GREETINGS FRIENDS

Nature is your neighbor

By Jim Hines

Exploring America’s wild places, which are untouched by man, and our deserts, high country, alpine forests and mountain meadows is one of the many missions of the Sierra Club.

But what about nearby nature outings? We are so fortunate to have so many beautiful but small urban parks which allow us to enjoy walks along our local beaches, rivers and mountains in the Los Padres Chapter region, places to explore and be close to nature close to home. Just check out our extensive Outings list, many are near your neighborhood.

Feel the ocean air as you explore the beachfront promenade along the Ventura River lagoon. Take a leisurely walk along Shoreline Park and enjoy sweeping vistas of the offshore Channel Islands in Santa Barbara.

The Ojai Valley Trail, part of a series of “rails to trails” programs across our nation, leads you along the scenic Ventura River and through picturesque and historic downtown Ojai.

You will be amazed at the number of plants and wildlife you will actually see along these urban trails. I often see foxes along the Ojai Valley Trail. Many of these trails are also suited for bicycles and some even for horse riding.

While we place a great importance on preserving the great wild places of America in such far away areas such as Alaska, Utah and Idaho, we must not forget that many of our citizens do not have the time or money to travel to these faraway places, so it makes it even more important that we have and preserve “nearby nature” right here close to where we all live.

These areas are also great classrooms for local students to learn about the importance of nature and protecting our natural areas.

Yes, being out in urban nature is good for the mind, body and soul, allowing each of us to reconnect and renew ourselves and our respect and appreciation of nature.

See you on the (urban) trail.

EAVESDROPS

“Visiting a national park felt a little like entering sacred ground; it was a place to be quiet, to pay careful attention, to absorb all the details and be grateful.”

~ Tom Ribe writing in the High Country News

The Ventura River Lagoon is on our list of a great place to take an “urban hike.” (Photo by Condor John Hankins)
Oil spill a real wake-up call

By John Hankins

When residents in mid-town Ventura were awakened by “a sickening smell” in the early morning of June 23, reaction to the Grove oil spill was immediate and formidable, and yet the pipeline was back up and running only days afterward.

“This spill should be a wake-up call,” said Mary Hafter, who was just one of many residents who were literally awakened by the stench. She noted the spill happened “from a 75-year-old pipeline I did not know existed next to our backyard.”

The reaction by Crimson Pipeline Co. “was not transparent or forthcoming,” wrote City Manager Mark Watkins to Crimson after a neighborhood meeting a week after the spill occurred. “To find out that Crimson was flowing oil into the pipeline as the meeting was taking place, and your assertion that none of the Crimson personnel at the meeting knew of these actions is extremely disturbing.”

“The pattern of wrong or incomplete information given to the public disappoints us,” said an editorial in the Ventura County Star. “The stain that Crimson Pipeline has left on that legacy (oil industry’s long, significant history in Ventura) may be remembered for a long time.”

The spill put up to 45,000 gallons down a deep creek bed called Prince Barranca in Hall Canyon and, thanks to residents who reported it, was stopped a half-mile away before it reached the ocean.

The incident was an accident waiting to happen, and the irony is that there were plenty of warning signals:

- In April, the Ventura Grand Jury reported that: “no single government entity has a complete grasp of critical information such as test history, test validity, and risks associated with the total pipeline area in the county.”

- The Environmental Defense Center’s attorney Brian Segee said that since the Refugio pipeline spill in Santa Barbara last year, “we think the major_understanding of the status of the major pipelines in Ventura County, finally resorting to filing a lawsuit against federal agencies for their failure to release needed information. It is clear that Ventura County is crisscrossed with aging pipeline infrastructure and, as has been repeatedly demonstrated with the oil industry and accidents, it is never a question of if, but when.”

- Crimson has had ten spills in as many years in the state from its 1,000 plus miles of pipelines, according to the U.S. Transportation Department, causing nearly $6 million in property damage.

Reverberations continue, notably during the Aug. 4 public meeting in Ventura conducted by State Sen. Beth Jackson and Assembly member Das Williams, which was after the Condor Call’s deadline. However, both legislators are likely to promise further actions, meanwhile, check out Hafter’s YouTube video of a crew passing bags of oil up the steep Hall Canyon walls:
https://youtube.be/zn5R6GdzmK

Our swift response

The Sierra Club’s reaction to the Grove oil spill from an aged pipeline in a Ventura neighborhood on June 23 was swift and effective.

On that same day our Chapter ExCom Chair Jim Hines sent out a quick email alerting “you cannot believe the huge number of calls I have been getting from the news media; just got off the phone with a live interview on KNX News Radio in LA. Our national Sierra Club headquarters has contacted me and is helping me with press inquiries, I am now heading over to the spill site to meet with the press.”

Sure enough, an email from the national office under Hines’ signature alerted thousands of members and friends to join us in taking action “to hold the oil industry accountable, prevent this type of disaster again and move us away from fossil fuels.”

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Pick solar & kick oil

By Condor John Hankins

I’ve had solar panels on our roof for five months now and all is as advertised and more.

Not only is the sun providing 80 percent of my electric use, my SCE bill is either minus or pocket change. Since the summer began, SCE raised its rates and is replacing its 4-tier system with three tiers… and that’s just the beginning as it’s estimated that electricity costs in California will rise 5-7% per year. But I haven’t felt it.

All thanks to the Sierra Club partnering with Sungevity, one of the top firms in the nation. With a simple phone call, Sungevity can estimate how much you’ll save with federal and Sierra Club discounts (over $3,000; just go to: http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar)

When you do so, reference this number to get $750 more off your panels: 2519826.

Crude oil creek: Ventura resident Tomas Rebecchi was a “first responder” to the Grove Oil spill that went through his neighborhood (see map next page) but was stopped at the Prince Barranca, just above Ventura High School. His photos were used by the Sierra Club, media and citizen groups.

A genial Jean Michel Cousteau was the keynote speaker at a Sierra Club sponsored event in Santa Barbara that opened many eyes to the world-wide threats underwater that we don’t often see. Based locally, his Ocean Futures Institute proposed Chumash Marine Sanctuary, as do we. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

Cousseau dazzles with ocean tales of new sanctuary

By Robert Bernstein

Jean-Michel Cousteau was the prime speaker at a recent packed event in Santa Barbara to establish a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. But he had some help.

First was an introduction by Chumash leader Fred Collins explaining the Chumash connection to the ocean. They don’t even have a word for “sustainability,” he said, they talk of “thrive-ability.”

Next was a pitch by Andrew Christie from the Santa Lucia Chapter in San Luis Obispo, who set up the event shared with our Los Padres Chapter, since the proposed sanctuary is off the shores of both counties. He urged people to write and sign the petition at:
http://tinyurl.com/ChumSanPETITION

Then UCSB Marine Biology Professor Douglas McCauley presented a comparison between land and ocean preservation. If you visited this area on land a thousand years ago you would see, strictly speaking, nearly identical grasses and other notable differences. But the underwater ocean would not have changed as much.

One reason is the industrialization of the land, such as mining and agriculture. But that is about to change, McCauley said, explaining that undersea mining and aquaculture are already industrializing the ocean. Just as we have taken steps to create parks and reserves on land, we need to protect the oceans from over-industrialization.

In 2016 there were more farmed fish raised than fish taken from the wild. That may seem like a good thing, but it has impacts on the ocean ecosystem that may be detrimental.

Cousteau stepped up to tell people about Ocean Futures and how he got involved in ocean preservation.

“He dazzled us all with his knowledge of our ocean resources and the living ocean ecosystem coupled with a wonderful slide show about the existing Channel Islands NMS and Monterey Bay NMS. The Chumash Heritage NMS will fill in the ‘big gap’ between these two existing sanctuaries,” commented Jim Hines, our chair chapter.

When he was seven, Jean-Michel’s famous father Jacques Cousteau put tanks on his back and pushed him in the water. This was before modern certification and was the quickest way for him to get to know the ocean, he said.

People protect what they love. But most of us don’t know the oceans except what little we see on the surface from shore.

“And we’re taking more from

continued on page 3
SB spill inspires bill

By Fran Farina

Spill’s Bill: For as awful as the Plains All American Pipeline oil spill at Refugio State Beach was in May 2015, it has resulted in something unbelievable, given the current Congress.

Bipartisan legislation known as the PIPES Act (S.2276) to address pipeline safety throughout the nation passed both the Congress and Senate with unanimous votes and was signed into law by President Obama. Amazing!

Our Congressional Rep. Lois Capps worked this bill very hard to incorporate lessons learned from the Plains spill including a study to investigate corrosion, defining the coastal zone as high consequence areas, and requirements to analyze pipeline inspection frequency.

Injection Rejection: In northern Santa Barbara County, Pacific Coast Energy’s project for cyclic steam injection oil wells was denied by the Planning Commission on a close 3-2 vote. See separate story on this page.

Oil Train: Further north in San Luis Obispo County, more good news about Phillips 66’s Rail Spur Project. Because of additional staff and consultant time (including funding to pay for it) plus information from Phillips has not been fully provided, the hearing scheduled for Sept. 22 is probably off the calendar. Also, if Phillips does not provide the money and more information by August 15th, the project will be deemed withdrawn. Of course, they could file again. Spill Over: A new pipeline spill in Ventura County in late June referred to as the Grove incident released over 25,000 gallons of crude oil into Hall Canyon Creek. Fortunately, there was no water in the creek and first responders constructed berms to prevent the oil from reaching the ocean and beach.

Crimson Pipeline is the owner responsible for the spill; see article on page 3.

Help Elect: Our endorsed candidates who have vowed to stand up to the oil interests did well in the primary election held on June 7, but most still need our help on Nov 8th. You can visit the Los Padres Chapter website or email Political Action and click on Endorsements. See page 3.

Das Williams in Santa Barbara and Steve Bennett in Ventura were elected outright in their county supervisorial races, but all of the other candidates will be on the November ballot.

Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in three counties.

EAVESDROPS

“Solar is clearly an entrenched, competitive, everyday reality for tens of thousands of people in the tri-counties and is bringing significant economic benefit.”

~ From Sigrid Wright of the Community Environmental Council, noting that we can call a new financial sector “alternative energy” as solar in this area has hit “a monumental milestone” of 10,000 new solar users.

“Oil interest: Always the same story. It’s the best way of putting it. It’s irresponsible.”

~ Kevin Haney, Santa Barbara County Supervisor, testifying at the Refugio hearing about the “irresponsible,” testified Ventura County Supervisor Ch波兰sley.

“Nature Conservancy,” and building it within a 100-year floodplain is “irresponsible,” testified Ventura Sierra Club chair Nina Danan.

Offer your own comments at: http://tinynurl.com/MissionRockEnergyCenter

Mission Rock Energy was denied by the Planning Commission on a close 3-2 vote. See separate story on this page.

“Let her rip! It’s a good way of putting it. It’s like pulling the plug in a bathtub — you just open it up and let the water drain it.”

~ Now the recommended way of getting rid of the Matilija Dam in Ojai, thereby adding sand to beaches and opening up Matilija Creek to endangered salmon, according to Paul Jenkin, Gaviota’s
director.

While there was initial confusion that proposals for a Santa Paula peaker plant and another on the coast at Mandalay Bay might be connected, it is now clear they are separate projects.

Another workshop is planned in mid-September, and a preliminary report will be issued after analyzing the public’s comments.

Orcutt oil still alive

An oil expansion project that would use cyclic steam injection was denied on a narrow 3-2 vote of the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission on July 13, but it has been appealed to the Board of Supervisors which will likely hear it in October.

Proposed by Pacific Coast Energy Co., it would add 96 new wells to an existing 96-well operation at 1555 Orcutt Rd.

The industry maintains steam injection is different from fracking because it doesn’t break up the rock, but instead thins the heavy oil by heat so it can be extracted.

That method, however, which has a high well-casing failure rate, was part of the antifracking Measure P (for Protection) in 2014 in which oil companies spent a record $7.6 million to defeat the initiative crafted by the grassroots environmental group called the Water Guardians.

“The astounding amount of outside money spent in Santa Barbara against this citizen initiative broke many records,” the Water Guardians said, “more than any congressional race in California.”

After the July 13 hearing, Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis said “the company gave up and no supporters were there. We outnumbered the company 7-0 in terms of public comment, including myself and Rebecca August (Chair of our Arguelles Group).”

The Environmental Defense Center represented the Sierra Club and the Santa Barbara County Action Network.
Get a charge out of driving

A big push to jump-start electric (EV) and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV) is happening in September during National Drive Electric Vehicle Week — of which our national Sierra Club is a major co-sponsor — and our Los Padres Chapter is leading the charge in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Our new Transportation Chair, James Reach, is arranging for events in three locations within the two counties. He needs owners who have either an EV or PHEV to show to the public and volunteers to help plan and set up the events in advance. Reach’s Tesla Model S P85DL will be one of those on display. To get involved, contact Reach at 444-6638, reachcj101@freeway.com

As owners of electric vehicles are able to educate the public about how to own and use these vehicles, which are a pleasure to drive, simpler and less expensive than most potential owners believe,” Reach said. “As an EV owner and advocate, I was pleased our ExCom selected me to be its Transportation Chair, and to have the backing of our Sierra Club and its tremendous resources supporting this cause.

The idea to display such vehicles -- ranging from bikes to trucks and cars -- started in 2011 as National Plug-in Day and has expanded to a whole week of activities at communities nationwide. It is a way for the public to not only see and experience electric vehicles, but talk to the owners who have experience with them.

As of press time, local events scheduled or currently in planning include:

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

- **Breakfast on the bluffs**
  - Tentatively scheduled to be sponsored by the Sierra Club and its tremendous resources.
  - Experience electric vehicles, the public to see and experience electric vehicles, and to have the backing of our Sierra Club and its tremendous resources supporting this cause.

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**VENTURA COUNTY**

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**SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

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**EV Incentive in Ventura**

A Ventura County incentive to buy or lease an electric car is worth up to $2,200 off the price you negotiate with participating Ventura County dealerships.

“It is in addition to manufacturer discounts, state and federal incentives,” said Stan Cowen of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

It starts on September 1 at APCD staff will conduct a free drawing for 75 EV Discount Vouchers worth $2,200 off certain Battery EVs and $1,100 off other Plug-in Battery and Hybrid EVs. To be eligible, download the short EVVoucher Discount Application from the website: www.vcapcd.org

You’ll be at the home page and scroll down until you see a red car with the headline: “EV Readiness Plan, Conducting State Grants & EV Incentives.” Fill out the form and submit to the APCD office before Sept. 1. To enter into the drawings, which can be done in person, via email, mail, email, or Fax. Ventura County residents only, and one voucher per resident.

Volunteers may only be used at participating Ventura County dealerships (listed on the APCD voucher application). Make your preparations, and then show them the voucher for additional savings off the MSRP.

Questions? Contact Cowen at 645-1408 or stan@vcapcd.org

That’s our Transportation Chair James Reach driving State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson in his Tesla Model S P85DL all-electric zero-emission vehicles. It was during Independence Day, rather apropos as we’d like independence from oil and gas fuels. If you have an EV or PHEV, contact James (see adjacent story) for public display.

(Photos contributed)

Council is sponsoring an event in Goleta, and the Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County (of which Reach is a member) is looking to sponsor an event in Ojai.

For specific dates and times, go to: https://driveelectricweek.org

**SAVE RARE SEAMOUNTS**

In addition to strongly supporting the proposed Chumash National Marine Sanctuary, the Los Padres Chapter urges the passage of a bill that would establish California Seamounts and Ridge National Marine Conservation Areas.

The bill (HR 5797) was introduced by Rep. Sam Farr (D-Santa Cruz) in the hope in can be passed before President Obama leaves office.

“This is an entirely new type of marine protection. And right here off the coast of Santa Barbara County we have the chance to have two marine national monuments designated by this bill,” commented ExCom Chair Jim Hines, who won unanimous approval to support the action.

Seamounts are areas under the ocean surface which are ancient volcanoes and submerged islands. One is known as the Rodriguez Sea Mount, located about 40 miles west of San Miguel Island, and the other is San Juan Sea Mount located about 50 miles west of Santa Cruz Island.

“Found on the seamounts, ridges, and banks in the Conservation Area are rare deep-water corals, sponges, anemones, tunas, sharks, seabirds, marine mammals, endangered sea turtles, octopuses, and diverse fish populations, some of which are endemic to the area,” according to the proposed bill.

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**WE ENDORSE for Nov 8 ballot**

More endorsements on local races etc., in our next issue.

Salud Carbajal
Congress, 24th Dist.
Bryan Caforio
Congress, 25th Dist.
Julia Brownley
Congress, 26th Dist.
Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Senate, 19th Dist.
Henry Stern
State Senate, 27th Dist.
Monique Limón
Assembly, 37th Dist.
Christy Smith
Assembly, 38th Dist.
Joan Hartmann
SB Supervisor, Dist. 3
Carla Costilla
Vc Supervisor, Dist. 3
WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children, unless otherwise specified. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter website: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

August 6
COLD SPRING EAST: (9 mile round trip with 2775 ft elevation gain) Very strenuous hike ascends one of the most scenic front country trails to Camino Cielo. Optional loop at top adds 1 mile. 500 ft elevation gain. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A at State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1112 (SB)

LOS ROBLES TRAIL FROM TRUNFO: Moderately paced 5 mile hike through a 100 acre oak grove with a 905 acre gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the parking lot at Trumfo Community Park off of Triunfo Canyon Road and Tamarack Street. Westlake Village. This route provides great views of the Conejo Valley and the surrounding area. JOANNE SUKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

August 7
FIR CANYON: Long car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figureueta Peak. Hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to the near the top of Figureueta M. Moderate 5.5 route. Bring plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240

August 8
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. at 9am at Bates Beach for low tide beach walk for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 11
KNOX BILLER TRAIL: POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 700’ elev. gain. Rolling hike with switchbacks from the canyon to the ridge with fabulous ocean views, and return on the same trail. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy’s just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 7:30am for carpooling or meet at 9am at the State parking lot with fee due next to the trailhead or park at La Jolla Canyon parking on PCH. FONTAYNE HOLMES 445-4590. (CJ)

August 12
CARPINTERIA: FRANKLIN CANYON Moderate-to- strenuous 10.4 miles round trip with 2,350 ft. of elevation gain. Hike starts from trailhead at Carpinteria High School, climbs to Ducas Family bench, then continues climbing 2 more miles before turning around. Allow 6-7 hrs. for hike. Carpinteria Valley and ocean views highlight this hike. Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 quarts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, hat and insect repellent is recommended. MEET at 7:30am at Ventura canyon and Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Rain on Monday will cancel. LORA 218-2105, PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

August 13
POLO CLUB RESERVOIR AREA: Meet us on join us on 4:30 easy moderate hike to the Summerland Reservoir. Mostly flat, but some steep sections. We’ll start from the Toro Cyn trailhead on Via Real near the intersection of Comal and Via Real. We’ll pickup the Edison Trail back to Summerland and connect with the Reservoir Trail to the polo club where we’ll stop for lunch. We’ll return via the Reservoir and Polo Club trails. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

August 14
TREKPASS: TRAILGAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to Moderate Hike from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail. About 4mrt with side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swim suit for hot springs. Also water and snack or light lunch. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT (SB)

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!
9am-noon Come out to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) to do a moderate to strenuous restoration on the Santa Clara River. We will be planting native vegetation and doing light invasive plant removal under the direction of UCSB Riparian Restoration scientists. Expect hot weather. Wear long pants and closed shoes. Bring sun protection and water! All welcome! Ages 14 and under need to be accompanied by parent or guardian. Ages 15-18 without parent/guardian MUST bring 2 signed waivers. Print and bring to the event. Sierra Club waiver: http://tinyurl.com/kf2yzc UCSB waiver: http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/files/docs/Muds/ Waver/EvieActivities.pdf RSVP requested. Directions to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) 20935 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula exit 10th St. and turn left (go under freeway), turn quick right on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (cross Santa Clara River) a short distance, (left) go 1.7 mi to 20935 S. Mountain Rd, turn left, cross old dirt road between farmland to the end about (1/2 mi). Contact NINITA prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE
July 31st: Oouting leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering outings from August 21 to January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at gzhring@cox.net

August 15
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. at 9am at Emma Barnes Park. Meet at the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-4590 (CJ)

August 19
21
PERSISTED METEOR SHOWER IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT. Come enjoy the Perseid Meteor shower in a dark sky area. We’ll probably have about 100 people camping in the widest part of the Nevada desert. About 100 miles north of Reno. Expect a potluck, tours, and meteor watching. Sky will be pretty dark in this remote area and the meteor show up really well. Side trips to hot springs and the Enigmatic Trail likely. DAVID BOOK 775/843- 6443. (Great Basin Group/ CNRCC Outdoor Committees)

August 20
FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 10.4 mrt hike with an elevation gain of 1700’. Let’s check out the newly re-opened historic trail in Carpinteria that offers great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop halfway for lunch and snacks, returning to the trailhead between 4-5pm. This is a long hike and good physical conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI Email: sicknrgirl@cox.net (SB)

August 21
PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mrt hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock climbing and ladder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike will be in the creek bed, so expect to get wet. It can be very hot in August, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit, hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Please do not come on this hike if you’re not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek. Meet at 8am, Ventuma campsite (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you’re coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644- 6934 (SB)

August 22
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at Emma Barnes Park. Meet at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 23
HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAIL: Moderate 4.4 mrt hike with 500’ elev. gain. Wonderful views of the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Valley, the Oxnard Plain and the Channel Islands. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead at the end of Falling Star Turn from Kanan to Fallan Star Turn at the corner of the Kob Catholic Church, Park at the end of Falling Star turn the cul- de-sac. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

continued on page 5

August/September 2016 • Condor East 4

Poster that reads “Take a Hike!” with a photograph of a hiker and their dog in the mountains with text: LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

Murietta Camp area, one of the destinations for our Wilderness Basics Course held every February. Check out our listings for similar adventures in our wild but beautiful backcountry. (Photo by Arturo Hernandez).
Island Trips

shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk up hill to the cross roads about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 2

SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate: 8m hike to Tropical Terrace and beyond, with 1900′ gain. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at Fredroy’s before Shell Station on Hampshire Road for carpooling or at trailhead at 8:30am. Leader will be at trailhead only. LILLIAN TREVISIAN 498-1623. (CJ)

September 3

WEST FORK COLD SPRING TRAIL: Moderate: NO HIKERS. Start on Cold Spring Trail, cross stream and hike up west to the saddle then moderate, 5 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

September 4

FREMONT TRAIL: Park on East Camino Cielo and walk North along ridges to Cachuma Lake then cross to the ridge into Santa Barbara. Superb views of valley. Easy-Moderate. Bring lunch, plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

September 5

MODERN MONDAY WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor trailhead from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 10

HISTORIC HWY 150 & HISTORIC COACHEL ROUTE: We’ll walk a portion of the original Hwy 150 road near Lake Cachuma and the northern Angeles Basin. Then we’ll carpool to a location where people can walk on a section of the historic Stagecoach Road that linked Santa Barbara before the railroad. Lunch will be at a turn- out on this road. Easy-moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a light lunch. Lunch is included if it rains. As Spring rains brought tall grass. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America at Main St and 850 Main St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us in the parking lot. Call or email for instructions. GERRY 964-8411, gching@cox.net (VEN)

September 11

MIDDLE MALTIAJA CAMP: Moderate 8 mrt along mostly shaded, to Middle Maltija Camp. There are at least 17 creek crossings, but we will have problem rock hopping across. Bring at least 8 liters of water, sun screen, a pair of hiking shoes/boots, and hat. Meet at 8am, Ventura camp lot (Seaward and Harbot between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you’re coming from Santa Barbara, meet at Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool from the trailhead. JM 479- 7063/464-6934 (SB)

ORLANDO BEACH CLEAN AND GREEN NATURAL WALK: 9am-11am. Stroll through the wetlands, coast dunes and past the surf for a good cause! This is one of a series of hikes to raise awareness for the outdoor trails. Walter Fuller, resident docent of Ormond Beach. For a requested $5 donation, come along on a combined cleanup / nature tour. Your host will be on the lookout for not only wildlife, will explain beach ecology and scout for marine mammals. We’ll pick up trash along the way (tools provided). Total distance about 2 miles, no elevation change. Wear closed shoes; bring water, snack, and sun protection. Registration may be useful Great for kids with accompanying parent or guardian! No dogs please. End-of-hike rewards for all participants! Contact: NINA preston@prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

September 12

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the creek to the beach. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 17

COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY AT SANTA CLARA/ALICE GATEWAY: 9am-noon. Sure you can help remove trash on the beach but want to pick up BIG things on Coastal Clean-Up Day? Santa Clara River Gateway is the place to be. This site is hosted by Sierra Club and CalTrout, and last year each of our volunteers took out an average of 56 lb. of trash in 1.5 hours at this site in Ventura County. That’s how to help the environment in a BIG way! All ages welcome! We love school, work, and neighborhood groups. Refreshments and ice cream provided. Freebies for everyone to take home. Park near Anytime Fitness (2950 Johnson Dr.) and walk to the sign in table across from Motel 6. Contact: Nina, email: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

TEQUEPIS : Hike up to West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Cachuma Lake and hike up to this desert. Easy-moderate 8 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (VEN)

September 18

ELLIWOOD SHORE/BUTTERFLY BEACH: Walk on a beach and across an open field in the Elwood area. Children with supervision welcome. Easy 4 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. At Hope Ave. 9am at 45 Alto Drive. CHRISTINE 653-4830 (SB)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should send their write-ups for the next Outings Calendar due SOON, covering the period of October 2016 thru January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

September 23

FRAZIER PARK - MT PINOS CAMPreES TO SAMWILL, MOUNTAIN AND BACK: Moderate, 6 miles round trip, with appropriate clothing and gear. Hiking starts in Mount Pinos parking lot and is pretty simple and quick on the old road (now closed to cars) to Mount Pinos. There are great 360-degree views from the summit. From Mt Pinos to Sawmill the trail is fairly moderate with some steep areas between Pinos & Sawmill Mt. Great views looking north from Sawmill. After the return hike to the cars we will stop in Fraser Park for a Mexican meal before heading back to Ventura. NOTE: 2 hour drive each way Ventura to Mt Pinos. MEET at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (Carraces Restaurant and Chase Bank). Bring ten essentials, hiking shoes/boots, water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain/Snow or temperatures of over 85 cans.

Beach rules working

A new ordinance passed in May to protect Ormond Beach wildlife from disturbance seems to be working already, according to monitors from Ventura Audubon. “Ordnance signs have been posted at every entrance to Ormond Beach and dog vaccination is down. Last weekend our volunteers intercepted two homes about eight dogs headed to the beach. One pul with a broken wing was captured and now in re- hab,” Audubon reports. Volunteers said that it is mostly people from out of town who are bringing dogs to Ormond, so they have to new the new order- Wise.

Some of the snowy plover nests that are not disturbed have hatched, so a new clutch of little chicks is running around the beach. Audubon also reported a successful last tern colony raising chicks on the north end of the beach. “All of these birds will have a better chance of surviving with the new ordinance,” Audubon reports. Anyone who would like to volunteer for a couple of hours of code enforcement and public contact, email: wsp.ventura.audubon@gmail.com

On Sunday, Sept. 11 from 9am-11am the Ventura Sierra Club will conduct an Ormond Beach clean and green nature walk. See our Outings List under that date for details.

Sierra Club California’s annual Channel Islands hopping trips has three left. Each one is a 3-day, 3-night adventure for those who want to go to Channel Islands National Park where this couple, Roger Conrad and Ruth Marks, are having great time. Dates are: Aug. 21- 23, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 23-25. For details, lead guide Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email: jotholtz@juno.com

Condor Call Outings Due Soon: Group outings chairs should prepare their write-ups for the next Outings Calendar due SOON, covering the period of October 2016 thru January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net
Forest fee lawsuit allows free parking

By Alasdair Coyne

Keep the Sespe Wild

After two years of negotiations a settlement was finally signed in June between the U.S. Forest Service and the four plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Adventure Pass fee, which will designate free trailhead parking.

Forest visitors may now enjoy free access to undeveloped forest lands, even when their favorite trailheads are next to car campgrounds and picnic grounds.

In Los Padres National Forest, the only site to see changes is Piedra Blanca Trailhead in Rose Valley north of Ojai – gateway to the middle Sespe (most Ojai District trailheads are already free-access).

In Santa Barbara County, the Paradise Road access will remain under fee control at the convenience of the chain kiosk, whether you are camping or just hiking.

This is the culmination of twenty years of activism against forest fee programs, beginning with 1996’s Recreation Fee Demo Program, the brainchild of corporate interests, including Disney, which sought to commercialize Americans’ relationship with their federal public lands.

Citizen outcry was swift and strong from Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Colorado and beyond.

A bipartisan coalition worked to roll back the Fee Demo Program, and when its successor program, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) was passed by Congress in 2004, the new law expressly prohibited the Forest Service from charging fees for access to undeveloped public lands.

The Service, however, just kept right on charging fees wherever they wanted, for access to undeveloped areas. Citizen opposition to this egregious situation led to a lawsuit filed in federal court in Tucson, where a judge ruled in 2012 that the agency had to guarantee free public access to those undeveloped areas.

This ruling was binding in nine western states – but, guess what, the U.S. Forest Service (beyond Arizona) kept right on charging those fees and票ting cars without passes. So a new lawsuit was filed, based on Tucson case’s clear precedent, against the four SoCal National Forests’ Adventure Pass.

But the Service was still not about to surrender the money stream coming in from Adventure Pass fees.

In the end the plaintiffs in the lawsuit put in countless hours visiting and photographing 66 car campgrounds and picnic grounds adjacent to forest trailheads in SoCal, and making suggestions as to where it was viable to place signage and parking services.

In some cases, due to narrow roads, etc., this has meant a walk to the trailhead.

The Dept. of Justice attorneys understood that this was the only way to meet the letter of the FLREA fee law and to reach a settlement with plaintiffs.

Signs are now going up that designate the free trailhead parking areas.

As one Service ranger says will not enforce Adventure Pass compliance at these 66 sites (mostly in the Angeles Forest) until the signs are up. They will also bring their websites up to date.

The Sierra Club Visi$ Rewards Platinum Credit Card is aligned with your environmental values, supports the Club with every purchase, and is offered in partnership by Beneficial State Bank, a triple-bottom-line bank that doesn’t back environmentally destructive industries or projects.

Using a responsible, values- aligned credit card is another way to deprive those resources from the big banks engaged in anti-environmental activity.

For each approved Sierra Club Visa application that comes through the Los Padres Chapter, we will receive $40 to help support clean energy, protect air and water, and save wild places.

By taking one small action, you’ll be making a difference every time you eat out or rent a movie, says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

Club-cardholders have already diverted over $44 million away from big banks. Members and supporters in California are invited to join the growing movement from dirty energy towards a new clean-energy economy.

Apply now for a card at: http://bit.ly/294sAz51

Save your Yosemite Lodge

The Sierra Club’s iconic Heritage Center in Yosemite Valley was built in 1903, and while inspiring and educating 15,000 visitors per year voluntarily handmade by 100 volunteers, it now needs a helping hand.

Formerly known as the LeConte Lodge, it was renamed last year as the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center to more accurately reflect its mission.

“We envision community as a place that embraces an ideal of inclusiveness and brings forth the best in us as human beings to preserve and conserve natural resources, wilderness, and all things wild,” said the Center, “which that ideal with visitors from around the world and all walks of life,” said John Muir historian and curator Bonnie Gisel PhD.

The Center is where the Sierra Club began its journey to becoming the influential environmental organization it is today, but it now needs funds to keep it going.

You can make a tax-deductible donation by check payable to the Sierra Club Foundation (with the note: “restricted to LeConte Memorial Fund” to 2101 2101 Webster St., Suite 2100, Oakland, CA 94612 or donate online at: www.sierrclub.org/yosemite- heritage-center

February 22-23
GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA: Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California’s colorful past as we visit desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hol Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. We’ll return to camp for Halloween dinner, and a potluck feast followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat’s graveyard.

Sunday, we’ll hike to the top of Ballarat itself before heading home. Send $58 per person (check payable to Lygia Ge.LogError, cash and money orders, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader. LYGIA GERARD, P.O. Box 723339, Pirone Hills, 92372, 706-868-2179 assisted by MARGUERITE Montgomery (Basin Group/ CNRCC Desert Committee)

Get our no-harm card
So much for summer vacations

By John Hankins
Mentor and officers of our Los Padres Sierra Club did not take the summer off from our political activism, and it turned out to be necessary, given oil spills, energy proposals and events. But we also had fun with all our Outings and similar activities. Here's a sampling:

Aug 4: Our members were prominent participants at the Grove (Cousteau) Oil Spill Oversight Hearing in Ventura, arranged by State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson and Dan Williams of the Assembly.

July 28: Well over 300 people protested against the Mission Rock Energy Center, Calpine Corp.'s plan to build a "peaker plant" near the Santa Clara River and Santa Paula during a follow-up meeting held by the California Energy Commission. Sierra Club was well represented and testified against it.

EVENTS

Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center has public presentations every Saturday, details at:

www.lefors.org/wheeler

Located 8 miles north of Ojai on Highway 33, during the next two months the programs at 11am include:


Sept. 8: "Managing the Channel Islands National Park" by the man who knows, Russell E. Galipeau, Jr. who's been the Superintendent there since 2003. At 7pm at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Call 456-8747 to register or: www.shmm.org

Sept. 17: Annual Coastal Clean-up Day is a great way to celebrate and give thanks to the beaches and coastal areas that are so dear to us. There are many events throughout our local Los Padres region, find them anywhere at: http://tinyurl.com/CoastCleanUpSept17

Our chapter is co-sponsoring a cleanup at the Santa Clara River Gateway; see details on that date in Outings listing.

Also Explore Ecology is conducting cleanups along SB County beaches (that day and ongoing); email: Muse@exploreecology.org

Oct. 2: Annual potluck breakfast at 7am at Shoreline Park with the Santa Barbara Group; optional guided beach walk. Club provides coffee and juice; you provide a breakfast item to share.

Nov 2: "Connecting Landscapes with Mountain Lions" talk by wildlife ecologist Anthony Giordano sponsored by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and the Santa Barbara Conservancy. 7pm, Wednesday, Nov. 2 at Poinsettia 3451 Foothill Rd. #201 Ventura.

CALLED TO ACTION

So much for summer vacations

July 14: Ventura County Climate Hub hand from our ExCom Chair Jim Hines regarding energy issues resulting in "a lively discussion" concluding "we can stand united against dirty energy."

July 4: Street Fair in Ventura, sharing the Arts for Earth booth. ExCom Chair Jim Hines was there to greet hundreds of attendees.

July 1: Call to Action on the Grove (Cousteau) Oil Spill from a pipeline that sent oil down into a dry creek bed between hillside homes. The email blast urged recipients to call the Ventura Board of Supervisors "to make sure that the oil companies are held accountable..."

July-Aug: Sierra Magazine mentions a wildlife overpass in Agoura Hills that our chapter supports: "...Officials are considering building a 165-foot-wide landscaped bridge over the jam-packed 101 freeway to reconnect the Santa Monica and Santa Susana Mountains... linking together Southern California's population of mountain lions..."

EAVESDROPS

"The public serves as our eyes and ears, and we rely on citizens to report Coastal Act violations." ~ Andrew Willis, an enforcement supervisor, in response to a critical letter that referred to Ormond Beach. FYI, number to report violations is 585-1800.

SAFETY

"Our chapter is strongly supporting a new power plant (Mission Rock Energy Center) eyed near Santa Paula, which was widely criticized for not having adequate translation service, causing a walkout of numerous people. See story on pg.2."

June 24: Our national office sent out an action alert under 7000 email addresses in Ventura County asking members and supporters to take action by contacting the Ventura County board of Supervisors regarding the Grove (Cousteau) oil pipeline spill in Ventura. A few hundred people responded.

June 21: Our ExCom Chair Jon Stine was honored to speak for an hour at the San Fernando Valley group fundraiser, in which they approved of our campaign to Protect Our Great Wild Paces, Save Endangered Wildlife and Protect Wild Utah. His talk was illustrated by a slide show provided by Condor John's "seemingly endless library of photos..."

June 20: Oh yes, we were at "An Evening with Jean Michel Cousteau" in Santa Barbara to learn more about the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, which our chapter strongly supports.

June 16: Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act was introduced into Congress, with the Sierra Club and our own chapter leading the way. It covers a large portion of Ventura County.

June 12: Sierra Club was prominent at Environmental Defense Center's annual Green & Blue fundraiser, attracting numerous members who helped out while honoring former Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester.

June 8: Our chapter's long-standing affiliation with the Naples Coalition was approved by the national Sierra Club, many thanks to member Richard Hunt who provided background info.

June 7: Sierra Club strongly supported and testified in favor of a tough new ordinance to protect wildlife and habitat at Ormond Beach. The Oxnard City Council approved it.

June 5: Listed in the Ventura County Star as an "outdoorsy thing to do," a guided walk, clean-up and fundraiser was held at Ormond Beach thanks to Nina Dunza of the Ventura Sierra Club.

Gaviota a good looker

Do you think the Gaviota Coast is beautiful and worthy of official protection?

Then come to a public meeting at 6pm Thursday, Aug. 18 to support the Gaviota Coast Scenic Highway proposal, held at the Goleta Union School District center, 401 N. Fairview Ave.

Conducted by the Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Dept., the county wants to convince CalTrans to designate 21 miles of Highway 101 on the Gaviota Coast as a State Scenic Highway, running from the City of Goleta's western most boundary to Route 1 at Los Cruzes.

No new policies, ordinances, or regulations will be adopted, as the county believes “existing policies are sufficient to protect the corridor’s natural and aesthetic resources.”

Details are available at: http://tinyurl.com/SceneGaviota

Or call planner Alyssa Krag-Arnold at 884-8060 or: akragad@countycal.org

Since we are friendly, ask a friend to join

www.Sierraclub.org

Charles Lester was given the Environmental Hero Award at the Environmental Defense Center’s annual Green and Blue fundraising event on June 12. "For decades, he has been an unsung hero for the California coast," hand-picked as the legendary Peter Douglas’ predecessor to become Executive Director of the Cal. Coastal Commission in 2012. Unfortunately, he was fired in February on a 7-5 secret session vote, ignoring a groundswell of opposition that is coming back to bite them. Sierra Club members were prominent attendees, joining together for what Douglas famously said: "The coast is never saved. It’s always been saved.” (Laurel Bailey Photography)
Nature is your neighbor

By Jim Hines

Exploring America’s wild places, which are untouched by man, and our deserts, high country, alpine forests and mountain meadows is one of the many missions of the Sierra Club.

But what about nearby nature outings? We are so fortunate to have so many beautiful but small urban parks which allow us to enjoy walks along our local beaches, rivers and mountains in the Los Padres Chapter region, places to explore and be close to nature close to home. Just check out our extensive Outings list, many are near your neighborhood.

Feel the ocean air as you explore the beachfront promenade along the Ventura beach which leads to the Ventura River lagoon. Take a leisurely walk along Shoreline Park and enjoy sweeping vistas of the offshore Channel Islands in Santa Barbara.

The Ojai Valley Trail, part of a series of “rails to trails” programs across our nation, leads you along the scenic Ventura River and through picturesque and historic downtown Ojai.

Need to take a short walk after work to unwind, but don’t have a lot of time before sunset? Then hit these local community trails like the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden in Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula Trail on the old railroad, Bubbling Springs Park in the city of Port Hueneme, Camarillo’s Santa Rosa Park, lovely Carpinteria Salt Marsh Trail, Goleta Beach Park, a walk along the Santa Ynez Valley Park in Buellton, River Park in Lompoc or Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge next to Santa Maria.

You will be amazed at the number of plants and wildlife you will actually see along these urban trails. I often see foxes along the Ojai Valley Trail. Many of these trails are also suited for bicycles and some even for horse riding.

While we place a great importance on preserving the great wild places of America in such far away areas such as Alaska, Utah and Idaho, we must not forget that many of our citizens do not have the time or money to travel to these faraway places, so it makes it even more important that we have and preserve “nearby nature” right here close to where we all live.

These areas are also great classrooms for local students to learn about the importance of nature and protecting our natural areas.

Yes, being out in urban nature is good for the mind, body and soul, allowing each of us to reconnect and renew ourselves and our respect and appreciation of nature.

See you on the (urban) trail.