The cultural and free-market drive to reduce pollution is a better bet than the all-

energy sources, “not the all-

commercial enterprises. So

determine if their boundaries can

be reduced or removed or opened
to commercial enterprises. So

much for being a Teddy Roosevelt

conservationist.

~ The 600 or so protestors

outside were mentioned by Zinke

who claimed, “you’ll notice that

protesters never protest with

facts.”

~ He was very non-committal if

Trump would lift the Obama-imposed

ban on new oil drilling in the Pacific,

but he did promise hearings will be

held in Santa Barbara (required by

law, by the way).

It has such tidbits as wind-
turbine manufacturer Goldwind Americas offering unemployed

coal miners free job training for

positions at its wind farms in

Wyoming, or reporting that the

Trump budget allocates $9 million

towards expanding preschools based on that

research, which shows that early childhood

education is most important and

that “Early childhood

education is most affordable and

leads to six preschools based on that

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When the weather is right, there are five places to be: atop the Point Sal Stile, high on the steep cliff, but with a beach below and a Tyler Rock. Only a short drive from Guadalupe and adjacent to Vandenberg Air Force Base, it’s like finding a bit of Big Sur. This time of the year it’s a sights worth seeing for those willing to make the ten-mile trek. Comprised of more than eighty acres, there’s plenty of land to appreciate.

The State Park and official National Natural Landmark has become inseparable for its relationship with Vandenberg and its rugged terrain. Access to Point Sal is subject to closure for missile launches and other base security reasons, even though the military operation is barely visible when one is enjoying the panoramic views.

Point Sal is a source for both danger and intense scientific study. In 2015, a man was reported missing in September, while the spot was mentioned as a Geological Gem of California State Parks by the California Geological Survey in the same year. Curious? Talk to anyone who plans to hike down to the beach and back.

The land runs along the coastline represents one of the most unique geological formations in California. The proposed road near the beach make up the Point Sal Ophiolite, an igneous rock formation that has been 165 million years in the making.

Ophiolite comes from the subterranean erosion of oceanic crust and upper mantle material. The lava either cools under water or erupts onto land after it is exposed above the crust. At Point Sal, the property that lies slightly south, an approximately three-mile-deep section of ophiolite is exposed on land.

This is the reason that geologists have garnered an admiration for the remote State Park, but the presence of ophiolite also contributes to the instability of paths close to Point Sal’s beach. An access road was shut down in the 1990s after rainfall from El Nino caused major gulley erosion, and now the beach can only be reached by slowly sliding down a steep slope of loose rocks.

The waves crash into the shores help to redistribute some of the excess land debris and keep the small beach smooth year-round. But the larger waves continuously hit sensitive areas and are made up of unstable material.

Despite the sketchiness of the terrain, Point Sal is home to some typical California plants and wildlife. To the sides of the hiking trails are thriving communities of coastal sage and chaparral. And as the springtime progresses, the pleasantly yellow flower of Giant Coreopsis will start to dominate the scenery.

Many of the most photographed part of Point Sal is Lion Rock, an important habitat. Located off the Point Sal State Beach and inaccessible by humans, the small island is mostly a birds’ nesting site and home for sea lions for much of the year.

With double-digit mileage and more than 1200 feet of elevation change, hiking the full trail at Point Sal is not for beginners. Thankfully the view out to Lion Rock is only a couple miles into the trail and doesn’t involve any dangerous maneuvering.

With the weather and desire to go on a casual hike to a sweet vista or do some exploring down by the beach, Point Sal is the place to be.

Editor’s note: This hike was first published in the Santa Maria Sun.
By John Hankins

April seemed like the busiest month in the fight for the environment and against ignorance. Our chapter was right in the thick of it, but the whole thing in perspective was one of our busiest members, Chapter Chair Jim Hines, who said: “Yes, we are the resistance, but we also need to keep sane, happy and joyful. How do we do that? By taking “nature breaks” and spending time out in the great wild places of the Los Padres Chapter region. Wildflowers are still in bloom, the weather is warm and pleasant, so no excuse not to get out into nature!”

June 3: “Picnic with a Purpose” sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club at Linear Park featured BBQ, Books, Badminton and Bocce Ball in a Zero Waste Event that advertised “absolutely no alcohol,” and so meaning attendants got zero wasted. Many thanks to Nina Danza and her volunteers. What fun it was.

June 5: Fundraising events, and the Sierra Club members were there: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s 25th anniversary of the Sespe School where the event took place. WILD! honoring the Thacher Environmental Defense Center’s members. Were there: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s 25th anniversary of the Sespe School where the event took place. WILD! honoring the Thacher Environmental Defense Center’s members. Were there: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s members. Were there: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s members.

June 7: “Wildlife abounds everywhere with babies being born, the weather is warm and pleasant, so no excuse not to get out into nature!”

June 8: “Whale Whisperer lecture by authors Keith Hale and Carolyn Gorman about exploring the latest in cetacean science, 7pm at SB Maritime Museum. Details at www.shsm.org

June 11: “Wildness Bill will be officially introduced by Rep. Salud Carbajal, the anniversary date of the original Los Padres National Forest Act. Called the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, it would protect close to 300,000 more acres of wilderness in the forest throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

July 2: Impheachment March against Donald Trump’s extreme disregard for the Constitution is a profound subversion of the Office of the President’..."
GREETINGS FRIENDS

The Science March in Santa Barbara April 23 was as large as the Women’s March in January, and here they are downtown, marching down State Street, that great street. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

The Santa Barbara march ended at Alameda Park where Earth Day events were happening all weekend. Actor Jeff Bridges presented the Community Environmental Council’s Environmental Hero Award to businessman environmentalist Paul Hawken, who later spoke at UCSB based on his new book “Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming”.

To see photos and videos, go to: h ttp://tinyurl.com/BNKmMarch2017

Editor’s note: John Hankins contributed info about the Ventura rally.

The Science March in Santa Barbara April 23 was as large as the Women’s March in January, and here they are downtown, marching down State Street, that great street. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

What’s next for climate change?

By Robert Chianese

The forum on “Climate Change is Here to Stay...So What’s Next?” at Ventura College featured two scientists revealing global insights, topped off by a Sierra Club activist making them relevant locally.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Ventura College on May 6, the forum also delved into ways to reverse climate change and what individuals could do about it.

Prof. David Lea of UCSB laid out the arguments for human use of fossil fuels as the key contributing factor to global warming, and if people came as skeptics, they would have been hard put to maintain their view. Lea began with the claim that scientists are 99.9% sure that we are the source of global warming, but they are only 40% confident that we will respond because of social arguments.

He explained the “Keeling Curve,” the steady rise of atmospheric CO2 from the 1960s to the present, illustrating with the very simple and persuasive analogy that adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere is like increasing the intensity of the sun itself.

There are key points along a timeline from 1880 that are influenced by high industrialization in the late 19th century, and a huge rise during wartime and postwar production. The atmosphere does indeed follow our economic and social trends.

Prof. Sangwon Suh, also of UCSB, dealt with the costs to countries and individuals. We personally will not escape economic whippings from our damage to the planet, he said, but that is not well understood because the discussion is often abstract; for instance, a 2% rise in atmospheric CO2 seems like no big deal.

Making it personal, Suh told of a Norfolk homeowner who paid $500,000 for her house but frequent floods due to sea level rise reduced its value to $180,000, while her insurance went up to $6,000 per year. Imagine the costs California could experience with our more expensive land values, although sea rise here is less dramatic due to our shoreline’s incline into the open Pacific.

I’d add that Californians might have to pay for dam and levee repair due to our intensified rain years coupled with increased fire insurance and damage due to our intensified drought cycle. Global warming changes lots of things.

There are plenty of local examples, said Jim Hines, the Sierra Club’s Los Padres Chapter Chair.

In Oxnard, locals are fighting the site on the beach, proposed for the Puente Power Plant, which would be affected by rising tides, Hines said. There are also threats by the Trump administration to override the Clean Air and Clean Water acts and open the Santa Barbara Channel to new oil drilling.

Hines reminded us that we should contact our politicians to oppose fracking and new oil projects, which are addressed in the California Clean Coast Act sponsored by local officials. But we do not have to restrict our comments to local representatives.

On a global scale, a key action is for the U.S. to stay in the Paris Climate Agreement, which enables individuals and countries to commit themselves to lower levels of CO2. Trump’s recent meeting on this subject overseas was “very disappointing,” said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and he did pull out.

During a lively Q & A, some novel or compelling ideas were presented, such as to “geo-engineer” the planet by making clouds out of particles that block sun light, or by sucking out the carbon and sinking it somewhere. Also, reducing warming by using electric vehicles is helpful only if electricity is generated by solar and/or wind.

Editor’s note: Dr. Chianese is a CSU Northridge professor emeritus and a local Sierra Club member.

Catch rain

A three-part series on “Harvesting Rain in Ventura County” by reporter Tim Pompey answers the complicated question of “why don’t we work harder to capture (rain) rushing down rivers and creeks and out to the ocean?”

Printed in the Citizen’s Journal, part 1 lays out its complexity: “Storm water capture depends on where in the county you live. If you’re in Ojai, the answer is different than if you live in Simi Valley. If you’re in Oxnard, the answer is different than if you live in Thousand Oaks. Consequently, there’s no one size fits all solution. It depends on geographic and urban variables, including the considerable costs involved to update storm water infrastructures.”

It’s a question pondered by the local chapter of the Sierra Club.

To read the wealth of information in the series, go to: http://citizenjournal.us

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Editor’s note: Dr. Chianese is a CSU Northridge professor emeritus and a local Sierra Club member.
Troubles ahead via D.C. budget impacts

By Jim Hines

The proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget released by the Trump Administration will have a profound negative impact on wildlife, ocean protection and land resources in the Los Padres Chapter region, including the nation’s symbol, the bald eagle! The Sierra Club keeps up on these profound changes via our local and national websites and via Sierra Club California. (See story on page 1)

To read the scope of deep cuts into the Environmental Protection Agency, check out the Washington Post’s story on this subject here: http://tinyurl.com/DeEPaPA

Overall, the list of just some of the potential problems affecting us locally:

• Elimination of royalties paid from offshore oil drilling, often used to purchase national parklands and state and city grants for local parklands.

• Elimination of the federal Medical Marijuana Coverage which via the Endangered Species Act and affects wildlife in the Santa Barbara Channel area.

• Eliminating regulations on the use of longline drift nets in the ocean, which entangle and kill hundreds of marine mammals, also affecting our Channel waters.

• Major reduction in affecting our Los Padres National Forest.

• Funding for creating roads on national public lands which are now currently in Roadless status.

• 25% reduction in Endangered Species Act protections that may impact over 50 species in the local forest and ocean, notably America’s symbol, the bald eagle, along with the condor, brown pelican, least tern peregrine falcons, otters and sea lions!

• Elimination of six climate change programs redirecting those monies to fossil fuel development on public lands.

• National Park land acquisition funding has been frozen as has other land acquisition programs of BLM, Forest and Fish and Wildlife Service.

The proposed budget also directs Dept. of the Interior to look at privatization of national wildlife refuges. Managing America’s wildlife by private companies.

We will now begin the process of working with the House Committee on Natural Resources, which oversees and will hold hearings on the portion of the proposed 2018 budget which include all Interior programs and agencies, ocean related agencies, drilling and mining, wildlife and national park and other public lands and climate change programs.

The budget is the MOST powerful tool any Presidential Administration has to do positive or negative actions for protecting our environment. Money or lack of it determines everything.

ENERGY Oil’s well that ends wells

By Fran Farina

Vencos’s June/July 2017 • Counter Earth 5

Simple ways to fight back

Editor’s note: The Sierra Club has a 125-year history battling for the environment, with lawyers and lobbyists in Washington, but mostly the cadre of three million members who work local, state and national issues in their spare time. The club makes it simple to be active, and easy to donate your time or money to the cause.

Here’s how to help, locally and nationally, through targeted actions toward decisions that bolster our volunteer work.

• Coordinate your passion or hobby with Team Sierra Club to raise essential funds for the fight. Details at: www.TeamSierra.org

• Did you love the vibes from the women’s and climate marches after the inauguration but are wondering where to go from there? The Sierra Club’s free streamlined activist network is not only a great way to stay active NOW, it keeps track of your activism and makes it simple to communicate with legislators at: www.act.cla

• Sierra Rise is an online community working to create a world with justice, sustainability, and genuine democracy for everyone. Read or tell your stories at: www.sierrarise.org

• 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.SierraClub.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.solarize.com

• A.Q. in D.C. saw a direct assault on air quality and climate defeated in Congress by a 49-51 vote. This attempt to roll back a rule giving methane releases from drilling on public and tribal lands was made possible by a public outsourcing against the effort. It proves that we can prevail against the Trump administration and Congress when we all push in the same direction.

• Stop in the name of Science. Kudos to Earthjustice (previously the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund) on behalf of Los Padres Forest Watch and the Center for Biological Diversity lawsuit settlement forcing the Trump administration to halt plans to open more than 1 million acres of public land and mineral estate in California to oil drilling and fracking. The Bureau of Land Management must now do a new environmental analysis of the pollution risks of fracking. Previously BLM did not require any environmental analysis of fracking.

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.

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• If you’re not a member, join. If you are a member, ask friends to join or gift a membership.

Elwood leases back to the State and surrendered the $22 million surety bond, here’s what we’ve left with. The State is hiring an engineering firm to abandon the 30 wells on Platform Holly and the two wells on Lease 421 Pier. That process is estimated to take 18 - 24 months and will require use of the Elwood Osmohale Facility (EOF) to process hydrogen sulfide out of the wells. Estimates just for these activities ($270 to $35 million) plus management fees of $1 million per month total $55 to $60 million.

Next comes actual “decommissioning” of Platform Holly, maybe a two to three-year process, estimated at $120 million more, especially if there is soil contamination. Vencos’s predecessor, Mobil (now Exxon/Mobil) may still be on the hook for these costs, but there’s not exactly rushing with a check and the State anticipates litigation. It’s also possible that Mobil might eventually do the work.

Meanwhile, there are Vencos tied up in the bankruptcy case via the EOF, the Elwood Marine Terminal, and Line 96. Watch for a town hall meeting in Goleta to discuss all of this. Also, there ought to be some serious policy examination at the state level to address the obvious inadequacies of its leasing process.

Community Choice Energy is a wave of the future in which residents can control energy costs. A free public forum sponsored by the Sierra Club is at 5:30pm Wednesday, June 7, at the Santa Barbara Downtown Library. It’s an opportunity to learn about efforts to locally control energy costs, featuring panel members from other areas where it’s been successful.

Summerleaks, via the old, abandoned Becker Well polluting the surf, has a remediation draft report out for circulation, and public comments are due by July 5. It would bring abandonment one step closer. Meanwhile drones are being used to spot oil spills. For info and to comment, go to: http://tinyurl.com/BeckerDEIR

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Ocean areas in jeopardy

Marine Protected Areas (MPA) are under a ten-year review, but with the Trump Administration’s policies friendly to the oil industry, they could be modified or scrapped without a fight.

Any changes would severely impact the local Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary and various other MPAs in California.

That’s why the Sierra Club has sent a strong letter asserting: “After ten years, scientists have determined that these resources work.”

Club chapters and others were warned by Kathryn Phillips of Sierra Club California that, without strongly supporting MPAs, “it could end up that comments are only filed by the oil and gas and minerals industries that would like to get rid of marine sanctuaries like this.”

Katie Davis, chair of the Santa Barbara Group on behalf of the Los Padres Chapter, sprang into action with Doug Fetttcar, chair of the club’s National Marine Action Team to send strong comments to NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The letter reports that “between commercial and recreational fishing, sightseeing, diving and whale watching, the combined economic impact exceeds $91 million per year and supports over 1700 jobs . . . any reversal of the rules would lead to decline and elimination of these economic benefits.”

The economic benefits are just one aspect, but one that would tend to riddle the fancies of the current Administration. Just as or more important is that “this is a unique and irreplaceable protection against continued erosion of the MPAs.”
The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please focus on drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under 10 years old. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter’s website: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

June 10 PHOTO BASICS WORKSHOP
THE SUN SETS: 5pm. Beginner nature photo composition basics in dramatic late afternoon beach lighting. Take home a mini instruction booklet for future reference. Donation requested at door of the outing $5. Total distance about 2 miles, no elevation change, trail and sand walk. Bring water, snacks and sun protection. Donations benefit equipment the Ormond Beach Area Trail Rollers can buy. Meet at the end of Arnold Road. Contact: NINA at sierramelodyventura@gmail.com (VEN)

RAY MILLER TRAIL – POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 700’ elevation gain. Fairest light on the Earth Photo Study group with switchbacks, up the first half of the hike. Then down along this loop until return. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy’s just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 7:30am for carpooling or meet at 8am at the La Jolla Covenant parking lot next to the trailhead (with fee $8) or La Jolla Canyon parking on PCH. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

June 11 SHEEP CAMP BACKPACK
TRIP: This area near Frazier Park will remind you of camping in the Sierra. Well back in the woods 4.75 miles from the parking lot (elevation 8,321 ft) at the end of Mead Road. No roads, no cars, elevation 8,221 ft, gaining about 1,550 and losing about 1,500 feet along the way. We hike through soaring evergreens to reach the 8,847 ft summit of Mt. Pinos, the highest point in Ventura County and Kern County, then hike to the second highest peak in the county, Sawmill Mountain, before reaching our campsites. Adventure Camp is for kids ages 8-12 with 8 hikers. For more details and to sign up, email TERESA at tarskvahnorris@earthlink.net (VEN)

June 11 CHUMASH TRAIL-LA JOLLA VALLEY-MUGU PEAK: Easy. Moderate 4.5 mrt hike with 1,100 feet elevation gain. Steep climb for the first 0.5 miles is mostly with hikers and runners. Then leave the crowds behind and continue along the Jolla Valley for several miles. We’ll take a spur to the top of Mugu Peak for refreshment and birding before returning to the main trail and back to parking. Bring 2 liters water, snacks, and sun protection. Wear good hiking shoes. Meet at the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. past the bridge near the parking lot entrance and arrive early because it fills up fast (across from the Navy firing ranges and northern end of Mugu Rock). Contact: NINA at sierramelodyventura@gmail.com (VEN)

June 12 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St, or at 9am at the corner of Park and Bard (Port Hueneme) for low tide beach walk for about 2 miles. Bring info for lunch call SP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

June 14 CENTURY LAKE - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Easy/moderate 4.5 mrt hike with 400’ elevation gain along the Yearling and Lookout Trails. Bring water, food and wear good hiking shoes. Meet at 101 Freeway to Kanon Road exit, south on Kanon to a quick left turn at Cornell. Meet 9am at the Ronald Reagan Ranch Parking Lot off Cornell Road on left just past Mulholland Hwy, FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

June 16 CARPENTERIA - FRANKLIN RIDGE TRIP: Meet at Mission Park, 3 miles round trip, with 2,350 ft. of elevation gain. We will start from Mission Park, hike to Carpenteria High School to climb first 3.2 miles to Ducas Family bench, then hike across the school to壳 and Kern County, then hike to the second highest peak in the county, Sawmill Mountain, before reaching our campsites. Adventure Camp is for kids ages 8-12 with 8 hikers. For more details and to sign up, email TERESA at tarskvahnorris@earthlink.net (VEN)

FABULOUS ocean views, good hiking and solitude. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at the parking lot (8at) 10am. Kim Hocking 983-2147 (VEN)

June 19 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St, or 9am at Lake Castas parking lot to do circle by the lake for about 2 hours. For more info at LILLIAN & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

June 23 MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 7-8 mrt hike. Bring water, good food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. Take Kanon Road, left break at the stop sign, then back on Mulholland Hwy, quick left into parking lot. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-2103 (VEN)

June 24 MONTECITO PEAK - ANNUAL SUNSET HIKE: Celebrate the Montecito Solstice with a late afternoon hike up a steep peak for a panoramic view of the South Coast. Enjoy a sunset, sit beneath the Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lots of water, supper, flashlight. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 4pm. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

June 26 MIDLAND SCHOOL HIGH COUNTRY LOOP: We’ll explore some of the Midland School trails on this moderate 5.5 mrt hike, featuring the High Country Loop returning via the Red Rock Springs trail. Bring water, a lightweight sun protection, and your sense of humor! Tiles of shade and can be very warm. This hike involves a 1hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you will need to meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 944-5411, gcoding@cox.net (SB)

June 26 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. to walk to harbor on trail about 2 miles for about 1.5 hours. For more info call PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

June 30 POINT DUME TO PARADISE BEACH BACKPACK: Meet 7am at the Parking Lot at Point Dume Beach: Join us for a peaceful walk along the waters’ edge and then returns along the Santa Ynez Foothills. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm. This hike involves a 1hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you will need to meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 944-5411, gcoding@cox.net (SB)

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

Santa Barbara Meetup site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: http://www.meetup.com/SantaBarbara/ Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day.

Wednesday night: Strenuous conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Laguna and Los Olivos St. Every evening social hike. On easy-to-modate 2.4 mile hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 pm at the Santa Barbara Mission on Mission Avenue at 101-151 Hearst Ave. Bring a flashlight; optional picnic or pizza afterward. AB, SLAIDE, 685-2140. (SB)

Saturday and Sunday Hikes: Usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State Sts. Have taken OLT 101 and First Aid within the last 2 years and have started schduled assignments and courses, go to: http://lospadres.sbmeets.com (SB)

Ventura Meetup group is open to anyone interested in the area and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get going on intermediate half or whole day hikes, or meet for a weekend on overnight backpacjks. Just go to: www.meetup.com/Sierra-NC-Ventura/ Every Monday morning, Easy Walks: join Pat Jump at 9 a.m. every Monday morning in Westward Beach parking lot. Parking lot near Westward Beach Road, drive all the way down to the beach. The walks will last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 453-0720.

Our Los Padres Chapter hike leaders are all trained in first aid and day hike and backpacking instruction to ensure our participants from the public can feel confident and safe. For questions or enrollment information contact PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

It occurs at Church of the Foothills in Ventura from 7pm to 9pm on Saturday, Sept. 30.

If your first aid certification will expire before the fall of 2019, this is the time to get recertified. Even if you’ve recently completed a first aid course, you are still eligible to enroll.

Hike Leader Training: If you’re interested in becoming a hike leader, please review the information below. If you would like to become certified to lead overnight backpack trips, the class will be on a trail in the Ojai area. To sign up for this course, you must be a chapter member and have successfully completed the Clubhouse certification program.

Hike leader training course

Our Los Padres Chapter leaders are all trained in first aid and day hike and backpacking instruction to ensure our participants from the public can feel confident and safe. For questions or enrollment information you can contact PHILIP & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

We normally camp on the edge of the playa and visit hot springs, so we usually have large fireworks! The Playa is

continued next page
July 2 Rattlesnake Trail - Rocky Pine Ridge Trail and the Tunnel Connector Trail to an old primitive trail leading to Roadside Rock on the north side of Cold Spring Canyon. 

July 4 CELEBRATE 20th BIRTHDAY OF SIERRA CLUB BACKPACKING OUTDOOR ACES: This is an area that has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." The trip begins on the North Fork Cold Spring Trail, a 3-hour drive northeast of Topanga, at an elevation around 6300 feet. After a 3-hour hike, we will meet behind B of A on upper 53 Rd. Arc Dome, 12 miles at 4100 feet. Day 4 sees the start of the 5-mile hike back to camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out, 1600 miles, 3000 feet, and 15 miles an hour. The group has the option to do the trip in the opposite direction. 

July 5 CONDOUR CAM - LPT: Lots of viewing excitement about our lagoon season with live videos. Catch the next one at http://blog.usyd.com/CondoorCamps/ 

July 14-16 RIVERSIDE HOT SPRINGS: Join us on this moderate hike to historic hot springs, located along the southern Sierras in the vicinity of Kennedy Meadows. The trail starts at the Kern River and descends 300 feet, about 600 feet in the first 2 miles, then descends 2500 feet over the next 3 miles to the springs. The springs are about 600 feet, once on the hot springs, we'll rest and soak in the hot springs. Binoculars (if you're still standing) and basins we can use. Saturday is a full day; the Kern River and for the Nine Mile Falls and Panter's Cabin, a historic homestead and mother-daughter Inyo Hot spring and campfire stories. Sunday we back pack out 5 miles. Turn back trailhead from Ventura by 5pm. Contact SUZANNE or TERESA for details and to sign up: suzanne@condorventura.com or Teresa@476-6030 (VEN) 

July 22 TREPASS TRAIL - Moderately strenuous 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2000 feet. Get ready to see eye-popping views up and down. LPT: Most sports equipment accepted including: camping, water sports, fitness, winter sports, etc. 50% of sales (your sales will be donated to the Sierra Club) by 5pm (NO EXCEPTIONS). Tag every individual (NO sticker-on tags allowed). Most sports equipment accepted including: camping, water sports, fitness, winter sports, etc. Buy/Sell open to everyone. 

July 23 WEST FORK COLD SPRING TO LOOKOUT AND BEYOND: Start on Cold Spring Trail, cross over to a left onto Mulholland Hwy, and turn right onto Stunt Road and go approximately 3 miles.3-5 miles an hour of lunch and relaxation at Middle Camp. Bring water and snacks. The trail is an easy hike for an hour or 2 miles and downhill, with some section around 2pm. This is a fairly steep ascent so cardio conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking/shoe boots, bring 2-3 items of clothing (rain/sun/cool/heat) and rain aid. Camp near Stunt Rd. Contact B of A on upper 53 Rd. Arc Dome, 8pm. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net "GREAT GRAB BUY/SELL/ EVENT: Sell at the Sierra Club Great Grab. Bring your quality items to sell at the Sierra Club and show your support for the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization, so all sales made are tax deductible. A portion of your sales will be donated to the Sierra Club by 5pm (NO EXCEPTIONS). Tag every individual (NO sticker-on tags) are allowed. Most sports equipment accepted including: camping, water sports, fitness, winter sports, etc. Buy/Sell open to everyone. Location: Working Artists Ventura (WAV), 1 Cozy Community Rd. Community Room, 1st Floor. Questions? Contact NINA at sarah@wabventura.com (VEN) 

August 12 TELLUS POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swim suit. Difficult hike over 5 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper 53 Rd. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ARLENE 985-128 (SB) 

August 13 TERRASSAIL TRAIL CANINE MINE ROUTE: Join us on this hike along a ridge with scenic views to beautiful meadow. Moderate 4 miles with 1000 foot elevation gain. Bring your dogged wolves and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Wolves without dogs welcome too. Meet at Bank of America parking lot at Hope & State streets. GERRY 964-3411 (VEN) 8-30am (VEN) 

August 13 PERSEID METEOR SHOWER CAMPOUT: Expect about 100 meteors per hour over the Rock Desert about 10 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions will be great, bring a tent, food, water, etc. Meet at the Reno County Fair parking lot at Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. For more information call LAURA at 352-6270 (VEN) 

August 13 TRESPASS TRAIL/GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to Moderate hike on a hillside along a little used road trip. Bring chairs, swimming suit for hot springs and a swim suit for hot springs. Meet behind B of A on upper 53 Rd. Arc Dome, 9am. LAURIE 970-3970 (VEN) 

August 13 THOUSANDS CELEBRATE EARLY DAY commitments to the Sierra Club” on this Earth Day, not only telling visitors about our free outings but also local clubs and the Sierra Club itself. How does it make it easy to be an activist, whether it be on a computer or on the ground? Some of our club tables provided post card stations and political contacts to support this Administration’s environmental initiatives. In all, we took an activist stance. Here’s some reports from the field: 

Our Los Padres Chapter was very active at our Main Earth Day event, not only telling visitors about our free outings but also local clubs and the Sierra Club itself. How does it make it easy to be an activist, whether it be on a computer or on the ground? Some of our club tables provided post card stations and political contacts to support this Administration’s environmental initiatives. In all, we took an activist stance. Here’s some reports from the field: 

Wild plants would enhance your yard

By Jim Hines

Greetings, Friends.

Each of us marvel at the beauty of native flowering shrubs when we are out on our hikes in the Los Padres Chapter region. But did you know that you can grow many of those flowering beauties right in your home landscape?

Yep, California native plants make ideal plants at home and now many nurseries have large collections of natives.

Love those blue flowering native lilacs (ceanothus) that you see in bloom now? Well, they will fit right in your garden; give them a sunny location and once established they need very little water. Choose from groundcover, small shrub and large shrub varieties depending upon your landscape needs.

And who is not dazzled by the spectacular large white flowers of Matilija poppies? These native beauties bloom from spring through summer and right into fall, so select a large space in your garden or on a sunny slope and plant them now.

Have perennial flower beds in your yard, filling them with native penstemons, California fuchsias, native buckwheats and perennial salvias.

Want to bring hummingbirds to your garden? By planting various varieties of California native sages, you will have them galore. The beauty of sage flowers is that they come in many colors.

Have a lot of shady areas in your yard? No problem, select native ferns, red flowering salvia, native lily bulbs and Pacific Coast iris.

The autumn season in your garden will be filled with the bright red berries of native toyon shrubs, a large growing evergreen shrub with white flowers in the spring and colorful berries in Autumn.

Need a great shade tree? Select one the many native oaks, California sycamores or native alder trees.

Native bulbs are also fun to use in the garden. Brodiea, amoles, lilies, iris and native cyclamen known as shooting stars.

By using native plants on your home landscape, you are not only helping to conserve water, you are also creating a botanical display which you will enjoy year-round.

Action opportunities

The electoral college election of Donald Trump continues along a rocky road sparking millions of citizens protesting his style and substance, along with thousands in our region covering Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. How to keep track of it all?

The Sierra Club has lobbyists and lawyers in Washington and nearly 3 million volunteers nationwide who work in their local communities, including over 6,000 members in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, who are busy with rallies, letter writing, phone calling and supporting many other coalitions.

On the positive side, our Los Padres Chapter has picked up over a thousand new members since the November election. For members and friends, getting involved in national issues which affect us locally is easy, go to: www.SierraClub.org

Locally, keep track via our Facebook posts for the Arguello (SB North County), Santa Barbara and Ventura areas: http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

New on the scene is the local Los Padres ForestWatch, offering a resource that tracks public lands issues along our Central Coast. Check it out at: http://tinyurl.com/trumpwatch

Also, on a broad scale to find rallies and protests, go to: www.ResistanceNearMe.org

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

Indivisible has local groups: for Santa Barbara: www.indivisiblesbc.org and Ventura: https://indivisibleventura.org

The Women’s March in January also spawned Justice for All (J4All) groups that in Ventura at least has splintered into issue-specific committees. Check out its Facebook at: http://tinyurl.com/J4All-Eco

This magnificent bush of Matilija poppies overlooks Rose Valley in May. You too can have these in your yard. (Photo by Heidi Anderson)