The year of High Stakes

By Katie Davis

High Stakes Election

With a wide-open field of contenders in the Democratic Presidential Primary and with California’s Primary Election moved up to March 3, the state has a meaningful role to play. Local races will determine whether we protect our lands and cooktop development. Mail in ballots are dropping now.

Supreme Stakes

December marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which took place in the wake of the first massive oil spill in Santa Barbara. It has come after the hottest decade on record, when consensus on what to do about climate is so high that new collection of “climate emergency” as the 2019 phrase of the year, and a nationwide public outpouring of concern. 8 in 10 people oppose increased drilling.

Another change is that very long-time officer and former chair of the executive committee, Mike Stubblefield, decided not to run for his last seat in favor of Liz Larson of Oxnard, who was unopposed.

EAVESDROPS

The SB Independent recently announced plans to open a million acres of public lands; at the New Vic in SB.

Our leaders continue

Our Los Padres Chapter officers are doing such a great job, virtually all of them were reelected to another two-year term on Jan. 23. The one change is that very long-time officer and former chair of the executive committee, Mike Stubblefield, decided not to run for his last seat in favor of Liz Larson of Oxnard, who was unopposed.

The ExCo applauded Mike’s long and effective service to the club, but he said he’s not giving up his activism, which centers around air quality issues in the Ventura region. “I’m going to be involved with getting the two old – and now shuttered – power plants on the (Ormond) beach torn down and removed...that will likely consume a great deal of my time.” Another project is the “hairstream scheme” by the Port of Hueneme to drive its overlow cars to a vacant lot in Oxnard, he said.

In addition to Liz, Alex Pujo of Santa Barbara and David Gold of Ventura retained their at-large seats. The ExCo officers who were reelected are Chair Katie Davis (Santa Barbara) and vice Chair Jim Hines (Ventura), continuing a rather neat split between our two counties. Others reelected were Treasurer Richard Hunt and Secretary Gerry Ching, both from Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara Group also had incumbents reelected from the December ballot. They are: Robert Herrnstein, Katie Davis, Alex Pujo and Luz Reyes-Martín.

Conjo Group also had a ballot with no challengers; they are: John Holroyd, Marcy Pascual, Stephanie Scher and Joanne Siikko.

Green builder’s home defies and electrifies
dennis allin's electric induction stove, a precise temperature controller that is better for the climate and cooking. (Photo by Jon Ullman)

By Jon Ullman

Green builder Dennis Allen shows me his electric induction stove; it’s sleek and modern despite being more than a decade old. He ordered it from a European company, whose induction stoves are common. Today these electromagnetic stoves are popular in American households, not just because they are healthier and better for the climate, but because they are extremely precise.

Allen has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to sustainable building, and he wants others to follow in his footsteps.

His Santa Barbara house is a wonder – he designed it to require no heat or air conditioning. In any season, it is the perfect indoor temperature. He does this by circulating radiant heat from the sun in winter to other parts of the house. In the summer, he blocks the sun from the outside. Electricity and hot water are provided by solar panels.

The gas company is afraid of all-electric buildings. They know work well and unlike gas can be hooked up to solar panels or be powered renewably. When used with a heat pump (to provide heat and air conditioning), it is a carbon dioxide alternative to gas. Once thought to be a better environmental choice for California, turned out to be just another dangerous fossil fuel.

Scientists have discovered that fracked gas, with its potent methane leaks, is as bad as coal for climate change. They’ve also discovered that stove gas flames are unleashing a toxic stew of chemicals into our lungs such as nitrogen and carbon monoxide and formaldehyde. And then there are the uncontrollable leaks like Aliso Canyon and explosions that level neighborhoods.

Our leaders from the Community Environmental Council are working with local cities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to establish building codes that favor all-electric new construction via incentives. Already 23 cities in California have passed new codes and we want our cities to join them. These building codes don’t mean you have to switch to all-electric, however it tilt the scale in favor of fully electric new construction, powered by renewable energy. Small electric to buyers and renters is significant: Utility costs will be less. Indoor air will be safer. The planet and its people will benefit.

Last December, Allen demonstrated a small induction cooker at the Sierra Club holiday party. He showed people how it continued on page 2

EIGHTYDOGS

The SB Independent recently exposed voter suppression by “Rock the Vote SB,” one of the fake non-profits supporting Bruce Porter, a candidate with a history of taking tens of thousands of dollars from oil PACs and vying to unseat 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann.

His “non-profit,” which was shamelessly discouraging voters from registering and voting, received a cease and desist letter from Rock the Vote National. Porter wouldn’t disclose the donors or who is funding the “Bruce Porter Fund for Student Resilience.” He even boasted in a letter to his supporters that their effort was successful: “There are 1,400 fewer new voters registered in Isla Vista than this time in 2016.

By Peter Salvesen

The Trump administration recently announced plans to open a million acres of public lands in Santa Barbara, Ventura and surrounding counties to fracking and drilling despite 16,000 comments opposing the faulty environmental report. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is managing the give-away, run by anti-federal government lands continued on page 2
We’re becoming hotter faster

Editor’s note: Based on NOAA data, “the coastal curve that bends south from Santa Barbara … to the Mexican border was warming at nearly double the rate of the country,” noted the Washington Post in a December 2019 article. Below, excerpt, read the whole story here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/california/2020-01-31/santa-barbara-climate-change-41-f/
**WBC begins Feb. 19**

Wilderness Basics Course begins Feb. 19, the premier and popular hands-on course that will make you savvy and safe in the backcountry or even on a day hike, sponsored by the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club. 

The WBC does sell out each year, so don’t delay; to sign up or learn more go to:https://tinyurl.com/2020WBCsignup

Eight classes will be held on
Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30pm Feb.19 through April 8, at the Pinosio Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura.

The class lectures are comprehensive and local experts will demonstrate equipment, wilderness ethics, first aid, weather, water filtration, cooking, map & compass, clothing and safety. Students will gain experience by participating in several outings including day hikes, a 2-night camp, and backpacking trips in our local mountains.

All outings offer students a choice of difficulties ranging from low-moderate to strenuous, with multiple trip options.

NORTH COUNTY GROUP

We meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at Ventura Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, 7-8:30pm. STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at Santa Barbara Lighthouse, Veteran’s Memorial Park, 700 Garden St, 7-8:30pm. STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change.

**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meet 4th Thursday at 7pm at Channel Islands High School

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group would likely to restart regular meetings and programs. Keep informed on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup

VENTURA NETWORK

1st Tuesday of each month at Goleta Microgrid, 900 N. Ventura Ave, 7-8:30pm. STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change.

CONCEJO GROUP

Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at ConcenoGroup@gmail.com

Sign up for our Wilderness Basics Course (see article below) and you too can stop the Pacific coast whale hunt, like Patricia Peinado’s “fun in the sun club hike” with Sierra Club on Mt Pinos. (Photo by Anna Chung)
Greetings Friends

Natives save water

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

Would you like a beautiful yard that is low water use? Then let’s go native, California native plants that is.

We have so many wonderful and easy to grow natives ranging from large shade tree species to flowering shrubs, groundcovers and flowering native bulbs. Southern California plants are naturally adopted to our region, so take minimal maintenance after being established.

Need a blooming focal point? Plant a lovely cerise flowering native Redbud. Want to create shade from the hot summer sun? Then you will be planting native Sycamores or Alders.

Allow Spring to be filled with blooming native shrubs such as California Lilac (Ceanothus species) noted for their blue or white blossoms in abundance; there are groundcover varieties, or medium size and large growing shrub varieties available.

Have a shady spot in your yard? No problem, use flowering current and gooseberry shrubs as well as red flowered sages.

One of the real standouts in my garden is the native Matilija poppy, a large shrub (growing 0.5-6’ tall) with giant “fried egg” colored flowers. Overwhelming beauty when in full bloom, which is the case with mine from April until October.

When you are out walking in wild areas keep an eye out for various native plants that you like and then ask your local garden center to order them for you if not in stock.

Gardening with California native plants is an enjoyable experience and adds richness and beauty to any garden setting.

Channelkeeper has crafted its own Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve Dive Map for SCUBA divers and others who want to learn more about the Santa Barbara Channel’s Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). See it here: https://tinyurl.com/AnacapaDiveMap

The map is available online and in print form at local dive shops. It highlights prime dive spots, and features detailed illustrations of underwater terrain and links to special videos of each location so that divers and non-divers alike can see what this awesome underwater park has to offer.

Channelkeeper has created a dive map for the Santa Barbara Channel’s Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to help others learn what MPAs are not only valuable for protecting coastal ecosystems, but also provide recreational and economic benefits.

Leading to stronger and more resilient marine ecosystems overall, MPAs are not only valuable for protecting coastal ecosystems, but also provide recreational and economic benefits.

Learning about MPAs can help others learn what MPAs have to offer by sharing this map with friends, and don’t forget to check out Channelkeeper’s other dive maps (for Naples Reef and Coal Oil Point) in its growing MPA Dive Atlas.

The Sacramento based Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) is suing the state of California over enforcement of AB 1680, Assembly member Monique Limon’s bill which gives the people of California beach access at the private Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota Coast.

“The PLF is no friend of public lands, I can tell you,” remarked our vice-Chair Jim Hines.

All 133 Hollister Ranch property owners are being represented “pro bono” by PLF. The laws, which Gov. Gavin Newsom signed and went into effect in January, asserts the public must be allowed to enter the ranch beach and access some of its 8.5 miles of shoreline by April 2022. Further access would be phased in but needs to have a plan hammered out. Sierra Club is just one of several environmental groups that have long fought for access.

Limon told the Los Angeles Times that “regrettably, this lawsuit is not a surprise. This has been Hollister’s go-to for almost four decades — they fight access to a public beach in the courts,” she said adding “the need for this legislation speaks for itself”.

Channelkeeper creates dive map

AN 8 WEEK COURSE IN VENTURA

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PLF is a high-powered legal firm which is against government regulation, and takes on what they perceive as illegal actions by states and the federal government across the western U.S.

Several staffers left PLF to take positions in the Department of the Interior after President Trump took office, Hines noted, “thus having a influence on national public land actions.”

Your account

Sierra Club has created My Account for new and current members to make it easier to manage your own interface, instead of depending upon the staff to do simple tasks.

The portal allows you to update your own mail and e-mail, customize the type of e-mails you get from the club, review your donation history and renew membership, among other errands. If you have a name change, that requires a phone call (415) 977-5653.

Simply go to the foot of the club’s home page to find a Create Your Account button or simply to log into your current account there: www.Sierraclub.org

LEARN TO BACKPACK

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Local tornado a wake-up call

By John Hankins

Did you hear about the tornado heading for Santa Barbara that missed and hit Ventura instead on Christmas Day? Mother Earth’s climate change present to those who are skeptical perhaps?

We are serious about climate change and have bold plans, as our work below proves. Lots of moves to protect and restore our lands and animals, cleaning up beaches and rivers, and actions against fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy, all adhering to the Club’s motto: Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.

We do this all the time. Please join the Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Don’t forget to join any of our free outings (see pages 64, 70 and 71). If you want to join any of our free outings (see page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Don’t forget to join any of our free outings (see pages 64, 70 and 71).

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In preparation for a very busy 2020 citrus season, Food Forward is seeking folks interested in being trained as volunteer Pick Leaders across Ventura County, who work part-time to harvest food, fight hunger, and build community. If you’re interested in becoming a Pick Leader or an Event Leader for one of Food Forward’s other food recovery programs, call 630-2728 or email: sffinfo@FoodForward.org

Gleaning with Food Forward

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February 8
PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE Strenuous 13 mi hike with 3000’ elevation gain. Enjoy excellent hiking trails, log cabins, or tenting on the mountain. Bring lots of water, snacks, lunch. The weather can vary greatly so please check out the forecast for Rose Valley at Weather.gov and bring layers accordingly. Meet at 8:30am at a carpool lot at 8am (Seaward and Harbor in Vons parking lot near Channel Islands Harbor). Some hikers will take the shuttle from Newbury Park to the SIERRA CROSS, Santa Barbara, CA at 7:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 1-805-479-7003 / 1-805-664-6934 (SB)

February 9
SULPHUR MOUNTAIN Meet at 9 am at 135 Sulphur Mountain Rd for a 5.5 mile, 1.5-hour uphill hike. It’s about a 1000 ft. elevation gain. Parking is on Sunday Mountain Rd. The trailhead is at the end of the road. Slow to pace moderate paced trail run is recommended for beginners due to distance and elevation gain. The trail is a wide dirt fire line that is part of a periodic fire management program for the protection of the wildflowers and is rated as difficult. Guest speaker Jim Danza will be highlighting the cultural and ecological significance of this area. Bring 2-3L water, snacks, lunch. The weather can vary, please be prepared. Hiking shoes/boots, long sleeves, and a sun hat are recommended. Information available; always cool to carpool! Contact ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

February 10
MOUNT PACIFIC LOCO LOOP Trail. Meet at the Pacific Loop Trail head off Westlake Ave. near the Santa Barbara Plaza. California that features beautiful wildflowers and is rated as difficult. Guests are very welcome to join this fun hike. Please note there is a small parking fee for this hike. Meet at 9am. TINA (SB)

February 11
HABITAT WALK COAL OIL PARK Meet at the Coal Oil Park Public Storage lot, 2778 Padaro Lane in Summerland at 10:30am. This is a 1 mile easy loop walk on shandy equestrian trails followed by a beach walk. Elevation gain is about 450 feet. Low tide is at 12:45 so we will do the beach walk last. Leashed dogs are allowed. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, (805) 657-8735. (SB)

February 12
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

February 16
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

February 17
LOON POINT: Meet at the Loon Point Beach Parking lot (2777 Padaro Lane) in Summerland at 8:45am. This is a 6 mile easy loop walk on shandy equestrian trails followed by a beach walk. Elevation gain is about 450 feet. Low tide is at 12:45 so we will do the beach walk last. Leashed dogs are allowed. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, (805) 657-8735. (SB)

February 19
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

February 26
SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER: See Feb 5 writeup for description. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

March 1
LUCERO CANYON to Buena Vista benches: Short but steep 3mrt morning walk to hidden benches. Bring a water and a snack. Pet friendly behind B of A on upper State St. 3mrt, easy; bring a parent or responsible adult phone (1-805-number). Pets in the new 805 overlay zone otherwise noted. Note that most of the hike is on private land. The climb height is 220 feet. From the top you have a great view of the town of Ventura and the Coast. You can’t beat a hike in spring! (VEN)

Meetups & Ongoing Outings
Barbara Gable (G) is the contact for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/SantaBarbara-Ventura-Club

Regional Info
forest information for the Santa Barbara-Sierra Madre Chapters, news, releases, and other information: http://ift.tt/1Q5ay1L

Regional Info, February 10
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Meetups & Ongoing Outings
Santa Barbara
Meetup: visit the Santa Barbara Meetup Group link to find people for all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: http://www.meetup.com/SantaBarbara-Ventura-Club/

Regional Info
Santa Barbara Chapter is having a Spring Bash on Saturday March 15th and Sunday March 16th. They are having two days of fun. The Bash is at the Bank of America on Hope and State Street. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to: http://ift.tt/2cBkR0S

Ventura
Meetup group is open to anyone that is interested in a super handy calendar of the local official Santa Clara Club Outings. Ease into fitness at beginner’s walks, get on intermediate half to white days hikes, or make new friendships on overnight backpacks. Just go to: http://www.meetup.com/SantaBarbara-Ventura-Club/

Los Padres Chapter:
枪限令在森林

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March 4  
**SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER**: See Feb 5 writeup for description. **ANGELA COLICCHIO** (VEN)

March 7  
**JALAMA BEACH TO POINT CONCEPTION ON THE GAVIOTA COAST**: We’ll walk a beautiful and remote beach with possible views of migrating gray whales. 10 miles near low tide (-1.2 ft @ 2:21pm) with a 30 minute break midway. The trailhead is at Jalama Beach County Park, 65 miles north of Santa Barbara. $10, pick a fare. Expect cold, windy conditions and tar blebs on the beach. Appropriate for anyone with good calf and ankle fitness. MUST have 1 liter of water, food, and survival protection. Expect an approx. 7 hour excursion. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #4-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

**HEDRICK RANCH NATURE AREA**: See Feb 1 writeup for details. For questions, contact HOLLY jessicacawight@gmail.com (VEN)

March 9  
**COZY DELL**: Choose Your Own Parking. Park in the dirt across from the trailhead on HWY 33 at 8:45am. Those of you who want to take the 2 mile hike up to the river and turn around for a 4 mile out and back hike are welcome to do so. The rest of us will cross the river and complete the Cozy Dell/Foothill/Pratt loop to add 3 miles and 500 ft of elevation. The trail is rocky in spots. Trekking poles may help. Leashed dogs ok, led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ. 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 11  
**SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER**: See Feb 5 writeup for description. **ANGELA COLICCHIO** (VEN)

**FIR CANYON**: Long car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mountain. Moderate but steep in a few places. 6.5 miles, 1800’ elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #4-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am. KRISTI Email: sbknrgflrgr@cox.net (SB)

**SESPE CIENAGA NATIVE PLANT TRAIL**: Join us in creating this trail. We’ll be planting native plants and creating a trail system! Code: 1-805-212-0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com (VEN)

March 15  
**CHORRO GRANDE**: Strenuous hike up an iconic Santa Barbara canyon to a gorgeous 360 view of Los Padres. 6 miles, 2100’ gain, approx. 4 hrs, expect some steep slopes and height exposure. Weekly cardio conditioning recommended. Two liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid is a must. Meet at Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #4-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am. KRISTI Email: sbknrgflrgr@cox.net (SB)

March 18  
**BACKBONE TRAIL**: Sandstone Peak and Mesa Mila Trail. Meet at 9am. One of the most beautiful hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains featuring stunning sandstone formations and breathtaking views from the top of Sandstone Peak. We will hike at a moderate pace for 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1300 feet. Meet at Malibu Mesa Trailhead Parking Lot (1.5 miles E of Circle X Ranch, which is located 5 miles from Pacific Coast Highway on Verba Buena Road in Malibu). Alternately, from Westlake Blvd exit on Westlake Blvd from the US101, and follow it for several miles as it merges with Mulholland highway. Turn right onto Little Sycamore Canyon and it will become Yerba Buena Road as you cross the county line. Proceed on Yerba Buena Road for about 3.5 miles to trailhead (about 1.5 miles before you hit the Circle X Ranch Ranger Station) Bring 2 liters of water, pack hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain or excessive wind/hail/cold. Cancelled. GERRY 1-805-212-0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com (VEN)

March 22  
**SHELF ROAD**: Choose Your Own Endiking Hike. Meet at the Rotary Peace Park parking lot on HWY 150 (Ojai Ave) at 8:30 to consolidate cars. Those of you who would like, can walk to the end of Shelf Rd., turn around and head back for a 4.5 mile flat easy walk. The rest of us will walk to the end of Shelf, turn left and make the Gridley/Foothill/Fox or Pratt Loop for a total of 7 miles with a 1250 elevation gain. Leashed dogs are ok for the shorter walk. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 25  
**SIERRA CROSS, VENTURA PIER**: See Feb 5 writeup for description. **ANGELA COLICCHIO** (VEN)

March 29  
**JESUITA TRAIL TO INSPIRATION POINT**: Moderate to strenuous 6 MRT 1300’ elevation, bring poles for creek crossings, high water will cancel hike. Bring min 3 liters water and lunch. Meet behind the Bank of America at 9am. 3815 State Street Space #4-141, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 at 9am, Dale 1-805-964-1674. (SB)

March 29  
**CHORRO GRANDE**: Strenuous 10 mile hike with 3200 elev. gain - experienced hikers only. The hike starts at 4000’ and climbs steadily for 5 miles to 7200’, ending up on the Pine Mountain Ridge near Reyes Campground. Wear hiking shoes or boots, bring water, snack, lunch. The weather can vary greatly during the hike, so check out the forecast for Reyes Peak at Weather.gov and bring layers accordingly. Meet at 9am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seacliff and Harbor in Vons parking lot near Chase Bank). If you’re coming from Santa Barbara, meet in front of Starbuck’s at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State Street Space #4-141, Santa Barbara, CA at 7:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. The walk is about 5 miles, 1500’ gain. Leashed dogs are ok. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

April 5  
**LOWPOUT OUTLAWS TRAIL**: ARROYO HONDO: A 4.5 moderate hike to a high point in the Arroyo Hondo Preserve. This trail rises steeply from the canyon floor giving us views of the entire canyon, we’ll stop along the way to view the Taliquas Landfill with its extensive landscape. Bring a light lunch, water and sun protection. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

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**EAVESDROPS**

"Thanks to LED lighting, U.S. electrical consumption for lights is expected to drop by more than 40% by 2030 – in turn saving over 50 power plants’ worth of energy, and potentially reducing 185 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.”

~ Part of a UCSB press release on Nobel prize co-winner Shuji Nakamura of UCSB. Nakamura, along with two others, unlocked the technology for white LEDs. A comment on the web read: "breakthrough ranks up there with Edison, Westinghouse and Tesla. Most Americans have never heard of him."

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Here’s your destination for the March 9th Anacapa Island “day in Paradise” trip to help with restoration, an optional island hike and exploration sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club. (Photo by Kurt Pressler, www.RidingPlanter.com). Biking, hiking, foraging and all information at: www.Meetup.com/SierraClubVentura
Ormond Beach neglected

By Christina Zubko

For decades, agencies have been developing the Ormond Beach Restoration and Access Plan (OBRAP) which seeks to balance the need to conserve wildlife and its habitat with the need for public access.

Despite that, last year proved to be one of the most devastating, as recent photos reveal the trash that remains behind due to neglect and no enforcement. This comes at a great cost through loss of habitat and wildlife, indicating public pressure is necessary to save its rich legacy.

Ormond Beach is uniquely located at the interface of the urban/residential community of Port Hueneme and a globally important bird area (IBA) at Pt Mugu Naval Base, near Oxnard. IBA’s are a critical link in global migration routes, and Ormond is home to over 200 species of migratory birds and 25 species of special concern, including the snowy plover and California least tern.

In 2016, Oxnard adopted an ordinance to regulate human activity, such as camping, fires, altering dunes and tampering with fencing and signs. Last year, starting with the discovery of a man-made trench that ran from the lagoon to the ocean, all these activities were occurring with zero enforcement. By July, about 50 encampments had mushroomed throughout the wetlands area. Water samples revealed the presence of high levels of the E. coli (from a human source) and enterococcus bacteria in the lagoon. Also, the wetland habitat sustained damage from extensive trash.

By July, about 50 encampments occurred with zero enforcement. Cynthia Hartley (President, Ventura Audubon Society), reported that eggs from snowy plover nests had been taken, monitoring equipment had been stolen, and fencing and signage had been removed or “repurposed”. Oxnard city officials cited several reasons why they did not act, including a strapped budget, challenging terrain and the “Boise decision,” which prevents municipalities from making homelessness a crime.

Three drains discharge into the Ormond Beach Lagoon: The J Street Drain, the Oxnard Industrial Drain, and the Hueneme Drain, all of which add to the volume of trash.

In January alone, over 300 volunteers from environmental groups gave over a thousand hours of their time toward Ormond Beach cleanup. Currently, several encampments still exist on the toxic Halaco slag pile, adjacent to the wetlands; Oxnard Police say they do not have the right to go on to that property and Wayne Prakins, with the Environmental Protection Agency, states that his hands are tied, so it’s likely that the encampments will spread back onto both TNC and Oxnard properties.

Just some of the immense amount of trash cleaned up every week and during special events on Ormond Beach. Thanks to Steven Gama, Port Hueneme city council member, who conducts weekly cleanups and who also took this intriguing photo of a trashy lady (“Where’s the Rest of Me?”),