Join an adventure

The Los Padres Chapter is again offering its wildly popular Wilderness Basics Course, starting from Feb. 8 through March 29, and what a joy it is to learn with like-minded people in lovely outdoor settings.

WBC is a comprehensive training for people at all levels of fitness from teens to adults who want to enjoy and explore the wilderness through hiking and backpacking.

Warning: This could change your life!

EAVESDROPS

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.”

~ John Muir, co-founder of Sierra Club.

“The WBC taught me many important skills to take my passion even further,” said Nina Danza, who plans to revisit Capitol Hill this coming Spring to lobby for Sierra Club values. “I am excited to continue discussing the importance of wilderness and putting my energy into protecting it for future generations.”

Stephanie Farmer, who created our WBC with the expertise,” said Teresa Norris, who has sold out for two years in a row. “Early Bird registration prices to moderate to strenuous … your choice!

Students will gain practical experience via day hikes, car camp, and backpacking trips in our local mountains. All these outings offer students a choice of difficulties ranging from low to moderate to strenuous … your choice!

Early Bird registration prices last through Jan. 25. This course has sold out for two years in a row, so sign up now! Discounts are available for Sierra Club members, students and couples.

“I love that we’re building a community of knowledgeable hikers and backpackers in this area and I love the willingness of the staff to share their unique expertise,” said Teresa Norris, who created our WBC with the first class in 2009 after two years of planning starting in 2007.

For more details go to: www.lospadresWBC.org

You may also call (805) 524-7170 or email: lospadresWBC@hotmail.com

Resist ~ Recruit ~ Train ~ Sustain

By John Hanks
Editor, Condor Call

A new strategy was adopted by the Sierra Club National Board of Directors to combat a massive shift in our nation’s direction against protecting our environment due to the election of Donald Trump and Co.

The four pillars are: Resist, Recruit, Train and Sustain.

Locally, the Los Padres Chapter will actively embrace those four aspects. Chapter Chair Jim Hines said, “we know the threats from the incoming Trump Administration are real and will have a negative effect right in our region.” Efforts by an environmentally hostile presidency may include:

~ Stop the progress to protect federal waters offshore, notably the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal. A newly elected Secretary of Commerce designate Wilbur Ross has stated he intends to defund the national marine sanctuary program,” Hines said.

~ Not move any current public land protections or wilderness bills, which places legislation in jeopardy affecting the proposed Rim of the Valley corridor and Los Padres National Forest proposals.

~ Increase in offshore oil leases being put out to bid, which could include the Santa Barbara Channel, and loosening of regulations.

~ Generally weaken clean air, clean water and clean energy regulations.

~ A hostile U.S. Attorney General may step or weaken all enforcement of our nation’s environmental laws.

~ Legislation to privatize our public lands across our nation, including the Los Padres National Forest, may find traction in the 2017 Congress.

~ Our national Sierra Club staff believes our best chance is in the U.S. Senate with some moderate Republicans,” Hines said, who plans to revisit Capitol Hill this coming Spring to lobby for Sierra Club values.

~ Ventura Sierra Club Chair, Nina Danza, was already supporting National’s pillars well before the election. “The engagement of new volunteers is what I’ve heard is one of the most dire needs expressed by ExCom and Ventura members over the last couple years. A well thought out plan for what to do to retain the new blood is extremely important. Even better is giving a task at the initial meeting and FOLLOW UP.”

continued on page 2

GAVIOTA COAST
A Grand Plan prevails

The county is one of the last undeveloped stretches of coastline left in California, and has certainly "faced a barrage of development pressures — without sustained and costly effort initially led by Selma Rubin and carried on by Gaviota Coast Conservancy and others," the Gaviota Coast was transformed long ago," said Katie Davis, Chair of the Santa Barbara Group.

The 1982 Local Coastal Plan and zoning ordinances for the coastal watersheds near the western Gaviota boundary at Eagle Creek to Jalama Creek, north of Point Conception. “We’re thrilled that public trails and access are prioritized along this beautiful coastline. Given the terrible environmental impacts of the Refugio oil spill last year, it’s also important that the plan calls for discouraging enhanced oil and gas recovery techniques such as hydraulic fracturing and steam injection,” said Katie Davis, Chair of the Santa Barbara Group.

Advisor Committee (GavPAC) in 2009. She made the motion to approve the plan, which got the needed votes from Supervisors John Wall and Salud Carbajal.

Some of the benefits include:
~ A streamlined permitting process for small scale agricultural endeavors.
~ Enhanced protection of public view-sheds and access.
~ Reaffirming the importance of the Coastal Trail and inland access.
~ Innovative design guidelines for appropriate development.
~ Prohibiting construction of a very large development on the Cojo-Jalama Ranch, north of Point Conception.

In sum, Brown concluded that the plan “establishes an important framework for future actions that affect our irreplaceable Gaviota Coast.” To keep apprized of current and future issues, go to: www.gaviotaSierraClub.org

Advocating for the environment is hard work and never-ending, but eminently satisfying, given the Sierra Club’s long and successful history with coalitions. Two examples are lobbying to protect the Gaviota Coast (above, photo by Dave Pierce) and a show of support in a Santa Barbara rally against building the Dakota pipeline under the Missouri river, which was halted in early December. (Photo by Nata Davis)
Oil not leaving

By: Fran Farina

New Eyes on Venice – With the election of Mayor Richard and Stuart Kasdin, Goleta City Council has a new majority to look at terminating Veneno’s Eelgrass Ozone. Facility proposals expanded slant drilling in the South Ellwood Field. Veneno has yet to emerge from bankruptcy. An additional action has taken place since our last report unless in closed session.

Nor oil Phillips 66

– Yet – San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission denied Phillips 66 Rail Project in early October. Phillips 66 appealed to the County Board of Supervisors, no but no hearing date has been set. In a surprising move, Phillips also appealed that challenged the denial. Normally, this would not occur until Phillips completed the administrative process that includes the BOR hearing.

One Down, Three to Go – In north Santa Barbara County, the Aera had a major success at the Board of Supervisors rejecting the Pacific Coast Energy Company’s proposal for up to 114 new wells (see story this page).

Next up is ERG’s 230-well project in Cat Canyon; a Draft EIR could be available early 2017. Another oil project by Shell and ExxonMobil under the AERA Cap Cany project proposes 141 wells. An application from 2015 by Petro Rock for 230 wells remains incomplete.

Refugio Oil Spill Update – The Plains All American Pipeline responsible for the oil spill at Refugio remains shut down. Plains continues to investigate pipeline anomalies. There is no plan for moving forward yet and all offshore platforms that rely on the pipeline are also shut down.

Progress in Summerland

~ The current timeline for remediation of the abandoned Becker well calls for a scoping plan in 2017 with actual remediation in 2018. That’s the good news. The bad news is that the cost has probably doubled and we’ll need to work to secure more funding in the next State budget.

Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club’s Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in the tri-county area.

Resist...

continued from page 1

Danzas suggests posting a volunteer item calendar of things to do, such as clean-up days at such places as the Santa Clara River or Lizard’s Mouth. Also, attending city and county hearings to speak or support others who do by holding signs and staffing tables at events with sign-up sheets. Other ideas include a writing group to draft articles and letters to media and photographers at events to post on social media, in addition to Condr Call.

Nationally, the Sierra Club is gearing up “to build our movement into the strongest it has ever been,” wrote Club President Aaron Main and Executive Director Michael Bruno to members.

In poetic terms, they declared: “While a tree might be blown over by a single huge gust of wind, a forest, with our roots intertwined, can withstand the strongest storm.” They also “noted the incredible support that has poured in,” such as 80,000 unlinked new members since the election (totaling over 2.5 million), monthly donations are up and response has been positive to a new Team Sierra Club site that accelerates grassroots and national activism at: www.sierraclub.org

What you can do:

• Contact your local group (see Group News box on page 7) to become more active and use your particular talents to help out.

• Can’t be an active volunteer? Then donate to fund our activism at: http://lospadres2.sierrachel.org

• Ask friends, family and co-workers to join the club – it’s only $15 online at: www.sierraclub.org

• Turn your passion into action, be it hiking, running, fresh foods, surfing, writing, political knowledge, etc. to go to the Team Sierra Club site to find out how.

• Join an environmental group? Then let’s explore partnerships to become stronger together.

Big oil project denied

By Katie Davis

Chair, SB Group

A big onshore oil project in Santa Barbara’s North County was rejected 3-2 by the Santa Barbara County Supervisors Nov. 1, partly because the company has a history of oil seeps and explosive well casing failures. In fact, it was No. 1 in the county in the number of oil spills out of over twenty oil companies operating in the county.

The first big onshore oil project rejected by the county in years and the hearing – on appeal from a Planning Commission denial – was packed with pro and con. The Sierra Club played a big role in producing the project, along with the Environmental Defense Center, SB-CAN, Center for Biologic Diversity, and Food and Water Watch, among others.

Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC) wanted to drill up to 144 new cyclic steam injection oil wells on Orcutt Hill. The Planning Commission rejected it due to the numerous significant and unavoidable impacts to water quality and endangered species. Staff sited PCEC’s current steam operating, which have resulted in 99 oil seeps requiring emergency permits, and other problems. An environmental impact report last year it could cause additional seeps and spills into creeks and watersheds; and various alternatives did not eliminate those impacts.

Matilija Dam gets funding

The Hewlett Foundation has granted an additional $175,000 to the Sierra Club for writing grant proposals to help pay for getting rid of the Matilija Dam near Ojai, which will help bring the sand to beaches and enhance the Ventura River.

Also, State Coastal and Wildlife Conservation Board are also providing funding for several projects along the Ventura River and for Matilija Dam removal. Those speaking in support of the project are asking for support to flows to the Ventura River; follow its new website campaign, #ResurrectTheRiver.

Donors make it happen

Please accept an immense thank you to every one of you who contributed money throughout the year, making it possible for all of us to be catalysts of change. And a similar thank you to all who volunteered your time.

While we only ask you once per year during our March Appeal, you can contribute anytime, and the simplest way is online. Just click on the Donor link at our website: http://lospadres2.sierrachel.org

You may also contribute via a check to: Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241. To support our effective action programs (not tax-deductable), make a check out to “Los Padres Sierra Club,” for a tax-deductible donation, make it out to “Sierra Club Foundation.”

Following are contributors since the summer months who have not listed previously.

#ResurrectTheRiver

www.sierraclub.org

#MatilijaDam

#Resist

Lavagnino and Peter Adam, 19 in favor, and the county also rejected the project from the community.

PCEC employees and union representatives spoke in favor of the project, citing the value of construction jobs and the area’s tradition of oil development.
Help spend VW scandal funds

Editor's note: To ensure you are in the loop to help advocate for cleaner air via the electric vehicle revolution, send a note to our Transportation Chair James Reach: reachj1016 freewav.com

By James Reach
Santa Barbara and Ventura County residents have a chance to advocate for appropriate use of money coming from the Volkswagen diesel scandal settlement money.

The Sierra Club believes one of the best uses will be to encourage consumers to convert from petroleum-powered (diesel and gasoline) passenger vehicles to electric vehicles that have zero tailpipe emissions. The money will come from the “Environmental Mitigation Trust,” at $2.7 billion nationwide, with $280 million allocated for California.

Starting next year, a tidal wave of action will be mounting as normal vehicle operation, affecting nearly 500,000 diesel-powered vehicles. The emissions from these vehicles are believed to be in violation of federal standards.

Sierra Club opposition was a key stop at an Orcutt Hills project asking for 144 new wells despite its history of leaks and spills. After the vote, we rallied in support of Salud Carbajal for Congress.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Kamala Harris visited Santa Barbara during a campaign stop Nov. 1 and a Sierra Club banner was prominently displayed behind her on TV!

Oct. 23: Ormond Beach photo hike helped raise funds to purchase an outdoor table for resident docent, Walter Fuller, organized by Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza. See Jan. 29 in Outings for her next photo adventure. (Photo by Nina Danza)

Meet up at the beach

An Ormond Beach photo hike helped raise funds to purchase an outdoor table for resident docent, Walter Fuller, organized by Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza. See Jan. 29 in Outings for her next photo adventure. (Photo by Nina Danza)

Join the club
Out Wilderness Basics Course offers some welcome adventures, such as this dusting of snow on Mt Pinos where you can prepare your own kind of weather; join the class starting in February (see story page 1 and application page 5.

December 7

FOSSIL TRAIL: Strenuous 6.1- mile loop hike with 1650 ft. elevation gain and loss. Meet behind Sisar Canyon parking lot to walk to the other end. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Call Pat at 643-0270.

December 8

HOLIDAY POTLUCK: Strenuous 6.1-mile loop hike with 4887 ft. of elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluffs (elev. 6300 ft.). Leader will be hiking at a moderate pace. Fun, revetly and scenic views of the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands. Light snow is possible. Please bring 10 essentials and food or drink to share with the group. Meet at Mission Creek trailhead at 6:30am. Parking limited so may have to park at the market on Hwy. 150, and walk one mile to trailhead. (Cars on road to trailhead 4WD only.) Rain cancels. Leader: SUZANNE TANAKA, 218-8613 (VEN)

BONEY MOUNTAIN - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderately paced strenuous one-way hike with 2300’ elevation gain. We will hike to summit. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet behind parking lot off Lynn Road at Via Goleta (left turn) before Dos Vientos in Newbury Park at 8am. LIZ MACGOVERN 494-6442. (CJ)

December 9

CATHEDRAL PEAKLA CUMBRE PEAK: From Mission Creek hike up to Cathedral Peak, steep and rocky in places. Continue up to La Cumbre Peak for lunch. Viewers include “Three Pools” and the full coastline. Pass by an echoling canyon. Return down Tunnel trail. Strenuous 8 mrt. Some agility needed. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

December 12

MARCHISH'TH: MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 5 mrt hike to the Mashi Site with 500’ elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the Ronald Reagan Ranch parking lot off Cornell and Muholm. Take the 101 Fey to Kanan Road, make quick left at Cornell Road, cross Muholm Road and quick left into dirt parking lot. FONTEYN HOMES 300-450. (CJ)

December 16

NORDHOFF PEAK: Strenuous 6 mile one-way hike in Ojai front country. Starting at the Cozy Dell Trailhead off Hwy 33, you will climb about 3000’ to reach Nordhoff Peak, where we will have lunch. We will continue across the ridge with splendid views on both sides of the Peak to eventually head down the Howard Creek trail to its end in Rose Valley near Hwy 33. This hike is not intended for beginners or those not used to significant elevation gain with long mileage. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool stop - Seaward and Harbor (between the Narrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). In order to leave at least one vehicle at the Howard Creek TH for the end of the hike, there will be an hour’s drive (half hour each way) before starting on the Cozy Dell Trail. Please bring - Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 st of water, and snack/ lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures of over 85 cancel. LORA & PHILIP 218- 2103 (VEN)

December 17

LA CUMBRE PEAK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Beautiful views from the highest peak on the front range. Strenuous 11 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss. Experienced hikers only. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9 am. JIM 479-7093/644-6934 (SB)

December 18

CARRIE HHIKE: (7.5 mile round trip with 2300 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike (with some steep sections) visits cool riparian trails and beautiful coastal vistas. It connects Cold Spring East, Hot Springs, McMeneny and Saddle Rock Trails, forming loops at each end. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

CHORRO SPRING: Strenuous 8.6 mrt with 2500’ elev. gain. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Meet at 7:30am in the far east end of the Oaks parking lot, or 7am at the trailhead on Highway 33. To reach the trailhead continue north on Highway 33 about 32 miles beyond Ojai. The trailhead is signed on the right. Park the car on the continued on page 5
December 25

GAVIOTA PEAK/TRESPASS LOOP: Moderate strenuously 7 mrt hike with an elevation gain of 2200’. Get ready to see eye-popping views up and down the coast. Start from the cross to the first road to the saddle and return via Tresspass trail. We will hike at a moderate pace, about 2 miles an hour and stop at the saddle for snacks and plants. End of the trail at about 2pm. This is a fairly steep ascent so cardio conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 8am. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

December 26

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk up hill to the cross for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 1

ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY HIKING: SINTONIA TO SANDSTONE PEAK: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1500’ elev. gain. Hike via the Sintonia Loop back via Backbone Trail to the parking area. Bring water, food and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at 8am at Sintonia Picnic Area for carpooling. HUGH WARREN 341-6295 mail@hiawhfen.net. (CJ)

OUTINGS WRITEUPS DUE SOON: Outings for the next Condor Call are due soon. They should be approximately 500 words in length, 2 to 2 and a half pages. Deadlines to submit: January 10, February 10, March 10, April 10, May 10, June 10, July 10, August 10, September 10, October 10, November 10, December 10.

January 2

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk up hill to the cross for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 4

PIUMA TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600’ elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am. Exit 101 Fwy at the Hills Road, right turn to Las Virgenes Canyon, left turn into the small parking area on the corner of Piuma and Las Virgenes Road. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

January 6

PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Come walk in a remote, high and beautiful area of the Los Padres National Forest. We will drive from the main street in Ojai to Blanca trailhead and pass through majestic tunnel cedars and feet-high white rock formations, then into the Piedra Blanca creek canyon and on up to Pine Mountain Lodge (elev. 6,000’), with a slower pace on the steep part), where we’ll take a 10 mile round trip with an elevation gain of 2,840 ft. Bring warm layers, water, lunch prepared and the other 10 essentials. Meet at 7:30am at Seaward & Harbor (meeting location will be at Ojai to Rose Valley. Rain cancels. For more info, contact TERESEA at 654-1170. (VEN)

January 7

HEIL’S 3/4 ACRE: Hike from Cachuma Saddle up a dirt road to interesting rock formations. About ten miles round trip. Moderately strenuous. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 8am. NOTE EARLY START 6:30am. NO DIANESOSSI@gmail.com (SB)

SIMS PEAK TRAIL: Moderate 6.5 mrt hike with approx. 1400’ elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead on Lindero Canyon Road block east of King James Court at 8am. JOANNE SULSKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

January 8

LOON POINT BEACH WALK: We’ll start just south of New Westend and walk the beach to Santa Claus Lane Beach. Return via Padero Lane. Great views of the SB Channel and elegant beach estates. Easy 4 miles round trip. Meet 8am at the America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

January 9

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 13

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN ROAD: Moderate-to-strenuous 10 mile one-way hike up or down Sulphur Mountain Road to Mt. Sindle (elev. 6000’), with a slower pace on the steep part), where we’ll take a 10 mile round trip with an elevation gain of 2,840 ft. Bring warm layers, water, lunch prepared and the other 10 essentials. Meet at 7:30am at Seaward & Harbor (meeting location will be at Ojai to Rose Valley. Rain cancels. For more info, contact TERESEA at 654-1170. (VEN)

January 14

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 16

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

Rainfall amounts across Los Padres National Forest have provided sufficient moisture levels to reduce fire restrictions which were so severe during the drought.

Now, campfires and charcoal barbecues will be allowed in all developed campgrounds, but dispersed fires of any kind outside of Designated Campfire Use Sites are prohibited. A list of such sites are at:

www.fs.nps.gov/lefr

Still, a free campfire permit is required to use portable lanterns or stoves using gas, jeliked, or pressurized liquid fuel outside of developed campgrounds. Download the permit from the forest’s website.

Learn to Backpack

We offer thorough training for adults and teens of various levels of fitness who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company. A dedicated staff of leaders will share their skills and stories in eight class sessions and during several exciting outings in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Classes are held from 7-9:30 p.m. in Ventura, February 8 through March 29.

Join us and the many people who have found new insights, enjoyment and adventure in the outdoors. Warning: it can change your life.

Class starts February 8, 2017

LospadresWBC
facebook.com/lospandresWBC
lospandresWBC@gmail.com • (805) 524-7179

2017 Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

Name:_________________________________________ Address: _______________________________________

Email: _________________________________________ Phone: ________________________________

Age (if under 18) ____________________________________________ Teenagers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian Sierra Club Member Number: ________________________________

How did you find out about WBC? ________________________________

Course Fees — Register before January 25 to receive an early bird discount!

How did you find out about WBC? ______________________________________________________

Early Bird Regular

$135 $160

$15 $175

$175 $215

$315 $345

$435 $485

$685 $725

$1015 $1065

$135 $145

$165 $175

$195 $205

$305 $315

$415 $425

$625 $635

$935 $945

$1245 $1255

$1555 $1565

$2075 $2085

$2395 $2405

$2815 $2825

$3335 $3345

$3855 $3865

$4375 $4385

$4895 $4905

$5415 $5425

$5935 $5945

$6455 $6465

$6975 $6985

$7495 $7505

$8015 $8025

$8535 $8545

www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf
GREETINGS FRIENDS

By Jim Hines
Chair LP Chapter
Greetings, Friends
Our January excursion, which takes us to the Los Padres Chapter region (Ventura and Santa Barbara counties), is filled with incredible hiking opportunities and inspiring stories. Our past comes alive in the stories of our land. To walk in the footsteps of those who walked us before is to truly understand the value of the land in which we live. It brings a sense of sorrow, joy and a passion to live. The stories which my ancestors have told me over the years (I am a 5th generation of my family to be born in the Ojai Valley) fascinate me. Their experiences, the hard work on the ranch and the emotional connection with the land (now part of the Ojai Campus) play a big part in my life.

We are so fortunate to be able to visit and learn from a number of historical and cultural sites in our region. Feeling the challenges of the first nations peoples, the power of the missions, the beauty of the ranches, and the stories of those who were responsible for preserving the land. The history we learn from our past connects us to ourselves.

My family took ownership of the vast Rancho Santa Ana in the western Ojai Valley in the late 19th century. As I walk the land today -- it is now owned as a wildlife and open space preserve -- the emotions, memories and feelings which pour out of me as I see that land as it was, a land which nurtured, challenged and gave strength to the ones who came before me.

No Fillmore hike access

Editor’s note: This letter to the editor was written by our Wilderness Basics Course founder, Teresa Norris, about limited access to hiking trails. Other letters to the media may help make change; write to: info@fillmorgazette.com or let me know.

To: Fillmore Gazette editor,

I was deeply saddened to learn that we have lost our access to the end of Grand Avenue near Fillmore, where I have been able to hike for many years. Other cities, such as Ojai, have more hiking trails every year, and Fillmore has fewer places where people can walk in our natural areas. Now there are practically none.

Several years ago, people used to be able to hike up the trail to the end of Grand Avenue near Fillmore. That hike has been closed due to the trash people have been leaving on the trail.

LORA & PHILIP 218-2103

VOTES OK locally

The top of the ticket (Donal Limón) for the Sierra Club’s worst nightmare, and his appointees as of press time were doing well against the environment’s sake; however, the Club’s endorsements in our Los Padres Region came out very well. If Limón and his colleagues decide to try for seats in the County, perhaps they will try to cover our offshore Channel Islands. Ah...the stories the Channel Islands can tell us of pirates, smugglers, artifacts,一楼, always and romance, love, learn about it at the Channel Islands National Park visitor center in Ventura Harbor.

Now with our lingering drought, Lake Casitas is at its lowest level ever in March of 2023. The road which is emerging as the lake recedes is the road I walked on as a child. We now know, oak tree which also was visible is a tree I tied my pony to as a child.

Our nature reserves are the big open spaces alive: the road which is emerging as the lake recedes is the road I walked on as a child. We now know, oak tree which also was visible is a tree I tied my pony to as a child.

We have a number of local historical sites in our region which are open to the public; take time to visit them and learn about how those who came before us struggled, lived and worked. Connecting with our past connects us to ourselves.

In Ventura County, our top priority was to win the measure on the County and cities of Ojai, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Fillmore and Moorpark. The NO Fillmore hike access letter to the editor captures my heart. I wonder what emotions, feelings and memories that land as it was, a land which nurtured, challenged and gave strength to the ones who came before me.

In Ventura County, our top priority was to win the measure on the County and cities of Ojai, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Fillmore and Moorpark. The NO Fillmore hike access letter to the editor captures my heart. I wonder what emotions, feelings and memories that land as it was, a land which nurtured, challenged and gave strength to the ones who came before me.

The Mission period saw Spanish explorers and Padre Anza and his Portola lead expeditions in our region in the late 1700s, leading to the establishment of the mission system. Locally in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez then came the rancho period where agriculture and cattle are the main enterprises. The great grassland valleys of Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, Conejo and Ojai become lands of cattle and agricultural culture. Today, as we approach our offshore Channel Islands. Ah...the stories the Channel Islands can tell us of pirates, smugglers, artifacts,一楼, always and romance, love, learn about it at the Channel Islands National Park visitor center in Ventura Harbor.

For more info call PAT Center in Ventura near Main St. or MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. and Chase Bank. Will require a 30-minute drive to the trailhead in the Lake Cachuma County Park. From the Bradbury Dam lookout to the peak, it will be over rough terrain. Lunch will be on the Peak. This hike is very strenuous. Only you. Please enjoy great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, Ojai Channel Islands are also visible. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool spot Steedward and Harbor (between the Carrozo Restaurant and Chase Bank). Will require a 30-45 minute drive to the trailhead in Ojai. Please bring - ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts. of water, windshield-wash, sunscreen, insect repellent recommended. Weather will be cool, temperatures of over 85 degrees.

LORA & PHILIP 218-2103

February 3

DIVIDE PEAK: Very strenuous 12 mile round trip hike with 3,200 feet of gain from the Matilija trailhead. Although the beginning of the trail is on well-maintained fire road, when you begin the dirt trail the peak will be over rough terrain. Lunch will be on the Peak. This hike is very challenging. Only you. Please enjoy great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, Ojai Channel Islands are also visible. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool spot Steedward and Harbor (between the Carrozo Restaurant and Chase Bank). Will require a 30-45 minute drive to the trailhead in Ojai. Please bring - ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts. of water, windshield-wash, sunscreen, insect repellent recommended. Weather will be cool, temperatures of over 85 degrees.

LORA & PHILIP 218-2103

February 4

SWEETWATER TRAIL: A hike up a beautiful trail along the side of Montecito Mountain, for which a local ranch was named. Meet at Tunnel Trailhead, which is closed in December/January 2017 • Condor Call • Page 5

February 5

CATHEDRAL PEAK DRAGON BACK: Start at Tunnel Trailhead toward Seven Falls. Make steep climb to the base of the Cathedral Peak Spine. Modest but difficult 4 Mile Round Trip. Possible 1200 foot gain with lots of boulder hopping. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283

February 11

Hills MEADOWS - HIKE and RAFTS: Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 399-3476 (VEN)

January 29

GANNETT TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderate 5.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (VEN)

BEGINNER NATURE PHOTO ADVENTURE: 8am-Noon. Want to get more ticks? Better pictures! Walk along San Buenaventura River “Secret Garden” while practicing photo composition basics. Good nature prints, critters and scenery expected. This is one of a series of photo events to raise funds for equipment at the Ormond Beach Amphitheater. Please register with San Buenaventura River cameras welcome. Take home a mini instructor booklet for future reference. This is a non-profit event to raise funds for the outing $5. Total distance about 2 miles. 2 miles elevation change, by two river crossings likely ~2 feet deep. Wear closed shoes; bring water snack, and sun protection. River crossing footwear optional (no flip-flops). Rain forecast cancels. No dogs please. Park and meet at the end of Mission Road Rock Park past Pick the 90 (Mission Rock Road). Contact: NIKHAI sierracubventure.com (VEN).

January 30

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot at 9am at Lake Casitas parking lot to do circle by the lake. For more info call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 23

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot at 9am at Lake Casitas parking lot to do circle by the lake. For more info call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 28

COLD SPRINGS TO E. CAMINO CIELO: Hike up through a canyon with trees and a stream, then up a trail along the side of Montecito Peak to E. Camino Cielo for panoramic views of the south coast and Santa Barbara Channel. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (VEN)

January 29

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderate 5.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (VEN)

BEGINNER NATURE PHOTO ADVENTURE: 8am-Noon. Want to get more ticks? Better pictures! Walk along San Buenaventura River “Secret Garden” while practicing photo composition basics. Good nature prints, critters and scenery expected. This is one of a series of photo events to raise funds for equipment at the Ormond Beach Amphitheater. Please register with San Buenaventura River cameras welcome. Take home a mini instructor booklet for future reference. This is a non-profit event to raise funds for the outing $5. Total distance about 2 miles. 2 miles elevation change, by two river crossings likely ~2 feet deep. Wear closed shoes; bring water snack, and sun protection. River crossing footwear optional (no flip-flops). Rain forecast cancels. No dogs please. Park and meet at the end of Mission Rock Road past Pick the 90 (Mission Rock Road). Contact: NIKHAI sierracubventure.com (VEN).

By Jim Hines
Chair LP Chapter
Greetings, Friends
Our January excursion, which takes us to the Los Padres Chapter region (Ventura and Santa Barbara counties), is filled with incredible hiking opportunities and inspiring stories. Our past comes alive in the stories of our land. To walk in the footsteps of those who walked us before is to truly understand the value of the land in which we live. It brings a sense of sorrow, joy and a passion to live. The stories which my ancestors have told me over the years (I am a 5th generation of my family to be born in the Ojai Valley) fascinate me. Their experiences, the hard work on the ranch and the emotional connection with the land (now part of the Ojai Campus) play a big part in my life.

We are so fortunate to be able to visit and learn from a number of historical and cultural sites in our region. Feeling the challenges of the first nations peoples, the power of the missions, the beauty of the ranches, and the stories of those who were responsible for preserving the land. The history we learn from our past connects us to ourselves.

My family took ownership of the vast Rancho Santa Ana in the western Ojai Valley in the late 19th century. As I walk the land today -- it is now owned as a wildlife and open space preserve -- the emotions, memories and feelings which pour out of me as I see that land as it was, a land which nurtured, challenged and gave strength to the ones who came before me.
Choose Arguello leaders

DORIS CONNOR

Doris has been in the Sierra Club for more than 40 years, with 14 years in the Northern Rockies and then 29 years in the Los Padres Chapter.

She has been especially active in outdoor activities, including hiking, skiing, canoeing, rafting, and backpacking. Doris has served as Arguello Group Treasurer for several years, and has been involved in all activity plans.

Choose Conejo leaders

JANET BLEVINS

Janet Blevins is a retired teacher who now volunteers her time in various community, social justice and environmental groups. She looks forward to becoming more involved with Sierra Club and the urgent work to preserve our natural world.

ROSEMARY HOLMES

With our coastal California in such danger from such things as offshore drilling, fracking, and our lives in general threatened by pesticides, traffic air pollution, and an infinite and varied additive range of toxics, I think environmental activism continues to be a necessary response. In the past I have written articles for the local press, worked to set up community forums and Sierra Club programs and have worked with other community organizations as much as our local botanical society. I am happy to make these small contributions. As a boardmember I can help determine the fate of the Arguello Chapter, as well as assist with the many small things that keep us going and maintain interest with ours and the community at large.  

Help the owls

The native burrowing owls are in danger of being evicted from their warrens to make room for large scale land developments. You can help them by staying in the direction of the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Charleton Bonham, to suspend the “passive relocation” of burrowing owls in California. Email is: director@wildlife.ca.gov

EAVESDROP "This is conservation today: habitat, water, air quality, ecosystems - viewed through the lens of climate solutions with an eye toward justice for all.”

I have gleamed powerful lessons about affecting policy and progressing towards 100 percent clean energy and progressing towards 100 percent clean energy and progressing towards 100 percent clean energy and progressing towards 100 percent clean energy and progressing towards 100 percent clean energy.

MARSHA SADLER

I have been happy to serve on behalf of our local Sierra Club Chapter, contributing expertise in graphics, communications and technology. You may contact me at: jim@carpedata.com

Choose Santa Barbara Group Leaders

JIM TAYLOR

Jim Taylor's passion for photography led to a career in printing, developing software and starting his own company called Carpe Data. He has spent a year traveling around the U.S., visiting 33 states, national parks and friends. Carpinteria was the family's first stop and their last. They loved the beachy town and downsized to a small apartment on the beach. Jim started a neighborhood Nextdoor site that serves as a communications channel for 175 neighbors in Conche Loma. They won first place in the Carpinteria Water Valley District’s 2014 Water Wise landscaping contest for their water conscious front yard. Jim serves as Vice President of the Carpinteria Valley Association and chairs the Energy Committee, which tracks oil and gas development as well as solar and other energy projects. Jim has fought polluting new oil projects in Santa Barbara County, contributing expertise in graphics, communications and technology. You may contact him at: jim@carpedata.com

KATE MULLIN

I have represented the club on the executive committee since 2012 and have found that our local Sierra Club does indeed make a difference. To wit: we recently worked hard at helping elect local politicians and officials who, like me, believe environmental protection issues are paramount. I have been happy to serve on behalf of our county’s environmental voice and I will continue helping our Santa Barbara Sierra Club respond to local environmental concerns.

Now more than ever our commitment to saving our natural habitat and human rights must include activism and work. The next few years will be a fight against forces that wish to take advantage of our natural beauty. I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of your choice.

Choose Santa Barbara Group Leaders

Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot (See candidate statements this page)

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

Vote by Dec. 31 to: Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3214, Santa Barbara CA 93130

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

In alphabetical order:

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Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # if from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card.

(Any box is only to assure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)
Condor game is based in reality

Saving endangered species is not a game -- until now -- thanks to a broad collaboration of agencies creating a reality-based game using actual conservation practices applied by the California Condor Recovery Program.

Players act as zookeepers, field biologists and veterinarians; incubate California condor eggs, release chicks into the wild and establish their own flock.

Called “Condor Country,” the new mobile game is free to download for both Android and iOS devices, and is listed in the App Store. Check it out, but ensure you read the beginning tutorial; more info at: www.condorcountrygame.com

While the basic game is free, proceeds from optional in-game purchases will help continue the Santa Barbara Zoo’s programs. It was developed through a collaboration of the Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Cerberus Interactive, but the one who hatched the idea first was Aaron Marshal, the zoo’s Director of Education.

“There is no win or lose in the game; it is about establishing a wild condor flock capable of raising chicks and producing more condors,” said Dr. Estelle Sanhaus, the Zoo’s Director of Conservation and Research. “But just like in real life, there are losses. Condors die from lead poisoning, eggs are infertile. But the California condor can be saved, despite setbacks. If the condor can do it, then other endangered species can. That’s our message.”

“IT’s a really powerful and unique tool … trying to achieve a self-sustaining population,” said the man who knows, Joseph Brandt, head of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s condor recovery program. It is the first game that simulates such a program.

While it’s available now for anyone in the world to play, locals will recognize the actual locations used in the game: the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, Big Sur and the Grand Canyon. You may also recognize some of the characters, said the Zoo’s Julia McHugh, such as the Benefactor, “based on local legend Jan Hamber, and the vet looks suspiciously like Zoo condor keeper Carol Hunsperger.”

A companion study guide will aid teachers in the classroom or players wanting more information. Players are also able to earn special golden feathers to speed up game play by opting to learn more about condor conservation.

“We are revolutionizing the way that people can connect to endangered species and to the people working to save them,” predicted Paul Souza, the Southwest Regional Director of Fish and Wildlife Service.

California condors, North America’s largest land bird with a wing span reaching nearly 10 feet across, have teetered on the edge of extinction since the 1960s. In 1982 there were only 23 birds alive. They were captured and nurtured in zoos and the population now numbers about 450 birds, over half of whom are now flying in the wild.

* * *

Editor’s note: Out in the field, expanding the release sites of California condors into coastal northern California and southern Oregon is under consideration.

Photo by Cara Peden

His shot was taken in 2013 by a nest camera that was used by biologists to monitor chicks and adults, and inform the creators of Condor Country.