Fall in love with autumn

Editor’s note: Our forest region alone is home to more than 468 fish and wildlife species, and with cooler weather, the fall and winter are prime times to experience its diversity. Be sure to take advantage of our free outings.

Greetings friends
By Jim Hines

Ah, the loveliness of the Autumn season is upon us and what a great time of year to be out and about enjoying not only the great natural beauty of the Los Padres Chapter region, but also it is one of the best times of the year for viewing wildlife.

Deer herds abound in the grassy fields of the Santa Ynez and Ojai Valleys, whales are abundant in the ocean waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, majestic Condors are soaring in flight over Mt. Pinos and chipmunks on Figueroa Mt. are gathering pine nuts for the upcoming winter.

Take a day trip out to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge on the coast west of Santa Maria and be dazzled by an array of seals and sea lions resting on the beach as numerous sea birds fly overhead. This refuge is also home to the tallest sand dunes on the west coast.

Channel Islands National Park is a protected sanctuary where the world’s smallest foxes thrive and abound. I can tell you that there is nothing cuter than an island fox dashing by you as you walk on the trails. Rare and unusual bird life is also found on the islands and in the Channel Islands.

And if you are hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains, prepare for some of the best wildlife sightings in our region. Who knows, you may even see one of the “ghost” cats, the mountain lions which roam the area. The last one I saw was in Cheeseboro Canyon Preserve a year ago. While I don’t see many lions, I often feel their presence silently watching me, yet respectful of my feelings of caring for them. I never feel in danger.

I often see bobcats on my hikes and walks; they study me, they watch me and then they just scamper away. I cannot tell you how mesmerized I am when watching a majestic condor in flight soaring, dominates the sky as they glide effortlessly, eyes trained upon the earth searching for carrion to feed on. And oh how I marvel at our many species of birds of prey, eagles, hawks, owls and falcons. They are the masters of strength and dominance in our natural world, keeping the balance of life intact.

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We are also graced with birds of gentle beauty as well, snowy egrets, great blue herons, colorful woodpeckers and the serenade of songbirds when we are on the trail.

Yes our wild species dazzle us, as they should, and while the Los Padres Chapter has a number of campaigns to protect our great wild creatures, it is also nice to simply be out and enjoying the beauty of our great natural world, which is their home.

We'll show you!

“Going to the mountains is going home,” as John Muir explained. Do you wish you felt that way? Have you ever wanted to learn more about hiking, camping, and backpacking or improve your own wilderness skills? Look no further! You’ve found the Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course. A dedicated staff of volunteer leaders will teach adults and teens the skills to enjoy the wilderness safely and comfortably.

Evening classes are held in Ventura in February and March 2017. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers. For info call 524-7170, go to our Facebook at Los Padres WBC, or email to: lospadreswbc@gmail.com

Or visit the web: www.LosPadresWBC.org

© Photo by David Stillman

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By John Hankins

The Sierra Club’s participation in National Drive Electric Week was such a success that it drew hundreds of interested people, far more than anyone expected, and they worked together to create a positive impact and awareness for EVs.

On the road with EVs

By Fran Farina

Venoco’s new owner, Apollo Investment Corp., seeks to recover its investment by gaining regulatory approval for a new project. Venoco’s attempt to recall its oil platform Holly in 25 years rather than 40, the 52-year-old EOF, was overwhelmingly defeated by local residents.

Meanwhile, back in ol’ fossil fuel land...

The latest sales pitch offers to provide an initial skeptic. Some vehicles at the Oxnard event went back to the future, with a 1957 Mercedes 300SL owned by supervisorial candidate Joan Altman.

EVs drive on

The old curiosities are becoming the new revolution with Electric Vehicles able to go over 200 miles with “a wonderful silence,” said Sierra Club’s James Reach, who is shown “commanding” his Tesla Autopilot to him with a smartphone app. “It’s all the rage,” said Tom Spence, DJ on KVTA, who was an initial skeptic. Some vehicles at the Oxnard event went back to the future, with a 1957 Mercedes converted to electricity 20 years ago, and a one-driver Sports Rider from 1964. (Photos by John Hankins)

Gaviota Plan rules on tap

Following four public hearings at the planning level, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors expects to hear the Gaviota Coast Plan on Nov. 8. The plan and schedule are at: http://tinyurl.com/GaviotaPlan

The plan provides policy direction for land use. In a joint letter, the Environmental Defense Center, Sierra Club, Naples Coalition and many others signed onto a letter arguing the following principles:

• Protect Gaviota from tidally driven, storm track, and other unusual conditions.
• Protect Gaviota from fracking, steam injection, and other unconventional enhanced oil and gas extraction technologies.
• Ensure the Gaviota Coast Plan’s policies are consistent with the Coastal Act.
• Support local Gaviota farmers by allowing additional uses on agriculturally zoned land, such as farm stays and farm stands.
• Ensure the Plan’s policies protect informal access to and through the coast.

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Oil spill info stifled

By Gerry Ching

An Oil Spill Response workshop was held on Aug. 21 with a particular emphasis on the 2015 Refugio (SB County) and the 2016 Grove (Ventura County) oil spills and focused on problems on how to better respond and inform the public.

This workshop presented a unique opportunity for each agency to share its experience with other agencies and for public-interest groups to discuss the problems encountered with dissemination of public information. Key topics included initial response, damage assessments, cost recovery and contingency plans.

By the lead of State and Wildlife’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and hosted by the SB County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), it included numerous local, state and federal agencies along with the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Center, and Santa Barbara County.

One of the most criticized responses during the Refugio oil spill was the perception of lack of public information during the initial days of the incident. This resulted in some of the public self-deploying to clean the fouled beaches. Several factors that contributed to this situation included public misunderstanding of processes, agencies which were overwhelmed and the structure of the Unified Command. A key recommendation was to fix these problems.

By law, the Unified Command consists of government agency reps and the responsible party. In the case of the Refugio spill, this placeed Plains Pipeline in a prominent position which resulted in some inappropriate actions such as initially refusing SB County supervisors entry to the command center.

Similar situations arose during the June 23 Grove spill in the city of Ventura, which was initially reported by members of the public who were awakened by “a sickening smell.” Ventura City Manager Mark Watkins was moved to declare the situation by Lone Pine Pipeline “was not transparent or forthcoming,” while a Ventura County Star editorial called the response a “pattern of wrong or incomplete information.”

While public information is released by a Joint Information Center, a Santa Barbara County report recommends revising it in its “2015 Refugio Oil Spill After-Action Report and Improvement Plan,” which is available for public comment.

Go to: http://tinyurl.com/OilActionReport

Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.

GO SOLAR

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity to make solar easy and affordable for rooftop solar systems, and $750 will go to the Sierra Club chapter. Get a free quote and details at: http://tinyurl.com/5padresSOLAR

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EVENTS

Oct 8: Earth Charter Awards 5-3pm at Guthrie Hall, Ventura. College honoring specific individuals and groups, including Walter Fuller, volunteer steward of Ormond Beach, whose work is assisted by the Ventura Sierra Club and Audubon, among others. Details at: www.EarthCharterVentura.org

Oct 27: Official Power Plant get an update at a California Energy Commission hearing in Oxnard, which is opposed by the city of Oxnard and Sierra Club, among others.

Sept 24: Santa Clara River Symposium in Santa Paula, organized by Nina Dana, chair of the Ventura Sierra Club and co-hosted with the Public Land Alliance Network.

Oct 7: Wildlife Team members for the Sierra Club California/Nevada area chaired by our own chair Jim Hines, opposed a planned subdivision on the western Los Angeles county border with Ventura county which would destroy or block an existing wildlife corridor between the Simi Hills of Ventura county and the Chatsworth Peak area.

Oct 21: Wildfire Edshow. Event at 50 years old has worked out its welcome, judging by a packed audience who urged the Goleta City Council to order it discarded.

Oct 17: Huge turn-out to clean up the Santa Clara River Parkway, organized by Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Dana, who reports 658 pounds of trash was taken by 75 volunteers aged 5-75.

Oct 10: Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN) continues to be a “Baldwin,” with the Santa Barbara Group holding a symposium. PLAN, which is available for public comment.

Oct 5: Los Angeles Earth Charter Awards 3-5pm at Guthrie Hall, Ventura. College honoring specific individuals and groups, including Walter Fuller, volunteer steward of Ormond Beach, whose work is assisted by the Ventura Sierra Club and Audubon, among others. Details at: www.EarthCharterVentura.org


Oct 23: Santa Barbara Wild! An evening with Congresswoman Lois Capps for the Wilderness Legacy Award. A benefit for Los Padres ForestWatch. Gourmet dinner, music, auction and more. For details call 617-4610 Ext 2 or: www.SBWild.org

Oct 27: Raptor Open House, the annual event by the Ojai Raptor Center dedicated to rehoming and release of birds of prey. Meet the live birds and hear native stories told by our own chair Jim Hines to the Sierra Club's Lands Alliance Network) heard 24 symposium.

Aug 14: Ventura County Star publishes article urging residents to support the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (H.R. 4685), legislation that would safeguard nearly 250,000 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protect wild and scenic rivers, and designate the new Condor National Recreation Trail. Our chapter is active in supporting this important legislation. Info at: http://capps.house.gov/Congressional-Center/heritage-protection-act

Mountains to sea where we be

Aloft of action on oil, energy, wildlife and public lands continues to be a “Baldwin,” with the Santa Barbara Group holding a symposium. PLAN, which is available for public comment.

Toast 8: Visit by Chair Jim Hines to the Sierra Club's new office in downtown Oakland where he met the Faces behind the Names and gave the Los Padres Chapter more visibility.

Sept 3: PLAN (Public Lands Alliance Network) heard Jim Hines give a talk to its conference in Santa Clarita. He spoke on the protection of our coastline and ocean ecosystems, notably the proposal for a new marine sanctuary and campaigns to protect marine mammals.

Sept 1: Our legendary Jerry Connor, who passed away on April 4, was remembered in the September issue of Words & Wildlife.
While individuals and businesses are busy installing solar panels, a concerted effort is underway for our tri-counties area: Community Choice Energy. Sierra Club not only urges solar panels (in partnership with Sungevity, see link on page 2) it also backs CCE. Panels shown are being installed on Condor John’s house (the editor of Condor Cal), who gets a charge out being a clean-energy recipient.

Choose the power!
By Mike Stubblefield

Community Choice Energy (CCE) is a novel approach to buying green energy and is enthusiastically supported across the nation, and now our own tri-counties area is conducting a feasibility study.

Think of CCE as a “co-op” for buying electricity. It introduces competition into the marketplace and offers customers a range of choices.

It is a new, but not brand new, way to provide electricity. Marin Clean Energy has now been operating successfully for six years and there are now four CCEs in the Bay Area, including San Francisco. Santa Barbara County is the lead agency for the tri-counties and $400,000 has been allocated for an initial feasibility study. On Sept. 20, CCE activists from all three counties met with Angie Hacker, Division Chief, and Jennifer Cremer, Project Supervisor, of SB County’s Energy and Sustainability Initiatives.

Established by AB 117 in 2002, CCEs empower local governments to leverage the purchasing power of residents, businesses and public entities to purchase or generate power. CCE puts energy purchasing and pricing into the hands of local customers. A mix of renewables, efficiency incentives and clean energy programs helps achieve climate goals.

Since a CCE is accountable to the community it serves, not shareholders, all revenue is used to directly benefit customers.

If approved, the CCE program operator – known as Central Coast Power – will set rates. PG&E of SCE will still deliver the electricity over the same power grid, maintain the grid, send bills and provide customer service. Most customers won’t notice any change on the bill other than their current utility’s electric generation charge being replaced by a CCE electricity supply charge.

The feasibility study, nearing completion, includes a thorough understanding of our region’s expected future electricity needs, anticipated costs and impact on customer bills. To set up this new public entity with 33%, 50% or 100% renewable energy content, among risk factors.

For more information, visit: www.centralcoastpower.org

The SB lead agency website is: www.countyofsfb.org/sustainability

emPower helps warm your home
By Carla Bollinger

Editor’s note: Carla is a member of the Los Padres Sierra Club and the Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN) Americans were fascinated with the West just as a pioneer-homesteading life change or seeking fortune in the West. The first visit and appreciate the great outdoors, the wild places, and raw beauty of the land beyond the grid. The driving force for tourism of America’s scenic wonders was the building of the great Transcontinental Railroad, 2000 miles of tracks with competing railroads. The Union Pacific tracks were built from Omaha to meet with Central Pacific’s tracks built from Sacramento. The first railroad spike was pounded in 1863, before the end of the Civil War. The final “Golden Spike” was pounded in where the two railroad tracks met in Promontory Summit, Utah territory, May 10, 1869.

The railroad companies knew tourism would be a boon to their industry. It was a win-win situation for Americans, instead of a $1,000 stagecoach trip, five to six months of arduous travel through inclement weather, mountains, expansive plains and deserts, and risk from attacks by Native Americans (understandably) and outlaws, they could reach the west coast for $150 for a first-class sleeper in five-six days. On the Hayden Survey Expedition in 1871, artist Thomas Moran filled his art sketches and diaries with scenes of the great outdoors, documenting Yellowstone’s natural wonders. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the first national park, Yellowstone National Park. The Northern Pacific branch line built “the Road to Paradise” in 1883, for tourists to reach the remote Yellowstone National Park.

The railroads began promoting tourism with advertising campaigns, booklets, brochures, and posters. Even Sunset Magazine was founded, 1898, by the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. Their first issue featured an essay about Yosemite and headlined on the cover, “Yosemite and the High Sierras.” The railroads were full steam ahead promoting park tourism.

Galen Clark, was the first guardian, or Park Ranger, for Yosemite Park in 1866, when the state awarded a grant for the park creation. John Muir visited Yosemite in 1868 and began his campaign to further protect the park, inspiring President Theodore Roosevelt, to develop conservation programs. Muir, with other supporters, formed the Sierra Club in 1892. He was also instrumental in the creation of Sequoia, Mount Rainer, Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Parks.

Republican President Theodore Roosevelt, known for trust-busting, was also an avid conservationist. He created the US Forest Service, five National Parks, 150 National Forests, 51 Bird Reserves, and in 1906 signed into law the Antiquities Act. Today he would have been labeled a “Liberal!”

After passage by Congress, President Woodrow Wilson, signed into law (August 25, 1916) the “National Park Service Organic Act” with the mandate, “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

For information to visit and celebrate NPS 100* anniversary, check out these websites:
- Los Padres Sierra Club
- Chapter Outings schedule: lospadres2.sierraclub.org
- ~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County:
- ~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group in Condor Cal, or follow us on Facebook.
- ~ Board usually meets first Monday of the month at various locations and times. General meetings agenda and details:
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Celebrating 100 years National Park service

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A plethora of pollution pickers
When it comes to helping the environment, Ventura and Oxnard residents often come to Coastal Clean Up Day (Sept. 17) at the Santa Clara River Gateway: 75 volunteers took out 648 lbs of trash that will never again pollute the river, estuary, beach and the ocean environment. That’s 75 of all ages, all backgrounds, all faiths including kids from Sierra Linda School. The cleanup was under the leadership of Nina Danza, Ventura Sierra Club Chair, and Candice Meneghin of CalTrout and participants competing for the ’Most Unusual Thing Found.’ Who won? The signed kids who pulled out BBQ? Oxnard City Cos that found a 2011 day planner? Or Girl Scouts who dragged out a car bumper.

The winner was the bumper pullers, but also the animals and plants. Big personal satisfaction came to volunteers from Oxnard College, Foothill Tech and many caring individuals. Reward was ice cream discount from Coastal Cone Waffle Co.
October 7: PAULO COMADO to ALBERTSON’S MOTORWAY: Moderate 8 mrt hike, with 950’ elev. gain. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet no later than 8:30am at the Bank of America on Hope and State to park at the end parking lot. LIZ 698-1623 (CJ)

October 8: PLANADA: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

October 9: TEQUEPIS: Hike up to West End of North Kanan Road. LILLIAN 1623 (CJ)

October 10: MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 5th Avenue in Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. Info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

October 11: FRESHWATER CREEK: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike near Ventura Harbor. We will follow the fire road instead to a high point to pick up the Girard trail. At the junction where the trail becomes a singletrack, we will walk north to Zuma Beach. See large dolphins frolicking in surf and sea lions on rocks. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. Take Canan to PCH and drive north to Zuma Beach. Turn left and drive down beach road to Restaurant at end. Park at side of road. We will meet outside restaurant. LILLIAN TREVIAN 498-1623 (CJ)

October 12: SAN YSIDRO – GIRDAR TRAIL LOOP: We’ll start at the San Ysidro trailhead. At the junction where the trail becomes a singletrack, we will walk north to Zuma Beach. See large dolphins frolicking in surf and sea lions on rocks. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. LIZ 698-1623 (CJ)

October 13: LOWER NEWTON CANYON TRAIL: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike, with 600’ elev. gain. Rolling hike up and down the canyon including one crossing of the creek over a wooden bridge, and views of the Pacific Ocean and views of the surrounding mountains. Bring food and wear lug-soled shoes. 101 Freeway to Kannan to west on the Newton Canyon parkway. Meet at the parking lot. Meet at 8am in the parking lot. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

October 14: OLD CABIN SITE – POINT MUGU STATE PARK: 7 mrt hike with 1,000’ elev gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at the end of Wendy Road in Newbury Park at Pothole Trailhead in Newbury Park not later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVIAN 498-1623 (CJ)

October 15: STEVENS PARK – JESUSITA TRAIL: Hike across meadow and up wooded area to an inspirational view of Santa Barbara. Bring strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

HIDDEN POND LOOP – POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderately strenuous 8.2 mrt hike with 900’ elev gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at Satwiwa parking lot. Take the Lynn Road exit of the 101 Frey south to Via Goleta near Dos Vientos in Newbury Park. Turn left into Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa and drive to end parking lot. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

October 15-19: PANAMINT CITY BACKPACK: Come assist Park volunteer Birgitta Jansen in assessing the state of the abandoned cabins in Death Valley National Park. Meet every Saturday evening at Chris Wick camp and pack up Surprise Canyon Panamint City on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday, we will work with Birgitta in assessing the conditions of the cabins. There will be time for exploring other topography of Panamint. Not a beginning backpack. There is water in the canyon, but it must be collected. Be prepared to carry all the food and equipment needed for the trip, and help carry some measurements. For info, call leader KATE ALLEN, 661-944-4056 or kallen69@gmail.com (CNRC Desert Committees)

October 16: SAN YSIDRO – GIRDAR TRAIL LOOP: We’ll start at the San Ysidro trailhead. At the junction where the trail becomes a singletrack, we will walk north to Zuma Beach. See large dolphins frolicking in surf and sea lions on rocks. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in the parking lot. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

October 22-23: GHOST TOWN EXTRAUGANZAS! Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California’s colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town lookout. Cool night with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. We’ll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat’s graveyard. On Sunday, we’ll tour the town of Ballarat itself before heading home. Send $8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and ride sharing information. Binoculars may be useful. Light rain does not cancel. Great for kids with accompanying parent or guardian; no dogs. Complimentary cookies and dog biscuits for all participants! This is one of a series of walks to raise funds for an outdoor table for Walter Fuller, resident docent of Ormond Beach. $5 donation per person requested. Meet at end of Arnold Road (past Agromin 6859 Arnold Rd). Contact: NINA BALLART 805-219-4197 (VEN)

October 24: MONDAY MORNING WALK Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am in the end of 5th St. in Oxnard to do urban walk. For more info call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

EAVESDROPS “They are staying in there, being supplied by horses and mules.” – Referring to firefighters camped for days fighting the July Fire in the Sespe Wilderness, using hand tools rather than bulldozers in the rough backcountry, said Sue Exline, Las Posas Ojai District ranger. Article in the Ventura County Star highlighted the work of animal crews. (Photo by Porry Van Houten)

Welcome Hikers
The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring plenty of water to all outings and optionally, a lunch. Study footwear is encouraged, and never less important, if you have questions about a hike, please contact the leader director. All phone numbers listed are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under age of 14. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter’s website: http://lagopus.sierriclub.org

WELCOME Hikers
October 13: LOWER NEWTON CANYON TRAIL: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike, with 600’ elev. gain. Rolling hike up and down the canyon including one crossing of the creek over a wooden bridge, and views of the Pacific Ocean and views of the surrounding mountains. Bring food and wear lug-soled shoes. 101 Freeway to Kannan to west on the Newton Canyon parkway. Meet at the parking lot. Meet at 8am in the parking lot. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

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loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8:30am. NOTE THE EARTH DAY (TAME) AMELEON 898-1240 (SB)

October 30
SAN ANTONIO CREEK TRAIL: Slow paced nature stroll through the park by the creek, or the 3 miles or so. Children welcome, bring water and wear long pants. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICK 563-4550 (SB)

October 31
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center on Main St. or at 9am at Lake Casitas parking lot to walk to the lake and then to Hope Ave. for more info, call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 3
CHEESEROBE CANYON TRAIL: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 950’ elev. gain. Bring lots of water, food and wear long-sleeved shirts. Meet at 9am at the Cheeserober Trailhead. Moderate-strenuous 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at trailhead of PCH at 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 4
PALO COMADO - CHEESEROBE CANYON LOOP: 1000’ elev. gain! Experience beautiful oaks and vistas. Bring water, food and wear long-sleeved shirts. Meet 8:30am at trailhead. From 113 Freeway exit, go north 2.1 miles on Kanan Road and turn right on Sunset. Then drive 1.5 miles from the third Public Recreation Trail sign, just past Oak Springs Drive. JON-MARKLISKE 492-3061

November 5
GOAT ROCK TO WHITE ROCK: Climb up the hillside to Goat Rock proceeding in a field and across magnificent views from Ranger Peak. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. CHRISTINE 805-708-5877 (SB)

November 7
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center on Main St. or at 9am at Bates Beach for low tide walking for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 10
REYES PEAK: Moderate 7-mrt hike. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet at the Reyes Peak area in backcountry. Although you will be climbing about 1600 ft. elevation, you will get to see some great views of Piedra Blanca, the Shimmer Wilderness and all the way to the Channel Islands. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Cerritos Restaurant and Chase Bank). The trailhead is an hour’s drive from Ojai. Please bring ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water and snacks.

EAVESDROPS:“I’m the one picking up wildlife off the highways.” —Julie Di Sieno of the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Center. (Photo by Jim Duliakis)

November 11
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor for about 2 hours. For info, call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 12
DABNEY CAMP: Large pool car camp Ground. The camp is on a long sandy beach about a mile from Highway 1. Meet behind B of A at upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. LORRA & PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN)

November 13
OSO CYN RIDGE LOOP: This is an exploratory hike into the middle between Lower and Upper Osos campgrounds. Great views of the Los Padres National Forest area and we start on a long abandoned trail. Due to the route, the trail is good for round trip with an up and return via footbreak. Moderate, 3m1/2, 8 foot elevation gain. Long pants highly recommended. Parts of this hike may be through somewhat overgrown areas. Bring lunch, water, and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A at upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. JIM 479-770364-6954 (SB)

November 15
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center on Main St. to walk to the cross for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 17
POINT DUME TO PARADISE COVE: Bird watching hike for experienced, conditioned birders only. Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. The hike is 7-8 miles and Tide at 5pm is 5.6 feet increasing. Meet on trailhead to Westward Beach road, drive down to end and meet across Mission Plaza restaurant. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 22
ULTIMATE HIKE: Very strenuous 17.5 mile hike. This workout (5000’) hike covers parts of 9 different trails on the front side of Los Padres National Forest for experienced, conditioned hikers. Hike leader approved required. Plan for an all day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring umbrella or rain gear. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (SV)

November 27
BLUES AND BAYLOR: (5662, 11 mile round trip, 2700 ft elevation gain) Very strenuous hike ascends Romero Canyon and descends a scenic Blue Peak. And returns down the canyon trail. Blue Peak presents a panorama of the main Ojai Valley including Matilija Falls. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A at upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. PAUL 888-1181 (SV)

November 28
MONDAY MORNING WALK: The highly popular trek to the seven Matilija Falls is now legally open. The first time the hike has been out and planned on Nov. 19. No one can see this amazing area.

After many years of trying, a coalition of local trail users and conservation groups announced an agreement on Sept. 21 to restore permanent public access to the falls, which also allows the possibility to buy an 80-acre parcel along Matilija Creek for eventual transfer to the U.S. Forest Service. “National forests are a public resource that should be accessible to all of us, and the community will be able to access this major trail and canyon in perpetuity,” said Los Padres ForestWatch executive director Jeff Kuyper.

The pact was signed by the landowner, the Bansall family, and members of a community association called Keep access to Matilija Falls Open (“KAMFO”) and filed in Ventura County Superior Court. KAMFO will reconstruct one mile of the trail along historic location east of the trail, install signs and remove illegal campfire rings on private property outside of the trail easement. The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has agreed to

Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to the cross for about 2 Hours. For info, call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 3
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake nerves as far as possible for a nice view to the top of the ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Pristine, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. ROBERT 685-1283 (CJ)

December 4
ROCKY PINES RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful tiny parcel of land and region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate with some boulder hopping and agility required, 4mrt. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. TONY 455-4212 (SV)

December 5
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 40 A-Bo Drive in Oak View to walk uphill for about 2 Hours. For info, call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 10
LAKE CACHAMAY CARNEORS/TOW PARK: Bird watching hike for an hour and a half. Bring your binoculars and cameras. We usually see ducks, Canada geese, 4-5 Sora’s. A popular and fast, 2-3 miles. Children welcome, bring water and meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. VICK 563-4850 (SB)

Access now legal to Matilija Falls

You are in for a free treat as our Chapter Outings Chair, Stephen Bryne, will personally be leading an outing to the Matilija Falls complex off Hwy 33 west of Ojai. This is the first time these falls have been opened to the public, after a legal battle. See the Nov. 19 Outing on this page for details. (Photo by Jim Duliakis)

The public has traveled the nearby trails for over 30 years, but in 2009, the landowner discouraged public access, leading to a 2015 lawsuit by KAMFO, represented by the firm Slavin Reagan & Cole LLP.

“Thousands of people visit the three big waterfalls in Matilija Canyon, but do you know how to visit the seven big waterfalls in Matilija?” asks David Stillman who has blogged on this subject. He then goes on to reveal “at least four more major waterfalls further upstream, including the grandest of all, the Lost Falls.”

The popular route that ends at the third waterfall, with its unique opportunity to see Seven Falls, is about a 9-mile round trip. For that reason, it’s really hard and hikers will encounter dangerous terrain, so don’t hike it alone (very few people ever go beyond the third fall because of that).

The trailhead is nearly five miles along the Malibu Canyon Road off of Hwy 33 behind Ojai. See the Nov. 19 Matilija Falls write-up in our outings section for details, which considers it a “moderate to strenuous 9 mrt hike”.

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Fall in love with autumn

Editor’s note: Our forest region alone is home to more than 468 fish and wildlife species, and with cooler weather, the fall and winter are prime times to experience its diversity. Be sure to take advantage of our free outings.

Greetings friends
By Jim Hines

Ah, the loveliness of the Autumn season is upon us and what a great time of year to be out and about enjoying not only the great natural beauty of the Los Padres Chapter region, but also it is one of the best times of the year for viewing wildlife.

Deer herds abound in the grassy fields of the Santa Ynez and Ojai Valleys, whales are abundant in the ocean waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, majestic Condors are soaring in flight over Mt. Pinos and chipmunks on Figueroa Mt. are gathering pine nuts for the upcoming winter.

Take a day trip out to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge on the coast west of Santa Maria and be dazzled by an array of seals and sea lions resting on the beach as numerous sea birds fly overhead. This refuge is also home to the tallest sand dunes on the west coast.

Channel Islands National Park is a protected sanctuary where the world’s smallest foxes thrive and abound. I can tell you that there is nothing cuter than an island fox dashing by you as you walk on the trails. Rare and unusual bird life is also found on the islands.

And if you are hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains, be prepared for some of the best wildlife sightings in our region. Who knows, you may even see one of the “ghost” cats, the mountain lions which roam the area. The last one I saw was in Cheesboro Canyon Preserve a year ago. While I don’t see many lions, I often feel their presence silently watching me, yet respectful of my feelings of caring for them. I never feel in danger.

I often see bobcats on my hikes and walks; they study me, they watch me and then they just scamper away.

I cannot tell you how mesmerized I am when watching a majestic condor in flight soaring, dominates the sky as they glide effortlessly, eyes trained upon the earth searching for carrion to feed on. And oh how I marvel at our many species of birds of prey, eagles, hawks, owls and falcons. They are the masters of strength and dominance in our natural world keeping the balance of life intact.

We are also graced with birds of gentle beauty as well, snowy egrets, great blue herons, colorful woodpeckers and the serenade of songbirds when we are on the trail.

Yes our wild species dazzle us, as they should, and while the Los Padres Chapter has a number of campaigns to protect our great wild creatures, it is also nice to simply be out and enjoying the beauty of our great natural world, which is their home.

For wildlife, wild and free

“Going to the mountains is going home,” as John Muir explained. Do you wish you felt that way? Have you ever wanted to learn more about hiking, camping, and backpacking or improve your own wilderness skills?

Well we’ll show you!

EVs power...Petro tanks...Energy choice...Forest Voice

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© Photo by David Stillman

Museum of Ventura County unveiled a new alcove honoring local activist Helen Yunker, which overlooks a background mural painted by artist Ryan Carr. Shown is one of the outdoor panels of a California condor. Photo by John Hankins

For info call 524-7170, go to our Facebook at Los Padres WBC, or email to: lospadreswbc@gmail.com or visit the web: www.LosPadresWBC.org

Figurera Mountain courtesy ForestWatch

Going to the mountains is going home, as John Muir explained. Do you wish you felt that way? Have you ever wanted to learn more about hiking, camping, and backpacking or improve your own wilderness skills? Look no further! You’ve found the Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course. A dedicated staff of volunteer leaders will teach adults and teens the skills to enjoy the wilderness safely and comfortably.

Evening classes are held in Ventura in February and March 2017. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers. For info call 524-7170, go to our Facebook at Los Padres WBC, or email to: lospadreswbc@gmail.com or visit the web: www.LosPadresWBC.org