Solutions ... Energy updates ... Wild Lands ... Fun Trips ... Predator
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JOIN THE CLUB - ONLY $15 - FREE BAG - SIERRACLUB.ORG
We have solutions

The Sierra Club’s motto of: Explore, Enjoy and Protect the planet “is needed now more than ever,” said our Los Padres Chapter Chair Katie Davis to an enthusiastic gathering at the Environmental Defense Center. The occasion on May 10 was at its famed TGIF mixer, which the chapter co-sponsored that evening.

She started out with questions on how many species are at risk of extinction? One million! According to a recent UN report and the audience reacted. “The good news is – we know the problem and how to solve it,” she said and ticked off the good and bad news.

Solution #1 is protected areas. Many hands went up when asked who has been to the Channel Islands and she used this local success story to assert there is “scientific proof that protected areas work.” Next to her was our Exec Director Jon Ulliman, carrying a sign and ticket opportunities for anyone to go to the islands on a 3-day, 3-island hopping adventure. That would be July 20–23; contact for that trip is: julliman@sierraclub.org

Solution #2 is to stop burning fossil fuels in transportation and buildings. “The good news is that we can do that,” citing over a hundred cities that have committed to 100% clean energy, notably city of Santa Barbara and Ventura County joining others from Hawaii to Puerto Rico.

“Electricity everywhere,” she said noting that its cheaper and cleaner. Already SB County voted to electrify its fleet and the Puente gas fired plant in Oxnard was rejected with SCE now proposing a 195 MW battery storage facility instead.

Solution #3: Stop building new fossil fuel infrastructure, such as fighting against the Trump Administration’s push to open on- and offshores sites for new drilling, and locally stopping over 700 wells at Cat Canyon, not allowing Exxon to truck its oil and stopping Ventura County fracking.

“This is the fight of our lives. Let’s go win it!” she exclaimed to applause and cheers.

And you can help!

By Emily Engel

Massive oil expansions in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are a broad threat to protect natural habitats, biodiversity, essential natural resources and future generations on the Central Coast. Together we can make a difference, but this critical work needs your help.

For years, the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, Environmental Defense Center and SBCAN, have been working with a broad coalition of environmental and community groups to oppose the oil expansions and foster renewable energy sources instead.

Currently our chapter is engaged in campaigns that:

EAVESDROPS

“Exxon’s inadequate response to climate change constitutes a serious failure of corporate governance.”

“No, that’s not a quote from an eco-group, it’s from a group of Exxon’s own shareholders filing a proxy fight against all the firm’s directors.”

May 17 was Endangered Species Day, which is just a date to remind people animals cannot speak for themselves. This year, it came on the heels of a United Nations Biodiversity report that asserts extinction rates are accelerating at unprecedented levels. Meanwhile, the Trump Administration is doing all it can to devolve the Endangered Species Act to the club and others are fighting them in the courts.

The Sierra Club is part of the Endangered Species Coalition where you can find more information and educational materials at: www.endangered.org

Support the club’s work locally and nationally by joining, donating or volunteering. One of our methods is to ‘adopt’ a wild animal. Go to: https://tinyurl.com/AdoptAnimal

For local action on injured animals, there is a wildlife helpline (805) 681-1080 and help via the Wildlife Care Network for the region at: www.swbcn.org

by Liz Lamar

It was a packed house in the Topping Room of the E.P. Foster Library on a rainy Sunday afternoon. People hung on to every word uttered by the panelists who discussed the merits of the Green New Deal.

The Sierra Club collaborated with the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led organization called to bring “town halls” like this one throughout the country to build momentum for the resolution. People are hungry for bold climate action and the Green New Deal provides avenues for change. With a focus on achieving climate and social justice, the Green New Deal is an opportunity for a better future.

As Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said, “A Green New Deal can create millions of family-sustaining union jobs upgrading our infrastructure, making our communities more resilient to the climate crisis, retrofitting and weatherizing our buildings, restoring our ecosystems, and moving our country to a 100% clean, renewable energy economy.”

Adam Vega of California for Pesticide Reform spoke about the role of small scale, organic farming for a healthier ecology and encouraged residents to push for bans on pesticides in which harm people and planet.

Solution #4: Stop building the Puente battery storage facility instead.

Oxnard Mayor Pro-Tem Carmen Ramirez spoke about how collective action can generate better environmental policy for communities. Daniel Benavidez of Sunrise Movement urged us all to contemplate what it would mean for the planet if Trump was reelected in 2020 and compelled us to make sure climate change is centered in the upcoming presidential debates.

RL Miller of Climate Hawks Vote urged the audience keep up the pressure our members of congress to support the Green New Deal.

If you would like to advocate for the climate, join the Green New Deal working group! Contact Liz Lamar for details: elizabhelmar@gmail.com

Read the Green New Deal proposed legislation here: https://tinyurl.com/GNDtext

Cover Photo

A solitary Giant Lupine stands over the southern end of the Carrizo Plains National Monument, haring at wildflower blooms. Submit your ‘wow’ photos like this, see page 5. Photo by Dan Holmes, who’s conducting the contest for Ventura Land Trust: www.DanHolmesPhoto.com

Cover Photo

June - July 2019

Green New Deal resonates

by Liz Lamar

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Our children are an important part of the resistance against pollution and for climate change solutions. Here are two of them taking

By Katie Davis

BATTERY SUPPORT

When Sierra Club and our allies first started fighting the proposal to build a fourth power plant on the Oxnard beaches, chances of success seemed slim.

SCE announced plans to build the Puente gas-power plant in Oxnard and refuel it with old and polluting Elwood peaker in Goleta. The community and environmental advocates demanded that they consider renewable energy instead. Regulators eventually agreed, and Puente became the first gas plant to be denied in the state of California.

In April SCE announced plans for 195 MW of battery storage projects in Oxnard, Carpinteria and Goleta that will save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars it would cost to build new power plants, reduce pollution and begin our transition to 100% renewable energy.

FELON FOLLY

Sitting through the all-day Plains Pipeline sentencing hearing on April 25, just after Earth Day weekend, was a disheartening lesson in the difficulty of holding oil companies accountable for even the most egregious criminal acts.

Convicted by a jury of felony criminal negligence in causing the 2015 Refugio oil spill, the judge fined Plains only $3.3 million dollars, far less than the $1.2 billion that the prosecutors wanted. The judge claimed the fine was the max allowed by law and acknowledged that it was insufficient to deter future criminal conduct (the fine is nearly $1 billion a dollars a week). Calling it a “loophole in the law,” the judge also claimed he couldn’t impose probation or other conditions requiring safer operations because he can’t send a corporation to jail and so has no enforcement mechanism. Meanwhile, Plains Pipeline has applied to build a new pipeline through Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern county.

TRUCKING EXXON

Protestors rallied in front of the Santa Barbara County Building on May 6 against ExxonMobil’s application to truck crude oil 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – up to 70 trucks a day – along coastal highways through Santa Barbara County, a dangerous proposition. If Exxon gets its way, it would be able to expand its three offshore oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel, all of which claimed the fine was the max allowed by law and acknowledged that it was insufficient to deter future criminal conduct. This comes the same month as the Interior Department finalized its rule rolling back regulations on oil platforms that were enacted after the tragic Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the largest marine spill in history. Both are part of the larger policy of outrageous deregulation and land grabs taking place under this administration.

VENTURA BAN

Ventura County temporarily outlawed new cyclic steam oil wells after scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey reported they had found petroleum-related gases in wells supplying irrigation water on the Oxnard Plain. The Fox Canyon Aquifer provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Ventura County residents and irrigation water for thousands of acres of prime farmland. Supervisors will decide in June whether to extend the moratorium for a full year.

CIRCULAR LOGIC

After contentious discussions in May about greenhouse gas emissions and water contamination related to ERG’s proposal to expand cyclic steam oil production in Cat Canyon, near Santa Maria, the SB County Planning Commission allowed a continuance to Aug. 14.

This is one of three projects totaling 760 wells, which would triple production in the county. Meanwhile, the oil companies’ application for an 18-month extension, which would exempt certain groundwater basins covering 30 square miles of Cat Canyon from the Clean Drinking Water Act, is being processed by state regulators and the EPA, with a hearing in Santa Maria held on June 5.

Get this circular logic: They can grant the exemption if they determine that there will be no significant impact on drinking water, but the companies have been making illegal injections of contaminated water right into these same aquifers for years.


directions for ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Harbor are to use the VSR program, which has enlisted all the local APCDs noted “very cost-effective reduction strategies.”

In a letter, Kristen Hislop of EDC noted that the program “has been completely avoided or at least vastly decreased.”

This comes the same month that 2015 Pipeline break near Refugio State Beach.

While the Obama administration has required a series of new regulations and inspections, including reviews of the existing pipeline, to prevent future breaks, we still risk another tragedy.

There is now Senate Bill 69 which accrued...
Groundwater pollution is critical

By Jon Ullman

California groundwater is critically important to our survival. It accounts for about half of our water supply. You’d think our state would do everything in its power to protect that resource pristine.

We miss Bob & Tomi

Editor’s note: Bob and Tomi Sollen were literally Giants of the Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club, based in the Santa Barbara Group since the 1960s. Both have now passed away, and we honor them here and thank them profusely for their years of dedicated work for the region’s ecology (a word Bob preferred, see story on page 7).

The region around Santa Barbara reacted with sorrow at the news that the reporter who broke the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill story, Robert Sollen, died on May 10 at age 97 following by three years the death of his activist wife Tomi, who passed on Oct. 17, 2016.

Bob Sollen was a reporter for the Santa Barbara News-Press when “An Ocean of Oil” (the title of Sollen’s 1998 book) began coming ashore. He pursued the story with one front-page story after the next, documenting the attempts at cleanup, the politics, and the protests that are widely considered the birth of the 20th century’s protests that are widely considered one front-page story after the death of his activist wife Tomi, who passed away, and we honor them here and thank them profusely for their years of dedicated work for the region’s ecology (a word Bob preferred, see story on page 7).

In Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, agricultural industry’s pesticides and fertilizers and the oil and gas industry’s products and processes are signs that we are not protecting our groundwater are blazing through the headlines. In New York Times story on the cause of the 2015 Aliso Canyon gas capture printed recently: “In a 288-page report, investigators said that groundwater had corroded the metal lining of a more-than-50-year-old underground well, leading to its rupture at 892 feet below ground. The report also said that SoCalGas, the company that owns and operates the natural gas well, did not meaningfully investigate or analyze more than 60 previous leaks at the complex.

The Ventura County, Star-News reported that residents in El Rio told to stop using tap water after high levels of nitrates are found.

“An estimated 1,200 El Rio residents were cleared Friday to start consuming their tap water again after nitrate contamination in their small, private water provider led to a state prohibition for much of the week.”

And Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett said recently that he was calling for the moratorium north of Santa Barbara in 1962, she became active with the Sierra Club, Audubon and CEC. Tomi said, “with the Sierra Club, my main interest was political. It was a chance to work with a group to endorse environmental candidates.

Bob Sollen shared his wisdom during a local forum in 2009 when he talked about treating nature abusively through over-consumption, greed, control, management, arrogance, and living for the day. These are at new levels intensity in the history of homo sapiens.”

From the Santa Maria Groundwater basin to the fox Canyon aquifer, the protection of our groundwater is non-negotiable. Los Padres Sierra Club and its four groups in four years will be fighting hard this year. Come join our team of activists.

To get involved, send an email to: jonathan.ullman@sierrarclub.org
‘Persist’ may be our middle name

By John Hankins

While the wild corridors—bikeway, bird-friendly drive, ubiquitous oil fields and more potential wildlands were all issues where our chapter was deeply committed during April and May, and it showed with TV and newspaper coverage and large audiences at rallies and our educational events.

It’s what we do all year. If any of these resonates, please join us at the free outings (see pages 6&7). Oh, and if you want to donate, go to www.sierrclub.org/donate

May 6: Town Hall for Green New Deal featuring Sierra Club, Climate Hawks and CAUSE at the Foster Library in Ventura. It’s part of the ActionNetwork.org and stressed “the right to good jobs and a livable future.”

May 23: BLM hearing at Santa Barbara City College about Trump Administration expanding oil gas leases on public lands brought out standing room only crowds with the Sierra Club a key component of the people who packed the press conference before the hearing.

May 21: Battery storage is a better option for gas peaker plants in the Gaviota Coast. Our Los Padres Chapter Chair Katie Davis at a preliminary hearing about SoCal’s calls for plans.

May 18: Wildlife Corridor ordinance becomes operative in Oxnard this day after a Ventura County supervisors hearing in March that made clear such excluding all properties within the LP National Forest from the overlay zone but including the Gaviota. To put teeth into the Sierra Rejada Valley in the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas. Sierra Club is a key proponent of the corridor issue, but two lawsuits have been filed. For details go to: https://tinyurl.com/SBearth2019

May 16: CPUC meets in Oxnard, a rare sighting of the California Public Utilities Commission on our turf in which energy issues matter. Sierra Club (Katie Davis, Liz Lamar etc.) had lots of input to speak up for transportation, building electrification and zero-emissions.

May 16: Angen Tour was a major event to promote bike transportation. The Ventura County Star quoted our Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza with this subhead: “Cycling enthusiasts’ chip in to help” - Nina Danza, stationed along Figueroa Street downtown, rode her bike from east ventura to her volunteer “Bike transportation and Sierra Club have the same long-term goals – zero emissions,” said Davis. “Ventura calls itself a bike-friendly town, and it is. But it could be doing so much more,” such as providing bike-friendly citywide Bicycle Master Plan. “It’s time to put their money where their mouth is,” she concluded.

May 14: Coyote Call! Another great educational event by the Ventura Sierra Club which invited Justin Brown, Ecologist with the National Park Service, to Foster Library to talk about “Understanding SoCal Coyotes.” Part of the Ventura County Education series. We howled. Also, Ventura Reporter wrote a feature about it here: https://tinyurl.com/CoyoteInv

Sierra Club was there during Earth Days (top photo down): Katie Davis & Alex Puyo at SB event, Prof. Jim Danza speaking at Ventura College, Teresa Donegan, Pam Smith and Monica Stanley at Ventura along with kids Hazel & Leif in tent. (Photos by Robert, Bertelsen, Nina Danza and Condor John)

Our Los Padres Chapter was seemingly everywhere during the many Earth Day events in Santa Barbara this morning and Tuesday. The major focus was on the theme of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.

The first of two major events was the two-day affair in Santa Barbara, which started the first Earth Day locally a year ago from one Meals on Wheels to a citywide Bicycle Master Plan. “It’s time to put their money where their mouth is,” she concluded.

Club presence felt at Earth Days

Sierra Club was there during Earth Days (top photo down): Katie Davis & Alex Puyo at SB event, Prof. Jim Danza speaking at Ventura College, Teresa Donegan, Pam Smith and Monica Stanley at Ventura along with kids Hazel & Leif in tent. (Photos by Robert, Bertelsen, Nina Danza and Condor John)
Ahoy! Islands await you

Join the Los Padres Sierra Club July 20-23 for a 3-day, 3-island adventure exploring the Santa Barbara Channel Islands.

Board your bunk on the Truth Saturday evening (July 20) in the Santa Barbara Harbor and wake up Sunday to begin our exploration of San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands. This trip will be full of sea life, trails to hike on, natural history, unique island plant and animal life, and kayaks, wetsuits, and snorkel gear to rent and explore the beautiful ocean.

Trip costs only $730, which includes food and bunks (single or double) with pull curtains for privacy.

The boat returns to Santa Barbara Tuesday evening (July 23). Proceeds benefit Sierra Club California.

Space is filling up fast, so contact Camille at (549) 468-6212 or camille.m.collett@gmail.com

EVENTS

June 13: Channel Islands talk and show by Dirk Rosen about “Recovery and Demise of Marine Protected Areas in the Channel Islands.” Starts 7pm at Santa Barbara Maritime Museum 113 Harbor Way; details at: https://sbnm.org

June 15: Last Days of Dinosaurs at 7pm at a bedside. (Photo by Camille Collett)

July 9: Meet Filmmaker Shaw Leonard for Q&A after seeing his popular 42-minute film: “Gaviota: The End of Southern California,” about one of the most threatened biodiverse hotspots in the world, the Gaviota Coast. It debuted in 2017 at SB Film Festival after five years of production.

Jim Hines writes (below) that “we move much too fast in our society to see what really needs to be seen, the miracle of life as nature intended it to be.” Looks like this couple is taking that advice during a hike above Goleta. (Photo by Jim Hines)

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Embrace the natural world

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends

Wild land touches each of us in different ways, our history with it allows us to seek the newness of our future.

By exploring our natural world and all that is within it, we learn about ourselves as we, as a society, have a basic human need to connect with all that which is wild.

Be bold, allow yourself the beautiful experience of the great outdoors. The quiet of mother earth, the loudness of ocean waves, the screech of a hawk in flight, the peacefulness of a meadow in full bloom with wildflowers, the excitement of watching whales breach, the tenderness of new born fawn with her mother deer, the amazement of seeing mountain lion tracks and the gentle brightness of a star filled sky.

All these priceless experiences are available to each of us. For what are we when we are out in the natural world? We are free from the shackles of our society; we are free as we allow nature to take over. Rise early to watch the sun come up, holds hands with one you are close to as you walk along the beach. Laugh with friends on a lakeside picnic and covet the specialness of all in the natural world which is more powerful than us.

We move much too fast in our society to see what really needs to be seen, the miracle of life as nature intended it to be.

Whether you are on a day hike of Cheseboro Canyon Natural Area, or on a weeklong backpack through the Sespe Wilderness, camping by Lake Casitas, bird watching at Ormond Beach, island hopping Channel Islands National Park, beach combing the Gaviota Coast, deer watching in the grasslands of the Santa Ynez Valley, picnicking at Figueroa Mountain or a simple bike ride along the Ventura River Parkway.

Submit your ‘wow’ photos through November

Two rules: First, every image must be a photograph. Second, there are no rules.

Three original digital images, to be considered for inclusion in VLT’s first ever Photography Contest and Exhibit.

The submission deadline is July 13 and there is a $20 fee to enter. VLT’s panel of judges will select three winners and a group of finalists whose images will be featured in an art exhibit sale to be hung on the walls of Rincon Brewery in Ventura, 4100 Telegraph Rd., from September 20 through October 29. For the wild, Jim.

Take ‘trips with a cause’

Summer Adventures, Fall Scrambles, and So Much More

Surely how you’ll be spending your vacation plans are in safe hands with us! Our diverse trip lineup—from summer to fall and beyond—has just about anything your intrepid heart may desire, including family getaways, raft journeys, canoe/ kayak trips, lodge-based adventures, volunteer vacations, international treks, and so much more.

See all trips throughout the year and sign up soon because they won’t be around for long! Go here: https://tinyurl.com/TripsWithACause

EVEARDSOPS

“We are all artists. It is part of being human. The wish to express one’s feelings and share one’s thoughts about the world we live in is universal and takes many forms. To make our own art in our own spirit, is a way we strengthen our ties with each other.”

— Ada Babine, an icon of our Sierra Club chapter and throughout Santa Barbara County, in an editorial to the Santa Barbara News-Press. It was reprinted in the handset for her memorial on Jan. 26.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

www.venturalandtrust.org

Saturday, August 17th, 2019

Award Winning Short Films
Live Bands, Food Trucks, Beer & Wine, Raffle, Games, Family Fun

Presents

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
A wonderful way for photographers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to celebrate the natural beauty that surrounds us everyday” said Dan Holmes, Ventura photographer and lead judge of the contest.

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**Take a Hike!**

**Los Padre Chapter**

**UPDATES:** http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

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**Welcome Hikers**

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please make reservations if drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study forest fire conditions before you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader of the hike and make sure the numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Note that most of Santa Barbara County is in the new 805 overlay zone in area code 800. Calls are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

This website also contains links to other local and regional resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on this meetup site. See this page.

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**June 7**

**AFTERNOON HIKE, PARADISE FALLS:** Meet at the Hill Canyon Trailhead (at 3011 Mission Dr. about 3pm) 10241 Hill Canyon Road, Camarillo. Walk about 5 miles, out and back to Paradise Falls. Please bring water and sunscreen and water shoes. Bring poles are helpful for some. Dogs are allowed on a leash. Rain or temperatures over 100 degrees, cancel the hike. JUDITH 805-509-2026

**June 8**

**MISSION RIDGE Hike:** up Rattlesnake trail to the connector on Tunnell. From there we’ll take a primitive trail to a ridge high for a lunch break then back down rattleback to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 m.; Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 805-657-8735 (SB)

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Meet up behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 6pm. Call MAUREEN at 805-657-8735 for a lunch break then loop back onto Tunnel. From there we’ll take a hike. JUDITH, 805-509-2026

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**June 10**

**PARLUNUEP CANYON:** This canyon is not frequently visited and is east of Zion. It is not in any park or another area. Noise is never heard in this 30 mile round trip backpack when the weather conditions are good. There are several side slot canyons to explore along the way to the main canyon becomes a narrow creek or river, with no shade. Moderate backpack. DAVID HADLEY 805-787-4852 (Southen California Group). Email: badhike@comcast.net

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**July 4**

**FORTH OF JULPLAYA in the Ojai Valley:** The first 3/4 of this trail is a shady, gradual, uphill walk along a flowing creek, then to an overlook with views of the Los Padres National Forest. Expect all day adventure: 1.5 hr caravans to trailhead and approx. 5 hr hike. Many water crossing requires you can get wet and hill. Bring swimming suit for swimming holes. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring 2.3 liters of water, lunch, and sunscreen.

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Meet B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 6pm. Call MAUREEN at 805-657-8735 (SB)

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**June 12**

**HORSESHOE BEND:** Moderately strenuous 9 m.; Horseshoe Bend is a 4 mile round trip out and back trail in the San Rafael Wilderness. Expect all day adventure: 1.5 hr caravans to trailhead and approx. 5 hr hike. Many water crossing requires you can get wet and wild. Bring swimming suit for swimming holes. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring 2.3 liters of water, lunch, and sunscreen.

Meet up behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 6pm. Call MAUREEN at 805-657-8735 (SB)

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**June 16-21**

**PARLUNUEP CANYON:** This canyon is not frequently visited and is east of Zion. It is not in any park or another area. Noise is never heard in this 30 mile round trip backpack when the weather conditions are good. There are several side slot canyons to explore along the way to the main canyon becomes a narrow creek or river, with no shade. Moderate backpack. DAVID HADLEY 805-787-4852 (Southen California Group). Email: badhike@comcast.net

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**July 4**

**FOURTH OF JULPLAYA in the Ojai Valley:** The first 3/4 of this trail is a shady, gradual, uphill walk along a flowing creek, then to an overlook with views of the Los Padres National Forest. Expect all day adventure: 1.5 hr caravans to trailhead and approx. 5 hr hike. Many water crossing requires you can get wet and hill. Bring swimming suit for swimming holes. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring 2.3 liters of water, lunch, and sunscreen.

Meet B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 6pm. Call MAUREEN at 805-657-8735 (SB)

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**June 17**

**SISAR CANYON:** The first 3/4 of this trail is a shady, gradual, uphill walk along a flowing creek, then to an overlook with views of the Valley. Moderate, 6.5 mile out and back, with a 1200 foot elevation gain. The trail crosses creek couple possibly with flowing water. Meet in the store parking lot on the corner of Sisar Rd. and HWY 150 about 8:45. MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735 (SB)

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**July 4**

**THREE Pools:** Hike: choose your own ending hike. Meet at the Ojai Rotary Park at 8:30 to consolidate cars, hand out gear to hike to the Shefl Rd trailhead at the end of Signal St. Those wanting a shorter, flatter hike will walk to the end of Signal St. followed by Kristy Deal, and return. This is about 4 miles and is dog friendly. The rest of us will climb 4 miles, 1200 B and make a loop via, Shelf, Gridley, Fuel break and Pratt trails. Tennis shoes are fine for the flat version but wear sturdy boots for the trek up Gridley. Prepare for sun exposure. MAUREEN 805-689-7820 (SB)

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**July 4**

**FOUTH OF JUPLA in the Black Rock:** This will be a busy weekend in the Black Rock as north of Santa Barbara, you can make it at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

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**July 5**

**OXNARD BEACH HIKE:** 10am. 5 miles in the sand, easy pace. Out and back starting where 5th St. dead-ends at the beach, north to the Santa Clara River. No development, except power plant, few people, birds, seals and dolphins. See McGrath Lake, Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve, high sand dunes. Bring snacks. Water. KIM HOCKING 805-585-2147 (VEN)

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**CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH:** Low tide is predicted for 9:01am at 0.2 ft. an opportunity to view tide pools and make it up the beach and around the point to Linden Ave. Without getting wet. Return via the State Beach Campground and bluffs. Distance about 6 miles and mostly flat. Meet at 8:45am at the Rincon Beach parking lot near the restroom. MAUREEN at 805-657-8735 (VEN)

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**July 13**

**CHUMASH TRAIL to Mugu peak via La Jolla Val ley hike.** Meet at the Chumash trailhead at 9am, 743 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu. We’ll then hike through the La Jolla Valley and loop back to Mugu peak. The initial 900 ft ascent up the Chumash Trail is strenuous, it is highly recommended for beginners, but we will go slow and take breaks. After that the hike through the valley is easy, followed by the final climb up to the peak for a total of 8 miles and 1800 feet of elevation gain. Bring 2 liters of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain cancels. GERARD 805-212-0798 (SB)

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**July 14**

**SISAR CANYON LOOP:** Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream, then down abandoned road with beautiful views for lunch. Moderate 6 m. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-683-1283 (SB)

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**July 15**

**WILDFLOWERS:** Meet at Hill Canyon parking lot at 8:30am. The bridge is still out, so we will walk along the creek to the water treatment plant and the ever-flowing falls. Moderate 5.6 mile lollipop hike with an approx 600 ft elevation gain. Bring at least a liter of water and sun protection. Moderate 6 m. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-683-1283 (SB)

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**July 19**

**AFTERNOON Hike, Ventura Beach Bike Path:** Meet 1pm at Vons, corner of N. Olive and W. Main St., park nearest to Main St. Two and four legged friends welcome on this dog-friendly (leashed) hike, although we do have to share the bike path with runners and bikers! Although this is mostly an out-and-back walk on pavement, please bring a good book to check out a good view to check out a good view. A good view to check out a dog.

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**June 20**

**VENTURA URBAN WALK:** This is a favorite hike of the group that starts at the Botanical Gardens, offering a beautiful view of the city and coast, ending along the promenade at Ventura Beach. Meet at 8:45am in the parking lot of Main Street Veers in the Mission Plaza. The 5.6 mile loop starts with...
World Ocean Day Events

June 7: World Ocean Day
Ventura will be celebrated from 2-2pm at Harbor Cover Beach, 687 Spooner Dr, part of -oceanside event. The world’s official focus is on reducing plastic pollution facilitated by Plastic Pacififka and Surfrider. It’s first for Ventura and includes activities, info, live music, food. For info go to www.WorldOceanDayVentura.org

June 8: World Ocean Day Cleanup at 8am at Surfer’s Point and Ventura Pier area sponsored by Surfrider Los Angeles and the Natural History Museum at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1280 (SB)

June 8: World Ocean Day event@swt.org Featuring environmental health. "We may live in a post-truth era, but nature does not.

About shore with side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Even crowd gathered, meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-898-1240 (SB)

August 24 RED ROCK TO GIBRALTAR DAM: A hike that will take us up to Gibralter Dam. Then down back to a popular swimming area. Moderate- strenuous 5.5 miles. Optimum distance to be able to add miles. Bring swimsuit, walking shoes, lunch and water. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-898-1240 (SB)

August 25 BUENA VISTA LOOKOUT view: Roilos Cyn. This short but steep hike will take us to the top of a cliff

We welcome and encourage all Chapter hike leaders to attend a half-day training in Wilderness First Aid / CPR. For those of you who are regular hike leaders, and the Los Padres Chapter has generously funded it.

A lot to learn about amoral natural forces

Editor’s note: This was the last article – if so many over the years – that Bob Sollen wrote. Join Robert Sollen as he modularly walks his way back in July 2011. We reprint it with pride because what he said then may well be true in the future.

July 28

ROCKY PINE RIDGE - Short Rockies to hike. Clicks into this wonderful pine tree and rock section and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate with some holder hopping and agility required, 4 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. REBECCA 805-685-1280 (SB)

July 27

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: Meet at the Bus stop behind the museum, then go north of State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming to update your knowledge and get our feet wet in the Sespe Creek, and then back past a popular swimming area. Moderate- strenuous 5.5 miles hike with an elevation gain/loss of about 700 feet. Start from the Piedra Blanca Trailhead of Rose Valley Road, get our wet in the Sespe Creek and pass through majestic hundred-foot foot-high white rock formations. Then into the Piedra Blanca Creek watershed to the Romo Canyon trailhead. Bring lunch, water, sun protection. Meet at 8am at Seaaward & Harbor carpool location at TERRESA at 8:00-7:30 am.

August 3

THREE POOLS beyond Seven Falls: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swim suit. Difficult but short 5 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-898-1240 (SB)

AUG 15

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: Join the Natural History Museum for the 8:30am bus to the Santa Barbara Courthouse. We will walk to the museum from there and spend a couple hours exploring before returning to the library for our 12pm lecture on hatchery hatchery hatchery hatchery hatchery hatchery hatchery hatchery hatchery

EASEDROPS

ELIMINATING non-reusable, non-recyclable and non- compostable packaging is reducing packaging by far the most effective, and the most appropriate, way to protect human, wildlife and environmental health.

EASEDROPS

KEITH REBECCA: California noting two bills that would do

475x790 to 592x830

We “environmentalists” do not refer to it variously as a social movement, philosophy, ideology— even as a science—either in tend and support the idea of environmentalism. Elsewhere, the very word environmentalism. That truth will flood in everywhere, like a great tidal wave, we “environmentalists” will be left to face the truth alone.

EASEDROPS

"We may live in a post-truth era, but nature does not.

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May/June 2019 • Condor 7
RAPTORS VS RODENTS

By: Elizabeth Sieglinger

You know you have a rodent infestation by the evidence of chew holes and scat. You could call a pest control service or purchase poison bait or traps, but that’s a waste of money and poisons have unintentional impacts on wildlife.

There’s a better way: Ecologically Based Rodent Management (EBRM) uses raptors, rodents’ natural enemies, to prevent infestations before they begin. If life has taught me anything, it is that problems are always harder and more expensive to fix than they are to prevent.

Rodents are essential in healthy ecosystems because they disperse plant seeds into new areas, and some build habitat for other animals, like the California ground squirrel builds habitat for burrowing owls. But they are also food sources for raptors.

Rodenticides negatively impact more than just the target animals. In Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, they have been found in the tissues of bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, owls, hawks, dogs, raccoons, bald eagles, ravens, crows, deer, foxes, squirrels, kangaroo rats, badgers, and beavers!

Also, humans. In 2017, the Poison Control Center reported rodenticides were responsible for 77,999 (about 4%) single exposure human poisonings nationwide. Of those affected, 33,211 (about 43%) were children ages 5 or younger.

Raptors are simply more effective than rodenticides. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District adopted county wide EBRM after studying its effectiveness around levee systems. Plus, the programs were more effective and cheaper than rodenticides. In fact, a family of barn owls can remove 3-5 thousand rodents in a 4-month breeding cycle!

The presence of raptors adds fear into their prey’s daily lives which influences their behaviors, including feeding and reproduction. This concept, known as Landscape Of Fear (LOF), ultimately reduces reproduction rates and population size. This can prevent rodents from infesting your spaces.

Raptors need our help because urbanization destroys crucial raptor habitat. Property owners are critical allies in providing much-needed raptor habitat in urban and suburban areas by installing nesting boxes and perches. Installing both ensures habitat for many types of raptors since diurnal raptors can occupy the same geographical space as nocturnal raptors like owls, because they work at different times of day.

Where do I start?

Follow the RAPTOR acronym and complete steps to invite raptors in your ecosystem, adapted from the Hungry Owl Project at: www.hungryowl.org

● R - Remove attractants (food, pet food, trash); eliminate shelter (shrubs, vines, debris).
● A - Attract beneficial raptors- install nesting boxes and perches.
● P - Prevent entry- seal all access points even holes as small as ¼ -½ inch.
● T - Trap humanely- with mechanical traps, avoid glue.
● O - Outreach to your community, push to use raptors over rodenticides.
● R - Resolve to eliminate rodenticides from the entire community.

For more detailed information, go to: www.lumntwist.org www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org www.RaptorsAreTheSolution.org www.BarnOwlTrust.org

For nesting box orders: www.clawonline.org Plans to build your own, search for Building Barn Owl Boxes at Audubon: www.svcs.org