Oil ban Act will challenge Feds

On the anniversary of the devastating 1969 oil blowout from Platform A in the Santa Barbara Channel, a new generation on Jan. 28, 2017 gathered at Shoreline Park not only to say “no” to any new oil development, but to offer renewable energy solutions.

It was our new Congressman Salud Carbajal’s first major action as he announced the California Clean Coast Act HR 731 that would ban future offshore oil projects in federal waters (beyond the three-mile limit), in defiance against a hostile and oil-lovin’ Trump Administration, which wants to do the opposite.

How’s that going to work out? “I realize there’s not a very high chance of it being successful,” Carbajal told the San Luis Obispo Tribune, “but I’m always hopeful.”

“We have more support than you might think,” Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis told the supportive crowd of over 100 on a beautiful, postcard picture day.

She noted that when President Obama proposed drilling in the Atlantic, “that was an outcry, not just in the liberal northeast, but the southeast,” including the red states “such as the right-wing in the liberal northeast, but the Atlantic, “there was an outcry, not

Carbajal called for support for the Clean Ocean Act at Shoreline Park with oil rigs in the distance. Support speakers included (from left) Michael Lyons of Get Oil Out, Katie Davis of our Los Padres Sierra Club Chapter and Michael Cohen SB Adventure Company. (Photo by Gerry Ching)

Recovering a historical trail

By Gary Van Houten

With a long history of trails to reopen an historic trail originally built by Ojai forest rangers more than 100 years ago. The six-mile-long Ocean View Trail (OV Trail) offers unrivaled views of the backcountry, and as its name implies, far-reaching vistas of the Santa Barbara Channel.

The effort is by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC), in partnership with the Ojai Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service and Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA).

"It is the hope and plan to one day join our Ventura River Preserve to the trail, via a 10-mile route along the Kennedy Ridge and Camino Cielo trails, that could connect hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners and equestrians to the Matilija Canyon Trailhead some 20 miles distant," says Rick Bisaccia, OVLC Stewardship Director.

The trail stretches from the end of the old Camino Cielo Road on the Ojai Valley side to the Divide Peak area of the OHV route above Matilija Canyon near the Murietta Divide. "It would also be possible to connect via the western terminus of the OV Trail to an existing route which joins with the top of the Franklin Trail, which begins in Carpenteria," Bisaccia says.

The trail was built around 1903 by Ojai forest rangers, including Bob Clark and George Bald. They were among the most colorful and accomplished mountain men of the time, and Bald’s son, Howard, was the first Commission Ranger for the Ojai Ranger District.

But before the OV Trail can be opened to public use, Bisaccia says an official study on the route has to be done. That entails cutting a narrow pathway, called a p-line, along the route to accommodate surveys by scientist for an environmental impact report.

The effort to reopen the OVT is getting plenty of support from volunteers, young and old.

"Several months ago, water was cached by volunteers on the western section of the trail, and on the weekend of November 18-20, several OVLC trail crew volunteers worked a half mile east towards Ojai along the trail from old White Ledge Camp, cutting p-line and route-finding using old USFS trail surveys, top maps, Google Earth images and a topo map app.

Joining the group were hiking guide author Craig R. Carey and his 32 Boy Scouts, along with leaders from Ventura’s Troop 111. Comprising boys mostly in the sixth grade, it specializes in backpacking and taking on service projects in the forest. A projected reopening date for the OVT has not been set, but Bisaccia says he’s looking forward to a ribbon-cutting someday.

"It’s my hope that the outdoor recreation community will come together to support the eventual approval and completion of this truly epic trail project. The contributions of volunteers and the help we’ve gotten from the U.S. Forest Service, LPFA, and Supervisor Steve Bennett’s and Congressman Julia Brownley’s offices are the kinds of backing needed to make such a project successful.

— Editor’s note: portions of this article appeared in the Ojai Valley News.

Feb 9: Gaviota Movie called The End of Southern California shown at the Santa Barbara Film Festival at 5:20, Metro 4 Theater.

Feb 11: Gaviota Movie called The End of Southern California shown at the Santa Barbara Film Festival at 7:30; Saturday, Loberos Theater.

Feb 11: Oak Tree Mysteries revealed by UCLA for Sedgwick Reserve at 7pm Tipton House, 556 Brinckerhoff Ave. Santa Ynez.

Feb 14: Shorebird Recovery Program sponsored by Ventura Audubon Society and Julia Hartley, who has 20 years of work at Ormond Beach, includes video of shorebird work at Santa Barbara’s Coal Oil Point, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. 7:30pm

Feb 22: Drive Clean, Free forum on Fuel Cell Electric and Hydrogen Vehicles sponsored by CEC and ABC at 6:30pm Wednesday, Feb. 22, SB Library, 40 E. Anapamu St. Learn about the benefits and challenges locally and beyond.

March 6: Green Scene with the Ventura Sierra Club 3-5 pm, Foster Library Topping Room (651 E Main St. Ventura). Free: meet and greet mixer, finger foods potluck to share with no utensils, no disposables, zero waste event.

Program features ‘New Urbanism’ by Aurelio Ocampo, Oxnard Parks and Rec Commissioner. Info: Nina at sierrachurchventura@gmail.com

March 8 & 4: Wild and Scenic Film Festival sponsored by Ventura Hillsides Conservancy is a popular series of award-winning short films “that celebrate the beauty and bounty of our natural world” at 7pm each night at Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura. Details at: www.VenturaHillsides.org/events

ExCom leaders stay

Jim Hines and Katie Davis were elected to the two of five at-large seats on the Los Padres Executive Committee. The first action of the ExCom at the January 26 meeting was to appoint Jim Hines as Chair and Katie Davis as Vice Chair. In addition, Gerry Chang was re-appointed as Secretary and Richard Hunt as Treasurer.

The ExCom consists of five elected at-large seats plus three Group Reps from each regional group. The at-large seats are voted for two year terms, but terms are staggered to preserve continuity.

The board also enthusiastically renewed the club’s affiliation with the Naples Coalition, a key to protecting the Gaviota Coast area.

They also approved funds to distribute more Condor Calls to the public by placing stacks in well-traveled service and retail stores.
Anguilla

FILMMAKER SHAW LEONARD SCANSD THE HORIZON FOR THE BEST SHOTS FOR HIS FILM, “GAVIDIA MOVIE”.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF PATIENT AND SOMETIMES DANGEROUS BUT EXCITING FILMING, WHAT MAY BE THE DEFINITIVE GAVIOTA MOVIE IS NOW OUT, WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE DEBUTING AT THE SANTA BARBARA FILM FESTIVAL ON FEBRUARY 9 AND 11.


FOR DECADES, ACTIVISTS HAVE BATTLED LAND DEVELOPERS TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND WILDLIFE. WITHOUT CONSTANT ACTION, THIS COASTLINE AND ITS WILDLIFE WILL BE CONSUMED ONE BUILDING PERMIT AT A TIME.

LUCKILY, THE GAVIOTA COAST CONSERVANCY AND THE NAPOLES COALITION—all of which the Sierra Club is a member—are working to beat back the threat of leapfrog development and have so far been successful. The latest happened on election day when the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve a long-awaited Gaviota Coast Plan that would enhance protection and public access.

The threat will continue, but the Gaviota movie will no doubt help draw attention and passion to the issues.

The primary filmmaker is Shaw Leonard who later enlisted the help of his cousin, Tamlorn Davis, and a seasoned editor and producer. The film took years before their attention to details.

They did not stop filming until we had captured all of the animals on our list, and this took a very long time to complete, Leonard said, citing the nearly six months it took to get action shots of a cougar.

It was worth the wait, he said, “to get what turned out to be incredible footage of her on a midnight stroll.”

And it was also occasionally dangerous, such as when Leonard insisted on filming the Sherpa Fire from safe locations, until the wind changed and came so close that “I ran for my life across the last ridge.”

The film leads audiences from the ocean floor of the Santa Barbara Channel to the peaks of the jagged Santa Ynez Mountains and so many of its denizens: breaching humpback whales, elusive white-tailed kiwis and nocturnal mountain lions.

Many thanks go to those who provided funding, with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy as the fiscal sponsor and including a grant from UC-Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal Fund, Patagonia, Gildia Foundation, public fundraisers and equipment from Santa Barbara’s Coastal...
Local Sierra Club members were proud and excited to join the Women’s March and other protests in all sorts of venues. Above, the crowd attending the Clean Coast Act announcement by Rep. Carbajal. Photos at left are: Will Rogers’ wisdom in SB, Hate-Free Zone in Ventura, Liberty in Ventura, local Shannon McComb in New York, Ex EPA employee protesting Trump nominee in DC. Photos under the panorama are: The Kids Are Alright in SB, Katie Davis’ nephew Jack’s plea in LA and a SB guy who knows signs. (Photos by Robert Bernstein, Condor John, Gerry Ching and Leslie Purcell)

We march, protest for American values

The Women’s March on Jan. 21 turned out to be not only a March on Washington DC to protect human rights, the environment, healthcare and freedom of religion, but a global protest against the Trump Administration’s likely assault on all those issues.

The Sierra Club was on board from the beginning. Members from the Los Padres Chapter turned out in large numbers joining an estimated 2,300 participants in city of Ventura and 6,000 in Santa Barbara. But nationwide, the numbers were even more stunning at about 3 million, making it a largest single-day demonstration in the nation’s history. Worldwide estimates were at 4.8 million.

While it started out as a march on Washington to “send a bold message … that women’s rights are human rights,” it exploded to include at least 675 marches worldwide in all seven continents, even one in Antarctica! Clearly, the participation in DC was bigger than Donald Trump’s inauguration, according to the Lion Media.

After such a success, the organizers posted the “10 Actions for the first 100 Days” campaign for joint activism to keep up the momentum.

As Sierra Club member Carla Bellinger said, “it was named the Women’s March but it could also have been the We are the Resistance Rally – be very afraid, and then get busy because work has to be done to protect America,” she concluded.

Our chapter is already committed to conduct a postcard writing campaign during Earth Days and will continue its lobbying efforts, notably by our Chair Jim Hines going to Washington in March.

The best way to tell this story is visual … enjoy the photos!

In the halls of D.C.

By Leslie A. Purcell

When I learned that not one, but three environment-related US Senate confirmation hearings were scheduled for January 17-19, I decided to go to Washington DC.

This was not completely foreign territory, as my dad taught political science at George Washington University, and I had gone with my mother to visit our Congressional representative. I went online to find out the details, and when I got to the DC hearings, security was not a problem, even friendly … more so when I got to the third floor. The first thing I saw was an open door with the American flag to one side, and a plaque with the name of Senator Bernie Sanders!

The main event was the committee hearing for Scott Pruitt as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Sierra Club, 350.org, and Friends of the Earth organized an impromptu rally outside the building, which then moved inside.

So many people jammed the hall that there was little chance to get into the actual hearing, as the room filled up with senators, staff, news media and Pruitt’s supporters. I saw much of the questioning on a large screen in the overflow room.

While outside the EPA hearing, there was a ripple of applause as Sen. Tim Kaine came smiling by. I said “hello” as my brother knows this “nicest guy” from Harvard Law school. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey walked by and I thanked him for his work.

California’s new Senator, Kamala Harris, was formidable in her questioning of Pruitt, as was ranking member Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware. Later, I went down to the basement to find Harris’ temporary office, and was happy to meet and complement her effort.

The hearing for Rick Perry as Energy Secretary found Sen. Sanders pressing him on his campaign for joint activism to keep up the momentum.

The hearing for Interior Secretary nominee Ryan Zinke concerned his relations with Indian tribes and tribal rights, public lands management, as well as a self-bonding “sweetheart” deal for coal.

All told, I felt it was important, as a Sierra Club member of the public, to attend these hearings, and to encourage Senators in their questioning of these nominees for the good of the environment.

Preserve your piece of history

Preserve the Women’s March for the ages … your stories are our history.

The curator of the Museum of Ventura County “needs your signs, your photos, your pussy hats AND most important of all: I need your stories,” said Anna Bermudez.

She requests “all Ventura County residents who attended the recent March on Washington or any of the sisters’ rallies around the globe, including, of course the local marches.

“We are planning on putting an exhibit together about the impact that these marches had on current and former residents of Ventura County. You can reach me at the museum at: abermudez@venturamuseum.org

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The hearing for Interior Secretary nominee Ryan Zinke concerned his relations with Indian tribes and tribal rights, public lands management, as well as a self-bonding “sweetheart” deal for coal.

All told, I felt it was important, as a Sierra Club member of the public, to attend these hearings, and to encourage Senators in their questioning of these nominees for the good of the environment.

Eavesdrops

“If Trump turns off the satellites (gathering climate change data), California will launch its own damn satellite."

~ Gov. Jerry Brown in a December speech at a science conference in San Francisco.

Signs of the times

The Women’s March was full of creative expressions on home-made and professional-like signs. Here’s a list of them in all their wit and wisdom -- compiled by Sierra Club’s Robert Bernstein who wrote about and photographed the Santa Barbara march.

LOVE I Matter

Boys 4 Girls Pussy Power

Viva La Vulva Girls are Strong

Fight Like a Girl Choice = Freedom

Love Trumps Hate Black Lives Matter

Health Care for All United Against Hate

No Human is Illegal

We are the Majority

Temptress Strikes Back

We Shall Over-Come

I am Stronger than Fear

This Pussy Grabs Back!

Time Wounds all Heels

Even Melanie Looked Sad

Make America Kind Again

I March to Save Our Planet

Make America Think Again

Rebellions are Built on Hope

Nasty Women Make History

I March to Support a Free Press

Nasty Women Will Not Be Silent

Women’s Rights are Human Rights

Compassion is the New Radicals

How Many Miles Must We March?

2,864,000 More Votes [For Hillary]

Climate Change Threatens All of Us

Keep Your Rosaries Off My Ovaries

Respect Existence or Expect Resistance

Love Not Hate Will Make America Great

My Mom Really Did This 50 Years Ago

Science is Based on Evidence

People and Planet - Not Privilege and Profit

Build a Wall Around Trump - I’ll Pay For It

 Ecuador Call 4
As you can see, wildlife is being squeezed into narrow corridors due to urban encroachment. Solutions? County staff working on it!

Resource Management Agency (RMA), Kari Finney and Abigail Convery, presented various options and maps of wildlife movement, notably from the 2006 South Coast Wildlands Project that evaluated impacts on animals throughout Southern California. Agencies involved were as varied as CalTrans and state Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

Of special concern on the designated wildlife corridors are the “choke points” caused by urban sprawl, physical barriers such as roads, freeways and fencing. Indirect barriers were also noted: bright night light, loud noise, anti-rodenticide poisoning, and lack of natural vegetation for wildlife.

Staff emphasized this was a public outreach and they certainly got plenty of feedback.

Seth Riley of the National Park Service had a Power Point presentation covering mountain lions in LA-ventura counties and their survival challenges: Mortality on roads, barriers for movement and genetic differentiation.

Merrill Berge, SOAR-areas coordinator for Camarillo, pointed out the pending development proposals that would impact the Conojo Creek, one of the last open, natural wildlife under-crossings beneath the 101 in Ventura County. Support for wildlife movement corridors for all animals from birds to cougars was advocated by Julie Newsome, Santa Monica Mountains Fund and Save LA Cougars, among many others.

Farmers and ranchers raised their concerns, especially the possibilities of additional regulations, more cost to comply and erosion of farming rights. In reply, Paul Edelman of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, reminded everyone that it’s early in the process, and compromises can be reached.

“As our county becomes increasingly urbanized, wildlife is getting squeezed out of areas they have historically used for migration routes,” Hines said. He gave credit to “the hard work of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, who drafted this plan.”

— Editor’s note: Carla Bollinger is a Ventura Sierra Club member and a PLAN (Public Land Alliance Network) organizer.

Pitch in @ Earth Days

By Irene Rausenberg

The Los Padres Chapter needs supportive volunteers for the 2017 Earth Day events at various dates and locations to highlight our accomplishments, goals, and to inspire membership.

This is an opportunity to be creative, defend, educate and gain support on local issues.

Pick your group and choose your location for these volunteer sign-ups below. Fun and satisfaction guaranteed.

~ Ventura Sierra Club for Saturday, April 22, please choose preferred times: 9am-12pm; 12pm-3pm; 3pm-6pm, at Plaza Park. Contact Nina Danza: SantaBarbaraVentura@gmail.com

Official Ventura Earth Day website: www.venturearthday.org

~ Oxnard, Saturday, April 15, 10am-1pm at Plaza Park downtown Oxnard. Need two volunteers for 2 hour shifts. Contact Irene Rausenberg: ireneraus@hotmail.com

~ Ojai, culminating an Earth Week of events, Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines will host a Sierra Club table on Saturday, April 22. A live butterfly exhibit is planned. To help, contact Jim at: jhpitos@gmail.com

Also at Wheeler Gorge Nature Center on Saturday, April 22, our Wilderness Basics Course will be featured. To help, contact: olivesof@gmail.com

~ Thousand Oaks merges Arbor Day and Earth Day at its celebration April 8. Our Conejo Group has not yet decided if it will participate, but either way, go! Details at the public works section of: www.tol axes.org

~ Santa Barbara Earth Day is a full weekend event in Alameda Park Saturday and Sunday April 22 & 23, 11am - 6pm. We need volunteers for 2-hour shifts both days. Contact SB Group Chair Kate Davis: santabarbara.group@sierralceclub.org

Website for this signature event: www.SilEarthday.org

~ Buellton is having a celebration competing North County Santa Barbara areas official calendar on Sunday, May 21 from noon to 5pm at River View Park in Buellton. Arguello Group needs volunteers; contact Rebecca August: rebecca.august21@mac.com

It helps to donate time, money, heart

So please, respond to the letter, or if you can’t wait, donate to help our local chapter online at www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

There are many other ways to help, such as:

~ If you’re an Amazon shopper, you may designate the Sierra Club to get a small portion of your purchases (it doesn’t cost you any more). Sign up at: www.smile.amazon.com

~ Coordinate your passion or hobby with Team Sierra Club in which funds are raised through the club for your favorite activity. Details at: www.TeamSierra.org

~ Sierrra Club paraprelmla, be it a shirt, outdoor and shopping bags, calendars and cards. You can also adopt an animal in which your donations go directly to the activity you choose (great for kids). Click on ‘store’ at: www.SierraClub.org

~ Interested in solar panels for your house or business? Part of the discounted price goes to your local chapter. Get an estimate at: http://SC.org/SolarPrint

~ Ask friends to join the Club. See ad below.

~ Sign up for a Sierra Club credit card (see ad below).

~ Leave a legacy in your name to the Sierra Club in your will. See ad below.

Join the movement

Holly, Mary, Jim, Carla, Nina don’t just March, they are hands-on volunteers making our area better. Please join us. (Photo by Condor John)
WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. The location of all outings will be at a time and on a trail to the best ability.

February 6 MONDAY MORNIMG WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on a trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 10 ZUMA BEACH WALK to PARADISE COVE: Easy to moderate 5.5 mile walk with an elevation gain of about 300'. Peaceful walk along the water's edge to Point Dume. Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at Stinson Beach Pier at 9:00am or 10:00am. LILIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE RESTORATION EVENT: Join the California/Nevada Desert Committee and the National Park Service for a restoration project in the Mojave National Preserve (MNP) on February 10, one day before the Desert Committee meeting on Saturday and Sunday. We will gather on Friday at 9 am, work through the afternoon, and adjourn in time to reach Shoshone for the early evening. The group will be to remove “culturally planted species” (tamarisk, fan palm, willow) to remove “culturally planted species” (tamarisk, fan palm, willow) to the valley, then with a little more gain, about 2000' gain. Moderate to strenuous hike with views stretching farther the valley.
Poetry, take Lynn Round south towards ocean, turn left at Via Goleta before Dos Pueblos, and park at the parking lot. JOANNE SUKOSKI 492-3061 (CJ)

March 9

CHINO STRAND: 10 mile hike on 3200’ elev. gain/ loss. Cool, perfect for hikers only. The hike starts at 4000’ and climbs steadily for 5 miles to 7200’, ending down the eastern slope of the southern Sierra. Rain cancels. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. For instructions. Rain cancels. Contact: VICKY 563-4850 (SB).

March 11

JESUITA STRAIL TO INSPIRATIONAL OVERLOOK: A hike through an ancient oak woodland to a scenic view point. Moderate to strenuous 7 mile hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 218-2103 (SB).

March 12

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL - TUNNEL TRAIL: Hike to Tunnel connector. Hike up steep connector to Tunnel Trail. Hike Tunnel Trail to not formation for lunch. Beautiful views of Santa’s Northwest. 3 miles, strenuous 9 mi. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB).

March 17

FRED’S FREDERICK HITCHCOCK DAY: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot or 9am at the end of Rice Road to walk to the national park. More info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

March 18

HORN CANYON: Creek walk near Ojai Trail crosses Thacher School and upper level hiking loop takes you through woods and meadows to view point. Moderately strenuous 7 mile hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 218-2103 (SB).

March 19

SAN MARCOS RIDGE: Short, easy hike along foothill ridges of recent activity. Located in San Marcos County Park. Amazing 360’ views of coastal mountains and islands. Easy to moderate 3 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 218-2103 (SB).

March 20

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Easy hike on relatively flat terrain. All ages welcome. From Vista View Trailhead to power line clearing. Option to continue up steep knife edge ridge to power line clearing. Easy to moderate 5 miles. Lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 218-2103 (SB).

March 24

SACATAR WILDERNESS trail improvement project: Come to the ancient oak woodland to help with this epic project! Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 218-2103 (SB).

March 27

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot. For info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

March 31

SERRANO VALLEY LOOP: Mugy State Park: This 10 mile moderate fire hike takes you through some of the most scenic parts of the center of the Park. About 6 hours of hiking starts at Big Sycamore Canyon trailhead and climbs 1100 ft. through Serrano Canyon. Along the way we enjoy woodland foliage, a large east of chaos and a variety of other plant forms. We will walk down to Sycamore Cyn Trail to finish the loop back to TUNNEL TRAIL TO RIDGE VIEWPOINT: Hike up easy Tunnel Trail and quiet connector road to power line clearing. Option to continue up steep knife edge ridge to power line clearing. Easy to moderate 5 miles. Lunch and water. Beautiful views of Mission Canyon and Santa Barbara. Moderate pace 4 mrt with 1200’ gain to clearing, strenuous 0.7 miles, moderate down to Serrano Canyon rain. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a change of clothes. NOTE: PERFORMANCE START. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 8:15am. MURRAY 967-8770 (SB).

April 3

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Mission Plaza. Perfect activity city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to Mission Plaza parking lot for info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

April 8

ROMERO CANYON: Hike up Romero Trail to E. Camino Cielo. Hike along fire break to the old Romero Rd for return trip. Wonderful Views. Easy 14 mile strenuous 14.5 mile. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 963-2347 (SB).

April 9

NOVI SERRA EJIDO: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot (or E. Camino Cielo) Hike along fire break to the old Romero Rd for return trip. Easy 14 mile strenuous 14.5 mile. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. MURRAY 963-2347 (SB).

May 1

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An old trail renews our strength

By Jim Hines

Greetings, Friends

One can learn a lot about the land, plants, wildlife and oneself by taking just one hike. To be out in nature, free of human obligations allowing one’s soul to find the inner strength we all need to face life’s challenges is such an amazing experience. The bond I feel with nature is a bond which has lasted a lifetime for me.

It all started with my first hike when I was about 5 years old with my father: Laguna Ridge, a Los Padres National Forest 6-mile long fire road north of Lake Casitas where I grew up. When I was young, it was the “top of the world” at around 2200 feet high. I could see down on our ranch house, Lake Casitas, the entire Ojai Valley and, at the end of the ridge, Carpinteria and far off Santa Barbara and even the Channel Islands offshore. You could even reach Matilija Canyon.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to walk in many beautiful wild areas in our state and nation, but still my favorite hike is Laguna Ridge. After our recent life-giving rains, I went back and the views were as amazing as ever. Life is vibrant along the ridge; a dozen deer were grazing in a grassy area and they “jumped to attention” was I approached, standing quietly still, was I friend of foe? They returned to grazing, sensing I was a friend.

The bright sky brought several hawks and turkey vultures soaring overhead, then I heard that familiar grunt … a herd of wild boar were on the move, rooting for roots and boy were they making a commotion. The first tender shoots of wood ferns were emerging along one of the shady slopes as well as red sage. A hint of blue caught my eye, it was the first two Brodiaea (native bulbs) already starting to bloom, a hint of blue caught my eye, it was the first two Brodiaea (native bulbs) already starting to bloom, more will come in Spring. Several small mammals run fast across the dirt road from time to time, scurrying o avoid predators, but I move slowly to enjoy the land and their presence.

I feel such a bond with the land and I am filled with memories of my father, now buried on our family’s former ranch site below me. In fact, I felt his presence, guiding me as he did on so many hikes when I was young.

The soil was damp, animal tracks were everywhere: bobcat, bear, deer, quail and wild turkey all of which inhabit this great, wild place. But no sign of the largest predators, mountain lions. They are here, I have seen them frequently over the years. Perhaps they were here today but I did not see them, these ‘ghost cats’ as they were called by the Chumash.

Silence was my partner on this hike, the silence to feel and absorb all of the beauty around me, the wildlife, and the quiet, oh the quietness of the land, but it has stories to tell and knowledge to share.

I have learned from the land, she has taught me well, a respect for something greater than myself. I am alone in this great land but I am not lonely; I feel as if I am a giant on top of the world looking down on creation, basking in the sunlight in quiet meditation. Our great wild places can heal and educate us, and all the land expects in return is for each of us to protect and respect it.

I am serenaded as I end my hike by a group of blue jays; I feel they are wishing me well and asking that I return soon to this special place, Laguna Ridge, my sanctuary.

See you on the trail.

Chapter Chair Jim Hines writes about the renewal given by the outdoors that include ‘eye-candy’ views from his favorite hiking trail, Laguna Ridge, where you see both land and sea, including Lake Casitas. Artist Ray Strong also tuned in and painted this artistic view of the lake. It’s part of the Wildling Museum’s special exhibit “Private Collections” comprised of artwork borrowed from its members. Exhibit opens from Feb. 24 to May 29. Details at: www.WildlingMuseum.org Meanwhile, the trail is always open 24-7.