learn the basics of backpacking skills in a classroom setting as well as out in our local mountains. Besides students witnessing the hike experience that speaks for itself in favor of preservation, alumni grow the club and several have qualified to lead hikes. Now that is success.

Come and join us on our next adventure; see the application page on page 5, call 524-7170, email lagposites@sierraclub.org or go on the website: www.lospadres.sierraclub.org/wbc

Learn to Backpack

Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

We offer through training for adults and teens of various levels of fitness who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company. A dedicated and reliable staff share their skills and devotion during classroom sessions and during several exciting outings in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Training classes are held from 7-9:30 pm in Ventura, February 4 through March 25.

Local experts will demonstrate hiking techniques, equipment, outdoor clothing, navigation, wilderness first aid and safety, weather, water filtration, cooking and wilderness survival, among other important topics. Students will also try this handiwork by participating in day hikes, camping and backpacking trips in our beautiful mountains.

Join us and the many people who have found new insights, enjoyment and a future in the outdoors! Wanting to change your life.

Class starts February 4, 2015

Lospadres@sierraclub.org/wbc

facebook.com/lospadresWBC

lospadresWBC@gmail.com • (805) 524-7170

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Los Padres Wilderness Basics Center

Name: ____________________________
(Staggered ski 12 years of age must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian)

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

Member #: ______________________
Non Member: $175/single, $315/couple

Sierra Club Member: $160/single, $285/couple

Member #____________________

Phone # _______________________

E-mail ____________________________

Waiver on service hours! Clean up supplies to get high school community service hours! Dan 818-421-901-1679 (Ven)

Peeing out the far tent are students rested and ready to explore more of our local backcountry, courtesy of the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course, set for next February. Can you handle the fun? (Photo by Amy Gonye)
Welcome, bring water and a trail to Sandstone Peak for lunch break. Then continue to a broad rock to Split Rock for a short outing.

October/November 2014 • PCH onto Yerba Buena Road Oxnard/ Ventura/ Camarillo, take KEITH 965-9953 (SB) LORA 218-2103 (VEN) suzanne@hiplaces.org. During which it becomes Yerba Buena Trailhead. Wear hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, bring lots of water (at least 2 liters), snacks, lunch. Rain Cancels. Directions to combine carcamping, day-tour of popular viewing areas in the Caliente Range or else a choice of the group, either: a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The total hike is 8 miles, and involves physical exertion.

Keith

November 15/16 EXPLORING/ SERVE IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS: Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. Our service on Saturday will either removed 500-550 of them.

November 16 MONTECITO PEAK: Hike up to a steep trailhead in the Santa Barbara area on the west side of the South Coast. Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lunch and lots of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. in Aam. ALEJANDRO 988-1240 (SB)

November 17 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Ojai Plaza at 8 am, walk to Oak View to take trolley to Ojai and walk back, bring $1. P AT JUMP 643-0270 (SB)

November 21 THING: OLD. CABIN SITE, Mugu State Park: Clockwise LOOP: Moderate-to-strenuous 9 miles, round trip hike with 1600 feet of elevation gain/loss up to the old cabin site in the NE part of Mugu St. Park. Approx 5 hrs at a moderate pace. (Upper Sycamore Cyn, Boney Mtn, and Fossil trail) Meet at Ojai Plaza at 7am for a short shuttle ride to the trailhead. Expect poison oak on the trail. Other things: hiking boots and poles, sun hat, insect repellent, raingear, and snacks/knuckleduff required.

November 22 CAMPAIGN BLUFFS: Morning walk past Seal Rock, flower fields and over bluffs. Children welcome. Meet at the Ojai Plaza at 8am. Slow paced 3 miles or so. Meet behind B of A at upper State St. at Hope Ave. in Aam. KEITH 965-9953 (SB)

STATE ASSEMBLY

According to Das, "this year was big for the environment."
The groundwater management package will, for the first time, comprehensively link the state’s existing groundwater use and the protected water bodies. A twin tunnel neutral and irrigated land will receive substantial funds for water recycling, water use efficiency and watershed management. Das had several successes with his environmental bills. AB 1594 will close a loophole that allowed some cities to put yard trimmings into local landfills and instead divert them to compost facilities. The result is better for managing emissions associated with the breakdown of organic waste as it produce an end product which returns moisture in the soil and reduce the need for pesticides.

YES – MEASURE P

The Santa Barbara County Fracking Ban Initiative (Measure P) is important to support the Nov. 4 ballot, and is strongly supported by the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club which encourages members and friends to help get it passed.

Nov. 4 ballot, and is strongly supported by the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club which encourages members and friends to help get it passed.

The Santa Barbara County Water District filed the measure with signatures, leading the Board of Supervisors to place it on the ballot. To help out, go to: www.VoteYesOnP.org

S.B. COUNTY

Fracking ban fans vote

As a landscape architect, Meg has helped people save water in their landscapes for the past 15 years.

She is a champion of rainwater harvesting and greywater systems. As a landscape architect, Meg helps people save water in their landscapes and promote more conservation measures.

Meg also supports expanding the District’s e c o n o m y of designing water efficient l a n d s c a p e s and appliances.

During her service on the City of Goleta’s Planning Commission, Meg has been a constant advocate for water conservation, permeable paving and bioswales to decrease the quantity of runoff and improve water quality in our streams and ocean. This public position also helped understand the extent to which land use decisions affect water demand.

When elected, she will focus on water planning, water conservation, and customer service. She will also advocate for expansion of the reclamation project.

We need new members on the water board with progressive, forward-looking ideas. Meg West is a perfect fit for the job. For details or to help, go to: www.westforwater.com
ARGUELLO GROUP

KEN NAYLOR

I have been an active member of the Santa Barbara Group since 1964 and have gone on trips with the club to Alaska, Montana, and the Sierra Nevada.

I’m currently active with the Arguello Group taking weekly hikes and supporting local conservation issues, such as fighting oil companies’ efforts to drill for oil using fracking technology.

I, along with other Sierra Club members and members of SBCAN (Santa Barbara County Action Agency) support and present our view points to the County board of Supervisors and other public agencies.

Dean Thompson

I am a long time Sierra Club member with a special interest in hiking.

I am a former hike leader and still hike with Wednesday friends.

I have been an ExCom member of the Arguello Group for several years.

I am the hospitality chair and provide computer and projector for presentations at meetings when required.

ARGUELLO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Arguello Group

Executive Committee Ballot

(Sources and instructions on this page)

Membership is based on how many people you can reach who are not already members.

I believe that this is a very important process and that we need to go beyond to curb the destructive activities of our society.

I have served on the ExCom of the Santa Barbara Group for the last six years, and have been asked to serve for another two years if you choose.

In addition to diligent attendance at ExCom meetings, my contributions have included Program Chair, volunteer coordinator, and preparation of Convio mailings.

For questions you can call me at 564-1070.

BULLETIN

Santa Barbara Group

Executive Committee Ballot

(Sources and instructions on this page)

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History of wilderness is epic

By John Hankins
Editor, Condor Call

Happy 50th anniversary, Wilderness Act, may you never be endangered.

But it often is, by those who would exploit it. To parallel Peter Douglas’ famous quote -- “The coast is never saved. It’s always being saved” -- the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and many others wage a constant battle to ensure, as the 1964 Wilderness Act declares, “where earth and its community of life remain untrammeled, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Douglas was Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission (from 1985 to 2011, died 2012) and knew about epic battles.

The drive to preserve wilderness areas goes back at least to the Antiquities Act of 1906, which helped protect “heritage resources” on federal lands. While the Wilderness Act is a nexus, other legislation comes into play, notably the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (assessing impacts), Clean Air Act (1963), Clean Water Act (1948), and Endangered Species Act (1973).

Our local Los Padres National Forest has ten designated wilderness areas: Ventana, Silver Peak, Santa Lucia, Garcia, Machesna, San Rafael, Dick Smith, Matilija, Sespe and Chumash.

The exciting part is we might get over 245,000 acres more in the LP Forest and Carrizo Plain due to Rep. Lois Capps’ Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (HR 4685), introduced in May and now sauntering its way through Congress. For details, go to: http://tinyurl.com/CappsWildernessBill.

And now, a short and fascinating history:

~ In 1924, while working with the Forest Service, Aldo Leopold persuaded his superiors to designate 755,000 acres of the Gila National Forest as roadless wilderness.

~ Leopold publishes the first textbook in the field of wildlife management in 1933, and his “A Sand County Almanac” (1949) remains a cornerstone for modern conservation science, policy, and ethics.

~ Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society created the first draft of the Wilderness Act in 1956. Along with David Brower of the Sierra Club, they led a national campaign against the massive Colorado River Storage Project, resulting in an act declaring, “That no dam or reservoir constructed under the authorization of the Act shall be within any National Park or Monument.”

~ The Wilderness Act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on Sept. 3, 1964, adding two million acres in nine states as wilderness.

~ Also in 2009, the U.S., Canada, and Mexico created the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas Conservation.

~ As of this 50th anniversary year, there are 758 areas designated as wilderness, mostly in the West U.S. and Alaska. Total is 109 million acres or about 4.5 percent of the U.S. Size ranges from 5.5 acres (Pelican Island, Florida) to the 12.7 million acre wilderness complex in Alaska known as the Noatak and Gates of the Arctic Wildernesses.

~ In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, adding two million acres in nine states as wilderness.

Wilderness Basics Course leader Teresa Norris set up a wilderness exhibit during the SCAPE fundraiser for the Sierra Club. See story on page 3. (Photo by Bonnie Freeman)