Wildlife ‘choked’ but here’s hope

By Carla Bollinger

There’s now hope that wildlife may be able to avoid “choke points” that restrict their natural movements, now that Ventura County Supervisors approved an important “Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Overlay Zone Ordinance” (WOZO) on a narrow 3-2 vote.

Signaling that it’s an important topic – and will be the first planning zone of its kind for Ventura County – the Jan. 24 meeting with the Planning Commission drew a packed house with over 100 people speaking, followed by the County Supervisors’ hearing March 12, also drawing so many people that each had only 1½ minutes to speak.

“The Los Padres Chapter will now be meeting with county planning staff to help develop the actual planning rules to carry out the board’s direction,” said Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines, who had urged the board to “follow the spirit of SOAR,” the county wide- ordinance that was decisively renewed in November even without an even number.

Thanks go to the ‘yes’ votes by Supervisors Linda Parks, Steve Bennett and John C. Zaragoza. Hines singled out Linda Parks who “worked hard” at drafting the plan.

Agencies involved were as varied as the county’s planning agency, Management Agency, CalTrans, state Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and National Park Service, among others.

Of special concern were “choke points”: roads, freeways, fencing and indirect barriers such as bright night light, loud noise and anti-rodenticide poisoning. Staff emphasized these features were a public outreach and they certainly got plenty of feedback.

The passage will protect not only large animals but also smaller critters, from reptiles and amphibians, to the pollinators, birds, bees, and butterflies. All wildlife and native plants need their habitats.

Farmers and ranchers raised their concerns at both hearings, especially the possibility of so many regulations, more cost and erosion of farming rights. The new ordinance will protect waterways, require new “dark sky lighting”, change fencing standards, all of which will benefit wildlife. But as the ordinance is fine-tuned, compromises can be reached.

“Approving the wildlife corridor is a small step toward long term environmental viability. Not only does it work for us locally, it is a flashing light for other regions to follow,” wrote Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Dunen in the Ventura County Star.

“As our county becomes increasingly urbanized, wildlife is getting squeezed out of areas they have historically used for migration routes,” Hines said.

~ Editor’s note: Carla Bollinger is a Ventura Sierra Club member and a PLAN Organizer

‘Captain’ lands on oil beach head

Sierra Club’s “captain” (Exec Director Michael Bruno, tall man in middle) visited the beach Jan. 27 with Los Padres Chapter members for a picnic where the 1969 oil spill wreaked havoc in 1969. He learned first-hand history of how that disaster was turned into opportunity with the founding of SB Community Environmental Council, Environmental Defense Center and GOO! with the help of Sierra Clubbers.

There, he heard of the 1970 Environmental Bill of Rights crafted in Santa Barbara because of the oil spill (note 28 sign) that in turn led to the founding of Earth Day.

Afterward he spoke to a packed audience commemorating the 1969 event at the Arlington Theater when he said: “This is a test whether we can turn disaster into opportunity for justice and grace and wisdom,” as we had after the spill. Special applause came when he spoke how we can fight the “shameful” Administration and accomplish clean energy.

“Look around the room, look at how powerful we are,” he ended to great applause.

Robert Bernstein taped a video of his speech. It’s worth hearing: https://youtu.be/R0P1fHBF6c

Why expand oil when renewables are future?

By Katie Davis

Chapter Chair

So many opponents turned out to comment at the ERG oil hearing on March 13th, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission ran out of time and continued the item to March 27 and then again in two months to May 29.

There has rarely been an oil hearing quite like it, especially in the North Santa Barbara area known for its oil-friendly supervisors.

At the first hearing, a large crowd of opponents rallied in front of the county building in Santa Maria at 8:30am and stayed all day long. After the staff presentation on ERG’s proposal to drill 231 oil wells through the Santa Maria groundwater basin, public comment finally commenced at 1pm and went on for nearly five hours. 85% of whom were opposed to the project.

They represented just a small portion of the hundreds of written comments, the thousands of postcard signers, and the 40+ organizations who signed a group letter opposing ERG’s plans.

At the next hearing, March 27, staff was asked pointed questions on the many issues that had been raised and many more people commented in opposition. After much back and forth, the commission adjourned, giving staff two more months to come back with answers on May 29.

“This is probably one of the most important decisions I’ll make in my life,” commented Planning Commission Chair John Parke. You can help decide the future of Santa Barbara County’s oil industry by commenting (see link below).

ERG is the first of three large Cat Canyon projects seeking permits that would triple onshore oil production in the county drilling through our largest and most important groundwater basin using cyclic steaming, a particularly energy intensive processes with high well-casing failure rates and air pollution emissions.

If approved, these projects would lock in increased production for the next 40 to 50 years in Santa Barbara County, at a time when we are trying to replace petroleum with more eco-friendly, renewable energy sources.

Commenters brought up ERG’s history of oil spills and fires, the risks to groundwater and 99 sensitive species, the 153 tanker truck trips per day, the hazardous materials and natural gas pipeline supplying the project’s steam generators, ERG’s bankruptcy and shaky financials, a myriad of problems with the environmental impact report and the need to transition away from fossil fuels.

Meanwhile in the audience, employees of AERA, owned by Exxon-Mobil and Shell, observed the right decision to deny ERG’s project by showing up at the May 29 hearing and/or sending an email to the commission: dlhale@calbar.org

As Nick Welsh, Executive Editor of The Independent puts it, “Oil Day in Santa Barbara Approaches.” Read it here: https://tinyurl.com/DDayOil
Sierra Club gives discounts to top off your roof with solar panels for cleaner energy; helps our chapter too. (Photo by Condor John)

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**Photos, news, tips always welcome!**

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

**Typography and production by Dan Fuller**

**FUEL FOSSILS**

Alternatives make head way

By Katie Davis

Ventura Leads

“Community Choice” programs are spreading across California as a popular way to provide cleaner, greener electricity, more choice, and more local investment. The Clean Power Alliance is the newest one, just rolled out across Ventura and Los Angeles counties, with dramatic increases in renewable energy as a result.

Offering plan options with a mix of 36%, 50% or 100% renewable energy, consumers can choose the plan that works for them, some at lower cost than comparable SCE plans.

The best deal in terms of most renewable energy per dollar is the 100% plan, just a few back Doors to a lot cleaner plan, which was introduced as the default and most popular plan in many municipalities (though anyone can switch plans any time).

In one fell swoop, Ventura County just got a lot greener – resulting in new renewable energy projects, more jobs, and cleaner air. Energy experts are asking, “Can they really do that so quickly?”

Yes, that’s what we like to call Leadership.

Santa Barbara Waits

Santa Barbara County has also been eyeing community choice for years. Voting last summer to create a new program and then putting it on hold pending further analysis, they are in wait-and-see mode.

Meanwhile, the county and cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria are working on strategic energy plans that will map out ways to increase local solar and storage to help achieve 100% renewable energy and provide resiliency in the event a disaster that impacts powerlines.

One big irony is that oil projects are allowed in oil fields, but utility scale solar is not – even though the impacts would be far less. The Santa Barbara County regulations restricting solar to limited locations in the Cuyama Valley need to change.

Goleta Rejoices

Goleta City Council voted unanimously in February to oppose Exxon’s plans to restart their offshore oil platforms and use trucks to transport about 70 oil tankers every day along the Gaviota coast. The Plains Pipeline that was used has been shut down since the 2015 Refugio oil spill.

OxTerra Project

Since the Sierra Club’s partnership with other solar businesses in our Los Padres area is non-exclusive, each chapter is free to explore an independent partnership with other solar companies. The Los Padres Chapter does not have an independent partnership.

Opposition to offshore oil is at record highs in California, with majorities of Democrats and coastal Republicans opposed. This is particularly true in Goleta, which is the city closest to the 2015 oil spill. Goleta beaches were shut down for hundreds of animals washed up dead.

Trucks are an even less safe way to transport oil than pipelines, shipping more and posing a greater hazard to drivers and roadways – particularly on the 101, a critical transportation corridor. It’s already happened: a tanker truck overturned and shut down the 101 during the Thomas Fire when people were trying to evacuate. Ultimately, it is up to the county to approve or deny the tanking operations. Goleta, the city closest to the project, hopes their view will prevail.

As Mayor Paula Perante says, “oil is our past, not our future.”

100% Electric Fleet

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously. On March 19 to replace 100% of their fleet cars up for replacement in the next year with Electric Vehicles. They will go from four EV’s to 55 in the next year with eye toward eventually electrifying the whole fleet of 1449 vehicles and facilitating charging infrastructure for their 4660 employees.

This is a significant victory for the Sierra Club and other EV advocates who pointed out the fuel and maintenance savings from an electric fleet, as well as the greenhouse gas and air pollution reduction benefits. EV’s now make up 10% of new cars sold in California and the state is on track to meet its goal of 5 million EV’s by 2030. This will help reduce oil use, meet our climate goals, and reduce the 20,000 premature deaths every year in California from air pollution.

Yet Oil Loons

Several large onshore oil projects proposed near Santa Maria that would triple onshore production in Santa Barbara County are coming up for decision soon. See story pg 1.
Four representative to the Naples Los Padres Chapter and was the executive committee of the Santa Barbara Group, was on Club. She served as chair of the cast a wide net in her community were always memorable and Sunday and holiday meals, which backcountry, the Sierras and Big Santa Barbara.

Jan. 26 at the Unitarian Society of 1958, Ada Mary Babine (1927 – mourns the passing of a key The Settlement Agreement has of the old 1982 permit, which abandoned, then absorbed, then flowed more and more into the backcountry as far as it would go. The flow of life begins after a good rain.

Growing up on my family’s ranch, the backcountry was bordered by two creeks, Santa Ana Creek to the east and Coyote Creek to the west. I would often

The Los Padres Chapter mourns the passing of a key member to our chapter and to our organization since 1958, Ada Mary Babine (1927 – 2018), who died at Serenity House in Santa Barbara on Nov. 28. A member of the Los Padres chapter and the board on Jan. 26 at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

Ada was a great leader for the Santa Barbara Group. It’s a loss for all of us,” said long-time hike leader Tony Borrego.

An avid backpacker, she led her family and friends on many trips into the backcountry, the Sierras and Big Sur until she was in her 70s. Ada’s love of nature and environmental issues was legendary. She was an enthusiastic hostess, and created wonderful Sunday school and holiday meals, which helped build the Chapter and intellectually engaging events. She cast a wide net in her community over the decades of residence and will be missed by a large and diverse community of friends.

Ada was a force for nature and commitment to the environment found expression in the Sierra Club and in the efforts of the Santa Barbara Group, was on Club and was representative of the Naples Coalition. She was also active in the Audubon Society and Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, serving for a time as president of the Museum League.

She was a charter member of the Pearl Chase Society, a member of the Citizen’s Planning Association and the Unitarian Society. A skilled watercolorist and oil painter, she worked as an organizer of Art Walk for ten years.

Born on Sept. 2, 1927 in Delaware, her family moved to San Diego County. She attended Whittier College and trained as a social worker. She joined the WWII veteran Walter Babine in 1948 and they had five children, four of which survived her.

The family moved to Santa Barbara in 1958 and she returned to school, graduating from UC-Santa Barbara in 1963 with a degree in elementary education, which she pursued for the next 40 years as a teacher of children and then teachers in both Goleta and Santa Barbara schools. She later worked at Whittier College as substitute teacher well into her 80s.

Her commitment to the highest ideals of teaching inspired generations, and her legacy lives on in so many positive ways.

Try reading more in the Independent’s

By Jim Hines

Water, what a year for water! The first drop hit the ground and was absorbed, then more drops and then more fights and finally the ground is saturated, and the creeks start to overflow. The flow of life begins after a good rain.

Good water year refreshing!

From the Green New Deal to Climate Strikes to students advocating for better gun regulations, youth activism is rocking every corner of the common thread is powerful young leaders taking a stand.

The momentum is on our side, and now is the perfect time to get involved. Sprog — the Sierra Club’s annual summer training — is a great way for young people ages 14 to 28 to build the movement and leadership!

Please visit this link to get more information about the Sierra Club's youth engagement efforts:

www.sierraclub.org/ycengage

Participants have described Sprog as one of the most inspiring and transformative weeks of their lives. Registration is free and participants learn how to teach tools for environmental and social justice activism to young people across the country. They don’t have to be current students.

Editor's note: The Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) is the youth-lead chapter of the Sierra Club National Council. The SSC is a network of high school and college-aged youth from across the country.

Sprog 2019

“America’s Autos on Welfare”

Argentina Group activity, like leader and photographer Robert Bernstein had a chat with Sierra Club’s National Executive Director Michael Brune during his local visit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1969 oil spill on Jan. 27. Here’s his takeaway.

This was my first time in meeting Michael Brune and I had no idea what to expect. I wanted to know what his big vision was in terms of his “big ask” to our electoral officials.

I noted that when Obama became president, I attended the Sierra Club National EsCon meeting. There I pointed out that it was a once in a lifetime chance to make a big ask. The country is in turmoil after the economic crash. We had a newly elected president with a mandate to lead and make important policies. I remember being dismayed that the ExCom did not get that this was a time to advance bold new policy.

Michael Brune said he thought now was a similar opportunity, with people making it clear that Trump was a failure and looking for a fresh new direction. He is a man of few words, so it took coxing to get him to offer the issues he cared about most. He agreed that climate change is at the top, but he said other issues are important as well. I asked if he was aware of the massive subsidies for private motor vehicle use as laid out on the Sierra Club website. He was not and asked me to tell him about it.

“America’s Autos on Welfare” lays out that a trillion dollars each year in US subsidies goes for private motor vehicle use. A lot of this has to do with land use subsidies that would exist even if cans ran on solar electricity or corn flakks. We would go a long way toward solving climate change just by ending subsidies for the environmental harm. Check it out for yourself: http://tinyurl.com/AutoSubsidies

Brune did not answer. As I say, he seems to be a man of few words. In any case, I very much appreciate the chance to meet with him in person. And huge thanks to Katie Davis and Jonathan Ullman for arranging the lunch with him.

Check out my photos of the Chapter having a picnic with him on a Santa Barbara beach that was soiled by oil in 1969: http://tinyurl.com/BruneBeaching
**GREEN NEW DEAL**

It's a call for survival

By Jonathan Ullman

Los Padres Chapter Director

There’s been a lot of talk lately about a Green New Deal, which is a response to planetary catastrophes of climate change and inequality.

A Green New Deal is what we’re going to need to survive, just as the New Deal of 1933-1936 was.”

The Green New Deal is a response to the catastrophic climate and economic changes we are facing. It is a blueprint for the rest of the country.

There’s been a lot of talk lately about a Green New Deal, which is a call for survival. In Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, we have a hundred-year-old extraction industry, a lack of equity for low-income residents and people of color, and of course, the climate crisis.

First, consider the big oil giants. This year, oil companies want to inject high-pressure steam into the ground at Car Canyon, in a carbon-intensive scheme to triple oil production in Santa Barbara County. Exxon wants to restart three offshore platforms using 70 oil trucks per day after a pipeline break at Bakersfield in 2015.

In Ventura, more wells are being allowed by county supervisors without environmental review, and there are 79 new sand steam injection wells proposed in the Oilfield of the future. Really, most of our oil companies and the Trump administration areplotting to expand fracking and offshore oil drilling on Federal lands and waters surrounding us.

Then there are the climate disasters: fires burning and droughts getting worse. We also have huge floods. We have extremely high housing costs that are causing more and more of us to drive farther and farther. Last year, Santa Barbara County’s carbon emissions went up in part because of longer commutes.

We have great voters, technology, and policies. We are pushing the envelope to get off oil and gas in our region.

Residents in Ventura County are now automatically enrolled in the Clean Power Alliance and can choose to receive all renewable energy sources. Santa Barbara County’s first solar fleet purchases will be all electric from here on out with more to come. We have set ambitious goals to get off oil in our cities and our transit.

That’s why it’s so exciting to be here. We are at the leading edge of a Green New Deal. If we can get it right here, we’ll be a blueprint for the rest of the country. That’s what’s happened in the US at the Natural History Museum, 412 S McCreland St. Entertainment includes a 4x4, Mr. Biggers Ukulele Band, magician, live animals, booths, games, and lots of family activities. To learn more, go to: www.5FMuseum.org

April 13: Solvang Chumash Earth Day 2019: A Festive Celebration at the Solvang Park, 100 Via Juana Rd. It features activities, crafts, vendors, live music and food. Info: 805-688-7697 or: odelin@edventures.com

**Palm Springs**

April 20: Palm Springs Earth Day 2019: A Festive Celebration at the Palm Springs Art Museum, 100 W. Museum Way. It features entertainment, children’s activities, education and activities to Plaza Palm Park at 5th and C Streets. On Saturday 10am-4pm. Each year the success of the festival is the result of a face to face with local community event is attended by over 3000 people and 80 exhibitors, including our Sierra Club. Palm Springs Art Museum will have booths and even may be at this event. Please, stay for updates on local crisis issues and what you can do about them.

**Santa Barbara County**

April 27-28: Santa Barbara Earth Day’s theme is “Earth Day: Inspire. Act.” held on Saturday (11am-8pm) & Sunday (11am-5pm), a 2-day inspirational event. Activities at the Santa Barbara Bowl, 701 Anacapa St. Highlights: Everything!... like more than 250 green vendors (including Sierra Club and other groups), Car Show with EV bikes and cars, with free rides and drives. Also, Environmental Hero, action projects, education, Zero Waste Zone, sustainable Food Farm-to-Table dinner, Eco-Marketplace etc. Bonus free evening concert including Beer & Wine Garden on Friday. April 27 from 5pm to 9pm.

This is region’s oldest and most creative event sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. So much going in we can’t list them all, just go there or here: www.SBCEarthday.org

**Ventura County**

April 20: Ventura Earth Day Eco-Fest brings fun, entertainment, children’s activities, education and activities to Plaza Park (5th and C Streets) on Saturday 10am-4pm. Each year this successful community event is attended by over 3000 people and 80 exhibitors, including our Sierra Club. Ventura Earth Day is presented by the City of Ventura and Ventura County Department of Environmental Health. More details at: www.venturacountyearthday.com

April 22: Fillmore Follies in on the Fillmore Bandstand, 112 Main St. from 11am to 3pm at the Fillmore Central Park, 100 W. Museum Way. It features entertainment, exhibits and education.

Details at: www.fillmorefolies.com

**Topanga**

April 26: Topanga Earth Day is held at the Topanga Community Park, 100 Via Juana Rd. It features activities, crafts, vendors, live music and food. Info: 805-688-7697 or: odelin@edventures.com

**See photos page back**

So too did several students who stood up at the last class March 27 thinking the WBC staff and speakers, asserting, “it was well run, organized and informed with information,” even for those who were experienced backpackers. One said it was “amazing that we can do this program for free,” and “many of the kids have just arrived with just a backpack.”

“A good day indeed,” said Professor James B. Hines, who was given the Modern History Prize in 2011 for business school education, “there is a lot of interest in these courses.”

So, what is it that gets people talking about the Sierra Club and the political and legal front, it is equally important for people to learn about the values we all need to keep in regard to respectfully enjoying these trails, backcountry trips and car camps.

“Job well done WBC, I am so proud of you!” he concluded.

May 9: Adventure of a Lifetime - our year-round FREE public outings, check out all the great photos students and volunteers did.

May 10: Fillmore Follies in on the Fillmore Bandstand, 112 Main St. from 11am to 3pm at the Fillmore Central Park, 100 W. Museum Way. It features entertainment, exhibits and education.

Details at: www.fillmorefolies.com

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**Wilderness course celebrates Earth**

By Teresa Norris

The Wilderness Basics Course has had another great year at its tenth anniversary, enrolling 60 students, the most ever.

We covered so many important topics during February and March, such as how to dress properly for any weather, navigation, Leave No Trace, trip planning, conditioning, the climate resistant Opsi Valley. Exact a variety of interactive activities, demonstrations, dynamic speakers, talented performers, and Earth-conscious exhibitors (Sierra Club) Details at: www.caipbayviewconservation.com

April 13: Conay Earth Day goes global this year on a Saturday from 11am to 3pm at Plaza Park, Fifth and C Streets. Sponsors and exhibitors act locally, with international activities. The annual event is packed with information, but we also give away fun items. Entertainment includes a 4x4, Mr. Biggers Ukulele Band, magician, live animals, booths, games, and lots of family activities. To learn more, go to: www.5FMuseum.org

April 12: Solvang Chumash Earth Day 2019: A Festive Celebration at the Solvang Park, 100 Via Juana Rd. It features activities, crafts, vendors, live music and food. Info: 805-688-7697 or: odelin@edventures.com

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This is region’s oldest and most creative event sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. So much going in we can’t list them all, just go there or here: www.SBCEarthday.org

Compiled by Condor John
We are the good green deal

By John Hankins

The oil industry continued its push to expand in our region, our chapter helped to educate the public about the dangers of increased oil production and we supported wildlife corridors, worked on trails, and conducted our tenth Wilderness Basics Course.

It’s what we do all year. If any of these resonates, please join us; see Group Box on page 3 for contact links and find us where you can get involved. Do not forget to join our mailing list to receive our communications (see pages 6&7). Oh, and if you want to donate, go to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

March 27: ERG oil hearing was continuous for over 14 hours, March 13 on its 233 oil well proposal that could threaten Santa Maria’s groundwater. Now continued to May 29 you have time to weigh in against it. See story on pg 1.

March 19: EVs R Easy: Sierra Club and Upper Ojai Search & Rescue convinced SB supervisors to accelerate its fleet to electric vehicles faster than staff had recommended. EV advocated presented facts that would save more money and reduce pollution.

March 19: Santa Cruz Island day trip with the Ventura Sierra Club via Island Packers had a good outing with lots of cool pics taken. Let’s do it again!

March 16: Spring Trail work day was top-heavy with volunteers from our Conejo Group on trails in the Conejo Canyons area, notably the Giant Oak Canyon. Next work day will be April 6 on the Wishnoue Trail.

Rescues are rational

By Alisse Fisher

Upper Ojai Search and Rescue’s annual Winter All Team event last year was grizzly in Yosemite and I don’t mean bear.

So, I was a little concerned about how the recognition would bring, but it was an amazing intellectual action adventure that can bring the García Coast to the wilderness. You can see it here: https://tinyurl.com/SARTrecesses

March 8: Baja & Sea of Cortez “amazing excursion” slide show by SCub hike leader Robert Bernstein at the Val Verde Retirement Center featured gray whale breeding grounds, a certain treat for the public and residents who, Robert said may “move slower than the Sierra Club hikers.”

March 6: Hazardous Oil projects in the SB North County were detailed by attorneys from the Environmental Defense Fund on behalf of our chapter, which is a client. The public webinar was a great opportunity to learn about three bad oil projects by phone or online. A great concept not to use gas!

Feb 19: Phase out of oil and gas drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel was approved by the SB County Commission: several Sierra Club members testified in support. Also, club members spoke out against the plan to park 5,000 cars imported from Port of Hueneme.

Feb 19: No Trucking Oil said the Goleta City Council in a resolution about Exxon’s wish to do just that from its three platforms off the Gaviota Coast, due to the shutdown capture of Plains Pipeline. Club was strongly opposed to using up to 100 trucks per day.

Feb 3: Plains Pipe-lying, in the SB Independent, published by our Chair Katie Davis was headlined “Plains Pipeline Isn’t Telling You” and noting its new proposal would extend production in the county. Here’s the link: https://tinyurl.com/ Plainspipe-lying

Feb 10: Wind Wolves Preserve, a unique opportunity for volunteer work and play all day in the largest non-urban land preserve at 833 acres, straddling Ventura, Kern, and LA counties.

Feb 1: Clean Power Alliance for Santa Barbara County, which aligned with L.A. County to bring residents more power from renewable sources. Residents had until March 1 to opt in and stay with SoCal Edison, which will still provide the distribution service.

Dec 30: Lucas McDonald was a major activator for the CPA.

Jan 31: Wildlife Corridor zone proposal hearing at Venture County Planning Commission, Sierra Club, Wildlife Team activists attended the meeting. See the proposal here: https://tinyurl.com/WildlifeZone

Jan 27: 50 Years After the Santa Barbara Oil Spill: A Call to Action

Let’s take a wildlife viewing trip across our local lands:

There are over 400 mammals and birds in our Region of Riches! (cover photo: leopard loms) Go up coast to Guadalupe Dunes. For seals, overlook the Carpinteria Bluffs. Estuaries provide plenty of action on sand and nearly all our beaches.

How about the living symbol of our chapter, the endangered condor? Go atop Mt. Pinos or join outings to Hopper Mountain and Bitner Creek. Nearby is the Chumash Wilderness where you will find the bumsers of the valley kite fly.

Spend time around our reservoirs, Lake Castas and Lake Cachuma — the ‘watering holes’ for wildlife — where deer are numerous, bald eagles build their nests, fish are profuse and many is heard a2n encouraging sound.

And who isn’t thrilled by the largest creatures among us, the big blue whales who ply through the Channel amidst sea lions, orcas, dolphins, rays and Channel Beech Sea Lions? The last whale that was seen has a direct and positive impact on the flora and fauna right here: www.sieraclub.org/whale/7500

We are working to keep this amazing area pristine.

The many unique ecosystems which make up the Los Padres Chapter region are outstanding places for wildlife viewing ranging from endangered species to marine mammals in the hurchords.

With your help, that’s what we defend.

Cun tour oran se usp spee fUP to aknowe iightone tahl like amina, with their homes in the wilderness and watersheds.

Benefit for the coast

Escape to the stunning Gaviota coast where SCAPE artists will present facts that would save the burrows of the valley kit fox. It’s what we do all year. If any of the stories on this page. Of Ojai SAR for inviting us. See info that will be passed onto our chapter leader Robert Bernstein. said may “move slower than the Sierra Club hikers.”

He rightly points out that people in positions who are making life and death decisions need to consider the intellectual action adventure that can bring the García Coast to the wilderness. You can see it here: https://tinyurl.com/ SARTrecesses

March 6: Hazardous Oil projects in the SB North County were detailed by attorneys from the Environmental Defense Fund on behalf of our chapter, which is a client. The public webinar was a great opportunity to learn about three bad oil projects by phone or online. A great concept not to use gas!

March 16: Spring Trail work day was top-heavy with volunteers from our Conejo Group on trails in the Conejo Canyons area, notably to prevent erosion damage. Next work day will be April 6 on the Wishnoue Trail.

By Alisse Fisher

Upper Ojai Search and Rescue's annual Winter All Team event last year was grizzly in Yosemite and I don’t mean bear.

So, I was a little concerned about how the recognition would bring, but it was an amazing intellectual action adventure that can bring the García Coast to the wilderness. You can see it here: https://tinyurl.com/SARTrecesses

March 8: Baja & Sea of Cortez “amazing excursion” slide show by SCub hike leader Robert Bernstein at the Val Verde Retirement Center featured gray whale breeding grounds, a certain treat for the public and residents who, Robert said may “move slower than the Sierra Club hikers.”

March 6: Hazardous Oil projects in the SB North County were detailed by attorneys from the Environmental Defense Fund on behalf of our chapter, which is a client. The public webinar was a great opportunity to learn about three bad oil projects by phone or online. A great concept not to use gas!

Feb 19: Phase out of oil and gas drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel was approved by the SB County Commission: several Sierra Club members testified in support. Also, club members spoke out against the plan to park 5,000 cars imported from Port of Hueneme.

Feb 19: No Trucking Oil said the Goleta City Council in a resolution about Exxon’s wish to do just that from its three platforms off the Gaviota Coast, due to the shutdown capture of Plains Pipeline. Club was strongly opposed to using up to 100 trucks per day.

Feb 3: Plains Pipe-lying, in the SB Independent, published by our Chair Katie Davis was headlined “Plains Pipeline Isn’t Telling You” and noting its new proposal would extend production in the county. Here’s the link: https://tinyurl.com/ Plainspipe-lying

Feb 10: Wind Wolves Preserve, a unique opportunity for volunteer work and play all day in the largest non-urban land preserve at 833 acres, straddling Ventura, Kern, and LA counties.

Feb 1: Clean Power Alliance for Santa Barbara County, which aligned with L.A. County to bring residents more power from renewable sources. Residents had until March 1 to opt in and stay with SoCal Edison, which will still provide the distribution service.

Dec 30: Lucas McDonald was a major activator for the CPA.

Jan 31: Wildlife Corridor zone proposal hearing at Venture County Planning Commission, Sierra Club, Wildlife Team activists attended the meeting. See the proposal here: https://tinyurl.com/WildlifeZone

Jan 27: 50 Years After the Santa Barbara Oil Spill: A Call to Action

Let’s take a wildlife viewing trip across our local lands:

There are over 400 mammals and birds in our Region of Riches! (cover photo: leopard loms) Go up coast to Guadalupe Dunes. For seals, overlook the Carpinteria Bluffs. Estuaries provide plenty of action on sand and nearly all our beaches.

How about the living symbol of our chapter, the endangered condor? Go atop Mt. Pinos or join outings to Hopper Mountain and Bitner Creek. Nearby is the Chumash Wilderness where you will find the bumsers of the valley kite fly.

Spend time around our reservoirs, Lake Castas and Lake Cachuma — the ‘watering holes’ for wildlife — where deer are numerous, bald eagles build their nests, fish are profuse and many is heard a2n encouraging sound.

And who isn’t thrilled by the largest creatures among us, the big blue whales who ply through the Channel amidst sea lions, orcas, dolphins, rays and Channel Beech Sea Lions? The last whale that was seen has a direct and positive impact on the flora and fauna right here: www.sieraclub.org/whale/7500

We are working to keep this amazing area pristine.

The many unique ecosystems which make up the Los Padres Chapter region are outstanding places for wildlife viewing ranging from endangered species to marine mammals in the hurchords.

With your help, that’s what we defend.

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April 6

NINETY-4 OAKS RIDGE TRAIL: This is a moderate 4 mrt hike with great views of Sespe Peak and the Conejo Valley. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Water is available at Hope Ave. MURAL 1-805-976-8452 (SB).

April 7


April 8

LITTLE SYCAMORE CANYON - BUZZARD’S ROOST: Moderate 7 mile out and back multi-use trail with approximately 1000 feet of elevation gain. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ANGELES 1-805-451-1339 (SB).

April 9

ROSEWOOD TRAIL TO ANGEL VISTA, Thousand Oaks: Meet by 9am in the Satwiwa Nature Center parking lot at 8:30am. Take the 101 Fwy, then take the exit Moorpark Rd and turn right. Meet at the end and meet near the bathroom. Start time is 9am. See Meetups/Ventura Sierra Club map. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8775. (VEN)

April 10

VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS: Meet in the parking lot of the Botanical Gardens at 8am. Meet at Ventura Ave/Main St at 9am. We’ll walk through the Botanical Gardens, see the butterfly house, and then visit the Ventura Ave/Malibu Creek trail for a little distance. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8775. (VEN)

April 11

FEEDING THE FISH: Please check your watch and bring any fish you have at home, just no live fish. Meet at the SRO parking lot at 6:30am. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8775. (VEN)

April 12

LOWLIER WATRAN CANYON - BUZZARD’S ROOST: Easy to Mod 6 mrt, 900’ elevation gain and beautiful ocean views. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Bring a swimming towel. Meet at 8am near the town of Fillmore (Goodenough Rd.) JUANITA 1-805-945-2812. (SB)

April 13

RATTLESNAKE TO FLORASPE PEAK: Hike up Rattlesnake canyon to the summit of Floraspe Peak. We will follow the road to a steep, primitive trail and scramble up 700 feet to the summit. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. KRISTI 1-805-317-5290 (SB)

April 14

ROSEWOOD TRAIL TO ANGEL VISTA, Thousand Oaks: Meet at 6:30am at 1800 feet elevation of feed. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. Rain cancels. MURAL 1-805-976-8770 leave msg (SB).

April 15

FRIEDMAN'S MILL CREEK: Easy to Moderate 2 ¾ mrt hike with 500’ elevation gain. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Meet at Rosewood Trail parking lot by 9am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 1-805-202-6455 (SB)

April 16

HENRY MOUNTAIN: Meet at 8am. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ANGELES 1-805-451-1339 (SB).

April 17

SULKOSKE 805-492-3061. (CJ)

April 18

LITTLE SYCAMORE CANYON - BUZZARD’S ROOST: Moderate 3 ¾ mrt hike with 1000’ elevation gain and beautiful ocean views. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Bring a swimming towel. Meet by 9am in the Satwiwa Nature Center parking lot at 8:30am. Take the 101 Fwy, then take the exit Moorpark Rd and turn right and drive 0.7 mile to Calle Del Prado. Turn right to parking lot No. 16. PARKING FEE: $5. CONTACT MAUREEN at 1-805-497-6773. (CJ)

April 19

ROSEWOOD TRAIL TO ANGEL VISTA, Thousand Oaks: Meet down the PCH to the pier, and return via the bike path. The hike is about 5 miles and relatively flat except for the climb to the cross. The view from the top is amazing and the walk along the beach is beautiful! Wear comfortable shoes and bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8775. (VEN)

April 20

MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Hike up a dirt road with fabulous views of the Pacific Ocean. Bring lunch and departure. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ANGELES 1-805-451-1339 (SB).

April 21

CAYUCOS CAVES EXPLORATION: Meet at Gaviota beach to the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above. Includes off-trail cross-country exploration on a challenging route! Some rock scrambling, bushwhacking, and agility required. About 5 mrt. Wear long pants and bring lunch and plenty of water. Bring a swimming towel. Bring water. Meet at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 event@osj.org (SB)

April 22

SOUTH FERRY VICTORY: See April 6 listing for details.

April 23

LITTLE SYCAMORE CANYON - BUZZARD’S ROOST: Moderate 2 ¾ mrt hike with 500’ elevation gain and beautiful ocean views. Bring lunch, stewed snack, and plenty of water. Meet by 9am in the Satwiwa Nature Center parking lot at 8:30am. Take the 101 Fwy, then take the exit Moorpark Rd and turn right and drive 0.7 mile to Calle Del Prado. Turn right to parking lot No. 16. PARKING FEE: $5. CONTACT MAUREEN at 1-805-497-6773. (CJ)

EAVESDROPS: “This will be a costly and lengthy undertaking, with serious ramifications for the karst resources of the Ventura River.”

Alasdair Coyle of Keep Sespe. We blev ChannelKeeper’s lawsuit against the city of Ventura for allegedly taking too much water from its wells near Foster Park. New wrinkle is that management plans are not being followed. For more go to http://www.dbkg.org.

To lobby the city, go here http://www.dbkg.org/SaveVenturaRiver.

April 24

SAPUTO TRAIL: Coniso Open Space Challenge #6. Easy to moderate hike of approx. 5 miles on mixed soil and paved areas. This new community park has various venues. Bring water, food and wear hiking shoes. Meet 9am at Lynn Rd and Terramar Terrace parking lot at 9:30am. Take the N 23 Fwy. to E. Avenida de Los Angeles. Turn right on Sunnycrest Rd, turn left into parking lot, and follow the trail to the end and meet near the bathroom. Start time is 9am. See Meetups/SB Hikes.

April 25

PANCAKE DUME TO PARADISE POINT: Easy to Moderate 1 ¾ mrt hike with 300’ elevation gain. Meet by 8am at top of Old Dume. Meet by 9am in the Satwiwa Nature Center parking lot at 8:30am. Take the 101 Fwy. to Lynn Rd. 3 miles, left on Old Dume Rd, go north 1/2 mile to Dume Rd and turn right. The trail is a mix of meadow, creek, and fire road. Some rock scrambling. Bring water and low creek crossings. Elevating out of the canyon is via a steep asphalt access road. Use caution. Bring water. For more info, contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8775. (VEN)

April 26

POINT DUME TO PARADISE COVE BEACH WALK - ZUMA BEACH: Join us for a peaceful walk along the waters’ edge and to Paradise Cove (ide permitting). Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at 8:30am on the Zuma Beach parking lot at 9am at 0.4 feet minimum. Take Kanon to PCH, turn right to Western Beach Road, drive down to and meet across from Sunset Restaurant, LILLIAN TREVISAN 1-805-498-1623. (SB)

April 27

MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Easy to moderate 8 mrt hike. Bring water, food and wear stewed hiking boots. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. Take Kanon Road, turn left at Cornell Road, cross Mulholland Hwy, quick left into parking lot. LILLIAN TREVISAN 1-805-498-1623. (CJ)

April 28

MONTALVO TRAIL - ROCKY HILLS: Meet up Rattlesnake Trail and the Tunnel Trail Connector to an off-trail route to Rocky Pines Ridge for lunch. Some rock scrambling. Strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ANGELES 1-805-451-1339 (SB)
May 4 ALPINE CANYON: A leisurely loop from Sage Hill campground on a marked trail along a staircase. 3.5 miles. Optional descent to Upper Ojo adds 1.5 miles to the hike. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. MURRAY 1-805-697-8770 (SB)

PRATT TRAIL 8am-1pm. 9.6-mile trail with roughly 3,111 elevation gain in 8.5 miles. Difficult and is moderately trafficked near Ojai. Great for viewing wildflowers. This is Leave No Trace hike. Make sure to bring a light warm layer that can be removed when it becomes hot. Bring 2L’s of water and a high caloric snack. Moderate pace; ensure you are in shape. I will be making a loop in the dirt parking lot off S N L. Contact me if you need parking instructions. Questions? Contact VICTORIA at: victoria.aperez@cox.net.

May 5 PLAYGROUND: Explore the lay-by-flats and ledges of California’s 7-day 3-7 day trips to the enticing Channel Islands National Park near Santa Barbara. You’re in luck, lots of time is left to schedule your trip. A few of a new route to match your schedule. The cruises depart from Santa Barbara Dunes April 7-9, May 5-7, May 11-14, Aug. 18-20, Sept. 22-24 and Oct. 20-22. The cost is $370 and includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. The trips are a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club’s political program in California. To reserve space, send a $200 check payable to Channel Islands Sierra Club PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Segundo, CA 90245. For more information contact the leader, Joan Jones Holtz (626) 443-0706 joholtzh@cox.net.

NOTE: July trip filled but our chapter has added another trip for the weekend of 8-20. Contact for that trip is: camille.m.collett@gmail.com

May 7 CATHEDRAL PEAK LOOP II: Meet up Mission Canyon trail and then branch off onto a steep and rocky trail to a Peach for lunch. Spectacular views, including “Three Pools,” and the peaking out of the Carpinteria, a leisurely stroll around the canyon floor trails will complete our day. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, meet us at the trailhead Call or email for instructions. Rain camps. MEET BEHIND B OF A AT STATE ST. AT HOPE AVE. AT 9AM. MURRAY 1-805-746-6030 (VEN)

May 8 CRAWLER JOHN: Trail follows a beautiful canyon up Potrero John Creek, crossing it several times, winding through pine trees, possibly climbing to a waterfall. 6 miles round trip, 1272 ft gain. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, and layers. Rain cancell. Meet at 9am at Ventura carpool. TERESA 1-805-746-6030 (VEN)

May 9 ANSEL ADAMS HONDO: We’ll take the scenic West Ridge trail to get good views of the canyon and the observatory. No need to bring lunch. 6. mile loop gain. After a lunch break outside the observatory, a leisurely stroll around the canyon floor trails will complete our day. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, meet us at the trailhead Call or email for instructions. Rain camps. GERRY 805-964-5411 (gching@cox.net)

May 20 VENTURA RIVER Preserve: Meet at the trailhead across from the horse corrals on Rice Rd for a 9am start time. We will cross the hopefully dry Ventura River and travel up Willow to Rice and loop around back to the creek. This 6-mile loop can offer its challenges i.e. flowing water, warm temps, and insects. The elevation gain is about 1100 feet. Bring water plus sun protection. There are no facilities at the trailhead. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

May 30-June 4 ESCALANTE BACKPACK: This trip will get to Neon Canyon, starting either at Harris Wash or 25 Mile Wash which is preferred depending upon the information I can find. Free parking is available outside the park and paid parking inside. The cost per person will be determined by the number of people who show up. The site costs $180/nite, so if 18 people attend, we will sign up on the Ventura Sierra Club MeetUp web page and follow the discussion. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

May 4-9 ROSEWOOD CANYON LOOP: Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream to a lunch spot. Then down an abandoned road with a beautiful view. Moderate 6.5 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St at Hope Ave, at 9am. CHRISTINE 1-805-708-5877 (SB)

April 29 CALIFORNIA RADA.: We’ll take a leisurely stroll up a paved access road, through a rural country area shared with grazing cows and horse stalls. From HWY 33 northbound, exit CA 126 east and turn right. In about 3 miles park along the shoulder near the crossing. Start time is 9am. Carpooling is advised. The walk is about 5 miles flat, and exposed. See also CARPINTERIA Sierras for map. Contact MAURENE at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

OZOLTAN BUNKER GROUP: Group outings chairs 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).

Wildlife Corridor plans

May 10 AFTERNOON Hike, BATES BEACH LOOP: Meet at the trailhead at 1pm. Take Bates Rd. off Hwy. 101, in Carpinteria toward the beach, and park in the lot on the right. We’ll walk along the beach and take a short, steep trail up onto the bluffs to the Carpinteria Seal Rock viewing area. On a clear day, we may picture a few viewpoints of the islands. The Preserve come to almost 100 people who give birth to their cubs there; it is one of the four harbor seal rookeries remaining along the SoCal coast. Check the weather and dress accordingly, always bring plenty of water. Although they are allowed on the walk, they are not allowed in the viewing area. Back by 3:30pm. Contact MAURENE at 805-509-2026 (VEN)

May 11 CATHEDRAL PEAK LOOP II: Meet up Mission Canyon trail and then branch off onto a steep and rock primitiveness trail to Peak for lunch. Spectacular views, including “Three Pools,” and the echoes from the Canyon. Return northwest down side west to Jesusita trail. Steensum 6 mrt with hundreds of wildflowers on the hillside. We will be seeing the wildflowers blooming. We’ll hike at a moderate pace for 8 hours with 1200 ft. of elevation gain. Bring 2 liters of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain can cancel. Contact GERARD 805 212-0798 balgerger@cox.net (SB)

May 26-28 BLACK ROCK DESERT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: A great first trip to the area about 110 miles N ofreno. Expect several hundred people at this event co-sponsored by Friends of Black Rock, Nevada Wilderness, BLM and Nevada Outdoor School. Expect guided tours, hot springs, a Dutch Oven cook-off, and drawings. Come for the wildflowers or for the day. Some food but come prepared w/ food, water. E LT but we’ll have porta-pottys. Contact gerry ching (see story pg 1)

July 2-7 FLORES PEAK FROM GIBRALTAR ROCK: We will drive to Gibraltar Rock, above the Sierra Club Tent. We will hike a steep, little-known trail to Flores Peak. Some rock scrambling and agility required. The Wednesday hikers sometimes call this the “Medicine Circle.” Elevation gain is 2000 feet in only a half a mile. Please bring a snack or lunch and a liter of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 (event@swt.org) (SB)

June 2 MISSON WEAVE: Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we’ll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we’ll loop back down to Rattlesnake. This is a nice, 6-mile loop/bluff walk. Meet at 9am in the Rincon Beach parking lot near the bathroom. After the hike, those who plan to camp will check into our group site at the campground, set up tents, and prepare for a BBQ and potluck. Check-in is at 2 so we may have a couple hours for lunch in town if our site isn’t available. There is a limit of 25 people and 5 cars in the campground. Free parking is available outside the park and paid parking inside. The cost per person will be determined by the number of people who show up. The site costs $180/nite, so if 18 people attend, we will sign up on the Ventura Sierra Club MeetUp web page and follow the discussion. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

June 14-19 POGUE JOHN: Trail follows a beautiful canyon up Potrero John Creek, crossing it several times, winding through pine trees, possibly climbing to a waterfall. 6 miles round trip, 1272 ft gain. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, and layers. Rain cancell. Meet at 9am at Ventura carpool. TERESA 1-805-746-6030 (VEN)
Vol. 19, No. 2 of 6

April - May 2019

Join the Club - Only $15 - Free Bag - sierraclub.org

*Our 10th year in 2019, another successful training turning out more experienced hikers. See story on page 4.*

**Wonder water (Suzanne Tanaka)**

**Come along with us (Suzanne Tanaka)**

**Miles of smiles (Suzanne Tanaka)**

**Stick n bow match (Kristi Kirkpatrick)**

**Where are we? Right by the map (Annette Preciado)**

**Finally, the fire! (Suzanne Tanaka)**