

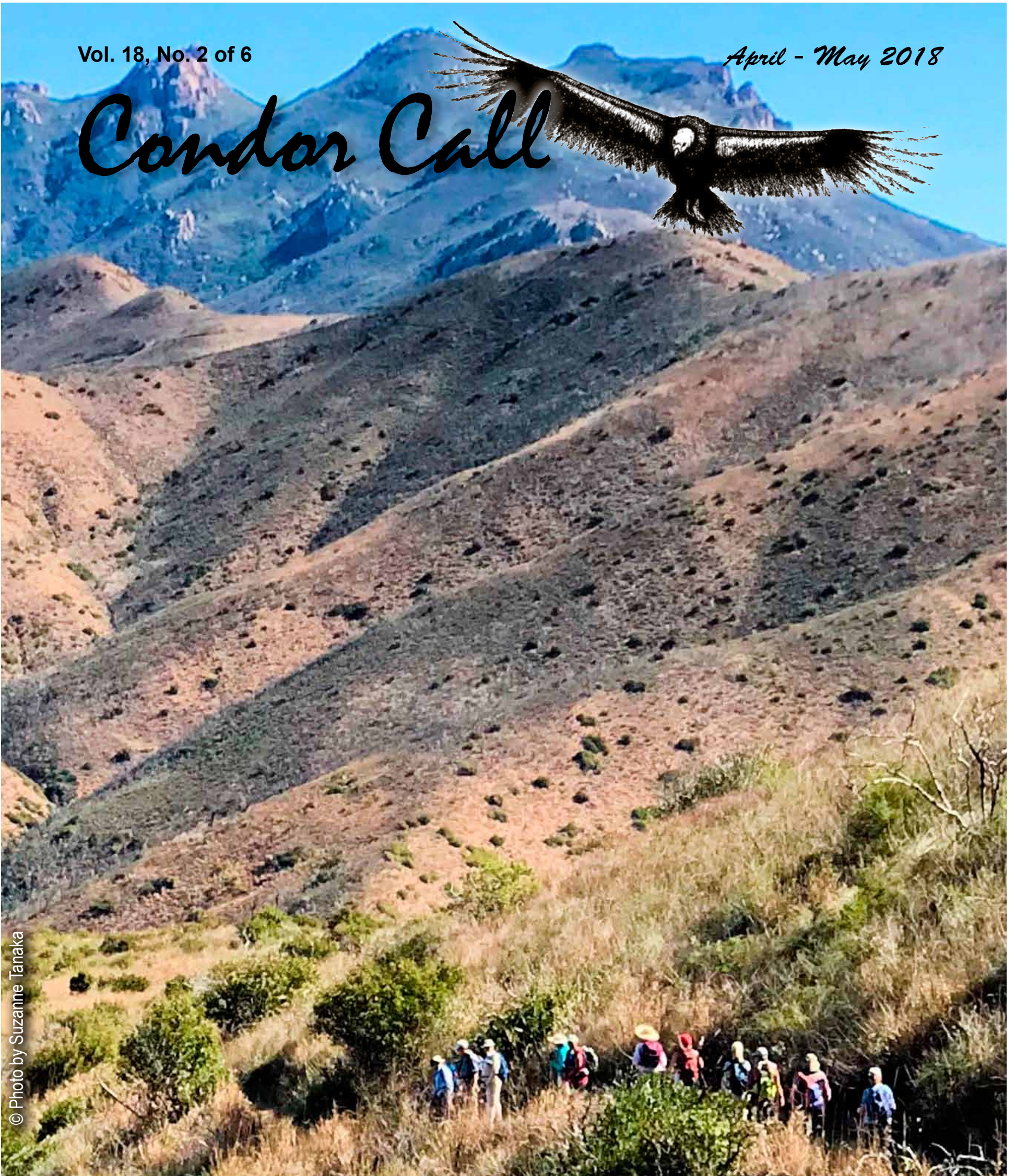
Vol. 18, No. 2 of 6

April - May 2018

Condor Call



© Photo by Suzanne Tanaka



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SPECIAL: Our Looong Trail Treasures



Condor Call

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties

April - May 2018



CLEANER ENERGY

Tides of March portend shift

Major milestones in March to replace polluting energy projects with cleaner alternatives (or scrap them altogether) in Ventura County both occurred in a month that is often thought of as “coming in like a lion and out like a lamb.”

One was the suspension by the applicant, Mission Rock Energy Center, on its proposal on the banks of the Santa Clara River for a 255-megawatt natural gas-fired electric generating facility co-located

with battery units. Suspension was likely due to pressure against it by environmental groups but stay tuned as this doesn't mean it might not come back.

For the past two years, local leaders from the Sierra Club, Santa Paula Alliance, Wishtoyo Foundation and others, have protested the project due to greenhouse gas emissions, wildlife effects, floodplain siting, and environmental justice

Then, the four-year fight to shut down NRG's Puente Plant proposal to build a 262-megawatt gas-fired plant on Oxnard beaches (a replacement for the Mandalay power plant) was “pushed off a cliff” in late March

by California's grid operator, which instead gave final approval to a clean energy alternative, noted Earthjustice which, along with the city of Oxnard, Sierra Club, CAUSE and many others were the combatants.

NRG had suspended its proposal, but last October to rethink its application. The California Independent System Operator, which maintains the state's power grid, announced that green energy can feasibly meet the region's needs and that report was cited by a state energy committee for project denial.

So, March did go out like a ‘lamb’ if you consider its carbon footprint is smaller than the lion's.

Note: Vote

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway and you have a deadline of April 25 for mailed ballots to be received or to vote via the internet.

Those eligible to vote should have received the national Sierra Club ballot in early March, in which case the ballot. If you chose voting by internet (it's not too late to opt in), you should have received an email with instructions. Any questions should be directed to the Election Services Co at (866) 720-4357 or email: ierrclub@electionservicescorp.com

It is important to vote as the club is a democratically structured organization at all levels and is



stronger when there is more member participation. In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections; a minimum of 5% is required.

Don't know the candidates? Find out here:

www.sierraclub.org/board/election

You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. In any case, please VOTE.

GREETINGS FRIENDS It's dreary in D.C.

By Jim Hines
LP Chapter Chair

I am exhausted after spending four days on Capitol Hill in Washington (March 6-9) right after a massive Northeastern storm delayed the trip.

While I missed some group events, I did individual advocacy with close to 100 members or staff of the House, 22 members of the Senate and meetings with staff at the House Committee on Natural Resources and Dept of the Interior.

What a whirlwind of meetings; some were quite pleasant, some had friction and in others I was politely escorted out of a Congressional office with a lecture!

Not all is well on Capitol Hill for America's national public lands.

I was there on behalf of the Sierra Club's Protect Wild Utah campaign. I met mostly with elected and appointed officials who support the elimination of America's national parks and monuments in the state of Utah. My goal was to convey to them the importance of our national public lands, and that Utah's should be protected, not reduced or eliminated altogether as the Administration and their allies in Congress would like.

Utah is “ground zero” in a radical scheme to eliminate America's national parks and monuments in the western U.S. by the Trump

Administration. The Sierra Club is at the forefront of opposing that vision.

Do I think we made a difference? I think so, but only time will tell. Some people on Capitol Hill are starting to see the value of protecting America's public lands and are finally standing up for them; but it will also take a groundswell of public support. Get involved at: <https://tinyurl.com/SClubProtectWildLands>

We are in a historic fight to save and protect the only true asset our nation holds in trust for its future, the land itself. Lands which belongs to ALL Americans to enjoy and treasure its beauty in all its forms. Lands which protect the watersheds, lands sacred to tribal nations, critical habitat lands for endangered species

continued on page 3

COVER PHOTO

Portion of the Backbone Trail in Ventura County, one of four local long trails featured on pages 4&5. You can go along with us on upcoming segments of the Backbone; see story page 4 and Outings pages 6&7. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka)



Geologist and Ventura College professor Jim Danza grounded students at our Wilderness Basics Course, pointing out features of the orb they are walking upon. Jim will also have an important public talk at 7pm Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd., on behalf of the Ventura Land Trust entitled: “A River Runs Through It, the Beauty, Benefits and Importance of Ventura County's Waterways,” see story page 4. (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)

Wilderness course spreads its success

By Teresa Norris

What a long, good trip it's been!

Last December marked the tenth anniversary of when we obtained permission to try a Wilderness Basics Course in the Los Padres Chapter. We took a year to plan and then hosted our first class in January 2009.

Now in our ninth year, the 2018 class started Feb. 7 with a record number of 65 students. It has now extended past the March 28 finale. All backpack trips were postponed due to the recent storms in March, and of course the Thomas Fire, torrential rains and mudslides affected many trails, but we found plenty of substitutes. As of this writing, only two trips have gone out in March. We still have 8 more trips coming up in April and May.

We had our day hikes at Rancho Sierra Vista in early February, so beautiful to see the area in the late winter. More students went hiking than ever before. Car Camp was two weeks later, at Sage Hill Group Camp; again, our best percentage of students camping so far. We practiced navigation, toured the tents, found out how to choose and set up a campsite, make a campfire, take care of our gear and stoves, watched a water pump demo, reviewed hiking and camping resources, and topped it off with an outstanding musical campfire program. Then we went hiking on Sunday.

For our indoor classes, we changed venues to the beautiful Poinsettia Pavilion, only to watch as the Thomas fire burned all around it last December. Luckily, the Pavilion was spared because caretaker Hector Andrades and his family risked injury or worse to save it. That sort of spirit inspires us all.

Our lectures have been amped up, as we now have a stage and a sound system. We've had speakers from Raw Workouts, Upper Ojai Search and Rescue, Patagonia, Real Cheap Sports, Mountain Air Sports, 4Points Expeditions, NOAA, the National Park Service, and our own staff, who deliver just as professional presentations as all the rest.

We have a new on-line survey for class evaluations that is working out well. The students have been positive in their overall feedback and have given us some suggestions about how we can improve the class, which we're always doing.

The WBC has always been in the black from the first, and we've been fortunate to be able to help others. In January, WBC voted to donate a total of \$6,000: \$2,000 went to the Los Padres Chapter

for wildlife, Ventura County trails access, outings, legal, and energy. \$1,000 was divided among the four Chapter groups: Arguello, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Conejo. We donated a total of \$2,000 to four Search and Rescue Groups: Upper Ojai, Fillmore, Santa Barbara, and East Ventura County. And lastly, we donated \$1,000 to the Los Padres Forest Association for Ventura County trails.

Jim Hines earns award

By Teresa Norris

Our Los Padres Chapter Chair for the past three years, Jim Hines, will be an Honoree at the annual “Spring Celebration” fundraiser hosted by the Santa Monica Mountains Fund.

It's been 30 years since he helped start the organization that became the Fund; previously it was known as the Santa Monica Mountains Parklands Association. He also recently led an effort to donate money from the Los Padres Chapter to the Fund for the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing.

Jim has continued as a tireless advocate for public lands, including the California coast, Pacific Ocean, national public lands, wild Utah and many others. He is a member of the Protecting Great Wild Places Campaign and the Sierra Club California/Nevada Wildlife Team.

He recently spent days in DC, lobbying members of Congress and their staff on behalf of the Sierra Club's Protect Wild Utah campaign. Via social media, Jim has been able to connect with hundreds of people interested in these conservation issues, who look to him for leadership.

Jim spoke at a southern California land preservation conference recently about the importance of protecting open space lands, parks and seashores. “I highlighted the importance of open space and park protection to the health of the American people and the communities they live in. These important lands protect our watersheds, preserve wildlife habitat, and allow us to have no-cost close-to-our-community places to go and enjoy the peace and solitude which nature has to offer.”

This public event is from 4-7:30pm at Visitor's Center, 26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. Details at: www.SAMOfund.org

Our modest appeal gets things done

Now is the time to speak up for the animal victims who cannot!

The many unique ecosystems which make up the Los Padres Chapter region are outstanding places for wildlife viewing ranging from endangered species to marine mammals, from the high county to the seashore ... and that's what we defend.

Your donation helps us protect these amazing creatures and their home in the wilderness and watersheds.

www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

◀ The endangered condor, brought from the brink of extinction and now released into our local Los Padres Forest. (© Photo Doan Zatkowsky)

▶ The annual migrations of the whales through the Channel Islands are now safer thanks to our work requiring slower ship speed, which also reduces pollution. (© Photo Denise Dewire)

Our March Appeal is the only time we ask for donations to support the many hard-working volunteers who are your neighbors, pitching in for advocacy and recreation. If you haven't yet sent in the March letter for donations, it's never too late to help our mission to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.” Just peruse all that we do in this issue of *Condor Call* and know that it takes money to fuel the scores of volunteers, be it for communication, advocacy or legal issues. You're getting a lot of Bang for your Buck. Go to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000



"Thumbs down" on new oil drilling during a large turnout Feb. 13 in Santa Barbara, shown in a photo by Katie Davis. It was followed up by "thumbs up" events to solve the fossil fuel challenge via the Clean Energy 805 movement, where workshops were held in Ventura and Santa Barbara March 13 and 15. Learn more at: www.CleanEnergy805.org

Lax rules may allow dirty oil in Oxnard

By Kimberly Rivers

Ventura County is processing a request to drill 79 new wells to extract the thickest, dirtiest, bitumen containing "tar sands" oil from the Vaca Tar Sands formation under the Oxnard Plain, using cyclic steam.

The project can simply be approved with a "ministerial zoning clearance" action by the Ventura County Planning Director. It will NOT be reviewed by the Planning Commission nor the Board of Supervisors – unless there is an appeal filed. The water, air and traffic impacts will not be studied. Residents would not be notified.

CFROG (Citizens For Responsible Oil & Gas) is calling for the public to insist the county require a higher level of review for public and environmental protection. Instead, the county may approve such projects by an antiquated Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that it issued before the 1970s, which gave permission to Peak Operator LLC to drill for oil. These antiquated permits have no expiration date and no limitation of oil wells.

The project site is on Sturgis Road, a mile from the Camarillo airport and a mile from Oxnard city limits and within two miles of Nyland Acres, Spanish Hills and Springville neighborhoods, the Pleasant Valley ball fields and Frontier High School.

To reach the tar sands at up to 2300 feet underground, new wells could be drilled through five different aquifer levels including Oxnard, Mugu, Fox Canyon and Lower and Upper Hueneme aquifers.

About 400 trucks per month are projected for tar sands and wastewater transport with a pipeline planned in the future.

Despite a clear range of impacts on the community and the environment, Ventura County claims that because the old CUP has no well limits, the operator has "vested rights."

The applicant holds 779 acres under lease which holds approximately 133 million [barrels] of oil reserves. It intends to drill up to 150-200 more wells in the Oxnard

Oil Field in the future, according to its website:

<http://peakoperator.com>

To ask for a modern environmental review and public notice, call Planning Director Kim Prillhart (654-2481) or email:

Kim.prillhart@ventura.org

Also contact YOUR Supervisor and share your views with them at:

www.Ventura.org

Meanwhile, stay informed and subscribe to CFROG emails today:

www.cfrog.org/subscribe

~ Kimberly Rivers is executive director of CFROG.

Do we need more oil anyway?

ENERGY RAP

By Katie Davis

In the Beginning of What We Hope will be a big response to SoCal Edison's call for local renewable energy bids, we were in the Room Where it Happens. Introductions were made, and deals begun in two conference rooms on March 13th and 15th in Goleta and Camarillo, hosted by the Sierra Club and other non-profits.

The goal was to head off the need for expensive and polluting power plants and create clean energy jobs in our area instead. These packed workshops were an opportunity for local property owners with large roof space, open fields or parking lots to learn how they can earn revenue by leasing space to renewable energy developers or slash their energy costs and help the environment at the same time.

It's not too late to get in on the deal. Such large property owners and facility

managers can sign up at:

www.CleanEnergy805.org

Community Choice Chosen by Ventura to join Los Angeles County on the expansive Clean Power Alliance.

It will provide cleaner energy, competition and energy choice for those who signed up: Ventura County and cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Camarillo, Ojai and Moorpark.

Santa Barbara County and its cities continue to study the issue, with a discussion likely coming to the Supervisors on or around May 15.

Meanwhile, an application for a wind project near Lompoc is almost complete. Plus, the City of Santa Barbara is working on a Strategic Energy Plan and a set of hard sustainability metrics and goals, including 100% renewable energy by 2030.

We suggest adding goals to reduce oil consumption, perhaps mimicking Los Angeles' goal of 100% electric buses by 2030. "You achieve what you measure," is a classic business maxim that just might help us save the planet too. More info at:

<http://CleanPowerAlliance.org>

New Offshore Oil Rejected by California (and all U.S. coastal states) against Trump's Administration's proposed 5-year lease plan to open up 95% of federal waters, including the Pacific Ocean, which has been off limits to new oil leases since the 1980s.

Locally, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and coastal cities -- including Goleta, Santa Barbara and Carpinteria -- submitted comments opposing the plan. Statewide, Gov. Jerry Brown, state Attorney General Xavier Becerra, California Senate, Coastal Commission and State Lands are opposed. The Lands Commission went further, asserting it will refuse permits for infrastructure needed to bring oil or gas ashore (it has jurisdiction on the coast and the ocean 3-miles offshore).

Hundreds of people protested in Sacramento at the one meeting held in the state and thousands of California businesses commented in opposition. The comment period on the draft plan closed March 9.

Do We Need More Oil Anyway?

Not according to a [new analysis](#) by the Stockholm Environmental Institute, an international non-profit research and policy organization. It argues that limiting oil production could help California meet its climate goals and be as effective as other key policies in the state's climate Scoping Plan.

It seems like ratcheting down oil production here would be a win-win for the climate and public health, bolstered by another paper by the [LA County Public Health Department](#). It warns of health and safety risks of proximity to petroleum facilities, including birth defects, cancer, asthma, migraines, neurological damage, nausea, skin irritation and sleep disturbance.

Bad Actors and Oil Battles continue in both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties with hundreds of wells proposed.

An application for a third major oil project in northern Santa Barbara County was filed with County Planning. PetroRock has applied for 231 new oil, injection and water wells in the Cat Canyon area. With the AERA and ERG project applications pending in the same area, the total number of wells proposed is now over 760, a shocking number that should cause everyone to write their Supervisors in opposition.

These are all cyclic steam injection projects going after thick tar-like oil, hugely energy intensive, with high well-casing failure rates. They would all drill through the Santa Maria Aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for area residents and farms.

PetroRock is a direct descendent from Hunter Resources, which walked away from the estimated \$284 million-dollar Casmalia toxic waste superfund site, an area so polluted we will be managing it for a 100 years. They once swore that could never pollute the groundwater, either.

As for Ventura County, check out CFROG's article on similar oil projects that may ooze through without stronger environmental review on this page.

EVENTS

April 12: **Water Take 1** is the 6th annual free film festival presenting water-themed short films that showcase critical issues, conservation efforts and sustainability, 6pm at the Ventura Beach Club, 281 E. Main St. an adults-only facility. RSVP via the city's Ventura Water site or call 667-6500.

April 12: **Protecting Blue Whales** and Blue Skies, a collaboration between government agencies, non-profits, and the shipping industry; 7pm SB Maritime Museum, details: www.SBMM.org

April 19: **"A River Runs Through It,** the Beauty, Benefits and Importance of Ventura County's Waterways," 7pm Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura. Geo professor Jim Danza reveals Ventura River secrets, see story pg ? RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/VenturaRivers>

April 21: **Blue Water Ball**, the 11th annual fundraiser for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper starts at 5:30pm and features filmmaker Mimi DeGruy who will share sneak peaks of her movie "Diving Deep". Held at Deckers' HQ, 250 Coromar Dr. Goleta. RSVP at: <https://BlueWaterBall.org>

May 8: **MoJo hike the CCT** program, in which the 1200 -mile California Coastal Trail was challenged by Morgan Visali and Jocelyn Enevoldsen (MoJo). Free for the public, sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club's "Venture(a) Out" series 5:30pm Tuesday at Foster Library 651 E. Main St. Ventura. See story pg 5.

May 16: **Broke**, a film detailing the pipeline spill at Refugio in 2015, by Gail Osherenko. The onshore pipeline failure sent 140K gallons of crude oil along the Gaviota Coast, stopping oil production on two platforms to this day, kicking Venoco into bankruptcy and inciting a lawsuit by Exxon/Mobile against the pipeline company; 7pm SB Maritime Museum, details: www.SBMM.org

June 3: **Green & Blue**, a coastal celebration and the Environmental Defense Center's major annual fundraiser, from 2-5:30pm at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, 304 N. Los Cameros Rd. Goleta. So many eco-groups depend on their legal expertise, especially our Los Padres Chapter, so this is important to support. Details at: www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

June 3: **Ojai Wild!** a benefit for Los Padres ForestWatch from 4-7:30pm at the Thacher School, 5025 Thacher Rd, in Ojai. So many of us depend on ForestWatch, especially as government funds keep dwindling for trail and campground maintenance, conservation work and much more. Our Los Padres Chapter embraces this special group, so please help them. Details and signup at 617-4610 or: www.OjaiWild.org

June 3: **Spring Celebration** for a double anniversary of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, in which our own Los Padres Chapter Cahir, Jim Hines, will be honored for oh so much! It's from 4-7:30pm at Visitor's Center, 26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. (See story pg 1) Details at: www.SAMOfund.org



Condor Call

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller



Sea sanctuary needs support

To better protect our Pacific Coast, please sign the petition to create the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in an area ranging from Santa Barbara to Cambria.

Despite an unfriendly Administration, our local House Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-24) will ask the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to begin the designation process and he needs to show overwhelming public support. Sign and learn more at: ChumashSanctuary.org



Trump's Imperial Secretary has his own Coin of the Realm.

SIGHTINGS

We act, learn & lobby

By John Hankins

Lots of action by our chapter members in the last two months, and yet we've been able to have fun outside on the trails. While the national scene is trumped up and out, take a nature break; by yourself, with friends or join our free outings (pgs 6 & 7).

March 30: **SCAPE artists** were the heart of the sixth annual benefit art exhibition showcasing the stunning Gaviota Coast at the Bacara Resort at Ellwood. The successful event benefits the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Naples Coalition, in which the Los Padres Chapter is a proud partner.

March 19: **Wildlife Liberty!** Los Padres Chapter puts its money where its mouth is, in this case a \$500 check delivered by our Chair Jim Hines to Santa Monica Mountains Fund executive director Charlotte Parry at the Liberty Canyon site where a unique wildlife overpass is planned over the very busy 8-lane 101 freeway in Agoura Hills. (See story pg 1)

March 16: **Award-winning film**, "Gaviota: The end of Southern California" was shown at the Arguello Group's program about our beloved Gaviota Coast. It debuted at the SB Film Festival Feb 2017 to a packed audience. "The message that we need to save this land in its current state is absolutely clear and persuasive," said Arguello's Janet Blevins. If you missed it, other showings are posted at: www.GaviotaMovie.com

March 15: **Clean Energy 805** movement duplicated its workshop in Ventura, see March 13 item for details.

March 13: **Condor Trail** co-founder Chris Danch spoke at the

Ventura Sierra Club's Educational Series held at Foster Library in Ventura. Danch related the dream of completing the 421-mile trail that will ultimately connect the North and South portions of the LP National Forest. (see story pg 5)

March 13: **Clean Energy 805** movement had a workshop in Santa Barbara to answer SoCal Edison's challenge for renewable energy, especially to businesses and landowners asking if their sites could host solar panels, battery storage or other projects. CE-805 is a coalition of non-profits, including the Sierra Club, CEC, LACI, CAUSE and World Business Academy.

March 10: **John Muir showed up** played by an actor, then he went



WBC feature made the Time Out cover of Ventura County Star Jan 26.

sauntering away, leaving us with his inspirational messages: "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

March 4: **Sespe Cienega Trail Build** took place after an intro tour at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery. The new trail and plants might seem mini to start but are growing in the eyes of the community. Loads of families, company eco clubs and club regulars have been making this native plant area a reality.



Los Padres Chapter ExCom voted to donate \$500 towards the construction of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass going above the busy 101 freeway in the Agoura Hills area. It was officially presented by our chair, Jim Hines, to Santa Monica Fund executive director Charlotte Parry at the Liberty Canyon site. "This is an exciting project, long overdue, which when constructed will allow safe passage of mountain lions and other large mammals who currently use the very busy 8-lane 101 freeway as they migrate from the inland mountains of the Los Padres and Simi Hills to the coastal; Santa Monica Mountains," Hines said. (Photo contributed)

March 3-8: "**I am exhausted,**" said our Chair Jim Hines after spending six days in Washington meeting with nearly 100 people in the House and Senate on behalf of the club's Protect Wild Utah campaign. His take-away? "Not all is well on Capitol Hill for America's national public lands." (See story on pg 1)

Feb 26: **Clean Power Alliance** at Ventura City Council where the members agreed to join with LA and many other southland areas to gain local control over our power sources. Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza and Climate Hub member Jan Dietrick, among other clubbers, were there to advocate. (See stories pages 2 & 5)

Feb 21: **Search and Rescue** letter received from the Upper Ojai SAR, thanking our Wilderness Basics Course for donating money to them, notably for "significant losses as a result of the Thomas Fire" to replace equipment. WBC also donated to other SARs, among others (see story pg 1).

Feb 13: **No to offshore oil** was the bottom line at the Main Library in Santa Barbara during an educational session on how to protect our coast from Trump Administration's push for new oil projects off California's coast. Sierra Club was a key organizer of the event that included elected officials, EDC, Get Oil Out! among many others.

Feb 9: **South Korea** travels by

Santa Barbara hike leader Robert Bernstein was held at the Valle Verde Retirement Center. He's back to continue sharing his adventurous wanderings on local trails.

Feb 8: **Offshore oil lease** proposals by Trump Administration was monitored by the Environmental Defense Center in Sacramento during a hearing. EDC lead attorney Linda Krop and Kristen Hislop, its Marine Conservation director were there to carry out message of no more offshore oil. Our chapter chipped in funds for the trip. For details, go to: www.boem.gov/National-OCS-Program

Feb 7: **Record enrollment** at our annual Wilderness Basics Course, moved to Poinsettia Pavilion to handle the 65 enrollees. The room was filled with positive vibes for interactive lectures, small group break-outs and skits that allowed everyone to learn about what to bring on your next hike to enjoy nature in a safe way.

Feb 5: **Santa Clara River Loop Trail**, a 3-yr public school field trip series to the Estuary and more are being sought by the newly formed Santa Clara River Recreation-Education-Outreach (REO) subgroup of the Watershed Coalition Ventura County. Nina Danza founded and co-chairs the group with a county staffer and aims to build a portfolio of in-the-ground and on-the-books projects for the area.

Dreary DC...

continued from page 1

and lands which provide outdoor recreation and learning opportunities for millions.

The anti-national public lands members of Congress (now in full control) are using their newly gained power to destroy all that America values. You can repeal a past action (such as health care etc.) that in the future can be undone, and you can rebuild a government building or department.

But when you destroy the north rim of the Grand Canyon (uranium mining), Zion National; Park (oil drilling), Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (oil drilling) and other national public lands and waters you can't just go down to the local home improvement store to rebuild our public land.

This was my fourth trip to DC in the past 12 months and I am planning my next trip to continue this advocacy, which we cannot give up.

~Postscript: In December, Mr. Trump signed an executive order dramatically reducing the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, marking the first time in American history a president took such action. The issue is now being challenged in the courts.

To add insult to injury, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke flies his own flag when he's "in residence" at Interior and has commissioned his own coin to hand out to friends.

Yay, Earth Days on April 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28

Earth Day is Every Day to the Sierra Club, but we love to celebrate and support the festivals in our Ventura and Santa Barbara region. The official theme of the National Earth Day is to End Plastic Pollution, and the official date is April 22, but local events can have their own themes and dates. For literally a world view of Earth Day events, go to: www.EarthDay.org

Sierra Club will have booths and even EV cars at most of the celebrations. Please stop by for updates on critical issues and what you can do about them.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

~ **Santa Barbara** Earth Day Saturday and Sunday April 21 (11am-8pm) & 22 (11am - 6pm), is a 2-day inspirational extravaganza since 1970 at Alameda Park, 1400 Santa Barbara St. **Highlights:** Everything! ... like more than 250 green vendors, largest Green Car Show on the West Coast and EV bikes and cars with free rides and drives, Environmental Hero, activism projects, educational stewardships, Zero Waste Zone, sustainable Food Court, Farm-to-Table dinner, Eco-Marketplace etc.

This is our region's oldest and most creative event sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. So much going in we can't list them all, so just go there or here: www.SBearthday.org

~ **Santa Maria's** event is special this year from 11am-3pm April 21, run by the Natural History Museum having its Grand Reopening, 412 S McClelland St. It combines Earth Day with a spring boutique, magic show, nature presentations, vendors and wolves from Project Wildsong. Get more details at: www.SMNature.org

~ **Buellton** (covering the whole Santa Ynez Valley) has an event from noon to 4pm on April 22 at the Standing Sun Winery, 92 2nd St. It's sponsored by the Santa Ynez Valley Community Action Alliance and Wild Ideas LLC. Sierra Club will be present and so will local vendors, food, kid-friendly activities. Want to participate? Call Stacey at (415) 606-7756.

VENTURA COUNTY

~ **Ventura** Ecofest April 21 has a new location this year at downtown's Plaza Park (5th and C Streets) from 11am-3pm. See about a hundred exhibits, vendors and enjoy music, food and a Green Auto Expo. Sierra Club will have a big presence and hand in the EV displays.

Ventura Sierra Club will also have a presence at Earth Days celebrated at local schools; they include Fri 4/20 12:20-1:05 Adolpho Camarillo HS from 12:20-1pm on Friday, April 20 and Moorpark College 11am to 2pm Monday, April 23. More detail at: www.venturaearthday.org

~ **Oxnard** city sponsors Earth day from 11am to 3pm April 14, Downtown Plaza Park featuring live music, displays, food, family activities and has this theme: #TheTimelsNow. Sierra Club will have a presence there.

~ **Thousand Oaks** combines Earth Day with Arbor Day from 9am to 5pm on April 28 at the Grant Brimhall Library, 1401 E Janss Rd. Features EV cars, films, kids show, displays, free hands-on workshops and presentations. Subject experts and staff will be on hand to answer sustainability-related questions. A full day of programs, get details at: www.toaks.org

~ **Ojai** 11am-4pm April 21, for the first time ever in the history of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, it will take place in Libbey Park, 210 S Signal St. There will be speakers and tables (Sierra Club!), EV cars, vendors, educational displays and family friendly activities. Because of the devastating Thomas Fire, it will feature restoring our burned landscapes properly, fire-proof building structures, helping the victims. Details at: www.ojaiearthday.org

~ **Fillmore's** First Earth Day! From 11am-3pm April 22 at Central Park Plaza, 250 Central Ave. City sponsored, with food trucks, live bands, activities for kids, community displays. Sierra Club booth will highlight the Santa Clara River. Come say hi.

~ Compiled by Condor John



Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ ExCom meets 7pm on 4th Thursday of every month, either at the Carpinteria IHOP or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ Usually meets at 11:30am on first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at: www.SBSierraClub.org www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

ARGUELLO GROUP

NOW ON FACEBOOK; keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: <http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup>
 ~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3rd Friday at (new location) Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 3346 Constellation Rd. at 7pm; 6pm if a potluck. Need a ride or offer a carpool? Get ahold of Janet Blevins: 717-4160 or janro48@gmail.com
 ~ Volunteers needed for hikes and/or issues; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or: RebeccaAugust@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group: <http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>
 ~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura
 ~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at Ventura Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave, 7-8:30pm. STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change: sierraclubventura@gmail.com

CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

OUR WILD & WONDERFUL LOOONG TRAILS



A tale of two maps: Top map shows the 3 long trails that wander from Ventura to Guadalupe. They are (from bottom) Anza Trail corridor (yellow, follows coast), Cal Coastal Trail (blue, goes inland through Lompoc) and Cal Mission Trail (red, goes from Ventura Mission, inland to Santa Ynez Valley to SLO). Below is the Backbone Trail from Will Rogers State Park through Santa Monica Mountains and onto Pt. Mugu State Park to the beach.



Follow Chumash steps

By Martha Sadler

Most people are unaware that three long-distance trails run through Santa Barbara County, originally used by the Chumash, linking each village to the next.

The Anza, Mission, and California Coastal trails are along the bluffs and in the foothills, reaching from Ventura to San Luis Obispo County, on routes that converge and diverge. These trails were also used by the Spanish in the 1770s.

In this century, these routes have been through-hiked, or ridden on horseback, by the very few who have been able to find and follow the segments that are open to the public. Highways, streets, and private property – including Vandenberg Air Force Base – of course overlay many parts of the original trails.

The Santa Barbara Trails Council wants to increase public appreciation and awareness of these ancient and historic trails. In January, the Council’s Mark Wilkinson summoned a roomful of luminaries to talk for two hours about “Wayfinding for Long Distance Trails.”

Members of the Barbareño Band of Chumash were present, as were representatives from city planning departments, trails foundations, conservancies, the Old Mission, the SB Land Trust, UCSB, Sierra Club, and more. Supervisor Joan Hartmann waxed enthusiastic about long-distance trails not only as a health boon, but as an attraction for tourists, and for North County employees seeking an active outdoor lifestyle. People pointed to the motel and restaurant economy built around

the Camino de Santiago in Spain as a positive model for this project.

Signage – wayfinding – was the main topic of the day. One challenge was how to make the long-distance trail signs consistent while respecting local signage styles. Also, how to incorporate jurisdictional and local-trail identifiers, organizational logos, trail-usage rules, and interpretive information – all without creating clutter. No decisions were made, but Wilkinson showed numerous examples from other long-distance trails.

The group also talked about developing interpretive content for kiosks, for online apps, and for a possible Outdoor Culture Museum – that name suggested by the Chumash.

There is a ways to go to on this project. Outstanding questions include how to accommodate hikers, bikers, and horses as more people are encouraged to use the trails. And, no financing has yet been secured, though there was a strong consensus favoring emphasis on interpretive content, which has the added benefit that there are pots of grant money available for education in the natural environment.

Since that January meeting, Wilkinson and the National Park Service’s Sally Sheridan are working with various parties to figure out the best routes – including the choice of streets upon which to direct trail-followers through developed areas – and where to place signage.

For details or to get involved, go to: <https://sbtrails.org>

Sierra Club hiking bits of Backbone Trail

You too can join in hiking portions of the spectacular Backbone Trail now ongoing by our Chapter’s Wilderness Basics Course leaders, with the third segment coming up on

April 13 – see the Outings list for up to the seventh segment on May 25.

Or go by yourself and others on this amazing 67-mile trail that “crosses the best protected stretch of coastal

Mediterranean habitat in the world: deep wooded canyons, rocky outcrop spires, ocean vistas and mountain views.” Just type in “Backbone Trail” at: www.nps.gov/samo



Data supplied by the AllTrails app shows our Sierra Club hikers on a Backbone Trail segment in a modern update to the phrase, “You can Hike but you can’t Hide”. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka)

Learn about waterways along the way

By Adrienne Stephens

“A River Runs Through It - the Beauty, Benefits and Importance of Ventura County’s Waterways,” is a special public presentation sponsored by the Ventura Land Trust, and the speaker is Jim Danza, an assistant professor at Oxnard College.

But that’s not all, Jim is a Sierra Club member and half of a dynamic eco-duo of Jim and Nina Danza; Nina is Chair of Ventura Sierra Club and Jim is involved in the chapter’s Wilderness Basics Course.

The event is at 7pm Thursday April 19, at the Poinsettia Pavilion,

3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura. It’s the 2nd installment of the Land Trust’s 2018 Environmental Speaker Series.

Prof. Danza will highlight the importance of understanding, appreciating and protecting Ventura County’s waterways, especially since we are in Year Six of an extended drought. Covered will be conservation, the importance of flood plains, the need for urban planning along watersheds, the wildlife/urban interface and the Trust’s ongoing restoration work along the Ventura River.

“I have spent the past 35 years advocating for the protection of rivers and watersheds,” said Danza. “In the past, we have been careless with this vital resource.”

Our waterways supply water for drinking, growing crops, manufacturing, and energy. They also help reduce erosion and provide natural protection from flooding.

The Speaker Series is one of many ways the Land Trust educates the public about important environmental topics. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be collected to go toward restoration work at the Big Rock Preserve. Space is limited, and reservations are highly encouraged. RSVP to:

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaRivers>

There are many more public educational, conservation and fun events sponsored by the Land Trust. Tap into its resources at: www.VenturaLandTrust.org



Sierra Club is hiking the Backbone Trail in segments now; join us (see Outings or call 746-6030). Hikers at sign are: Suzanne Tanaka, Irene Rauschenberger, Philip Clarke, Lora Clarke, Jessica, Eugene Babcock and ‘Skip’. (Photo by Nina Danza)



“Driftwood,” a painting by Kevin Gleason, shows an artist’s conception of what it’s like to be on our California Coastal Trail. This just one of 150 images displayed for sale at the “Visions of the Gaviota Coast” annual fundraiser March 30-31 at the Bacara Resort for the Naples Coalition and Gaviota Coast Conservancy, featuring photographers and the famed SCAPE artists. If you missed it, the Coalition or Conservancy are happy to receive a donation.

Condor Trail a work in progress

By John Hankins

The dream of completing the 421-mile Condor Trail that will ultimately connect the north and south portions of the Los Padres National Forest is still very much in the works, according to co-founder Chris Danch.

Danch told the story of at least two decades of work creating the trail to an audience that was awed and impressed at the Ventura Sierra

Club's Educational Series held at Foster Library in Ventura on March 13. He urged the public to get involved to complete the vision.

While hikers have done large chunks of the trail over the years, no one had ever hiked its entire length, until 2015 when Brittany Nielson became the first one to finish from Lake Piru to Bottcher's Gap; that's from the LA-Ventura County line through to Monterey

County. She solo-hiked the trail and finished in 37 days.

Danch said the trail "passes through some of the most spectacular, rugged and remote wild areas of the state," from sea level to 8,000 feet high. "It is one of most biological diverse ecosystems in the world with over 500 plant and animal species," he noted.

There's oak and pinyon juniper woodlands, old growth redwoods, conifer forests and grasslands containing about 40 endangered and threatened species of plants and animals.

The benefits are clear and include: "clean drinking water to millions of people and wildlife, improving public access to wilderness, educating and inspiring future generation, and providing a foundation for a forest-wide trail system planning." There's problems, too, such as lack of funding by the Forest Service, invasive species, the need to rehabilitate numerous trails and create connections "all amidst increasing demand for forest recreation," he told the audience.

Missed the presentation? Get connected here:

- www.CondorTrail.com
- www.lpforest.org
- www.hikelospadres.com



Morro Bay is where the California Coastal and Condor trails get lovingly close, later co-located up the road a piece at Cambria. It's where CCT hikers MoJo met Condor Trail co-founder Chris Danch for a joint hike-along. They are (from left) Morgan Visalli (Mo), Jocelyn Enevoldsen (Jo), Angie Genasci and Danch. (Photo courtesy MoJo)

CAL COAST TRAIL

Within scent of the sea

Imagine, rambling the whole 1,200 miles of the California Coastal Trail, from the Oregon to Mexican borders over 96 days, experiencing a dream that started in 1972 for a continuous system of trails along or near the state's long, diverse and surprising coast.

Two years ago, Mo (Morgan Visali) and Jo (Jocelyn Enevoldsen) hiked the CCT to help raise awareness about the trail. The team, MoJo Coastwalk, and their support manager, Alisan Amrhein, started at Oregon border in May, and arrived at the Mexican border in August.

Now they will share that great adventure for free at 5:30pm Tuesday, May 8 at the Foster Library in Ventura, 651 E. Main St., sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club. Photos, stories, delights and

marvels await.

"It is a legacy in the making, connecting trails and communities all along the California coastline: a profound vision that we can only achieve together," MoJo wrote on their blog:

www.MoJoCoastwalk.com

The California Coastal Conservancy started the dream in '72. It is not yet formally finished as "it consists of different, and roughly parallel trails that accommodate the needs of varying visitors; beach walkers, bicyclists and equestrians."

Though the paths may not all be physically connected, whenever possible all trails will be, "within sight, sound or at least the scent of the sea," the Conservancy said.

VAFB? Detour!



The MoJo hikers posing by a California Coastal Trail logo, this one in Crescent City. They'll tell you about it in photos and anecdotes at a Ventura Sierra Club program May 8 (see graphic below). The hikers are Jocelyn Enevoldsen (Jo) and Morgan Visalli (Mo). (Photo courtesy MoJo)

We can now choose energy sources

By Mike Stubblefield

Three investor-owned for-profit utility corporations generate 75% of California's electricity; the other 25% is generated by public (municipal) utilities and, until recently, their sources included coal, natural gas and nuclear.

There's a better way, and that's Community Choice Energy (CCE), which Ventura county and most of its cities recently joined.

The coal-fired plants are all gone and all but two nuclear plants are decommissioned. Most plants are now powered by natural gas, which still have significant emissions. But because the investors, not the consumers, decide the method of powering energy plants, they typically chose the least expensive means, which is mostly natural gas which, while neither as dirty as coal nor as dangerous as nuclear, is nevertheless a fossil fuel which will eventually run out. In other words, consumers have little say with respect to how the electricity they consume is generated.

That's changing now because of the Community Choice Energy concept, which is a hybrid between a public agency and a private utility. The new paradigm is, of course, renewables like solar, wind, storage batteries, etc.

But investors have been reluctant to invest in these new technologies if the existing power grid still has some useful service life before it must be decommissioned. In the meantime, of course, prolonging the current power grid will only produce more emissions that make it difficult to clean up our air quality to a healthy level.

CCE is sweeping the nation because of consumer response to this situation. It's not an "us vs. them," "liberal vs. conservative," "Democrat vs. Republican" issue. At a CCE workshop in

Los Angeles a couple years ago, the Republican mayor of Lancaster described how he and his all-Republican city council colleagues set up Lancaster's CCE in a matter of months!

When a city, town and/or some combination of communities, decide to set up their own, it operates like a "co-op" that can offer local citizens a choice of how much of the electricity that they consume is generated responsibly, i.e. solar, wind, etc. Some consumers simply opt for 100% renewables, even if they must pay a little bit more for it. Others might opt for a mix of renewables and non-renewables, depending on their budget.

The obvious difference between purchasing electricity through a local CCE versus buying it from Edison (in our case) that the consumer decides, not the energy company.

Of course, Edison controls the physical distribution grid, and must answer to its investors. While it may lose business to CCE programs, if it wishes to stay in business as a partner, it will have no choice but to also provide renewably generated electricity.

Clean up Act

The Sierra Club was instrumental in getting the Buy Clean California Act written and passed (AB 262 – Bonta) and Gov. Brown has signed it.

Now the real work begins to implement a bill that encourages state and local governments to ensure key materials to build infrastructure projects are supplied by firms who have invested in clean energies and technologies.

Sierra Club California is looking for volunteers in chapters and groups to ensure it happens at the local level. To find out more or sign on, send an email to:

Molly.Culton@SierraClub.org

That is why Community Choice is literally sweeping the nation!

In California, there is a group that represents the interests of CCE providers in the legislature and at regulatory agencies:

<https://cal-cca.org>
If you have questions about our local CCE, contact me at 216-2630 or: motodata@roadrunner.com

EAVESDROPS

"This is news only because Trump couldn't censor it."

~ Responding to a government report by NOAA and NASA that asserts that human activities are the "extremely likely" cause of global warming, noted Peter Gleick of the Nat'l Academies of Science. Some Senators have officially challenged Trump to address how the administration will address those findings.

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Venture(a) Out in the County
a Sierra Club Educational Series

Tuesday May 8, @5:30-7pm
EP Foster Library Topping Room
(651 E. Main St., Ventura FREE PARKING IN REAR)

Speakers:
Morgan Visalli
Jocelyn Enevoldsen

Oregon to Mexico in 96 Days!
A California Coast Trail Thru-Hike

FREE ADMISSION
Info: SierraClubVentura@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY
Ventura County Library
SIERRA CLUB

Future Dates May 8, July 10, Sept 11, Nov 13



Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

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 listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated online listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites (See Meetups box below).

Key to outing locations:

- AR – Arguello Group (Northern SB County)
- SB – Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)
- VEN – Ventura Network (Northern Ventura County)
- CJ – Conejo Group (Southern Ventura County)

SPECIAL NOTE: Santa Barbara Group hikes listed here are limited. Many SB & Montecito front country trails have been closed due damage done by the Thomas Fire and the tragic floods/mudflows in the Montecito area. For latest info about club hikes, go to: <https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org> www.SierraClub.org/Los-Padres/Santa-Barbara

April 7
GAVIOTA STATE PARK LOOP: A 4 mrt moderate hike in the Northwestern section of the park with great views of the eastern section and the Hollister Ranch. We'll include the Yucca, Hollister and the newly re-opened Woodland Trail. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

Conditions

A number of campgrounds and roads in Los Padres National Forest are closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats and species or are under repair. Before you go into the local backcountry, it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted all are area code 805):

Los Padres National Forest Districts	
Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538
Other Areas	
Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Conejo Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Notes

For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info

There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:

- <http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>
- www.SBSierraClub.org
- www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
- www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
- www.LPForest.org
- www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

SANTA CLARA RIVER TRAIL WORK: 9am-noon. Trail clearing, plant care, invasive eradication is happening at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) in April! HRNA is part of hundreds of acres being restored into riparian (streamside) and endangered species habitat along the Santa Clara River. Definitely successful because the mountain lion prints, coyote scat and songbird calls prove it! Volunteers will work under the direction of UCSB and alongside Friends of the Santa Clara River and Ventura Audubon. Wear heavy shoes and long pants. Please protect yourself from MUD, THORNS, POISON OAK!! Bring water and snacks. It can get hot and dirty! Family friendly. Kids with parent or adult please. No pets please. 8:30am Welcome Club - Hot tea and energy bars with a walk and talk to learn about HRNA and the larger Santa Clara River projects in progress. 9am-noon. Worktime. Tools and gloves provided. Directions to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) 20395 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula, exit 10th St. and turn left (go under freeway), quick right turn on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (over Santa Clara River on bridge), go 3.7 mi to 20395 S. Mountain Rd, look for the banner 'Santa Clara River Event' and turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). PLS DRIVE SLOWLY ON FARM ROAD to prevent dust damage to crops. Rain cancels. RSVP requested!! Nina sierraclubventura@gmail.com. (VEN)

OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 6 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Potrero Road Trailhead at intersection of Wendy Drive in Newbury Park at 8:30am. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

April 8
CHORRO GRANDE: Strenuous 10 mrt hike with 3200' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. The hike starts at 4000' and climbs steadily for 5 miles to 7200', ending up on the Pine Mountain Ridge near Reyes Campground. Wear hiking shoes/boot, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. The weather can vary greatly during the course of the hike, so check out the forecast here: <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-119.31059&lat=34.63590> and bring layers accordingly. Meet at 8:30am at the Ventura carpool lot (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 8am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

FIGUEROA FLOWER SHOW - April is flower time! This moderately paced 4-5mi loop hike with under 1500' gain will be along various trail segments in the Figueroa Mt recreation area offering a beautiful mixture of conifer forest and wild flower viewing. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen,

bug dope, and sturdy shoes. 1 hr commute to trailhead. Late afternoon return. Rain cancels. Call Leader for details. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 967-8770, leave msg. (SB)

April 9
WALK IN THE VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE FROM THE RIVER VIEW TRAILHEAD: Meet at Ventura carpool 8:30 (Ventura car pool is at the parking lot facing Harbor Blvd between Chase bank and Carrows at the corner of Harbor Blvd and Seaward in Ventura) to carpool to the River View trail head. OR meet at 9am at the River View Trail Head (just North of the intersection of S Rice Rd and W Lomita Ave - across from the stables). We will walk up Wills Cyn trail, down the Chaparral Crest trail, across the Fern Grotto trail before returning to the TH via Wills Canyon. This is one of our longest and more ambitious hikes, 6.5 miles. This is an all dirt trail with some river crossings so come prepared with sturdy hiking shoes and poles. Water and maybe a snack is a good idea too. Some of us will do coffee in Meiners Oaks after the hike. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

April 12
SECRET TRAIL to CALABASAS PEAK: Moderate 4.8 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am. From the 101 Fwy, head south on Las Virgenes Road to Mulholland Hwy. Turn left on Mulholland Hwy. and continue 5.7 miles to a small dirt parking lot on the right. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

April 13
HIKE BACKBONE TRAIL Part 3: Triunfo Pass to Encinal. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The third section (moderate) starts at Triunfo Pass, and we will have spectacular views of Sandstone Peak, the Pacific Ocean, Catalina and the Channel Islands visible if it's clear. 10 miles with an elevation gain of 1,125 ft. and loss of 1,564 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. We will meet at Encinal Cyn trailhead at 9am. From here we will shuttle to Triunfo Pass trailhead. Directions: From PCH heading south, pass Decker Rd, take Encinal Canyon Rd north for 5 miles, turn right to stay on Encinal for 1.1 miles. Park in the large dirt parking lot on left. From the 101, exit at Kanan Rd, head south for 6.2 miles, turn right onto Mulholland. In another mile, bear left onto Encinal Canyon Rd. In 2.5 miles park in the large dirt parking lot on right. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030 or SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org. (VEN)

LOWER NEWTON CANYON - BUZZARD'S ROOST: Moderate 8 mrt hike with 1,860'

elev. gain with beautiful ocean view. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at trailhead off Kanan Road before third tunnel at 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

April 14
BIRABENT CANYON: Birabent Trail is near Tunnel Road off Figueroa Mountain Road. Hike down into canyon and down the creek a ways on primitive trail, and return. If we have not missed the height of the flower season, we may swing by to see the poppy hill. Moderately-strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

BACKBONE TRAIL HIKE #2: Big Sycamore Cyn to Triunfo Pass. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The second section (strenuous) starts at the Sycamore



Hey there! Mission Ridge trail is open after the December rains and January mudslides, but so many trails in the Montecito area are closed along with many in the Los Padres National Forest. This is a reminder to check first before going see the "Conditions" contacts and Sierra Club links in column one on this page. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Cyn Campground day use parking area, where we walk up Sycamore Cyn, among oak, sycamore and walnut trees to Danielson Ranch, and then ascend Sandstone Peak via the Blue Canyon and Chamberlain trails, before ending at the Yerba Buena trailhead. Sandstone Peak is the highest point in the national park and has incredible views in every direction. 13.3 miles with an elevation gain of 3,134 ft. and a loss of 850 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Meet at the Yerba Buena trailhead parking area at 7:30am to leave cars for shuttle back to Sycamore Canyon. People leaving cars at Sycamore Canyon will need to pay to park in lot or use senior State Park access pass. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. For more info, contact ANNETTE at 402-4966, apz107@gmail.com or GINA at 415-7366. (VEN)

LOS ROBLES TRAIL from Newbury Park to S. Moorpark Road: Moderately paced 7 mrt hike with car shuttle. Bring water, lunch and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in parking lot at the south end of Moorpark Road for car shuttle, near the trailhead to which we will return. We will arrange carpools to the start of the hike on Los Robles Trail off Potrero Road 0.2 miles east of Wendy Drive. This is a good chance to stretch your legs without having to climb a mountain. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442. (CJ)

April 15
SAN MARCOS FOOTHILLS PRESERVE: This easy, nearly level 3-4 mi half day hike meanders across a wide open plateau with some of the best views of the South Coast front country mountains and islands.. Rain, or wet trails, cancels. Call leader if in doubt. Water, sunscreen, and stable footwear advised. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 967-8770, leave msg. (SB)

OUTINGS NEEDED: Get your Jun-Sep outings to your Group outings chair soon. Be sure to include the first week of October in your schedule.

April 16
ALL DAY SANTA BARBARA ALICE KECK

PARK & SANTA BARBARA MISSION: This all day adventure will begin with an early morning VISTA bus ride from Ventura to Santa Barbara getting off near the SB City Hall. Then we walk north to the Alice Keck Park, where we wander around for a while to enjoy its gardens. Then we continue our walk up to the Santa Barbara mission to explore the mission and its grounds. Then you can eat your sack lunch and drink the beverage you brought before walking back into town and taking the bus back to Ventura. Email PHILIP at twoonthree@gmail.com for bus information. (VEN)

April 19
SANTA ROSA TRAIL - WILDWOOD PARK: Moderate 4.6 mrt hike with 650' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the west end of Avenida de Los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

April 20
MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 7-8 mrt hike. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. Take Kanan, turn left at Cornell, cross Mulholland, quick left into parking lot. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

April 21
LIZARD'S MOUTH: Have fun exploring this popular spot! Beautiful rock formations and wind caves are a pleasure to enjoy! Short Easy hike with some boulder hopping. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283/event@swt.org (SB)

April 22
ARROYO HONDO PRESERVE is about 23 miles north of Santa Barbara. First from the parking area, easy walk along the creek on the CREEK SIDE TRAIL (1 m?) Then up and down the strenuous UPPER OUTLAW TAIL (a 3 m loop?, spectacular view, interesting sandstone formations). Rest on top, back down, we can complete the pretty last upper part of the CREEK SIDE TRAIL (two easy crossings) may be see trout and turtles. Finally, to return to the parking area, we can either continue along the creek or go up and down the WEST RIDGE TRAIL for more view and work out. Anyway, we should see a variety of trees and flowers. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 708 5877 (SB)

April 23
OJAI TOWN LOOP UP TO SHELF RD AND BACK: Meet at the Ventura carpool at 8:30am OR 9am arrive at the Ojai's Sunday Farmer's Market parking lot (300 E. Matilija St, Ojai). We start in the parking lot on E Matilija St and from there, walk uphill on Signal St until we get to get to the gate on the Shelf fire road. From the gate we walk Shelf Rd across Ojai Valley to Gridley R, then down Gridley to Grand Ave. Turn right on Grand to Montgomery St, then left back into town on Montgomery, eventually turning right on E Matilija to the parking lot where we started the walk. This mixed sidewalk and fire road loop walk is

continued next page

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

Santa Barbara

Meetup site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara

Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day.

Wednesday night: Strenuous conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Laguna and Los Olivos St.

Friday evening social hike for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mrt evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight, optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)

Saturday and Sunday hikes: Usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State Street. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/SB-Hikes>

Ventura

Meetup group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get going on intermediate half or whole day hikes, or make new friendships on overnight backpacks. Just go to: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

Every Monday morning, Easy Walks: Join the Ventura Sierra Club at 9am every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks-hikes in the Ventura county area. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two to three hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Philip 218-2103 or Lora 218-2105.

JOIN THE CLUB • ONLY \$15 • GET A FIELD BAG • SIERRACLUB.ORG

Outings...from page 6

just under 5 miles long. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring some water. Those who want to can stop for coffee after the walk at a local eatery/coffee shop. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

April 27

HIKE BACKBONE TRAIL Part 4: Encinal to Latigo. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. On the fourth section, (moderate) we'll start at the Encinal Cyn Rd trailhead parking area and pass through Trances Cyn, Upper Zuma Cyn and Newton Cyn, before ending at the Latigo Cyn Rd trailhead. 7.2 miles with an elevation gain of 1,156 ft. and loss of 300 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. We will meet at Latigo Cyn Rd trailhead at 9am. From here we will shuttle to Encinal Cyn trailhead. Directions: From PCH, head north on Latigo Cyn Rd and take it for 7.2 miles. Park in the large dirt parking lot to the right of the road about .4 miles past mile marker 3.66 (and before mile marker 3.02). From Hwy101, exit at Kanan Rd and take it south for 6.6 miles. Half a mile after crossing Mulholland Hwy, turn left onto Latigo Cyn Rd and continue south for another 3 miles. Shortly after passing mile marker 3.02, park in the large dirt parking lot to the left. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030 or SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org. (VEN)

POINT DUME TO PARADISE COVE BEACH WALK - ZUMA BEACH: Join us for a peaceful walk along the waters' edge and to Paradise Cove (tide permitting). Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at beach at 8:30am. Tide at 9am 2.2 feet increasing; at 11am 2.8 feet increasing. Take Kanan to PCH, turn right to Westward Beach Road, drive down to end and meet across from Sunset Restaurant. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

April 28

COLD SPRINGS TO LITTLE CALIENTE HOT SPRINGS: Hike down Cold Springs Trail from E. Camino Cielo past Forbush Flat. Hike by a natural spring, across the Santa Ynez River, and through Mono Campground to Little Caliente Hot Springs. Bring swim suit and towel for dip in spring. Strenuous 12 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

April 29

HORSESHOE BEND: Moderate 9 mrt with 300 loss/gain. Our hike in the San Rafael Wilderness will pass through lovely areas of oak woodlands and riparian habitats, with valleys that open out into beautiful meadows and grasslands. We will stop for lunch at a lovely swimming hole and then head back the way we came. There will be many shallow creek crossings so it's best to wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Intermediate hikers or beginners with cardio conditioning welcome, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring two liters of water, snacks, and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

FOSSIL TRAIL: SATWIWA NATURAL AREA, SANTA MONICA MTNS. NATL RECREATION AREA & POINT MUGU STATE PARK: 6.1 mile hike. Start in the Parking Lot, climb toward Boney Mtn. then to Fossil Trail and down to road. Strenuous hike and terrain, but easy pace. Bring 10 essentials plus food and water and hiking shoes. Turn off Lynn Road at Via Goleta, Newbury Park at 10am. Meet in the parking lot by the bathroom. Rain or 85 degree forecast cancels. KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (VEN)

April 30

COZY DELL 4-mile (or more?) out and back hike: Meet at Ventura carpool at 8:30am OR at the Cozy Dell trailhead (TH) on Hwy 33, also called Maricopa Hwy, in Ojai at 9am. (Park in dirt parking area across from TH, approximately 8 miles north of Ojai near 14800 Maricopa Hwy). We will start up the Cozy Dell trail until it arrives at Cozy Dell canyon at the Pratt Trail junction (2 miles, and 2 hill climbs!). If the group is up for it we can continue up the Pratt Trail to the

next junction. This trail hike has possibilities based on who shows, that day's weather and trail conditions. This can be as short as a four mile hike out and back OR up to 8 miles total walking some of the Pratt Trail. We will hike through many environmental zones, with lots of spring flowers to see and smell. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and hiking poles. Those that want to can enjoy coffee after at Hill of Beans. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

May 3

ROSEWOOD TRAIL: Moderate 3.5 mrt, with option for 5 mrt, 700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Looking for poppy blooms. Meet at 8am in the Regal Oak cul-de-sac next to the trailhead. From the 101 Fwy. take Lynn Road west past Ventu Park Road to the next left at Regal Oak. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

May 4

HIKE BACKBONE TRAIL Part 5: Latigo to Tapia. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The fifth section (moderate) starts at the Latigo Cyn Rd trailhead parking area, where we hike through Mesa Peak Motorway and Castro Crest, before ending at Tapia trailhead. 9.5 miles with an elevation gain of 1,572 ft. and loss of 1,790 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. We will meet at Tapia trailhead at 9:30am. From here, we will shuttle to Latigo Canyon trailhead. Directions: From the 101 South, exit Lost Hills Rd for 1.1 miles, turn right onto Las Virgenes Rd for 3.3 miles, continue onto Malibu Cyn Rd for 0.2 miles,

EAVESDROPS

**"So nice for good news!!!
One less brick to bang my head against."**

~ Nina Danza sharing a VC Star story headlined: **"VC study finds wild birds protect flood structures better than poisons."** Nina is the Ventura Sierra Club's chair and trained as a flood control engineer. "Now if only the county learned that PAVING levees is another bad answer!" she posted.

at 220 feet turn right onto Tapia Trailhead parking lot. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030 or SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org. (VEN)

OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1,000' elev. gain. Visit waterfall. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at the end of Wendy Road in Newbury Park at Potrero Road Trailhead in Newbury Park not later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

May 6

BEARTRAP AND BEYOND: Strenuous 15 to 18 mrt depending on how far we go. Long carpool to Reyes Creek Trailhead (elevation 3960') in Lockwood Valley. From here, we'll hike for 3 miles to Upper Reyes camp, then follow Reyes Creek for 2 miles to Beartrap camp, nestled amongst Pine trees, gaining 1700 feet and losing 550 feet along the way, with a few steep sections thrown in. From Beartrap Camp we'll follow Beartrap Creek in a nicely shaded creek bed for 2.5 miles, gaining about 700 feet over moderate terrain. At this point, we will either turn around making for a 15 mile round trip hike or continue on for another mile or so to Haddock Camp, making a very steep 500 foot climb over 1/2 mile along the way. Wear hiking shoes/boot, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. Meet at 8:30am at the Ventura carpool lot (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 8am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

May 7

HILL CANYON TO WESTERN PLATEAU TO ELLIOTT PEAK: Meet at 8:30am at Ventura carpool OR at 9:15am at Hill Cyn Rd parking lot (located just south of Santa Rosa Rd in Camarillo). Starting from the

parking lot, this five mile hike goes up Hill canyon to the Western Plateau trail then up to Elliott Peak trail before winding its way back to the TH. This hike is on well maintained trails and fire roads. The over all elevation gain is 755 ft. This hike has enough uphill to be a good workout for most. Be prepared with good sturdy hiking shoes or boots. Hiking poles, water and a snack would be good to have. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

May 11

HIKE BACKBONE TRAIL Part 6: Tapia to Lois Ewen Overlook. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mtns Natl Recreation Area. The sixth section (strenuous) starts at Tapia trailhead where we hike on the Piuma Ridge, Saddle Creek, Saddle Peak (West) and Saddle Peak (East) trails, before ending at the Lois Ewen Overlook. 8.8 miles with an elevation gain of 2,753 ft. and loss of 335 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. We will meet at the Lois Ewen Overlook at 10am and shuttle to Tapia Trailhead. Directions to trailheads: From 101 FWY, turn south at the Las Virgenes exit, turn left in 3.1 miles at Mulholland Highway, then turn right at Stunt Rd in 4 miles, then left onto Backbone Trail/Saddle Peak Rd. The Lois Ewen Overlook parking area will be on the left. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030 or SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org. (VEN)

SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate 8 mrt hike with 1900' elev. gain to beautiful Tropical Terrace and beyond, with ocean view. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. Kanan to PCH, turn left and take the next left at Corral Canyon at 76 station. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

May 12

GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike from Gaviota beach to the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above. Includes off-trail cross-country exploration on a challenging route! Some rock scrambling, bush-whacking and agility required. About 5 MRT. 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 685-1283/event@swt.org (SB)

May 13

OUTINGS DUE: Outings for inclusion in the Condor Call are due NOW. All Group outings chairs should send their Jun-Sep outings to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 14

ALL DAY PASADENA EXPLORATION TRIP: We will take an early morning Metrolink from the Ventura East station at 6175 Ventura Blvd (near Victoria Ave) to downtown LA and transfer to the Metro Gold Line into Pasadena. When we get into Pasadena we will explore the town, walking over Suicide bridge, seeing the Rose bowl, Norton Simon (closed on Mondays) still interesting to walk by, the Gamble house (also closed on Mondays), the amazing city hall and much more. Wear comfortable shoes. We will find interesting places to eat lunch in Old Town. Then we take the Metro Gold line back to LA and the Metrolink home to Ventura for a full day of walking and seeing this historic So Cal city. ADVANCE sign up required. Limited to 13 walkers. By May 7, sign up on Meetup or send an email to PHILIP at twoonthree@gmail.com. (VEN)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

May 19

FIR CANYON: Car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mt. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

BACKBONE TRAIL HIKE #3: Triunfo Pass to Encinal Cyn. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mtns Natl Recreation Area. The third section (moderate) starts at Triunfo Pass, and we will have spectacular views of Sandstone Peak, the Pacific Ocean, Catalina and the Channel Islands visible if it's clear. 10 miles with



You need a vacation? How about a Working Vacation ... away from your work, that is. Los Padres Forest Association "is happy" to announce an upcoming event restoring the Sisquoc Trail, based at Sycamore Camp in the spectacular San Rafael Wilderness where this photo was taken by LPFA. Go for a whole week or portions thereof, with mules carrying gear and food. To sign up or keep up with other opportunities, go to info@LPForest.org

an elevation gain of 1,125 ft. and loss of 1,564 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. We will meet at Encinal Canyon trailhead at 7:30am. From here we will shuttle to Triunfo Pass trailhead. Directions: From PCH heading south, pass Decker Rd, take Encinal Canyon Rd north for 5 miles, turn right to stay on Encinal for 1.1 miles and park in the large dirt parking lot on left. From the 101, exit at Kanan Rd, head south for 6.2 miles, turn right onto Mulholland. In another mile, bear left onto Encinal Canyon Rd and, in 2.5 miles, park in the large dirt parking lot on right. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. For more info, contact ANNETTE at 402-4966, apz107@gmail.com or GINA at 415-7366. (VEN)

May 21

WALK THE VENTURA RIVER BICYCLE TRAIL FROM FOSTER PARK TO SAN ANTONIO CREEK BRIDGE: Meet at the Ventura carpool at 8:30am OR at 9am near the bathrooms at the east end of Foster Park, 438 Casitas Vista Rd, Ventura. \$2 Vehicle Fee or parking pass required in the Park. This 6-mile walk is a 3 miles out from Foster Park to the bridge at San Antonio Creek, then back the 3 miles to Foster Park, all on the paved Ventura River Bicycle Trail. Coffee to follow at Hill of Beans in Oak View. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

May 24

CENTURY LAKE and MASH SITE - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Easy to moderate 5.3 mrt hike with 500' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Take 101 Freeway to Kanan Road, south on Kanan to a quick left turn at Cornell Road. Meet 8am at the parking lot off 300' passed Mulholland Hwy. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

May 25

HIKE BACKBONE TRAIL Part 7: Lois Ewen Overlook to Trippett Ranch. The newly completed Backbone Trail winds 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The seventh section (moderate) starts at the Lois Ewen Overlook trailhead parking area, where we descend through Topanga State Park, before climbing to end at Trippett Ranch. 6 miles with an elevation gain of 600 ft., and loss of 2,000 ft. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Limit 15 hikers. Rain cancels. We will meet at Trippett Ranch at 10am and shuttle to Lois Ewen Overlook. Directions to trailheads: From the 101 South, turn south at the Topanga Canyon Blvd. exit, turn left in 7.7 miles at Entrada Rd, then turn left into the Visitor Center parking lot in 1.1 miles. Fee parking. For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030 or SUZANNE at suzanne@hiplaces.org. (VEN)

May 25-28

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND Southern Sierra Car Camp & Hikes: Join the CA/NV Wilderness Committee, Sierra Forest Legacy, and CalWild on our holiday car camping trip to find out why wild places in the southern Sierra Nevada deserve wilderness protection. Enjoy exploratory hikes in the potential addition to the Golden Trout Wilderness and along the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River. Depending on group interest and road conditions, we may also explore a potential addition to the Domeland Wilderness, the proposed Cannell Peak Wilderness, proposed Stormy Canyon, and the proposed Salmon Creek Wild & Scenic River. The Forest

Service will determine the future of these areas in the upcoming Sequoia National Forest Plan. Meet Friday evening at our campground north of Kernville, hike on Saturday and Sunday, and leave Monday by noon. Bring your own camping/hiking gear and food. Long-time Sierra Club volunteer leader for the southern Sierra Joe Fontaine will be with the trip and share guidance and memories This adventure is limited to 20 people and RSVPs are required. Optional central commissary offered by VICKY HOOVER, contact Vicky for details and to RSVP. vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, or 415-977-5527. (CANV Wilderness Committee)

May 26

LAS CRUCES HIKE: Moderately strenuous 9 mile rt. with 1700 gain/loss. We will hike up Las Cruces Trail to Overlook Fire Road for a peek down a precipitous wall of rock to the tunnel below. Gorgeous views of the ocean and hills will surround us. From here, we'll head down to the freeway underpass and cross to the other side. We will hike up Tunnel View to Trespass Trail and make a loop back to the underpass. Finally, we will hike back to our cars via Ortega Trail. Intermediate hikers or beginners with cardio conditioning welcome, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring two liters of water, snacks, and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

May 27

FLORES PEAK FROM GIBRALTAR ROCK: We will drive to Gibraltar Rock, above the Rattlesnake Trail. We will then hike a steep, little-known trail to Flores Peak. Some rock scrambling and agility required. The Wednesday hikers sometimes call this "The Medicine Circle". Elevation gain is about 700 feet in only a half mile! Please bring a snack or lunch and a liter of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283/event@swt.org (SB)

May 31

RAY MILLER TRAIL - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Fabulous ocean views, good switchbacks, up the first half of the hike, with a downhill return. 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 7:45am for carpooling or meet at 8:30am at the La Jolla Canyon parking lot next to the trailhead (with fee \$8) or La Jolla Canyon parking on PCH. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net. (CJ)

June 3

MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near 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. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

June 6

SUMMER POTLUCK AND PICTURE SHOW: The Cameron Center will be the site of our potluck and picture show. Bring your favorite printed photos to share. For digital photos deliver a CD to Walt Zabriskie at least 10 days before the show. Bring your most tempting dish and favorite drink for a Summer Celebration. Come early (6:30pm) to help setup. The party will start at 7pm. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

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Island dreams fulfilled

Join the Sierra Club for a series of 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tours of the enchanting Channel Islands National Park.

Dates are April 8-10, May 6-8, June 10-12, July 15-17, Aug 19-21, Sept 23-25 and Oct 21-23.

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers, kayak rugged coastlines or simply marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals, sea lions and whales. The islands are home to see birds and the unique (and endangered) island fox along with artifacts of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years.

Fun fact: One hundred and forty-five species of plants and animals are unique to the islands and found nowhere else in the

world.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The \$675 cost includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks and beverages. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.

The trips are fundraisers to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space, send a \$100 deposit, written to [California Sierra Club PAC](#) to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

For more information contact the leaders: Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706
jholtzjh@aol.com
Wayne Vollaire (909) 595-5855
avollaire1@gmail.com



You gotta go hiking in April and May where spectacular wildflowers are already popping up, even in the areas ravaged by the Thomas Fire (read Outings pages 6&7). The photo above, entitled "California Gold" by Ron Zolkover, gives you a hint of this spectacular season.

Wild flowers spring up

With the December and March rainstorms, it will no doubt be a wild wildflower spring, so take advantage of this spectacular year: check out our free outings pages 6&7; flowers guaranteed!

A free download to identify wildflowers from Blue Dicks to Virgin's Bower is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ForestWildflowers>

Just about everywhere is good, but of course the Figueroa Mountain area is the penultimate in Santa Barbara County, along with the amazing Guadalupe Dunes, La Purisima Mission State Historic Park and, to the south, the SB Botanic Garden is bloomin' wonderful.

Best to get on Helen Tarbet's wildflower update list for details and education. She is a recreation technician for the Los Padres National Forest who focuses on Figueroa Mountain. Email her for the 2018 update at: htarbet@fs.fed.us

Best in Ventura County range from Cheeseboro Canyon Preserve, La Jolla Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains, notably Point Mugu State Park. Cozy Dell Trail in Ojai and the Ventura Botanical Garden and trail are usually awesome, but both are closed due to the Thomas Fire (as of press time April 1).

Offshore it's a blaze of color on Anacapa, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Sierra Club will take you there on one of its seven Island-hopping cruises this year (see adjacent story.)

EAVESDROPS

"The victories are piling up ... the law is our friend in all this."
~ While the Trump Administration intends to roll back nearly 70 Obama-era environmental regulations, lawsuits are being won in the courts, often on grounds of little or no environmental review, according to the **New York Times**, which quoted David Hayes of the States' Energy & Environmental Impact Center of NYU law school.



Seeing sea lions and seals are just some of the adventures you'll experience during Sierra Club California's annual Island Hopping live-aboard cruises. Bring your kayak, food is supplied. (Photo by Joan Jones Holtz)