The first surprise was in November when the electoral college elected Donald Trump as president. It was thecase where millions of citizens rose to protest his style and substance, which threatens advances made in environmental protection and justice. See story on EPA deep cuts here:  
http://tinyurl.com/DeepCutsEPA

Locally, the January rallies in Ventura and Santa Barbara attracted thousands, and from that wellspring came a new energy to organize a major resistance movement, one that can already claim emerging success, such as stopping oil transport by trains through our cities. You can get involved on many levels; notably that NO federal land protection legislation will ever get past his committee as long as he is chair.

Which means our long-sought protections for the Los Padres National Forest via the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act may not even get a hearing.

The day after, a staff member sent me a copy of a letter by Bishop to President Trump asking the him to revoke protections of our offshore waters by removing the existing Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and rejecting our proposed Chuckum Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

The Trump Administration has stated they would like to open up more offshore tracts to oil drilling. That means that local Rep. Salud Carbajal’s proposed Clean Coast Act to prevent this may not even get a congressional committee hearing.

Funding will be cut to provide for last year’s SOAR Act. The Trump Administration proposed a 2018 budget that would cut $1.2 billion for habitat conservation initiatives pass in all of Ventura County, preserving agricultural lands and open space until 2050. Their incredible achievements provide inspiration to us all.

By Elisabeth Lamar

Held in Oxnard’s beautiful Hueneme High School Auditorium, the third annual Ventura County International Women’s Day event was an exquisite celebration complete with belly dancers and the Channel Island High School drill team. The Ventura Sierra Club gave environmental heroine of the year awards to Supervisor Linda Parks and activist Merrille Berge for their work with SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Resources). In their acceptance speeches, both women emphasized the importance of civic involvement and remaining engaged with members of our community.

Parks, wearing a vibrant dress with a mountain lion print, talked about her activism being sparked from a “Mommy and Me” group where she learned about the plans to develop Ahmanson Ranch. Berge remembered her interest in advocacy started with a simple article in the local paper about the proposal for massive housing in Camarillo.

Our environmental heroine award winners echoed a similar sentiment I had heard just days before from Lush Greenberg, co-author of “Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda” as she spoke at The Climate Reality Project conference in Denver. Greenberg’s core message was “Organize. Organize. Organize.”

“Ninety percent of making change,” Greenberg said, “is getting organized, getting educated and showing up.”

Read about this fascinating story about how that 26-page political manifesto crashed Google Docs and became a “tidal wave” of activism throughout the nation at:  
http://tinyurl.com/indivisiblebible

Clearly, local action can make a huge difference. Through their efforts, Parks and Berge gave us hope that we can have last year’s SOAR initiatives pass in all of Ventura County, preserving agricultural and open space until 2050. Read more about the March locally.

Mr. Hines goes to Washington

By Jim Hines

I spent time in the positive light of our friends on Capitol Hill and in the abyss of darkness with our adversaries. I was welcomed by many members of congress, scorned and lectured by others.

Good to know who our friends and adversaries are, for we have many battles ahead in our effort to protect wildlife and wild places.

This congress and Administration is like no other I have ever encountered. Yes, there is a massive “war on the environment” going on. The primary focus for my visit was stopping numerous bills before Congress to abolish national lands in Utah, which is ground zero for this unprecedented attack on our public lands. Notable is the Bears Ears National Monument designated by President Obama before he left office; it’s the most attacked and threatened piece of national land in the nation, so far.

I met with Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources) and witnessed the dangers of the assault on our land, water and wildlife. Bishop told me in no uncertain terms that NO federal land protection legislation will ever get past his committee as long as he is chair.

Mr. Hines, also known as our Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines, put on a suit and tie to blend in with the political natives in the wilderness of Washington DC.

Locals join the resistance

The Indivisible movement started with the online publication of a 23-page handbook titled “A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda.” The authors of the document were former congressional staff. Read it here:  
www.indivisibleguide.com

Indivisible has local groups: For Santa Barbara:  
www.indivisibleSB.com and Ventura:  
https://indivisibleventura.org

“The Women’s March in January also saw Indivisible for All (J4All) groups that in Ventura at least has splintered into issue-specific committees. Over 300 people overflowed a meeting hall on Feb. 15, and when asked what groups they belonged to, three voted for ACLU, Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club.

The Ventura environmental committee co-nicks are Nikki Spina (niki@willowcreekstudio.com) and Kris Ohlenkamp (kris.ohlenkamp@gmail.com).

In a March 9 meeting, numerous groups were represented, including the Sierra Club, iMatter, 350, P/Patrol. Locals join the resistance

EAVESDROPS

“I wouldn’t give you two cents for all your fancy rules if, behind them, they didn’t have a little bit of plain, ordinary, everyday kindness and a little looking out for the other fellow, too.”

– Jimmy Stewart as Jefferson Smith fighting against a developer’s political graft, to build a dam instead of allowing a national boys camp, in Frank Capra’s film, “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.”

Linda Parks

Sierra Club California has six more “Island Hop Cruises” planned this year in which you live aboard a boat and go onshore to explore three of the Channel Islands, or float a kayak. Kick your Island cruise off your bucket list and do it on these dates: May 7-9, June 11-13, July 16-18, Aug 20-22, Sept 24-26 and Oct 22-24. Call or email the leader who took this photo: Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email joan.jones.holtz@gmail.com.

Merrill Berge

Daisies were ablaze on the Cuyama Hills and forest firefighter Jeff Knepp was there to snap them in the bud. NOW is the time to see our region’s riot of blooms due to winter rains. Go on our free outings and meanwhile there’s a free wildflower brochure to ID local flowers from Blue Dicks to Violets’ Bower at http://tinyurl.com/FreeWildflowers. Also, get Helen Tarbet’s wildflower report (she is the Forest Service’s RecTech) at htarbet@fs.fed.us.

Pussy hats’ were on brilliant display at the MoveOn of Ventura County to curate the Women’s March locally. (Photo by Condor John)

We also witnessed a surge in membership and activism in both the Santa Barbara and Ventura Democratic clubs.
Citizen goes to Washington, too

By Leslie Purcell

The sky was snowing pink on March 10 as we got off the train and headed where the Native Nations march was to begin, the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C.

I was with an activist from Delacouve, the state's only tribe from Maryland and a couple independent journalists. We walked the few blocks to where hundreds of people gathered. This event came out of the Standing Rock resistance against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), for water protection and native environment.

People inside the Army building were at the windows looking out as marchers -- babies in arms to elders -- walked, danced, and rode by with drums, chanting, signs and banners.

It paused near the Trump Hotel, By the elegant old Post Office building with several American flags flying, while dancers performed, and chants and banners were raised. Martin O’Malley, the former Maryland governor and presidential candidate, was interviewed by a journalist, then we walked together, hearing about O’Malley’s formal recognition of the Piscataway tribe, and his current work to help young people get involved in politics.

Winding through D.C. streets, the long march arrived at Lafayette Square across from the White House. Tribal leaders and others spoke about sovereignty and right to treaties, historic and ongoing litigation. People had come from different parts of the country; some came recently from the Standing Rock encampment.

The overall spirit was high, more dancing and drumming, and even though it was cold, people were happy to be there. After the rally, we went into the Environmental Protection building for lunch and to get warm.

We met an EPA staffer informally, who invited us to talk to the EPA, and others, to let our legislators know that the public does support the EPA and its work, and that we're ready to come together.

Last I stopped by California Senators’ offices, and expressed my concerns for the environment, in particular clean water and healthy soils.

The next morning, I attended a panel discussion of Jumping Eagle vs. Trump, litigating the Trump administration’s executive order truncating the Army Corps environmental impact study, jumping over the DAPL, without proper due process and tribal consultation.

Mr. Hines... continued from page 1

We are truly in dangerous times and while I have painted an apocalyptic picture of this war on our environment, it is a real picture of what is coming. My meetings with senior Trump administration officials, and my visits to the energy companies, do not go so well. Mostly got lectured on their philosophy of destroying the environment.

There may be hope in the resistance.

After 60 million Americans wrote letters and spoke out in support of the Standing Rock's WinonaLaDuke (R-Utah) to withdraw his legislation to trade 30 million acres of public lands out of federal ownership. I was also encouraged by a meeting I had with Arizona Sen. John McCain, who said he thinks it’s nonsense to get rid of national public lands.

And the staffs of the House Natural Resources and Senate Environment committees were encouraging while House Rep. Rob Bishop (Utah) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Arizona) was inspiring. That’s because Congress members are getting thousands of calls, emails and tweets from you about the attacks on our environment.

Each one of YOU are the resistance warriors; we are ready, and we’re working with the Senate Caucus about the attacks on our environment.

The trouble is, the clock won’t start ticking until the permit is approved by the State Lands Commission, we are speaking out about the numbers. Your voices matter more now than ever.

The Sierra Club has a powerful voice in DC and we are using that voice very effectively and we ask for your help.

For more information, please see our map of help, on page 5.
members were there for support.  

- Feb 23: Global Ecology classes at Santa Paula High were treated to a restoration and pesticide reduction talk by UCSB experts, focused on the Santa Clara River area which the Ventura Sierra Club has been fighting for the last three years due to Chair Nina Dunza gathering columns.  

- Feb 22: Reading projects at Elmhurst School with Ventura Sierra Club volunteers Jill Forman, Bruce Hunter and Pamela Hazard as judges during the reading fair, who were recruited by VSC Chair Nina Dunza. This 3rd grade schoolwide program has the kids doing a follow-up project on endangered. 

- Feb 15: Justice for All group, Bowl and ends up at Women’s Club.  

- Wheeler Gorge Open House, Saturday, April 22, 10am to 2pm at 17107 Matopka Highway 33, Ojai. has lots of forest displays, store and info by Los Padres Forest.  

- Highlights: Display by Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course. Also, nature by walky Kaufer at 1pm for $15, kids free. Visitor Center is at 17107 Matopka Hwy 33, Ojai. Details at: http://www.sierraclub.org/alerts/2017  

- Santa Barbara Day! Saturday and Sunday April 22 & 23, 11am - 8pm, is an inspiring extravaganza since 1970 at Alameda Park. Highlights: Everything!  

- Santa Ynez Valley’s Earth Day celebration is called on Sunday, May 21, but draws from all North County areas, from noon to 5pm at River View Park, Demos, music, agriculture.  

- Highlight: Peoples’ Climate Rally. Marching down on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E.  

- Highlights: Peoples’ Climate Rally. Marching down on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E.  

- ARAGUELLO GROUP NOW ON FACEBOOK! Keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: https://www.facebook.com/Araguellogroup  

- General meetings with potluck and programs during most months. Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 13th Berkeley Ave., at 7-8:30pm when there are potlucks.  

- Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.  

- Questions? Contact evan@araguello.com or 350-0629  

- VENTURA NETWORK Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County Group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VenturaSierdrahtFH 

- MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff at Ventura County Volunteer Group/Sierra Club Santa Barbara Area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at www.SBSierraClub.org or follow us on Facebook.  

- EVENTS  

April 8: River Cleanup at the Santa Clara River Gateway 9am to noon; by Ventura Sierra Club; we provide tools and safety info at: https://www.sierraclubventura@gmail.com  

April 8: Ojai Raptor Center’s bi- open annual house, open noon to 4pm, at 370 Baldwin Rd. Ojai. A rare opportunity to meet raptors up close and hear about ORC’s rehabilitation, release, and conservation. Silent auction, kid friendly activities (under ten admitted free), etc. found a sick raptor to be creative, defend, educate and gain support on local issues.  

- For booths and exhibits 11am to 3pm at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and events.  

- Ventura Sierra Club is an art show and fundraiser for Naples Coalition and Gaviota Coast Conservancy 2-8pm at the Bacara Resort, 8301 Hollister Ave. Goleta. (see story pg 3)  

April 15: Trump Tax: Events locally, nationally to insist President Trump release his tax returns. Details for Santa Barbara: www.indivisibleSB.com; and Ventura: https://-indivisibleventura.com  

April 22: March for Science – Ojai’s related event starts at 3pm at the Plaza, 11am. Join a nationwide movement to champion and fund science, support research, promote diversity. This gathering will start in De La Guerra Plaza and march to Alameda Plaza, ending at the main stage of Santa Barbara Day! Earth Day in the park at: https://tgo.com/ForScience Rally  

April 22: Help Shorebirds on Ventura County beaches, train to be a volunteer naturalist for endangered species sponsored by Audubon; 3-hour sessions, contact chelsea.Pletcher@  

April 29: People’s Climate Mobilization – On the 100th Day of the Trump Administration a huge march on Washington is planned; also, will be rallies nationwide; notably noon-2pm at SBC’s La Playa stadium with opportunities to do creative, active. Our SB Group involved. Details at: www.cccol.org  

May 21: TGIF at the Environmental Defense Center will be sponsored by the Los Padres Chapter at: EDC. 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Santa Barbara forecourt. One of the best happy hours in Santa Barbara, lots of activists to meet.  

May 20: Help Shorebirds on Ventura County beaches, train to be a volunteer naturalist for endangered species sponsored by Audubon; 3-hour sessions, contact chelsea.Pletcher@  

June 4: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s annual fundraising fun with music, food, silent and active auctions and lots of networking. From 2-5:30pm at Rancho La Palmas & Shoe House, Goleta. Details at: www.EDC.org  

June 4: Ojai WILD! on Sunday, June 4th. This year we will be honoring the Teacher Organization where the event takes place; also celebrating the Sespe Wilderness’s 25th anniversary. Info: at www.isa.org  

March 5: 4pm. Check before attending at: sierraclubventura@gmail.com  

March 5: Doors to Great Lay Over: 7-8:30pm. Check before attending at: sierraclubventura@gmail.com  

March 5: Event: The environmental community was organized by SB-Goleta Sierra Club sponsors who sent out a call to the Goleta City Council which scheduled a meeting May 8. Council also advocated to switch streetlights to LED and keep SB-Ventura routes populated by thousands.  

March 6: Rain didn’t dampen the fun or the number of participants who attended the Goleta River Nature Area. Sierra Club joined UCSB, Ventura Audubon, and Santa Paula High, and there were 100 or more people who showed up to grow on the Santa Clara River.  

March 4: Wild & Scenic Film Festival by Ventura Hillsides Conservancy attended by many Sierra Club members, notably to see short films that proved that farming and ranching can be done successfully without pesticides or fertilizers or succumbing to “factory” type of agriculture.  

March 4: New Urbanism talk by Aurelio Ocampo and others at Ventura Sierra Club’s first program of the year organized by Chair Nina Dunza. (See story pg 4)  

March 4 – 10: DC Lobby efforts are underway and focuses on the protection of America’s national parks and monuments, notably with our Chapter Chair Jim Hines. (See story page 1&4)  

March 2: Rally for Health Care and a clean environment, part of the Women’s March afternoon, had about 200 people marching toward traffic around the busy Ventura Government Center. Sierra Club
Keep public lands public
By Jim Hines
Greetings Friends
of the Gaviota Coast: The Jewel
between Ventura and Santa Barbara
— where deer are numerous during the morning and
— where bald eagles build their nests and the fish
are plentiful.

Now is the time to
attend Gaviota art benefit
Greg Hines
GREETINGS FRIENDS
of the Gaviota Coast: The Jewel
Attend Gaviota art benefit
April/May 2017 •
The Fifth Annual “Visions
of the Gaviota Coast: The Jewel
in our Backyard” fundraiser is happening on Friday & Saturday,
April 14 & 15 at Bacara Resort
in Goleta, to benefit the Gaviota
Coast Conservancy and Naples
Coalition.
This two-day exhibit of
more than 150 works of art,
juried by artist and professor
Rick Stich, features the
stunning beauty of the Gaviota
area, stretching for 72 miles and
providing a pristine habitat for
over 1,400 species. Hours are
Friday from 2-8pm and Saturday
1am-5pm. An opening reception
is on Friday 5-8pm, and a
special free showing of the new
Gaviota movie (see story on pg
7) will be at the Bacara 3pm on
Saturday. Bacara is located at
3800 Holister Ave.

Sponsored by the Southern
California Artists Painting for the
Environment (SCAPE), the event will also offer a
silent auction with items from
Patagonia, SeaVees, El Encanto
and many more. Bacara Resort is
hosting the event, and donating
an overnight stay and spa
treatment for a winner. The artists
from SCAPE are donating 40
percent of their works to the two
environmental non-profits.

Meanwhile, the public may also celebrate some big
toilets towards the protection and preservation of the
Gaviota Coast, thanks to the Coalition
of which the Sierra Club is an active partner – and the
Conservancy.

“After seven years and
130 public meetings, the Board of
Supervisors approved the
Gaviota Coast Plan, which
establishes forward-looking
strategies to balance protection of the many environmentally
sensitive areas of the Gaviota
Coast, preservation of viable
agriculture, and development.“,
said Michael El Brown,
Conservancy president. Want to
help? Go to:
www.gavicolastconservancy.org
www.savenaples.org

Green scene is back to future
By John Hanks
Oil trains are derailed
In a major 3-1 victory, a
long-fought proposal to transport
oil-laden trains was denied by the
San Luis Obispo County Board of
Supervisors. The proposal by
Phillips 66 would transport oil
by rail south through Santa Barbara
and Ventura counties and north
through San Luis Obispo and
Monterey counties and beyond.

“This is a significant win for
our communities, our environment
—and for our climate,” stated the
Environmental Defense Center,
which represented the Sierra Club,
Stand-Earth, Surfrider Foundation
and Center for Biological Diversity
in this complicated effort with
almost a dozen hearing dates over
the last year.

The project faced major
opposition with at least 25,000
Californians and more than 45
cities, counties, and school boards
sending letters urging denial. Club
members from Santa Barbara
and Arguello groups carpooled
and bused to the hearings, joining
with the SLO chapter to actively fight
the project.

“SLO County has succeeded
in taking the fork in the road
away from fossil fuels and toward
a clean energy economy,” said
Andrew Christie of the Club’s
Santa Lucia Chapter.

This win is also a clear
statement of the power of the
people to stand up against
polluting interests,” said the EDC.
Looking for action? Look no further

Editor’s note: We’re facing an Administration that is hostile to the environment and, while it’s a drag in the face for all the progress we’ve made with like-minded groups (less smog, cleaner water, wilderness, open space, habitat protections) to say that the Sierra Club is determined to resist.

So nothing new in our 125-year history; the Club is designed for moments like this, we have lobbyists and lawyers and a volunteer membership that is nearly three million strong.

Here’s how to help, locally and nationally,

through targeted actions and/or donations that bolster our volunteer work.

The most direct way is to donate to our local chapter (SB and Ventura counties) online at: www.sierraclub.org/donate (1000)

~ Amazon shoppers can designate the Sierra Club to get a small portion of your purchases (at no extra charge). Sign up at: www.addup.org

~ SierranRise is an online community working to create a world with justice, sustainability, and genuine democracy for everyone. Read or tell your stories at: http://content.sierraclub.org/sierrarise

~ Buy Sierra Club paraphernalia, 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.sierranclub.org

~ Interested in solar panels for your house or business? Backed by the club, you get $1,000 off the price and another $1,000 goes to the local chapter. Get free estimate at: www.SC.org/SolarPrint

~ Sign up for a Sierra Club credit card. See ad this page.

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

~ If you’re not a member, join, or ask friends to join or gift a membership. See ad this page.

Stop parks action

A major assault on YOUR national parks, monuments, conservation areas, forests and protected wildlife areas are all on the chopping block as Congress and the Trump Administration mount an all-out attack on lands which have been protected for close to 100 years as part of our proud national public lands system.

Funding and staff cuts, privatization, no conservation funds or opening these lands to extract oil, minerals and privatization, no conservation funds to protect the earth any day.

Make officials pay attention

~ Simplest way is use your phone via Resistbot; just text ‘RESIST’ to 54049 and it will send your messages to appropriate officials. (Free, but supported by donations).

~ Call the Capitol Hill switchboard: (202) 225-3121, give your zip code and you will be transferred.

~ Twitter: @POTUS and send your individual message to The Man Himself.

~ White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1111.

~ White House email form: www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Clean building

The Sierra Club’s Buy Clean California campaign calls for state officials to spend taxpayer dollars on infrastructure supplies in a way that is consistent with the state’s globally recognized climate change goals.

The state spends on average $10 billion each year on infrastructure, which require steel, cement, asphalt and other materials that produce pollution.

The campaign calls for the state to create rules that consider pollution levels during production. To learn more, go to: BuyCleanCalifornia.org


April 8 ROMERO CANYON - CAMINO CIELO LOOP: Hike up Romero Trail to E. Camino Cielo. Hike along fire break to the old Romero Rd for return trip. Wonderful views. Very strenuous 14 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at 8am. KENN 692-2227 (SB)

April 10 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura at Main St. or at 9am at the end of 5th St. in Oxnard to do urban walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 15 COAL OIL POINT RESERVE: A flat 4-mile hike along the beach and trail. The tour will last about 2 hours, bring binoculars if you have them! Major sights include: Gray whale migration; breeding season of the threatened shorebird. West Endicott Slicko: also not likely to see raptores (Red-tailed hawk, White-tailed kites, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, and more). Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 963-4860 (SB)

April 22 EL CAPITAN CYN: Moderate 4mrt. We will do an overlook hike to El Capitan Cyn. Trailhead just outside of the Oso Meadows and the Post Office. We'll head down into the canyon and take short the Oso Road Trail, to the organic garden, past the Paradise Picnic area. Then we'll follow the Bill Wallace Trail into the next canyon. After lunch, follow old farm roads past the llamas pen. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. Meet 9am at American parking lot, Hope & State St. or 9am at 45th St. at Hope Ave. or 9am at Emma Wood State Beach to walk through park on beach trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 28 EAVESDROP - Host is running a shocking committee hearing. Senate Republicans complained the Endangered Species Act “is not working today.” ~ Fact is, the ESA has a very high success rate in saving the world’s 5,000+ species AND the nation’s symbol, the Bald Eagle, said Sierra Club. Exec Director Michael Brune. Locally, we’ve seen the ESA save the Channel Islands fox, California condor and the bobcat, among others plus plants!

April 16 GOAT ROCKRANGER PEAK: Climb up a hiking path of Goat Rock. Proceed on for lunch and magnificent views from Ranger Lookout. Moderate-advanced. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE daniones9@gmail.com (SB)

OUTINGS NOTED: Get your Jun-Sep outings to your Group outings chair soon. Be sure to include your trip for easy to moderate walks in October is your schedule.

April 17 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on State St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info. call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

April 21 CHORRO GRANDE: (Reyes Peak) Los Padres National Forest: This is an out-and-back, moderately paced, 11 mile hike, with 2500 ft. of gain. We’ll hike from the trailhead at Mile marker 26 on Hwy. 33 through the fire break to the old Romero Rd for a good camp for lunch. If group agrees and time allows we will continue an additional 2.5 miles to Reyes Peak. If weather permits, we should be able to see Piedra Blanca, the Matilija Wilderness, and even some of the Channel Islands from the San Marcos peak - carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carmons restaurant and Chase Bank). There is an hour’s drive to the trailhead from the Hwy 33/151 intersection. Bring ten essentials, snacks, sunscreen, fire break to the old Romero Rd for return trip. Bring lunch, fire break to the old Romero Rd for return trip. Bring lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, and sturdy shoes. Parking permits now required. Call leader for parking and carine requirements info. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MARC 987-8770 (SB)

SUNBIRD MINE: (11 mile round trip with 1000 ft. elevation gain) Long moderate strenuous hike follows road and trail past Gibraltar Dam to abandoned quicksilver mine (active 1890 – 1992). River permitting, the return trip will preview our Santa Ynez Swim hike. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAT 886-1121 (SB)

OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chair should ready their outings for the next Condor Call schedule, covering the Jun-Sep plus the 1st week of October. Questions? Contact Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 1 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura at Main St. or 9am at Emma Wood State Beach to walk through park on beach trail. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 5 BRIGHT STAR WILDERNESS - RESTORATION PROJECT: We’ll work on the Bright Star Corridor fence that was burned in the Eskine Fire of 2016. This project will be the beginning of an even longer fence line that will extend across the corridor route to help protect the now vulnerable burned area. For questions or to sign up contact leader: KATE ALLEN, k.alallen@gmail.com or 661-644- 4056. CNRCC Desert Committee

May 6 PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 695-1283 (SB)

May 7 SAN MARCOS RIDGE: Short, easy hike along foothill roads of recently opened San Marcos...
The Friends of the Condor and Fish and Wildlife's booth at Ojai's Libbey Bowl. TERESA 746-6030 (VEN)

May 13 INDIAN CREEK: Long carpool to the trailhead. Follow Indian Creek up a canyon and enjoy some rarely seen back country. The creek abounds with wildlife, especially frogs, two striped garter snakes, and the western pond turtle. Bring a swim suit if you're interested in taking a dip in the creek or relaxing in the Little Caliente hot springs at the end of the hike. Moderate terrain, but long 12 mt hike. There will be many creek crossings, and you may need water shoes for the crossings. Also, bring snacks and lunch and at least three liters of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. JIM 790-706364-4634 (SB)

May 15 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 8am at the corner of Park and Bard (Port Hueneme) for low tide beach walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

May 10 OUTLOOKS OUT: Inclusion for the Condor Call are due NOW! All group outlooks should reach the editor no later than Monday morning to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net)

May 20 HENRY'S BEACH TO MORE MESA: Beach to a fast trail, Ranch to More Mesa or beyond depending upon tide. Easy 7 mt. Optional swim. Bring swim suit, old shoes, lunch, and water.

May 12 BEAR CANYON: Water crossings will cool you off Hike along the Sespe Creek to Bear Canyon on old jeep road at a confortable pace, past deep pools and sandy flats, about 9.4 miles round trip, 4000' gain. Bring lunch and water on an easy, swimming at Bear Canyon. Rain or recent heavy rain cancels. Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen, and other essentials, and sunscreen. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool Seaward and Harbor (between Carrolls restaurant and chase Bank). Call leader if in doubt. SALLY 689-2061 (SB)

May 20 FUEL BREAK SHELF ROAD LOOP: We'll take the high road, then the low road on a loop hike above Ojai. This route is basically long and steady without a lot of elevation change. Be ready to be on the trail at least 5 hours. Beautiful scenery and not a lot of other hikers. Dogs ok. Meet at Pratt Trailhead, travel east on Fuel Break Road, lunch on Goldie Trail, and return on Shelf Road. Early start to beat possible heat! Meet at Ventura carpool point on Hwy 101 (Camino real lot at Seaward and Harbor). Contact NINA sierrasculvtrace@gmail.com. (VEN)

May 21 SAN ANTONIO CREEK: Beginning at Tuckers Grove County Park, we will walk on a co-wilds trail that meets up with Hwy 154. A short walk on this busy highway will link us to a return via San Antonio Creek Road. Easy 2 mt. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot. Hope Ave. & State St. at 8am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

May 22 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 8am at the Sulphur Mountain trailhead off Hwy 33 in Casitas Springs to walk the wilds of Mission Creek. Total miles = 7, elevation change = 1000'. Bring lots of water (2 liters or more) and lots of trail food. We'll start at Pratt Trailhead, travel east on Fuel Break Road, lunch on Goldie Trail, and return on Shelf Road. Early start to beat possible heat! Meet at Ventura carpool point on Hwy 101 (Camino real lot at Seaward and Harbor). Contact NINA sierrasculvtrace@gmail.com. (VEN)

May 29 SANTA YNEZ SWIM: (6 mile round trip with 400 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike follows road and trail to Gibralter Dam, then return along the Santa Ynez River, with stops at a swimming hole. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. It is most convenient to hike in your swimming suit (under your hiking clothes). Wading shoes may be necessary for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

May 29 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 8am at the corner of Park and Bard (Port Hueneme) for low tide beach walk. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

June 4 MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Loop then along the Santa Ynez River Trail onto one of our favorite trails to the top of a ridge. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. ALEJANDRO 998-1240 (SB)

The filmmakers who made the documentary film "Gaviota: The End of Southern California," bask in the appreciation by a full house at the SB Film Festival's showing at the Lobero. Also shown are those who made three shorter documentaries, “Losing Ground,” “Coastal Guardians,” and “Devereux Slough.” (Photo by Condon John)

**Overview crowd for Gaviota movies**

John Hankins

What a debut it was in February as the line to see the long- awaited Gaviota movie snaked around to State Street, leading to the Lobero Theater that simply couldn’t hold all the clomoring crowds. Such is the popularity of the long fight to keep the Gaviota Coast from the urban sprawl monster that gobbled up the rest of Southern California. Hence the title: “Gaviota: The End of Southern California,” a 42-minute film that explores one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world. If you missed its sold-out debut at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, keep your eyes peeled for future showings at: www.GaviotaMovie.com It was dedicated to the groups that are constantly protecting it, notably the Naples Coalition – of which the Sierra Club is a vital part – and the Gaviota Coast Conservancy. In fact, this journey started when, in 2007, the Naples Coalition asked Shaun Leonard to help it cause by making “The Future of the Gaviota Coast,” which focused just on the Naples property, located west of Ellwood and that to this day makes developers salivate.

That began Leonard’s love for the Gaviota Coast: “Each day spent revealed beauty and overwhelming biodiversity.” When embarking on a larger film for the whole 20 miles from Ellwood to the Gaviota State Park, Leonard turned to his cousin, Tamron Chase, to help filming. They spent five years putting the film together, often with great physical and monetary challenges.

As a special sidelight, Leonard told the Lobero audience: “Leslie Davidson became the love of my life and we’re getting married.” Davidson, a fixed wing pilot, flew for the film’s aerial shots and designed the website. Another score was having the legendary John Kay of Steppenwolf do the narration.

Funding was tough, but local sources came through with Producer Ryan Wolf scoring a University of California coastal grant while others included the Fund for Santa Barbara, Gilea Foundation, Patagonia and dozens of individuals.

Chase said their hard work and vision “was inspired by global initiatives: ‘If we have to protect the world, we have to protect our home.’”

Strongly echoing that statement were three short films that preceded the Gaviota movie: “Losing Ground,” also about the threat to the coast; “Coastal Guardians,” about the proposal for the Gaviota Conserve; and “Devereux Slough,” which presented how it was successfully restored.

The 26th annual Trails Education Days for children from the Conejo School District will take place from April 24 to 28 with a lot of help from the Sierra Club.

“For over ten years, members of the Conejo Group have been a large portion of the volunteers who make the program possible,” said Hugh Warren, Chair of Conejo Group. For details, go to: http://fconvo.com/TrailsEdF It takes nearly 100 volunteers and Conejo Open Space Conservation Authority, Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, National and State park rangers contribute almost a thousand hours to the planning, execution and follow-up each year.

“Sierra Clubbers serve as hike leaders and workshop coordinators.

It’s a great way to get the message of enjoyment and preservation of nature to people at an early age.

It is also good to work with other organizations having interests that overlap ours,” Warren said.

With about 1,200 students attending over a 5-day period, the program needs as many as 12 - 15 people per day to lead hikes from the Wildflower Playing Fields to the Nature Center via the popular Wildwood Canyon Trail. They learn about indigenous plant and animal life.

The students are invited to enter a letter-writing contest to describe what they learned. Two winners from each school and five Grand Prize winners are chosen to receive cash awards and public recognition.

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From the classrooms to summits and the valleys below, WBC made it fun

The Wilderness Basics Course sold out again this year, graduating 50 more people (from teens to seniors) who gained vital knowledge to go out in the backcountry safely, enriching the adventure. Most said they enrolled because they’ve been spending too much time behind a desk… well, Get Out!

“This was so much fun and tons of knowledge was shared by all the speakers. Well worth it,” said one student (echoed by many). Thanks to the 24 speakers, and over 50 volunteers “for your fun-loving selves, hard work, knowledge, and teamwork,” said Teresa Norris, singling out her co-founders Allise Fisher, Suzanne Tanaka and Mark Hertz.

See more photos at: http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresWBC

Above it all near Sheep Camp. Photo Michael Kuredjian

Search & Rescue Team & WBC go over details. Photo Condor John

Wildflowers everywhere. Photo Cara Peden

Warmth at Paradise camp. Photo Liesbeth Lagendyk

Welcome to WBC, say Lora Clarke & Laurie Crain at the register table. Photo Condor John

Peace-Love-Joy sign near Danielson Monument. Photo Cara Peden

The Perfect Backpack by Allise Fisher. Photo Condor John

Snow at Sheep Camp monument. Photo Michael Kuredjian