This awesome shot of two whales playing reminds us that now’s the time to see the migration of hundreds of whales in the Santa Barbara Channel ... and a good time to get involved in their protection. See notice page 6 on how. © Wildflower and whale photos by Denise Dewire Photography, (see more on Flickr).
We go where the action is

Compiled By John Hankins

From D.C. to Sacto, SLO, SB and VTA, our Sierra Club members were busy during the last few months doing everything from restoring habitat to lobbying and enjoying the outdoors with our free outings and so much more. Here’s a short list … and join us whenever you can.

~ March 24 – Youth Outings Leader Nina Danza, brought 30 7th graders to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area to see, learn and do everything about riparian ecosystems. (See story on page 2)

~ March 22 – Fish and Game Commission meeting between its president Eric Sklar and our Chair Jim Hines was “very productive.”

~ March 18 – Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council disappointed Hines over the results of anti-wildlands legislation from moving forward.”

~ March 11-14 – Oil Train issue attracted over 500 members of the public to Phillips 66 Spur Project that would allow mile-long oil trains carrying volatile crude through communities across the State. A bus transported Santa Barbara activists like SB Group Chair Katie Davis and Arguello’s Rebecca August.

~ March 9 – Rim of the World Sanctuary Advisory Council “very productive”

~ March 7 – Protect Wild Utah lobby invited Hines to DC to represent the Sierra Club and “Our advocating work paid off. We won. Major victory to stop anti-wildlands legislation from moving forward.”

The Condor Call printed edition in BACK! Did you miss us? For the last couple of years, Condor Call published only an electronic version (except for paper copies in libraries). While its full-color features with hot links was admired, it reached only a fraction of our nearly 6,000 members. That just wasn’t enough of our members to meet the goal of communicating effectively with you.

The printed edition is more expensive than an electronic version, but the ExCom decided it was worth the extra cost. (You can always advertise or donate to help out!)

Condor Call will still send out an electronic copy of the printed editions, and all our current and back issues are available on our website: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

Kids from the seventh grade got quite the education from Mike Glenn (shown) and Jenny Marks of the USB Forest Service, Sierra Club volunteers, Audubon and Friends of the Santa Clara River to help out in restoring the Hedrick Ranch Nature area in late March (see story pg. 2). Ventura Sierra Club’s Nina Danza organized it all and will have a May 1 Volunteer Thank You Lunch Party for the Santa Paula students. (Photo by Nina Danza)

A time to celebrate and educate

In Santa Barbara it’s “One World,” in Ventura it’s an “Eco-Fest,” in Ojai it’s “Trees for Our Valley” and in Oxnard it was “Our Paradise,” but no matter what you call it, to the Sierra Club “Every Day is Earth Day.” It’s so easy to celebrate it whenever there’s a party for it. The official Earth Day this year is Friday, April 22, but most events are during the weekend.

Here’s a synopsis of Earth Day events in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

**Santa Barbara County**

**Santa Barbara - April 16 & 17** “This festival is the biggest environmental event of the year,” said Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis, and it’s one of the oldest in the nation, at 46 years old.

Sponsored by the Community Environmental Council, it says that “In the wake of the Paris climate conference, festival theme ‘One World’ evokes solidarity in the fight to keep global warming well below two degrees.”

It starts at Alameda Park until 7pm Saturday and 6pm Sunday, it is busy indeed, with two full days of music, family fun with a Kids Corner, scores of booths, food as a volunteer fundraiser, and the annual Environmental Hero Award.

That award on Saturday appropriately goes to Rep. Lois Capps and 5 Gyres. Sierra Club will have a booth there and could use some volunteers. To sign up, go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/earthdayvolunteers

**Carpinteria April 16** Volunteers are needed for this event at Carpenteria State Beach, where the nonprofit State Parks Foundation has asked community members to help plant on the east side of Carpenteria Creek and the dune area near the new boardwalk. Working from 9am to noon, you can sign up as a volunteer as a volunteer or www.santabarbaragroup.sierraclub.org.

**Santa Ynez Valley April 23** The Chumash are sponsoring this Earth Day from 10am to 2pm. Saturday at Elders’ Park, 100 Via Juana Lane, Santa Ynez. There will be all-age activities and vendors from around the county; also a creek clean-up, music, tree planting and more. Raffle prizes available for those who participate. Details at: www.sycceo.org/chumash-earth-day-2016

**Santa Maria April 23** The Santa Maria Natural History Museum has some special events and exhibits on Saturday, April 23 all for free. Address is 412 S. McClelland St. Website is: www.naturalhistorysantamaria.com

**Ventura County**

**Ventura April 23** Held at Promenade Park by the ocean from 10am to 5pm, the Festival hosts numerous environmental displays with a wide variety of green exhibitors, interactive educational opportunities for children and adults, green auto expo, as well as an exciting and diverse live entertainment line-up.

Coordinated by the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education -- a tuition-free public school and charity -- all net proceeds fund enrichment programs for its students, K – 8th grade. Sierra Club will host a booth as usual.

**Ojai April 23** In celebration of sustainable living, global awareness, and the joy of nature Food for Thought, Oak Grove School, Ojai Valley Green Coalition, and the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy are teaming up again to host this event with the slogan “Trees for our Valley.”

It’s at Oak Grove School, 220 W. Lomita from 11am to 4pm and yes, the Sierra Club will have a booth so come and say hi. Free rides available from Ojai
Jerry Connor's heart lives on

Jerry Connor passed away on April 4 causing a downpour of sadness for this local Sierra Club legend. He was one of a handful of long-time activists in the modest Arguello Group who were always outnumbered by Santa Barbara North County's conservatively-leaning factions. Often he'd be one of only a handful surrounded by a hundred or more oil workers during hearings. But he found a niche, such as serving on the VAFB environmental committee, leading hikes, and organizing public programs.

Equally by his side was his wife Doris, and they shared a love of the outdoors. She leaves her husband, son Daren, daughter Laurel, daughter-in-law Peggy and two grandchildren.

Los Padres Chapter Members are sending emails and phone messages in sympathy and soon it will be my honor to bestow upon Jerry a man who spent at least 20 years in the Arguello Group, creating programs, cleanups, and so much more.

There will be a memorial service at 1pm Saturday, April 30 at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd. in Santa Maria.

"He's been the backbone of our Arguello Group for at least 20 years," said Condor John Hankins, who is the group's perennial secretary in concert with Jerry being Chair, both of whom organized the outings.

And what a hiker, every week he'd go out but Connie said he will greatly miss his happy, thoughtful, that the ever-energetic and ingenious Jerry Connor hiked and attended meetings "like no other under the sun. An amazing and admirable person. The Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter and Arguello Group owes him an enormous debt." Mike Stubblefield: "Knowing how much we respected Jerry’s boundless energy and enthusiasm that led his actual age.

Condor John Hankins: "We lost a marvelous gentleman who had a huge heart and smarts besides. Imagine always swimming against the tide, his presence, attitude and testimony were always in the fore. I’m going to seriously miss this guy.

Oxnard April 9: Ooops, too bad, held too early to meet our deadlines so it’s already done and gone. But it was held at Plaza Park and Sierra Club did have a booth. Assume we Left No Trace.

Earth Days... continued from page 1

Trolley to the event. Speaking at this year’s celebration of Earth Day was eco-activist Vandana Shiva, a Time Magazine Environmental Hero. Also on tap is Supervisor Steve Humes, creatingReduce a need for transportation. A number of unusual musicians will also play.

For more details, visit: www.ojaiearthday.org

Camarillo April 22: This is a special event on a Friday from about noon to 1pm at Camarillo High School, 4990 Mission Oaks Blvd., organized by Naturally Green, the school’s environmental club. The fair is meant to introduce students to a wide variety of aspects of environmentalism, and the Sierra Club will have reps there.

Oxnard April 9: Ooops, too bad, held too early to meet our deadlines so it’s already done and gone. But it was held at Plaza Park and Sierra Club did have a booth. Assume we Left No Trace.

Students are an inspiration at river event

Sierra Club grows the next generation of environmentalists on the Santa Clara River, thanks to Nina Danza, our Youth Outings Chairperson.

She brought 30 seventh grade environmental science students to the River this April 24 to see, learn and do everything about riparian ecosystems. Kids tested the river water for dissolved oxygen, planted native species in a restoration area and spotted song sparrows during a bird watching lesson. And that was just in the first hour!

Inspiration was provided in abundance due to the funding and expertise of Mike Glenn and Jenny Marek (USFW), and Sierra Club volunteers Irene Rauschenberg, Mike Stubblefield and Bruce Hunter. Thanks also to Sandy Hedrick of the host Friends of the Santa Clara River, and to Audubon members Betty Buchanan, Bruce and Joyce Schoppke who were the most fun science station.

UCSB had a restoration station; the students visited a fully-bloomed native plant nursery on site and were able to purchase flowers.

There will be one more trip for the 7th grade class this year on June 2 put on by Sierra Club and hosted by The Nature Conservancy.

To volunteer, contact Nina at: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com

We go where action is...

continued from page 1

Valley Corridor legislation was the topic of a public meeting by Rep. Julia Brownley and we were there.

March 4 & 5: Plug for club in the Ventura Reporter story about the 7th annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Ventura. Alisse Fisher of WBC and Hines staffed a club table.

March 5: "The Condor's Shadow", a film by Jeff Veryl of Santa Barbara was shown at the Wildling Museum in Solvang, and who but Condor John attended (story to come next issue).

March 5: Environmental Hero award by our Ventura Sierra Club was given to Jan Dietrich of Ventura for her work in climate change actions, protecting our coastline from power plants and founding the Ventura County Climate Hub. VSC Chair Elisabeth Lamar presented the award during the Women’s Empowerment Conference in Oxnard and Chair Chrise Hines spoke about “the important role which women have played and are playing in the environmental movement.”

March 4 - National Forest Committee, made up of four SoCal Sierra Club chapters, met to hammer out issues of dwindling forest lands and increasing usage of the forest areas. Our rep was again Hines, who during February also made connections with the Ventura Surfrider Foundation on coastal protection, the Chumash Nation for support of a new Marine Sanctuary, Coastal Commission staff over land development and Channel Islands staff about proposed wilderness areas on the islands.

Feb 23 – Big victory for SB Sierra Club group and supporters of a bike plan when the city council approved a goal of encouraging bike commuters, which means improved bike lanes; kudos to Katie Davis and Robert Bernstein. (See story pg 7)

Feb 22 – VC Star printed a letter by member Irene Rauschenberg who pointed out that “residents overwhelmingly opposed the Oxnard City Council’s Jan. 12th approval of the Devco housing project,” which should instead be used for recreation and/or “a welcoming open gateway” to the Santa Clara River.

Feb 21 - Ormond Beach Coastal Wetlands event was led by Chapter ExCom leader Nina Danza.

Feb 7 – Biggest turnout ever saw 40 volunteers show up to clean-up and restore the Hendrick Ranch Native Area on the Santa Clara River. Organizer Nina Danza said 30 were Santa Paula High students, others from Foothill Tech and Meetup notices.

We were at the Women’s Empowerment Conference in Oxnard on March 5 in which we gave Jan Dietrich an Environmental Hero award. Shown are Irene Rauschenberg of our Wildness Bassa Council, Ventura Sierra Club Chair Jan Dietrich and Elisabeth Lamar and Chapter Chair Jim Hines in front of the ‘Love is the Key’ poster. (Photo by Elaine Fargosa)
Gaviota Trails open

Three Gaviota State Park trails have been re-opened. Yucca and Woodland trails, impassable and closed for 15 yrs, and the Underpass Trail which links the east and west sides of the park via an Hwy 101 undercrossing, re-open our hike leader, Gerry Ching. Work was performed by volunteers from the SB Trails Council, State Park Champions and Sierra Club, among others.

May 1
HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAIL: Moderate 4.4 mile with 400' elevation gain. Wonderful views on a clear day of the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Valles, the Oxenland and Channel Islands. Bring water, food, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Hwy 101 at the trailhead at the end of Falling Star. Turn onto Falling Star from Kanon in Ojai. PARK HOURS: 9-5:00.

May 3
OJAI: VENTURA PINE RESERVE: 8 mile, moderate-paced hike of a 4 hrs. Start at Riverwalk trailhead, hiking to Oso Ridge Trail to the Preserve Highpoint (1,320 ft), then to Wills and Ojai creeks and trail back to Riverwalk trailhead. Some boulder hopping and stream crossings. Approx 1000’.

Support LP forest bill
The campaign to expand wilderness areas to lands in the Los Padres National Forest is getting a public hearing during the week of April 25 in Congress. The timing is significant as the bill forces movement of this important legislation. Our national Sierra Club chapter has made passage of this legislation its highest wilderness lands priority in 2016,” said our chapter’s chair, John Ford.

The bill is called the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer. It would designate Mount Diablo as a wilderness area, a key step in protecting the Diablo Range. It will also protect 273,000 acres of the Santa Barbara coastal watershed, including the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. It further designates the Central Coast National Scenic Trail which is currently under consideration by the California Legislature. A recent news article suggests that this bill could “help to increase public support for the important act.”

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Sierra Club endorses Salud Carbajal to represent the Central Coast in California’s 24th Congressional District. He is also endorsed by the area’s long-time Rep. Lois Capps, who is retiring. Salud has a proven track record of bringing Republicans and Democrats together to solve problems.

A leader in protecting our renowned coastline and natural environment, he’s stood up against developments on the Gaviota Coast that threatened preservation efforts and has opposed new off-shore oil development. Salud has worked to implement a Climate Action Plan for Santa Barbara County and made solar energy an affordable, efficient option for homeowners.

He has promoted innovative solutions to address environmental stewardship and sustainability while strengthening the middle class by advocating for clean energy job growth.

Salud served on President Obama’s task force on climate change and helped develop a range of sustainable solutions for implementation at the state and local levels.

In Congress, Salud will continue to say no to any new offshore drilling and instead encourage efforts to move toward cleaner energy solutions that help create new jobs, like the new solar power facilities have done locally. He will also work to bring more wind and biofuel initiatives to market and encourage more efforts for residents to retrofit their homes, making them more energy efficient to save consumers money and reduce energy usage.

To help go to: www.saludcarbajal.com

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RACES AFFECTING SB AND VENTURA

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May 14
INDIAN CREEK: Long carpool to the trail head. Follow Indian Creek up a canyon and enjoy some really rare coastal terrain. The creek abounds with wildlife, especially frogs and the western pond turtle. Bring a surfboard if you’re interested in taking a dip in the creek or relaxing in the Little Genoa hot springs at the end of the hike. Moderate terrain, but only 12 mile hike. There will be many creek crossings, and you may get wet, so bring water shoes for the crossings. Also, bring snacks and lunch and at least three liters of water. Meet B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JMJ 749-7034/644-9354 (SB)

LAKE PIRO WALK: Walk beside Lake Piro on your own or with the group. About 2 hours. Slow pace, suitable for seniors or families. Bring chairs and a picnic lunch. Meet behind B of A on Upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. RNK 874-7770 (SB)

May 15
TUNNEL TRAIL TO RIDGE LINE VIEWPOINT: Hike up busy Tunnel Trail and enjoy the scenic views on the way. Opt to continue up steep knife ridge edge just over the power lines for lunch. Beautiful views of Mission Canyon and Santa Barbara. Moderate pace 4 1/2 mile with 1200’ gain to viewing, strenuous 0.7 mile, 500’ gain to ridge viewpoint. View cancellations. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. RML 557-9719 (SB)

OUTINGS DUE: Outings for inclement weather. Check the Condor website now! All Group outings chairs should send their Jun-Sep outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 21
RIRI PARKA: A pleasant four mile roundtrip hike. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. RML 557-9719 (SB)

OUTINGS DUE: Outings for inclement weather. Check the Condor website now! All Group outings chairs should send their Jun-Sep outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 22
GAVIA BEACH OVERLOOK: Hike from Gaviota beach to the caves and tidepools in the ridges above. Includes off-trail cross-country exploration on a challenging route! Some rock scrambling, bushwhacking and agility required. About 5 mile. Wear long pants and bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 665-7283 (SB)

LOWEST NEWTON CANYON: Moderate 5.4 mile hikw with 600’ extra gain. Rock trail, down to the lush canyon creek and up with good switchbacks. Bring water and feed, and wear lap-locked shoes. Take Kanan Road south from the 101 Fay. Meet at 9am at the Newton Canyon Parking Lot just before the third tunnel. Red flag warning cancels. FONTAINE HOMES 304-4569 (L)

May 27-30
BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS. This annual event makes a great first trip; it typically includes speakers, guided hikes, slot canyon explorations, a black rock hounding, Dutch Oven cook-off etc. Co-Sponsored by Friends of the Black Rock, BLM and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Bring your RVs, HAM radios.

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SANTA BARBARA RACES

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There is an environmental champion running for the critical position of supervisor in the 1st supervisorial District in Santa Barbara County: Joan Hartmann, J.D and PhD.

She served as Supervisor Doreen Farr’s Planning Commissioner until January of this year, and built a solid record opposing offshore oil development, standing up for Community Plans, and protecting the Gaviota Coast. She fought to restrict air emissions from oil extraction and opposes trucking of oil through our community.

An advocate for Community Choice Energy, Joan will also work with the community on the development of micro-grods. She believes the County needs to expand water conservation efforts, particularly from agriculture, as well as explore options for groundwater recharge and direct potable reuse.

Joan began her career in the academic world. After earning her PhD, she helped establish the public policy program at the Claremont Graduate School and the environmental studies program at Oberlin College. She left the academic world to work in the policy and budget offices and as legal counsel for several federal government agencies, including the Department of the Interior and EPA.

In 2008, Joan led efforts to establish Buellton’s urban growth boundary, placing decisions about the County’s growth in the voters’ hands. She also advised the Goodland Coalition on protecting Goleta’s agriculture.

For more information and to help out, go to: www.JoanHartmannforSupervisor.org.
Julia Brownley
Congress, 26th Dist.

Julia Brownley is one of the most consistent defenders of the environment in Congress, and her district is home to some of the most competitive battlegrounds in the country. That’s why the Sierra Club is coordinating a huge hike for her Congressional District 26, which covers most of Ventura County.

Julia has worked alongside Los Padres Chapter’s activists on many issues. Protecting our coast and open space are among her top priorities. Working with Los Padres leaders, she helped lead the fight to stop the LNG installation off the coast of Oxnard, and to stop construction of the Onward electricity peaker plant.

She continues to be deeply involved in cleaning up chemical and petroleum contamination at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and at the former Halaco metal smelting facility to better protect the health and safety of our community. Julia is a co-sponsor of the Arctic Wildlife Act, the Coast and Waterfront Planning Act, and the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act, among others.

She has battled to prevent oil drilling off the coast, advocated for rebates and other economic incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy, and worked to protect the purity of our drinking water.

She says, “Ventura County is one of the most beautiful districts in the nation to live, work, visit and raise a family. I’ve worked hard to ensure we preserve our coastlines and open spaces, our air and water quality and to plan responsibly for our future.

We urge you to support her; to learn more or get involved, go to: http://juliabrownley.com

Hiking...from page 4

Outings...from page 4
dogs on leash. Primitive camping
is permitted. 

Henry Stern
State Senate, 27th Dist.

As environmental policy adviser to termed-out Senator Fran Pavley, Henry Stern has led battles on behalf of the residents of District 27, which covers the eastern portion of Ventura County from Santa Barbara to Fillmore, Moorpark and Simi Valley into L.A.

The Sierra Club endorses him to succeed her.

As an environmental lawyer, sixth-generation Californian, and native of the district, Henry has taught environmental law and policy at UCLA School of Law. He has harnessed that expertise to play an important role on many issues.

A major priority of his has been the fight to preserve open space in the Santa Monica Mountains and elsewhere in Ventura County. Another priority is his effort to speed and ease the transition from polluting fossil fuels to clean, job-creating renewable energy.

He began this work before signing on with Sen. Pavley, helping businesses build clean energy projects. Working for the 27th District, he helped enact legislation to reduce the costs of low-polluting cars and trucks that run on alternative fuels.

He has also focused efforts on protecting California’s strained water supply, including legislation to prevent groundwater, legislation to invest in water recycling, groundwater cleanup, and stormwater capture.

Henry hopes to continue his work for common sense policies to protect our air and water, and to support our communities. Please support him. To learn more or get involved, go to: www.henrysternforSenate.com

Christy Smith
Assembly, 38th District.

The Sierra Club endorses Christy Smith to fill the vacant seat in Assembly District 38, mostly L.A., but includes the Simi Valley in Ventura County.

Christy’s highest environmental priority is lake protection of the Aliso Canyon natural gas facility (whose disastrous leak so disrupted the lives of some residents) and to substantially improve its monitoring.

She wants to put the state on a path to protect the environment, the steadfast opponent of fracking, she is especially concerned about the risk its water waste causes to our fragile water supply. Towards that end she would support: a moratorium on extreme oil extraction techniques, greater federal regulation of the oil industry, and restriction of oil waste into aquifers. She opposes offshore oil drilling, and instead supports underwriting a dramatic expansion of solar energy use.

She is a champion of clean energy, and has taken action to step up to the challenge of the drought by more effectively protecting natural watersheds, facilitating water recharging, and making California’s system of water distribution more rational and more efficient.

As a mother and a somebody’s grandmother, and a long-time earth lover, I take my role as a state legislator very seriously. We will get on it. I want to be a part of a building a future in which we can all be proud. My political philosophy and environmental priority is to do no harm.

We’d like your support. For more information or to help out, go to: www.christysmithforAssembly.com

Steve Bennett
Vta Supervisor, Dist. 1

Steve Bennett is a visionary leader who has spearheaded environmental protection in Ventura County for two decades.

The Sierra Club again proudly endorses him for Ventura County Supervisor District 1, with his list of environmental achievements is long.

When Steve saw urban sprawl spreading into the County in the early 90s, he brought people together to pass the SOAR initiatives—saving the greenbelts and agricultural land by giving citizens the right to vote before development takes place on open space outside city boundaries, encouraging strategic development within our cities instead.

Steve has led the Board of Supervisors in slowing the dangerous over-drafting of water from groundwater basins, some of which are so severely depleted that they are at risk of drying in toxic contamination, threatening public water supplies and drinking water. In doing so he has stood up to powerful entrenched interests who have viciously attacked him in a failed attempt to preserve their veto power over groundwater policy.

Steve has also been a leader in the promotion of alternative fuel use. He has led in the development of Climate Change Action plans, made the county fleet more efficient with hybrid vehicles, and has introduced solar power and enhanced energy efficiency into county buildings.

He has spearheaded the county’s effort to remove the Matilija Dam, and to restore and protect the Ventura River watershed. He also wrote the county resolution opposing the opening of more offshore oil leases and led the county to ban the use of Styrofoam in county facilities.

Steve’s environmental leadership has drawn extremely well-financed opposition from developers and other entrenched special interests. Please join us in supporting him.

For details or support, go to: http://bennettforsupervisor.com

Soar fights urban sprawl

Thanks to SOAR, Ventura County enjoys America’s most effective protections against the loss of open space and agricultural land.

SOAR (Save Our Open Space and Agricultural Resources) will be on the 2016 ballot when Ventura County’s open space could disappear due to the same development pressures that had reshaped the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. In response they developed the SOAR initiatives— one for each of the eight cities in Ventura County, and one for the County as a whole. The initiatives passed by landslide votes.

The initiatives require a vote of the people before open space or agricultural lands could be rezoned for development in Ventura County’s unincorporated areas, and in the buffer zones between cities. The result has been the preservation of the character of Ventura County and its land.

The initiatives had sunset provisions, meaning that for them to take affect, renewal initiatives must be passed. Major petition drives have been under way, and hopefully in the fall, Ventura County’s residents will have the opportunity to vote for Ventura County SOAR renewal, and for the renewal of three city SOAR initiatives.

The passage of these measures is one of the Los Padres Chapter’s highest priorities. They are especially important for residents of development interests, who are complicity an army of electors to try to defeat them.

Please help in any way that you can in the battle to extend SOAR. To see how you can help, go to: http://www.soarvc.org

Condor Call

May 29
REFUGIO BEACH TO EL CAPITAN:
Car pool to Refugio Beach and walk to El Capitan or beyond. Easy 8 miles. Bring old shoes, lunch, and water. Share parking fee. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 846-2380

NATURE WALK - WILDWOOD PARK:
Moderate approach. 4.5 miles with 600’ cumulative elevation gain. Enjoy a nature walk while enjoying life at its best along Stagecoach Bluff down along the water treatment plant, above Paradise Falls, along the creek to Indian Creek Trail and back to the parking lot. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 4pm at the parking lot at the south end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. Contact: NIKI STOCKOLS 967-8175 or nstockols@gmail. com to RSVP or for more information.

May 29
SANTA YNEZ SWIM: (6 mrt with 400 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike through hills, roads, trail to Gibraltar Dam, then returns along the Santa Ynez River for a picnic and swim. Bring plenty of food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 10am. PAUL 886-2071

ROMERO CANYON/ ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Strenuous hike up to a ridge line with the most gorgeous views in SB. Old dirt roads, steep, smallish rocks, bring snacks and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 10am. PAUL 886- 1121

June 2
VOLUNTEER AT ENVIRO SCIENCE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP: 8am-2pm; 2 Los Padres Sierra Club is providing field trips on the Santa Clara River for 7th grade environmental science students at Rio School District. Volunteers are needed to be ‘station leaders’ at the field trips. A station leader will be with a small group of the class to observe, learn and take notes on a subject (such as river plants, amphibians/reptiles/insects, pollution). No experience necessary. Lesson information already developed. Bring a love of nature and enthusiasm to be with the future stewards of our earth. Contact NINA preethyjeewapathy@gmail.com to sign up (VEN)

June 4
ROMERO CANYON ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Strenuous hike up to a ridge line with the most gorgeous views in SB. Old dirt roads, steep, smallish rocks, bring snacks and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 10am. JONATHAN 989- 1240 (SB)

June 5
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEXANDER 898-1240 (SB)

July 7
RIVER TRAIL: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEXANDER 898-1240 (SB)
Editor’s note: There is a full complement of fifty students now homed in on the kelp for comfort and confidence during our annual wilderness course. While still ongoing, you can find out for yourself what an account of how much fun and information is given on a simple drive-in camping trip. Visit their adventures on Facebook at lospadres/WBC.

See photos back page

By Teresa Norris

“This is Carparc anyway!” one of the Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) students wondered. She had found out that it’s where you just drive to a campground and stay right there, in this case Sage Hill Group Campground in Santa Barbara County. A duck waded in the water as I drove on the raised roadbed through the Santa Barbara River and the campground. The surrounding hills and fields were a lush green, with fields of California poppies decorating the hillsides.

The first thing to do was to set up our tents on a dewy field, but ground clothes helped keep the tents dry. The fog was just lifting as we walked across the river for map and compass practice. It’s not too difficult to find features on the map, such as Sage Hill, when you can see them in front of you.

After a picnic lunch under the oak trees, we gathered at the tables to talk about how to choose and set up camp at both developed and undeveloped sites with minimal impact. The afternoon sun was getting warm when we had completed our lesson. It was time for the tents everyone had brought.

Next we sat down to talk about trails and camping resources, such as websites, maps, Meetup groups and books. Several members of staff discussed field repairs they had done to their equipment, using materials such as duct tape and first-aid tape.

After that, the students saw how water purification pumps worked while others opted for a map and compass practice and some simply rested in their tents.

A small group took a walk in a dry riverbed and spotted a Kangaroo rat.

We gathered for a stove show before dinner, where the students and staff discussed the stoves they had brought. Then we learned how to start a fire using a flint to strike a spark onto dry tinder. After that everyone got out their food and cooking supplies and made their own dinners.

Later in the evening, we enjoyed guitar music and some good jokes too. Some students made s’mores, and people seemed content to show them how to heard some owls during the night, and the frogs set up quite a chorus.

After an early breakfast Sunday morning, we had everything up and split up into groups for our hikes to the Aliso Loop, the Stryer Trail, and Padre's Overlook. The groups had more navigation practice during their hikes, and the staff also pointed out the many wildflowers and blooming orchids. One leader spotted a large and beautiful rattlesnake on the trail, and the group watched it until it left.

After the hikes, everyone headed for home. It had been a lot of fun, but it was time to go... until the next WBC adventure.

There are a lot of skilled volunteers who make WBC possible. For our camp we thank Lora Clarke, Philip Clarke, Jim Danza, Jim Dulaikas, Alise Fisher, Tim Grant, Arturo Hernandez, Steve Hocking, Kristi KirkPatrick, Shira Krinkoff, Chrissey Magee, Heather Vaccaro, Andrea Peirce, Paulo project too. The Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center is managed by the Los Padres Chapter when operating. It is again having its biggest and best fundraising event this year on Sunday, June 5 at the Los Carneros Rd., Goleta. Guests will enjoy music, live and silent auctions and socializing, along with celebrating this year’s Environmental Defense Center’s (EDC) anniversary.

The Los Padres Chapter is starting a new series of talks, films and mixers focused on the footsteps of the forest. The first event is by columnists James Wapich on top of the mountain. More information about the Sierra Club and others filed a suit from Santa Barbara to join folks in Los Obama for a special occasion. In our case, we’re just coming through our communities with toxic emissions and risk of explosion. Advice on how to protect the facility from the Phillips 66 Spur Project was delayed until May. (Photo by Katie Davis)

Ocean needs our help

The Los Padres Chapter is continuing to expand its campaign to find ways to avoid ships from colliding with whales in the Santa Barbara Channel, and has proposed to move international shipping lanes while others advocate reduced shipping speeds.

We also advocate a ban on deadly drift gill nets off the coast. Both issues have met with resistance. For this car camp we were able to see from the hills and fields all the way to the ocean.

too many boats are making noise during marine sanctuaries, which would be offshore from Santa Barbara to Santa Maria. Now being considered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, you can add your concerns to the issue by going to: https://chumashsanctuary.com

Condor can on cam

Condor Chick was just hatched and can be seen on its Face Book page. You can watch a rare live video of a California Condor chick in front of its nest, dotting parents high above Kofords Ridge in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary on April 4.

Just after the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service posted the live streaming web cam of a California condor nest in Ventura County, the chick hatched. The cam was installed on March 2 and alerted biologists on March 20 that the parents were missing. They sprang to action, first replacing it with a fake egg that the condors continued to nest on and then on April 2 replaced it with a real egg from the L.A. Zoo.

The condor cam is a collaboration between the Santa Barbara Zoo, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Watch it live at: http://allaboutbirds.org/condors

Oil leaks and leaks

By: Fran Farina

Ripple effect: the oil. The repercussions from the May 19, 2015 Refugio oil spill continue. Plains All-American Pipeline has made no decision to reopen its Line 900 and 903 as it continues with oil purging and repair activities. Meanwhile, Exxon began a trucking operation from the Los Flores Canyon facility in mid-March that could continue until October. A limit of 30 trucks per day is authorized by the county permit.

In a speech it took four days of hearings in San Luis Obispo for the County Planning Commission to hear from over 500 members of the public voicing strong opposition to Phillips 66 Spur Project that would allow mile-long oil trains carrying volatile crude oil through communities across the state.

The Commission began deliberating on April 15 and May 12. Beach leaks: Great news for Summertime beach. Money is included in this year’s State budget for remediation of the Becker well, a coastal legacy well that leaks due to inadequate capping procedures. This is one of dozens of legacy wells. With support from the State Lands Commission, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson introduced SB 900 to create a legacy well fund so that monies will be available to address this ongoing problem.

Legacy wells exist in the Goleta Ellwood area, Summerland, and Huntington Beach.

Backpacker bankrupt: And there’s more good news for Goleta. Efforts to remove Venoco’s Ellwood peaker plant facility (EOP) should proceed since Vision Mission Rock Energy Project location “is extremely incompatible with the thousands of adjoining owners owned by The Nature Conservancy,” and would be within a 100-year floodplain.

Another key issue is why are power plants predominantly located in low income communities? If that social justice theory applies to NIPCO proposal to locate Exeter, and then to may they and the Santa Barbara project too.

You can comment or read others at: http://tinyurl.com/MissionRockEnergyCenter

New peaker plans cont’d

The proposal to build a natural gas-fired generating ‘peaker plant’ near Santa Paula instead of at Ormond Beach is still alive because the California Public Utilities Commission delayed a decision until May 12. That means it is still open for comments, which was addressed by the Los Padres Chapter when activist Nina Dani wrote that the proposed Mission Rock Energy Project location “is extremely incompatible with the thousands of adjoining owners owned by The Nature Conservancy,” and would be within a 100-year floodplain.

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Ojai Wild

ForestWatch is having its 9th Annual Ojai Wild fundraiser at the Thacher School in Ojai from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Thacher School in Ojai.

The location has spectacular views of Ojai Valley and the Los Padres National Forest. A fun afternoon is planned featuring local craft beer and wines, live music, a good menu and silent and live auctions, and more.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Los Padres ForestWatch in our efforts to protect and preserve our local backcountry. For info and reservations go to: www.lospaconservation.org

Gorge opens

The Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center invites all to an open house during the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17, where you’ll learn a lot about the Los Padres National Forest and access to care of the forest and providing information for all users of the forest. It’s packed with information about the flora, fauna, geography, geology, natural history and trail/ camp information of the Los Padres.

It is located about eight miles from the Ojai “Y” intersection on Highway 33 (Mariposa Road) just after going through the three tunnels

Backpack knock

Los Padres Forest Association is starting a new series of talks, films and mixers focused on the footsteps of the forest. The first event is by columnists James Wapich on top of the mountain. More information about the Sierra Club and others filed a suit from Santa Barbara to join folks in Los Obama for a special occasion. In our case, we’re just coming through our communities with toxic emissions and risk of explosion. Advice on how to protect the facility from the Phillips 66 Spur Project was delayed until May. (Photo by Katie Davis)

Editor’s note: There is a full complement of fifty students now homed in on the kelp for comfort and confidence during our annual wilderness course. While still ongoing, you can find out for yourself what an account of how much fun and information is given on a simple drive-in camping trip. Visit their adventures on Facebook at lospadres/WBC.
Member honored by SBCAN

The Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) is honoring outstanding community leaders during its 2016 North County “Looking Forward” Awards Dinner on May 22.

One of the four honorees is Santa Clara activist for the Arguello Group, Rosemary Holmes. Rosemary is an SBCAN volunteer, honoree, individuals, businesses and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the community, and Holmes is getting the award entitled: “Giving Back to the Community”. The dinner will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 5 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 3455 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria.

Other recipients include: Check Madson, (Looking Forward Award), Doug Jenzen (Environmental Protection & Sustainability Award), Patricia Solorio (Working Families Award) and Franca Lockard (Environmental Protection & Social Justice Award).

For details and to attend the dinner, go to: www.SBCAN.org

Seems of Gaviota

This coming May 13 and 14 is the Gaviota Coast Conservancy’s fourth annual Visions of the Gaviota Coast Show at Bacara Resort and Spa. Dozens of SCAPE artists will be exhibiting their Gaviota paintings, and I’ll be showing more of my Gaviota photos.

The free reception is Friday, May 13, 5-8 pm at Bacara. The show is open Friday, May 13 1-8 pm and Saturday, May 14 10 am - 4 pm.

We hope you’ll join us. Please call Janet Kedel if you have any questions: 683-6631.

Birdie ‘caught’ by a calf after a game of zig-zag, chasing each other, in a game that speaks volumes about protecting the Gaviota Coast. (Photo by Reeve Woolpert)

Right at home

By Reeve Woolpert

Stretched out with my back on the ground in a seaside Gaviota meadow, chewing on a stalk of wild rye, it’s easy to feel boyish. Surrounded by acres of cows and rolling ranchland, lying in a green pasture with my gal, my hat and a happy puppy, it’s easy to feel boyish.

Birdie, our Irish Setter, visited this wonderful place for the first time this morning. I’ve visited this place for half a century, making experiences and taking pictures and advocating its preservation. I’ve wanted it under my skin, to really know my home ground before they build their mansions and trails, or it becomes another park.

Carole and I love being here; we have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to embrace an empty place not far from home. That feeling is changing though. Folks are coming. Over the last couple of years when I drive by searching for that elusive elbow room and photographs, I count more and more parked cars at the gate.

All morning, Birdie had been having one of her joy fits, running in grass so broad and deep she seemed underwater. With a swoosh she’d suddenly zoom nearby, pouncing the sea of greens like a red torpedo on a fated course. Having met her first cow, having rolled in her first cow pie, she lay for a while at our feet. After some time, a particularly curious calf eased up to where she and Birdie, tentatively and nose to nose, could smell and lick theрак on each other’s faces.

A dozen or so cattle were soon around us when one a yard away suddenly seemed too close. Carole stood up. The cow began dogging Birdie so she stood up. Then Birdie saw a chance for more fun. She and the cow ran this-away, then that-away, the two alternating who was chasing and being chased.

Let herself get “caught” and, before we could wander apart, with the cow looming above her, sweet Birdie rolled over onto her back like she does for the dogs on the beach at home.

My photographs aren’t about showing off distant places I’ve been and what I’ve seen. They’re about wanting to render home ground more sharply, to focus on it more creatively, to more completely investigate its various compositions and discover new ones.

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Our roots are local groups

By Jim Hines

One of the most powerful things about the Sierra Club is that we work on environmental issues starting at the local level right in the area which you live in.

Our Los Padres Chapter has four local groups in our chapter region of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, two groups in each county.

These groups are a great way for you to be involved in local areas of interest to you.

Member honored by SBCAN

The Arguello Group represents northern Santa Barbara county. Currently chaired by Rebecca August this group works on issues in the Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Maria and Lompoc regions. Ongoing issues of oil drilling, protection of open space, wildlife protection and coastal issues are some of the many ongoing issues.

The Santa Barbara Group represents the coastal side of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Chaired by Katie Davis, issues include offshore oil drilling, restoring Ormond, protecting the rivers and discouraging urban sprawl, among others.

Conejo Group works on issues in eastern Ventura County such as Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountains. Currently chaired by Elisabeth Lamar. Issues include: onshore oil drilling, restoring the Santa Monica Mountains and protecting wildlife, among others.

The Ventura Sierra Club’s turf is in the western county area including Oxnard, Ventura and Ojai regions consisting of Ormond Beach, Santa Clara and Ventura rivers, Los Padres National Forest and Channel Islands National Park. It is chaired by Elisabeth Lamar. Issues include: onshore oil drilling, restoring Ormond, protecting the rivers and discouraging urban sprawl, among others.

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For details and to attend the dinner, go to: www.SBCAN.org

So if you would like to take part in one of the groups in the Santa Barbara South Coast, contact the group leaders listed in the directory page on page 2. By working together, we can make our part of the world a model for protecting our great wild places and precious wildlife

Life is colorful and so are we

Ask a friend to join:

www.Sierraclub.org

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www.Sierraclub.org
50 hardy, happy students take our wilderness course

A forward look to adventure on the Aliso Trail

A riot of wildflowers illustrated our hikes

Campfire stories, laughter, music and s’more

Essential Alisse Fisher teaching the Ten Essentials

Teresa Norris
WBC Founder

Jim Duliakis & Stephen Bryne show what to take

Beginners, day-hikers and experienced backpackers can always learn more to be safe and comfortable outdoors, and the Sierra Club’s annual Wilderness Basics Course has been doing this for seven years now. Classroom instruction segues into outdoor adventures such as these from a recent car camp along Aliso Trail. Facebook: LosPadresWBC

See story on page 6

Outdoor photos by Cara Peden;
Indoor photos by Condor John Hankins

This awesome shot of two whales playing reminds us that now’s the time to see the migration of hundreds of whales in the Santa Barbara Channel … and a good time to get involved in their protection. See notice page 6 on how.

© Wildflower and whale photos by Denise Dewire Photography, (see more on Flickr).