Endorsements . . . Oil protests . . . Dogs . . . Ballots . . . Wilderness
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Alt. energy trumps dirty oil

By Robert Bernstein

The Climate rally that the Los Padres Sierra Club helped publicize came off very well on Sept. 21 in Santa Barbara, including getting two full minutes on the KEVT 11 p.m. news.

It was a very creative rally to raise awareness on climate change with two important messages: Yes to Clean Energy and No to the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Rally organizers created a one hundred foot long model of the Keystone pipeline, carrying it from Alameda Park to the Courthouse, through downtown and out to the foot of Stearn's Wharf. To see an amazing array of photos, go to h t t p : / / s w t . o r g / a c t / climate-2011-0921.

Speakers included State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Assembly Member Das Williams, Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider.

Environmental Defense Center lawyer Linda Krop and SBCC Student President Elie Katzenstein.

All called for an increase in funding for sustainable, clean energy sources like solar and wind energy. And for reducing dependence on dirty, unsustainable fossil fuels.

They explained that the important issue with the Keystone pipeline is not the local environmental risk to the places it would pass through, though that is certainly an issue. The main issue is the devastating impact it would have on the global environment by releasing vast amounts of carbon from Canadian shale oil projects.

Stopping the pipeline is a top priority of the club; in fact it made an historical footnote in Washington, D.C. in February after police arrested Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, Board of Directors President Allison Chin, and an amazingly broad coalition of almost 50 other climate-crisis activists outside the White House. This act of civil disobedience was the first in the Club's 120-year history.

The local speakers also pointed out that the Santa Maria Energy Project would be our own local version of Keystone. It would extract dirty shale oil and add the equivalent of 17,000 cars to our local roads in terms of the emissions just due to the extraction process.

They asked people to write to President Obama to stop the Keystone pipeline and to get involved in stopping the Santa Maria Energy Project through letters or live testimony at the county planning commission and Board of Supervisor hearings.

People should contact their elected officials to support clean, sustainable energy instead of petroleum based proposals, and to get involved by joining and supporting organizations like the Sierra Club and 350.org which are working to stop climate change through these means.

Editor's note: In Ventura County, a group called Citizens For Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG) is pushing for adequate environmental review for new oil drilling permits in Ventura County, as well as modifications to existing permits.

"Just one oil company has signed 192 mineral leases covering 5,000 County acres in the last six months alone," according to CFROG. "Because much of the Monterey shale oil is extracted through hydraulic fracturing and other enhanced recovery techniques like acidization, adequate environmental protections must be in place as this latest oil boom takes off here."

The group is in concert with the Sierra Club’s mission and can be reached via its website: www.CFROG.org

Kayak Gaviota Coast

The Naples Coalition and Aquasports are combining forces to offer a unique guided kayak paddle along the wild Gaviota Coast from Haskell’s Beach to Naples, and back.

The tour will skirt the Naples Reef in the newly designated Marine Protected Area and promises a variety of marine wildlife sightings.

The event is on Sunday, Oct. 13, leaving at 10 a.m. and returning about 3 p.m.

The public is encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity to paddle with others in a guided group setting along the untamed and scenic Gaviota Coast, which is a high priority for the Los Padres Sierra Club, a member of the Coalition.

Price of $100 per person covers all equipment and all proceeds go to the Coalition to protect Santa Barbara Ranch from large development.

Advance registration is required. Call Janet at 683-6631 to register or email to: info@savenaples.org

Marc Muench's photo of the Gaviota Coast won a lot of praise, kicking off our first all-electronic edition in 2013 style for the Aug./Sept. edition. So please sign up to get the Condor Call every other month by email (otherwise I'll be on our website at http://lospadres.sierraclub.org).
Time to let dogs out into forest

Editor’s note: Did you know that the Sierra Club allows dogs on some of our outings? Look for the phrase “dog-friendly” in the outing descriptions (pages 4-6).

By Craig R. Carey

It’s fall, which means it’s finally time to get on our boots and head out to those favorite corners of the Los Padres backcountry that have spent the last few rainy months languishing in one of the driest summers in memory.

But we bipeds aren’t the only ones ready to get their hike on: dogs are eager companions for those ready to get their hike on: dogs are eager companions for

Craig R. Carey)

one of the driest

some of our outings? Look for the

by some to be safer and more reliable than rattlesnake vaccine, but Santa Paula-based veterinarian M. Angeles Blanton suggests hiking hounds nonetheless be vaccinated.

“Two shots the first year — a month apart — starting just before rattlesnake season (April),” Dr. Blanton recommends, along with an annual booster (or more) every year thereafter.

Dr. Conant further recommends a few basic medications, such as Benadryl in case of bee stings or other allergic reaction, Peptic AC for stomach upset, and a safe pain reliever such as Tramadol which can be prescribed by your vet. Many common medications (especially anti-inflammatories) can be dangerous to dogs, so don’t assume what’s good for you is also good for your dog.

National Forest lands are among the most welcoming to dogs. In the backcountry, where dogs aren’t allowed on most trails, in the wilderness, or in waterways, but there remain some basic guidelines.

~ The Law. Know what the rules are for your destination. Every agency has different regulations, and even those vary from area to area (e.g., dogs usually must remain leashed in campgrounds, but along some natural trails are allowed off-leash if under voice control).

~ The Conduct. Your dog should be well-behaved and — when in areas dogs are permitted off-leash — always under voice control. Don’t allow your dog to chase wildlife that may be looking up the landscape, or jump on other (unknown) hikers.

And while most fellow hikers will enjoy the company of your well-behaved mutt, don’t assume everybody will love your dog as much as you do.

~ The Duty. If you hike the front country, you’re likely to notice the dog waste bags lining the sides of trails as a procession of foul cruisers. Don’t be that hiker who flags for others to clean up after your dog. Deeper in the Los Padres, it is acceptable to bury your dog’s waste as you would your own.

In the southern Los Padres, some of the best stretches of trails for dogs are along the Condor Trail Yeager Nature Trail, the Sisquoc Trail in the San Rafael Wilderness, the Gene Marshall-Piedra Blanca NRT and Sespe River trails in the Sespe Wilderness, and Santa Barbara Canyon in the Dick Smith Wilderness. All are fantastic options for a hike.

Water, shade, and relatively forgiving soil make any one of these routes an ideal canine’s paradise.

Release the hounds!

~ Craig R. Carey is a frequent wanderer of the Los Padres backcountry, LFPA Volunteer Wilderness Ranger, and author of “Hiking & Backpacking the Santa Barbara and Ventura” (Wilderness Press, 2012). Read his idle musings at: www.craigcarens.net

Northern pigmy owl

See raptors

The public can visit the Ojai Raptor Center from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3.

A rare opportunity, all 26 of its un-releasable birds can be seen close up, along with educational presentations, an artists’ sale, and refreshments. It is excellent for families, so bring your children or your inner child and certainly a camera.

The ORC is located at 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. For details go to: www.oirjaportcenter.org

Bioneers “Vision to Action”

“Vision to Action” is the theme for the 4th annual Central Coast Bioneers Conference, hosted by Ecologistics, Inc., to be held Oct. 25-27 at the Monday Club in Santa Luis Obispo.

Each morning keynote lectures from the National Bioneers Conference in San Rafael will be shown and the 16 afternoon workshops will feature six major topic areas: Eco-Science, Social & Environmental Activism, Food & Farming, Women’s Leadership, Eco-Nomics, and Restoring Ecosystems.

Special guest will be Bioneers co-founder Nina Simons, on Changing National Environmental Leadership: Mobilizing Change for a Healthy while the keynote speaker is Drew Droege, winner of Global Poets for Justice and author of Love Letter to the Milky Way.

Field trips include a tour of the Life Lab Garden, The Ranch and Accent Horses. Register now. The popular pre-conference field trip will be on Thursday to the Los Padres National Forest Reserve.

There is a lot more going on, so check out www.centralcoastbioneers.org or visit www.centralcoastbioneers.org

Our area...

Continued from page 1

opportunities, as well as preserving the natural ecosystems. Recent actions such as taking on less encampments and removing arundo donax plants are a key in those efforts which will also help steelhead habitat.

~ The jewel of our region is the Los Padres National Forest, where a range of ecosystems exist from the coastal chaparral in the foot country of Santa Barbara and Ojai to pine forests, wild riv- ers, and the alpine ecosystems of Figure Mountain and Mt. Pinos.

The forest has 1,257 miles of maintained trails which provide both day-use and extended backpacking opportunities. Much of the forest is primitive without roads, and has ten congressman designated wilderness areas over 875,000 acres, nearly half of the whole Los Padres.

These include the Ventana, Silver Peak, Santa Lucia, Machesney, Garcia, San Antonio, Sespe, Matilla and Chumash wil- dernesses. The varied habitats and terrain of the forest allow for permanent or transitory refuge for approximately 408 species of fish and wildlife, of which most are non-game species and include 23 threat- ened and endangered animals.

The Los Padres is a member of the California Condor Re- covery Program and has been an active place in the introduction of California condors into the wild. Plus, the Forest contains some of the most extraordinary native rock art to be found anywhere in the world.

If you are not already a member of the Sierra Club, please join and help us protect these amazing areas right in our own back yard.”

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win Rd., Ojai. For details go to: www.oirjaportcenter.org
Come to Camp Comfort for Oktoberfest party

All Sierra Club members and their friends are cordially invited to attend the Ventura Sierra Club’s Oktoberfest party at Camp Comfort near Ojai on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Club will grill hot dogs for its guests and will also provide compostable plates, napkins, and water. No alcohol is allowed at the event. The club will have a free cooler of water and club members will be on hand to assist anyone.

We expect to have the event

At its Oct. 18 meeting, the Aruguelllo Chapter will show an Oscar-nominated documentary, “Gasland,” and the public is invited.

It features the director Josh Fox as he journeys across America to examine the negative effects of natural-gas drilling, from poisoned water sources to kitchen sinks that burst into flames with unhealthy animals and people.

Those interviewed range from Dick Cheney to Pete Seeger and several others of note. It has won numerous awards including a Special Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival, Primetime Emmy Award, Environmental Media Award and Grand Jury Prize at the Yale Film Festival. A sequel was released in April.

The film is an hour and 47 minutes, so we will meet at 7 p.m. and start the film promptly at 7:15 at the Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 East Berkeley St. in Lompoc.

Club pursues fracktack

The Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity won an important victory against hydraulic fracking this year when a federal judge ruled that the Bureau of Land Management had violated the law by issuing oil leases in Monterey County without considering fracking’s threat to the environment.

It was the first court opinion to find a federal lease sale invalid for failing to address the risks of fracking, and the groups have since filed a new lawsuit challenging the Obama administration’s nationalsea and land sales.

The Center for Biological Diversity opposes any new areas for oil and gas drilling, especially when long-term impacts to our health, environment, and climate are still largely unknown,” said Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

“Fracking for oil is not a safe solution for securing our energy future. Instead of leasing land for more dirty fuel drilling, the Obama administration needs to double down on clean energy.”

Advertisement

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Advertisement
Lizard's Mouth is a popular outdoor meeting place, which also welcomes the public to its free hikes, led by trained volunteers who can enlighten all about the backcountry. See page 3 for a story about our outings and how they really make you see, and check out these listings to experience our wonderful backcountry. (Photo by Robert Bernsatt)

October 20 VENTURA HILL CLIMB Join Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) staff, students, and friends to get a good mid-week hill climb workout and walk through some of the most scenic locations in the Conejo Valley. About 4.5 miles, total elevation gain about 500 feet. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at Channel View Park (2800 South Harbor Blvd.) at 1:30pm in the parking lot just south of Harding Landing (2800 South Harbor Blvd.), at Channel View Harbor. This is an easy, 2.5- to 3-mile trail loop made up of a series of small early morning, with pizzas after which those who want it. Meet at the choice of the group, either a hike up the Caliente Range or else a tour of a popular viewing area in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine camping, day-hiking, exploring, and a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader CRAG DEUTSCH, crag.cdx@gmail.com, 310-477-8870. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 13 MIKE LEADER BBQ This is an opportunity for our hike leaders to get together and enjoy and learn from one another. If you are a hike leader, you are welcome to join us for the potluck BBQ. Please call for details 702 692-9290 (SB)

October 14 MONDAY WALK: Meet at 9am at Oak View Community Center to walk North on typical hikes. For more info call 805 463-0270 (VEN)

October 18 – 19 FISHERMANS MOUNTAIN Camp Carriha

Mike in Puguena Mt. area. Car camp at Puguena Campground Friday night, Oct. 19. STEPHEN 255-7170 (SB) and mom stay on Cathey Road towards Zaca Peak, about 10 miles on dirt road. Beautiful views of the Zaca Fire. Puguena Mountain is located at Figueroa Mt. Road in the Los Padres National Forest. About 12 miles W of Ojai. No water (you need to bring your own), vulcan toilet. Happy Halloween!

Saturday morning begin hike at 8am, lunch on trail, return to cars mid afternoon and drive home. This is a hike from a few pastries. Dog friendly trip. Rain/canoe/camps. For more info and to sign up (you must sign up ahead of time), contact leader SALLY 985-6920. (SB)

Romanos Lasos: Plan 5-6 miles for this very easy, hot, and a bit of a roll with 2600’ elevation gain. We will pass the 4 mile canyon trail to Romero saddle, make a 3 mile loop around up and over the horn of the west saddle, then descend back down. We will be in a group of 3-8. Wear general gear if you have them for the grass that encroaches on sections of the impacted trail used over the horn. Good food and drink is frequently available at the camp. Bring map, compass, small day hiking/camping supplies, and walking poles may help. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. PUL 895-1121 (SB)

CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR WALK: This is an easy hike in the Channel Islands National Monument. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence for the benefit of these ungulates. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike on the Caliente Range or else a tour of a popular viewing area in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader CRAG DEUTSCH, crag.cdx@gmail.com, 310-477-8870. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

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November 3
INSPYRED POINT: Hike up Tunnel Rd., then try to bail to a point with beautiful views of the coast and mountains. Easy 3.5 miles. Bring a picnic lunch and water. Meet behind 8 on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9AM. 705-3025 (SB)

November 4
PADDLE FOR PARADISE! We’ll pass through the majestic hundred-foot white rock formations, then into the Piedras Blancas Creek wilderness. You’ll see Chumash pictographs and get a flora/bird tour to boot! Bring lunch, water, and sun protection. Meet at 9AM at Mission Plaza Shopping Center, at the intersection of Main Street and Ventura Avenue in Ventura, or at 9:30am at the trailhead. For more info, contact ACE at 452-4397 (SB)

November 4 – 10
MCKPLEY SPRINGS CAMP Spring Camp: Backpack to McKinley Spring Camp in San Rafael Wilderness. Sat. morning meet at trail head - former site of Cascade Saddle Guard Station at intersection of Happy Canyon Road (Route 7007) and McKinley Spring Road (Forest Road 8988). For 9.5 miles, 2.50 gallon backpack to McKinley Springs Camp, walking along dirt service road. Hikers will feel tired by noon but there will be water at the campsite - however, don’t expect any ability that spring will be dry and we may need to bring water. Will verify a day ahead of time. Campsite has flies, ring-tailed cats, bats, night-hunters. Rain cancels. Sunday will be to camp after dark. Bring a light lunch and water. Meet at 6:00am at Hope State Road and Hwy. 750, where we’ll start for info. More info, contact ACE at 452-4397 (SB)

November 7
GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike up to Wet McDermitt Canyon to the cross. For more info call 452-0470 (VEN)

November 7
VENTURA HILL CLIMB: Join Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) staff, students, and friends at the St. Miko Carvers Bivouac for 2 hours towards White Linda camp, through forest and canyon. We’ll hike about 9 miles and 6,000 feet. Bring a sticker or choose a faster or slower pace. Bring about 1.5 miles and 1,200 feet elevation gain on paper. Bring water, snacks and supplies. Rain cancels. Meet at 6:30pm at Sisar Road and Hwy. 150, where we’ll start for info. More info, contact ACE at 452-4397 (SB)

November 10
VENTURA HILL CLIMB: Join Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) staff, students, and friends at the St. Miko Carvers Bivouac for 2 hours towards White Linda camp, through forest and canyon. We’ll hike about 9 miles and 6,000 feet. Bring a sticker or choose a faster or slower pace. Bring about 1.5 miles and 1,200 feet elevation gain on paper. Bring water, snacks and supplies. Rain cancels. Meet at 6:30pm at Sisar Road and Hwy. 150, where we’ll start for info. More info, contact ACE at 452-4397 (SB)

November 16
GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike up to Wet McDermitt Canyon to the cross. For more info call 452-0470 (VEN)

November 18
WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO JINTERES: Hike up Tunnel Rd., cross the 33 into the mountains for about 30 miles. Visit the 33 as the road winds up through the Channel Islands. It’s very close to the trailhead, and the posts along this trail have beautiful views of the coastline. Hike along creek for part of the hike. This is a moderate hike with an elevation gain/loss of about 700 feet. Bring water and a snack. Meet at lower Lion’s Camp (end of 33) at 9am. If you are coming from the north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. For call in instructions, 564-9417 (SB)

November 18
GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike up to Wet McDermitt Canyon to the cross. For more info call 452-0470 (VEN)

November 23
SAN YSIDRO V.O.T.E. CAMINO CIELO: Family friendly, easy-friendly, backpack to McKinley Trail Camp by mid-morning. Meet at 8AM at an upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9AM. CONTACT 993-2347 (SB)

November 24
GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike up to Wet McDermitt Canyon to the cross. For more info call 452-0470 (VEN)

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November 25
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at City Hall in downtown Ventura to watch the cross. For more info call 452-0470 (VEN)

November 30
ULTIMATE HIKE: Very strenuous 17.5 mile hike. This apu-endurance (SU3) hike covers parts of 9 different trails on the front range. Meet at the cross and discus hiking conditions. More info, call 452-0470 (VEN)
We suggest a ‘fantastic four’ in Ventura

ERICA NASARENKO

Richard Francis has been one of Ventura County’s top environmental leaders for more than two decades, and has worked closely with Chapter leaders throughout that time, and so we proudly endorse him for Ventura City Council.

He is co-author of the SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Resources) initiatives that have made the county a national model for controlled growth. Former mayor of Ventura, he seeks a return to the City Council after years away while his children are young.

Richard is an experienced environmental lawyer who has won many victories under the California Environmental Quality Act. He is a trustee of the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy, a member of the SOAR Board, and has served on the Board of the Environmental Defense Center.

From his time as a student at UCSB, when he gathered petition signatures for the Coastal Act and worked with the original Get Off the Water! campaign, to today, as he helps lead the effort for SOAR’s renewal, Richard has been a strong supporter of the beaches and local environment.

Born and raised in Ventura, Lorrie has a deep interest in preserving the natural beauty of the ocean, the hillsides, the rivers and the open spaces. She values great pride in having passed those same values on to her children, as her father did to her. She recalls watching a rural community begin to sprawl, and wonders who the decision makers were, and what she could do about it. Today she is ready to join the fray.

Lorrie is an experienced administrator in both the public and non-profit sectors, with a history of activism on women’s issues. She is a charismatic and energetic newswoman to playful political victories. SOAR shows great promise as a future leader.

Lorrie favors requiring any new development to provide for its water supply, to utilize green technology and to practice water reclamation. Please let Lorrie know your vote.

For more information or to help with her campaign, go to: www.lorriebrown.com

DAVID LANDECKER

David Landecker is endorsed because of his long-time environmental record, beginning in high school at the Barbara Gordon Program.

While at Georgetown University Law Center, he focused on local government and the emerging field of environmental law. He moved to Santa Barbara in 1990, where he worked as a lawyer, businessman, non-profit executive and community activist.

As City Councilmember, he has shown himself to be a pragmatic and capable leader, and has a strong understanding of the state and national environmental movement’s needs.

He served as a board member, officer and president of the Citizens Action Committee for over five years and helped write the original Santa Barbara Growth Control Ordinance (Measure E).

Lorrie Brown enthusiastically supports the causes the local environmentalists and SOAR have championed. She supports the extension of SOAR, opposes hillside development, and wants to protect the beaches and local environment.

Born and raised in Ventura, Lorrie has a deep interest in preserving the natural beauty of the ocean, the hillsides, the rivers and the open spaces. She values great pride in having passed those same values on to her children, as her father did to her. She recalls watching a rural community begin to sprawl, and wonders who the decision makers were, and what she could do about it. Today she is ready to join the fray.

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For more information or to help with her campaign, go to: www.frsuces.com

And ‘fabulous four’ in Santa Barbara

HELENE SCHNEIDER FOR MAYOR (PREVIOUSLY ENDORSED)

LORRIE BROWN (PREVIOUSLY ENDORSED)

GREGG HART

GREGG HART

Gregg Hart has lived in Santa Barbara for the past 48 years, attending public schools, raising his family and running a small business. He served two full terms on the Santa Barbara City Council and eight years on the City Planning Commission.

While on the council, Gregg worked to create legislation that has improved water quality and the health of our beaches by authorizing the setting of Clean Creeks Initiative. He led the Council’s efforts to save the City’s last remaining open space and make the Wilcox Property a city park. He’s been innovative in sustainability by increasing recycling and promoting energy efficiency through the Compact fluorescent Light Bulb Exchange Program.

Gregg has also been a leader in the effort to provide incentives and alternatives for people driving their cars. While on the Council, he was a leader in expanding bus service and funding for bicycle and pedestrian transportation programs.

Los Padres Sierra Club endorsed Gregg in both his previous campaigns.

“I am honored to have the Sierra Club’s endorsement,” he said. “I look forward to working with the Club in protecting Santa Barbara by advancing our shared environmental agenda,” he said.

For more details or to help with his campaign, visit: www.Hart4SB.com
MEMBERS CHOOSE LEADERS FOR 3 GROUPS

S.B. GROUP STATEMENTS

ROBERT BERNSTEIN
Building a sustainable world means having the right vision of what we want, not just opposing projects. My vision: A cleaner, more walkable, bike-able and transit friendly city for social justice as well as for environmental reasons. It's a vision where we locally produce much of our own food and renewable energy. A vision where we can access nature in a way that enriches us, yet with minimal damage to our natural ecosystems.

Global climate change is largely the result of human policies and activities and I want us to do our part on a community level. I am a Life member of the Club and have been on our Group ExCom since 1998. I am Group Vice Chair as well as Environmental Justice Chair and Transportation Chair. Also I am a life and a photographer and enjoy writing for the Condoir Call newspaper.

I ask you please to vote for me and also for Alex D. and Davis Bernie.

JIM CHILDRESS
It has been my privilege to be on the ExCom the Santa Barbara Group for ten years or so and I have also served on the Chapter ExCom.

The ExCom is involved in overseeing the Outings program, filling positions on our local boards, and taking positions on conservation efforts around the nation, our community (oil developments, community plans, Goleta Beach, transportation, etc.), endorsing local political candidates, as well as supporting programs and events.

Most recently I’ve been involved in going to hearings and expressing our views on the proposed Gaviota community plan and the Goleta Beach issue. With regard to the Santa Barbara Beach we have taken a position at odds with some other local environmental groups in that we believe that the park itself should be preserved in its present form as long as it is as reasonable as the community strongly desires. We see this as an environmental justice and accessibility issue.

It is important that we continue to have representatives who are experienced, committed and knowledgeable about Sierra Club and how it works. I ask for your vote to continue this work and hope that you will join and volunteer your time as well.

KATIE DAVIS
John Mair, founder of the Sierra Club, said, “The battle we have fought, and are still fighting for forests, is part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong.”

I play the protection of our forests and ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe Santa Barbara, with its long environmental record and diverse landscapes, has a powerful role to play in creating a more sustainable future.

As a trained presenter with Al Gore’s “Climate Reality Project,” I have been giving numerous climate presentations around Santa Barbara County and have been inspired by the many people I’ve met and local organizations ready to take the challenges ahead.

As a VP at tech company Citrix, I enjoy applying technology and teamwork to environmental education and action. I have a YouTube video that was a top result for “climate change videos,” led volunteers in creating an educational video on Ocean Acidification and free ocean education-related iPhone apps in coordination with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and UCSB Marine Sciences.

I have served on advisory boards for a number of environmental groups and was awarded second place in the 2012 Cox Conservation Hero awards. I look forward to serving the Sierra Club in its essential role to move us beyond fossil fuels and to conserve our local and global resources.

It is important that we continue to have representatives who are experienced, committed and knowledgeable about Sierra Club and how it works. I ask for your vote to continue this work and hope that you will join and volunteer your time as well.

BERNARD MINES
I am a volunteer hike leader with the Sierra Club who has been leading hikes for most of the last decade, and this year’s Wednesday night hiking tradition.

I have also co-led some snow expeditions with the Sierra Club. I have a great appreciation for the Sierra Club, and a passion for adventure and would like to share some of my energy and enthusiasm by serving on the ExCom.

Growing up in Santa Barbara, I bring to the table an intimate knowledge of our wilderness areas, as well as a wide variety of friends and contacts.

I am also an active volunteer participating in trail maintenance projects with the Los Padres Forest Association.

ALEX PUJO
Much has changed since I came to Santa Barbara in 1974. Strong policies protected us from the rapacious growth; however, recent developments impact its surrounding communities and places little value on environmental justice.

I work in a small architectural firm (www.pujo.com) where I learned that the spaces for people is that small area left over after everything else is occupied by vehicle circulation and storage. Our older neighborhoods are convincing proof that life is better for all living organisms when we live close to town, drive less and walk more.

In 1992 my wife and I and a few others founded the Grassroots (1013) led the opposition to the widening of Highway 101 south to Ventura. We managed to reduce project impacts, allocate funding to service roads and bikeways, and update transportation policies.

From this effort evolved the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COSTS) to improve rail, transit, bicycle and pedestrian access in Santa Barbara. I was its first president. I am also a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call. Fill out this ballot from the Condor Call.

Mail ballot before Nov. 30 to: Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3124, Santa Barbara CA 93103

Vote for NO MORE THAN 5 (FIVE) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Alex Pujo
Bernard Mines
Fran Farina
Jim Childress
Katie Davis
Robert Bernstein

Write in candidate if desired: Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) (Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

In reverse alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Rosemary Holmes
Connie Geiger
Doris Connor
Jerry Connor

Write in candidate if desired: Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) (Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

ARGUELLO GROUP STATEMENTS

JERRY CONNOR
As in many past years, I hope to continue to serve the Arguello Group as a member of its ExCom, the Local Party Chair and for several years, has been involved in all activity plans.

CONNIE GEIGER
Member of Arguello Group since 1974, hike leader for many years. Past recipient of Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) for 17 years, and has served continuously as Secretary of Arguello Group ExCom for many years also.

ROSEMARY HOLMES
With our coastal California in such danger from such things as offshore drilling, fracking, and our lives in general threatened by severe air pollution, and an infinite and varied additional range of toxics, I think environmental activism continues to be a necessary response.

In the past I have written articles for the Chapter newsletter, worked to set up community forums and Sierra Club programs and have worked with other community organizations such as our local botanical society.

I am happy to make these small contributions. As a board member I can help determine the focus of the Arguello Chapter, as well as assist with the small tasks that keep it going logistically.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot

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Mail ballot before Nov. 30 to: Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3124, Santa Barbara CA 93103

Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Alejo Pujo
Bernard Mines
Fran Farina
Jim Childress
Katie Davis
Robert Bernstein

Write in candidate if desired: Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) (Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

In reverse alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Melanie Ashen
Connie Geiger
Doris Connor
Joanne Sulkoske

Write in candidate if desired: Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) (Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

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CONNIE GEIGER
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ROSEMARY HOLMES
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CONEJO GROUP MEMBERs ONLY VOTE

Conejo Group Executive Committee Ballot

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call. Fill out this ballot from the Condor Call.

Mail ballot before Nov. 30 to: Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 643 Old Farms Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 (THREE) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Melanie Ashen
Connie Geiger
Stephanie Scher
Joanne Sulkoske

Write in candidate if desired: Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) (Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

ARGUELLO GROUP STATEMENTS

JERRY CONNOR
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CONNIE GEIGER
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ROSEMARY HOLMES
With our coastal California in such danger from such things as offshore drilling, fracking, and our lives in general threatened by severe air pollution, and an infinite and varied additional range of toxics, I think environmental activism continues to be a necessary response.

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I am happy to make these small contributions. As a board member I can help determine the focus of the Arguello Chapter, as well as assist with the small tasks that keep it going logistically.

CONEJO GROUP MEMBERs ONLY VOTE

Conejo Group Executive Committee Ballot

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call. Fill out this ballot from the Condor Call.

Mail ballot before Nov. 30 to: Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 643 Old Farms Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 (THREE) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Melanie Ashen
Connie Geiger
Stephanie Scher
Joanne Sulkoske

Write in candidate if desired: Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) (Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)
How should we treat wilderness?

By Teresa Norris
Wilderness Basics Course Chair

While camping with my granddaughter this past summer at Gaviota State Beach, I reconnected with my reasons for volunteering with the Wilderness Basics Course.

It was almost 10 p.m. one night and Kaitlyn was going to bed in our tent, when I heard what sounded like chopping coming from one end of the campground. I was just going to let it go, and put up with the noise, but then I thought, “Who is going to speak for these trees if I don’t?” That thought empowered me to grab the big flashlight and walk toward the sound of the noise. (Husband Tom says that I sound like the Lorax.)

I saw a woman in a campsite near the hillside, and said to her, “It sounds like someone is up there, chopping a tree.” She answered, “Yes, there is someone up there chopping a tree.” I started to walk up the hill, but then I realized that she seemed to know something about it. So I asked her if it was someone in her family. “Yes, my grandson is up there, chopping a tree,” she replied.

At that point, I decided that I didn’t want to confront a young man carrying an ax in the dark. But I said to her as I left, “I hope that he isn’t cutting down a live tree.”

The next morning, I found the camp host, who hadn’t been there the night before, and told him what had happened. He told me that they had been cited for several different things. “I wish that there was some kind of class that people could take before they could get a campground reservation,” he said. I agreed, and reflected on the thought that people love nature and the wilderness, but then they don’t always know how to act once they get there.

I hope that most of you know better than to chop down trees in a campground. But many of us have done things that we wish we could go back and do over again. How can we find out how to act in the wilderness?

We structure WBC to maximize learning and enjoyment. The course includes eight nights of class, plus weekend outings in our local wilderness areas. Our outings range from easy to strenuous. Our all-volunteer staff are passionate about developing your wilderness skills. You’ll build friendships and have a lot of fun too.

To help you prepare for the hikes ahead, we’re having some evening and weekend conditioning walks. Check the Condor Call or our website for details. Come get some exercise along with members of our staff and bring your questions too.

You know you want to do it! Go ahead and reward yourself. Come join us for the fifth Wilderness Basics Course, scheduled to start the first week of February. Sign-ups will start soon; for details visit: www.lospadres.sierraclub.org/wbc