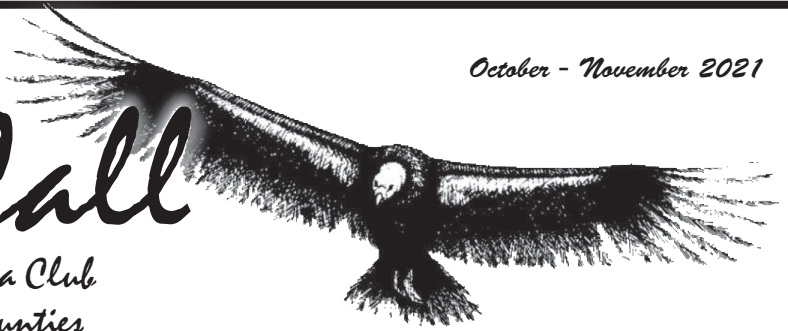


Vol. 21, No. 5 of 6

October - November 2021

Condor Call

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



© Photo by Robert Bernstein

Oil skids ... Wildlife ... Electric! ... Trash trip ... Outings

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From left to right: Tunnels and twists on HWY 101; Oil tanker spill from HWY166 into Cuyama River near Twitchell Reservoir from CDFW; Deadly 5-truck crash on HWY 166, causing spill, fire, and road closure from Noozhawk; Tanker truck explosion and road closure from LA Times.

No to oil, yes to renewables

Victory is near!

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission voted 3-2 on Sept 29 recommending that the Board of Supervisors deny ExxonMobil's proposal to transport oil by tanker trucks along hazardous California highways so it can restart three drilling platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel.

The vote came unexpectedly during the first of two days of scheduled public hearings on the project and is expected to be followed Nov. 3 with a formal vote and findings by the Board of Supervisors to finally deny the project.

The opposition against restarting oil platforms comes at a time when numerous other platforms are scheduled to be decommissioned amid plans to instead erect wind power on land in the Lompoc Valley and offshore, along with other renewable energy sources.

The oil company's plans faced robust opposition from thousands of county residents and 35 community and conservation organizations. The Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter was particularly active in sending out emails, social media posts and letters to agencies involved in the decision, notably meeting with commissioners. The Santa Lucian Chapter in San Luis Obispo and the Kern County chapter also joined the fight as the trucking route affects its land.

ExxonMobil's plan calls for up to 24,800 oil-filled truck trips per year on coastal Highway 101 and hazardous Route 166, 24 hours a day, to refineries for up to seven years or whenever a new coastal oil pipeline is completed, whichever is shorter. ExxonMobil's three offshore platforms off Refugio Beach along the Gaviota Coast were shut down in 2015 after the Plains All American Pipeline ruptured and spilled thousands of gallons of oil along the California coast.

Plains faces numerous lawsuits from ExxonMobil, workers and state agencies on grounds of negligence.

"Restarting these 40-year-

Clean energy is here, now!

Santa Barbara Clean Energy, the South Coast's new locally controlled electricity provider, launched Oct. 1st for residential customers and later (March 2022) for commercial. More info here: <https://tinyurl.com/CleanLaunch>

www.sbcleanenergy.com

Residents can now choose where their energy comes from and it affects the whole South Coast: SB, Carpinteria, Goleta and county areas in between.

old platforms, beyond their max 35-year life, with a history of corrosion and spills, puts our entire coastline at risk," said Katie Davis, chair of our Los Padres Chapter, which also submitted a petition, signed by more than 2,000 people, opposing the project. "Offshore oil is so risky even Republican states like Florida have fought off offshore oil development. It's why 7,500 businesses and 90 cities



on the Pacific coast are on record opposing offshore oil."

The revised final impact report concludes there would be significant, unavoidable impacts from the project, including impacts on wildlife and cultural resources in the event of an oil spill from a tanker truck. The document fails to analyze the numerous harmful impacts of bringing Exxon's offshore platforms back online.

California suffers hundreds of oil-truck incidents a year, and many result in oil spills. There were 258 trucking accidents along the route from 2015 to 2021, California Highway Patrol data show, resulting in 10 deaths

and 110 injuries. A tanker truck crashed off Highway 166 in March 2020, spilling more than 4,500 gallons of oil into the Cuyama River above Twitchell Reservoir.

The large coalition opposing the plan are as varied as the Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG), SB Environmental Defense Center, Food and Water Action, GOO!, SBCAN, UC-Santa Barbara student alliances, SB Surfrider Foundation, Los Padres ForestWatch, Goleta's Goodland Coalition, Cuyama Valley Assn. and the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation.

COVER PHOTO

Rocky Pine Ridge never disappoints, so is a favorite by Outing leader and photographer Robert Bernstein.

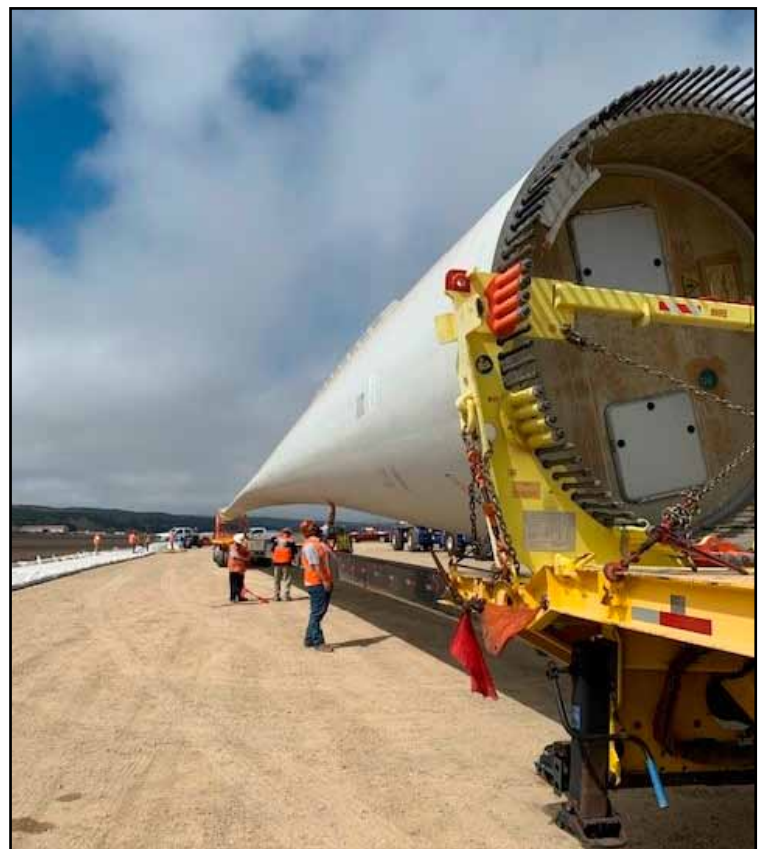
EAVESDROPS

"We now have year-round fire season, and to be constantly asking to reauthorize this doesn't make sense."

~ Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) on the Pentagon's Fire Guard program due to expire Sept. 30 that allows agencies access to government satellites, drones, sensors and cameras that have proven essential, yet are primarily for defense purposes.



Jim Taylor takes our new Sierra Club canopy for its initial outing during our big Electric Vehicle show in Oxnard (see story pg. 4)



Just as the oil trucks proposal is stalled, renewable wind energy turbines and other equipment are being trucked to the Lompoc Valley for energy that would partly replace fossil fuels locally.

Our chapter chair gets council post

Our Los Padres Chapter Chair Katie Davis has been appointed to serve on the SB Community Environmental Council's President's Council.

The Council is a group of past executive directors, board members, founders, and esteemed CEC friends who have given significantly of their time, effort, and resources to the organization.

"These dynamic community leaders bring a wealth of experience that will propel CEC's ambitious initiatives for climate action. As active, consistent champions of the organization, they advocate, network, and use their influence to help build continued investment from the community," the CEC said.

Katie is a former vice president of web and e-commerce at the tech company Citrix, where she became involved in corporate sustainability initiatives. In 2012, she trained with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and became a climate change speaker and activist.

As the local Sierra Club chapter chair serving multiple terms, she advanced the CEC and Sierra Club partnership on a steady array of initiatives, helping achieve local goals for 100% renewable energy, 100% electric buses, carbon neutrality, and more.

Katie was also appointed by local elected leaders to the Community Advisory Council for Central Coast Community Energy and the SB Air Pollution Control District. She previously served on CEC's Partnership Council for three years, and volunteered with CEC on presentations, rallies, lobbying, and advocacy work.

Others who joined the council with Katie are:

~ Karl Hutterer, Ph.D., is Emeritus Director at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History where he served as executive director for 12 years. He previously served on the CEC Board of Directors for eight years.

~ Bruce Kendall, a professor and associate dean at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at UC-Santa Barbara.

He previously served on the CEC Board of Directors for six years.

~ Kim Kimbell is a founding

partner in the law firm of Allen & Kimbell, LLP in Santa Barbara, where he practiced for 48 years with an emphasis on real estate law. He has served as president of the Goleta Valley Historical Society and Chair of the Gaviota Planning Advisory Committee. He has returned to the CEC Board of Directors repeatedly, serving more than 25 cumulative years, including five as board president.



KATIE DAVIS

~ Maryanne Mott, a Montana beef rancher and life-long philanthropist. In 1985, Maryanne and her late husband Herman Warsh founded the Warsh-Mott Legacy, a private foundation that makes grants to progressive organizations. Maryanne became a founding board member of CEC in 1970.

~ John Steed, J.D., engaged in private law practice for 31 years. In retirement, he has focused on protecting the environment and combating the climate crisis. He currently serves on the National Advisory Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Advisory Council of the Environment and Human Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. John served on CEC's Board of Directors for seven years, including four as board president.

CEC, which was Recognized as a 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year and 2020 City of Santa Barbara Climate Hero, CEC has worked since 1970 to incubate and innovate real life environmental solutions that directly affect the California Central Coast. For more information and to get involved, go to:

www.CECSB.org

ENERGY RAP

More oil messes to clean up

By Jim Taylor

BULLETIN:

Oil Spill Happening

A major oil spill off the Orange County coast spilled at least 130,000 gallons of oil into coastal waters, starting on Oct. 2 and creating a miles-wide slick offshore Huntington Beach. No more details are available as of press time.

The spill is from a broken pipeline connected to Platform Elly, five miles off the coast. Oil has begun washing up onshore and seeping into the Talbert Marsh and numerous beaches have already been closed.

Monday's *Los Angeles Times* had a separate story headlined: "Operation had turbulent record, Bankruptcy and pattern of federal violations preceded leak."

In response, Monica Embrey, of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign, said:

"How many of these oil disasters do we have to witness

before our elected leaders understand that there is no safe way to drill or transport dirty fossil fuels? This spill is yet another reminder that we can have healthy and safe communities, thriving coastal economies, and a stable climate -- or we can continue drilling for oil. It's long past time to choose a transition away from dirty oil drilling and toward a healthier, safer, clean energy future."

Cleaning Up the Mess

The State Lands Commission reports that under SB44, it has capped 3 orphaned oil wells off Summerland, another one is planned for January.

The bill provides at least \$2 million per year for abandoning these leaking old wells, but the money will run out in four years. Fortunately, some innovative techniques reduce costs, and may be able to plug several more such "bubblers" before they run out of money. A bill working its way through the legislature

(SB47) will hopefully extend the program and some a small part of Federal money in the infrastructure bill might happen.

As suspected, it turns out that there are at least two bubblers off Carpinteria's coastline, in the vicinity of the Seal Rookery.

But it looks good that Rincon, Jelly Bowl and Tarputs beaches will become more barefoot friendly soon. Asphaltum will no doubt continue to seep from faults just offshore, yet a lot of the beach tar is not due to accidents of geology, but the negligence of oil companies.

The Platforms

Most California's offshore oil platforms are in the SB Channel, and an Impact Report is being drafted that addresses de-commissioning all of them.

Many are no longer operational due to bankruptcy. Some were shut off when the Refugio pipeline spill occurred in 2015. Others are underperforming their lease



Overview of Rincon Island, which has been cleaned up but its future is unknown. Keep apprised of its status here:

<https://slc.ca.gov/oil-and-gas/rincon>

requirements. Over the next decade, most of these platforms will be taken down, but some of the underwater frameworks might remain as they've become artificial reefs, teeming with marine life.

Platforms Gail, Grace, Hidalgo, Harvest, Hermosa and the Point Arguello onshore facility will be decommissioned by Chevron in the coming years. Platforms closest to Carpinteria will like go down as well.

Rincon Island

Just east of Carpinteria is a causeway that stretches 3,000 feet to the artificial Rincon Island that until recently was a disaster in the making.

The State Lands Commission has made good progress here, capping 75 oil wells and removing tons of rusted equipment that was allowed to disintegrate after its owners, Greka Limited Partnership, went out of business, sticking the taxpayers with most of the costs of cleaning it up.

Under consideration is

re-purposing the island or removing it as well as the causeway. Surfers hope that doing so doesn't affect a well-known break. Learn more at:

<https://slc.ca.gov/oil-and-gas/rincon>

Chevron-Venoco Cleanup

The Carpinteria Plant (including the Casitas Pier) is one of the five oil and gas facilities that Chevron is currently decommissioning in Santa Barbara County. Chevron plans to submit the complete application for decommissioning soon.

The lengthy permitting process is expected to be complete in 2023 at which point the company will begin the two to three years of work necessary to decommission the facilities and remediate the property.

All of the oil and gas processing equipment will be removed, and the soil will be cleaned to residential standards.

The future zoning of the Chevron property will be determined in the coming years.



Santa Barbara Channel oil rigs are already past their expected life span and moves to 'decommission' them are underway. No word yet whether their bottoms will become artificial reefs. (Photo courtesy of BOEM)

Club challenges Newsom

Editor's note: *Sierra Club applauded the defeat of the attempted recall of Gov. Gavin Newsom, but there's more to be done to ensure Newsom is held accountable for his agenda, according to Sierra Club California. Following are excerpts from Director Brandon Dawson's letter.*

While we're happy to see that a potential climate denier won't be in the governor's seat, we were really applauding the work our dedicated members and volunteers did to get out the vote. They made thousands of calls, and through their tireless efforts, were able to help defeat the distractive recall campaign.

We did our part. But now it's time for Governor Newsom to do his. He needs to be a governor who deserves to be retained in office, not just a governor who was less bad than the awful opposition that just tried to replace him.

For environmentalists and climate activists, Newsom's first three years in office have been frustrating, to say the least. Here are suggestions for improvement:

~ If he wants to be painted

as an environmental justice champion, Newsom needs to walk the talk, (referring to his inaction on allowing 2,500-foot setbacks between oil facilities and homes, schools et al).

~ Direct State agencies to protect the environment. (Such as, State Water Board stalling on quality regulations, urging CA Energy Commission to get methane gas out of homes and commercial businesses and State Parks to halt off-road vehicles tearing up sensitive areas.)

~ Meet with your base. (Newsom has met with environmental group leaders 'a grand total of one time'. Yet he was endorsed by most eco-groups for his election and the recall effort.)

~ Stop supporting harmful projects. (Examples include the Delta Tunnel, expansion of off-road vehicle parks and fracking.)

~ Take bold action now on climate change and renewable issues. (End fossil fuel reliance earlier than 2045, increase use of clean energy and move to 100% zero-emission vehicles by 2030 and protect lands and waters from climate change impacts.)

Condor Call
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 ADVERTISING: Contact Editor (above)
 DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:
 Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.
 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:
 February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan
 SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members
 Non-members, \$15 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins
Photos, news, tips always welcome!
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 Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Hollister Ranch plan is Oct. 14

The Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program draft is now available for public review.

The Planning Team has taken the input received from previous outreach efforts, surveys, field work, and feedback from the Working Group to develop this revised draft program.

The next step will be a Coastal Commission online workshop on Oct, 14, The public is encouraged to attend and you are also welcome to submit comments to the Coastal Commission in advance of the workshop at:

Hollister@coastal.ca.gov

Information on the workshop and the Draft Program can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/HollisterRanchDraft>

Following the workshop, the Planning Team will decide if additional public meetings to gather input on the draft program are needed. Then the draft program will be revised based on input received.

At this time, the Team expects to present the final program for Coastal Commission approval in early 2022, but that schedule could change.

A Will is a Way
 Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.
 Contact:
 John Calaway
 Director of Gift Planning at
 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

 Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

HINES CHRONICLES

Wins & spins for wildlife

Editor's note: *By popular demand, we continue with the Jim Hines Chronicles, which reflects the emails by our premier lobbyist on the ins and outs of environmental activism and is chock-full of information. This covers the last two months. Jim is our chapter vice-chair and conservation director who belongs to many wildlife groups.*

Aug 9: **Bring Back Beavers** campaign to reintroduce beavers back to their historic ranges in the local backcountry and other areas in California has gained the support of our sister chapter to the north, the Santa Lucia Chapter.

Aug 11: **So, time for me** to put more pressure on Biden Administration (relisting of wolves lawsuit) via calls, tweets and emails to White House, meetings with Interior Secretary and Deputy Secretary for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sad to have to sue President Biden for something President Trump did but that's the way things work sometimes.

Aug 15: **I am pleased** that the draft of the Local Coastal Program revision includes new language recognizing the harm being done by toxic pesticides to wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains. However, in its present form the limitation to "new" development makes the ordinance ineffective.

Aug 19: **It's been a long wait**, but finally President Biden has nominated a Director for the National Park Service, Oregon tribal leader Charles 'Chuck' Sams III, who will be the first Native American in the post.

Aug 20: **Win for Wildlife**, on a 4-1 vote the Ventura County Planning Commission is recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the board adopt an ordinance to ban use of all pesticides, rodenticides and herbicides in the Santa Monica Mtns zone of Ventura County for both existing and new developments. This is a major win.

Aug 20: **Biden Administration** has just asked the federal judge in my solo lawsuit and the lawsuit of others to dismiss our lawsuits . . . (on grounds that) the president will impose protections for wolves in the U.S. and now the lawsuits are not needed.

Aug 28: **Exciting news**, Gray Wolf OR-93 (his radio collar number) has been spotted by a camera drinking at a water basin on a ranch in the Mt Pinos area. This is the first time a wolf has been in our area in over 100 years.

Aug 31: **At my request** Los Padres Chapter ExCom is internally



The name 'Los Padres' for our National Forest is being reconsidered, with our chapter taking the lead for a new name. See Sept. 13 item.

discussing changing our chapter name from Los Padres to . . . still to be decided! I spoke briefly today with a staffer at the U.S. Board of Geographic Names and the Biden Administration has stated it wants to appoint a federal committee to address place names on national public lands units which are not inclusive to ALL Americans. How insensitive and disrespectful is the Los Padres National Forest name . . . Los Padres "those fathers" was named to honor Spanish missionaries who pillaged, enslaved and killed native Americans here.

Sept 8: **Seems to be confusion** over my two proposals to stop using the name Los Padres. This is a proposal to the U.S. Government by ME and only ME, not on behalf of the Sierra Club or anyone else. Los Padres Chapter name change will be discussed at future ExCom meetings.

Sept 9: **I've been appointed** by Sierra Club California to the endorsement committee to vet candidates for possible Club endorsement in the 2022 U.S. Senate race; the seat held by Kamala Harris and now filled by Alex Padilla.

Sept 13: **About a name change** for the Los Padres National Forest, read about the issue by Jack Elliott and Elias Castillo here: <https://tinyurl.com/LosePadres> <https://eliascastillo.net/>

Sept 14: **Jack Ainsworth**, executive director of the California Coastal Commission and a Ventura resident, is receiving the Sierra Club's Environmental Achievement Award for his leadership on ending the longtime practice of off-road driving on eight miles of coastal beach and dunes in Oceano Park in San Luis Obispo County.

Sept 15: **Wolves in the west** may warrant federal protection, said U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service from the petition filed by the Sierra Club, CBD and Humane Society. Public comments are open. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/ESAwolves>

Sept 16: **Staff is excited** that I brought this issue up (renaming Los Padres) and others have brought up similar name concerns on other national forests across America. I have also asked Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to talk to Forest Service leadership.

Sept 17: **I was requested** to submit a formal request (to change the name of Los Padres) which I have now done. I spoke to Sierra Club Executive Director about what I am doing, and he looped in 10 other staffers who all supported me.

Sept 22: **Breaking news** . . . The House just voted to advance to the Senate the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act which includes the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (protecting lands within the Los Padres NF and Carrizo Plain NM) and five other federal lands protection bills.

Oct 2: **Two sightings** of gray wolf OR-93 happened in the Lockwood Valley, a long journey this past Spring from northern California. May he find the protected ecosystems of the Los Padres National Forest to be his home.



Memorial for Sierra Club hiker Nancy Roman that was held on Thursday Aug. 12. She passed away while backpacking in the Peruvian Andes June 30. Her passion was hiking our backcountry with friends, remote Los Padres Forest areas and John Muir Trail. Watch the memorial video here: <https://swt.org/events/nancyroman/memorial/>

GREEN TEAM

Ventura Sierra Club

A volunteer service and education program to enhance environmental quality and inspire individuals of all ages to continue to invest in their community through experience from outdoor activities working with, learning about and enjoying nature.

Build leadership for service & volunteering

Increase diversity of members

Provide outdoor experiences to inspire others to become involved

- ♻️ Local river and adjacent area clean ups (trash removal) and water/nature observation days
- ♻️ Local nature hikes with a focus on native/invasive plants or wildlife or other environmental specific topic
- ♻️ Work under other groups on ecological projects such as restoration sites (plantings, invasive removal, etc.), data collection (water sampling, raptor evidence, etc.), beach clean up, and other tasks
- ♻️ Provide speakers for school or groups about local nature topics, preferably held outside on campus or on sites

The Ventura Sierra Club Green Team gave the local ecosystem a helping hand at the newly opened Harmon Canyon, working under the guidance of Ventura Land Trust (VLT) leaders on Aug. 2 and they followed up with another volunteer day on Aug. 29. What is Green Team? "We are of any age, any ethnicity, any lifestyle, and are joined by the common thread of caring about the environment in our area," a statement that defines the Green Team. Get the info at: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura/green-team



What happens at Coastal Clean Up Day? More than 88 people taking out 1,600 pounds of trash in the Santa Clara River at the Gateway site (Johnson & 101) alone. Sierra Club members throughout the region took part in other cleanups. What happens is more than paper, plastic, metal, rubber, fabric and all sorts of debris not getting to the beach and polluting the ocean. One by one, a connection is made between a person and their environment. A person realizes what it means that to help nature helps themselves. (Photo by Nina Danza)

SB ExCom seats open

Four of the seven seats are up for election this year for the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee (ExCom), which are democratically elected by our members.

Please submit names for consideration with contact information to our nominating committee chair, Martha Sadler by November 1: marthasadler@yahoo.com

Those nominees will be named on or before Nov. 7.

Any willing candidate not chosen by the committee may still become a candidate through submission of a

petition signed by at least 15 SB Group members. Receipt of those candidate petitions are due by Nov. 21, also sent to Martha or mailed to the PO box address below, with email notification to Martha that it has been mailed.

Election Schedule: Ballots will appear in the December/January issue of the Condor Call which will be mailed in early December.

Ballots due: Jan. 1, 2021, sent to: Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, PO Box 3124, Santa Barbara CA 93130-1241.

Ballots counted: January 4, 2022, at SB Group meeting.



See catch currents at: www.sierraclub.org/lospadres

Most meetings continue online for now

Group News

www.SBSierraClub.org
The public is welcome to our programs

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, via internet for now. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net
~ Chapter website and blog at: www.SierraClub.org/LosPadres

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. For details and to follow the South Coast area, contact: <http://www.sbsierraclub.org>
<https://www.FACEBOOK.com/SBSierraClub>
<https://TWITTER.com/SBSierraClub>
<https://www.INSTAGRAM.com/SierraClubSantaBarbara>
<https://www.MEETUP.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara>
<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group will keep you informed on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SierraClubArguelloGroup ~Volunteers needed; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or: RebeccaAugust@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ For board meeting dates, times and location email: sierraclubventura@gmail.com
~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog: <http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>
<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>
~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

CONEJO GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at ConejoGroup@gmail.com
Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net
www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo
www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

Electric vehicles no longer eclectic



The excitement over National Drive Electric Week from Sept. 19 to Oct. 2 was palpable at the Channel Islands Harbor show on Sunday, Sept. 26.

“More cars, more people and more fun,” exclaimed Kent Bullard, Transportation Chair of our Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club and member of the EV Advocates of Ventura County, both of whom sponsored the event. Heather Allen was a co-chair with Kent at the Oxnard event, the fifth at that popular location.

Meanwhile, the SB Community Environmental Council conducted a smaller in-person event at the Goleta Farmers’ Market that added electric bikes available for test riding, also on that Sunday. Due to further efforts by Michael Chiacos, CEC expanded its efforts virtually, with a webinar session on Sept. 28 that featured experts in the field sharing everything you need to know to start driving electric. It’s still available here:

www.electricdrive805.org/webinars

“The designated week is a reminder that transportation is the leading cause of greenhouse gas in California,” Chiacos said.

Wait, there’s more! The non-profit Plug-In America has handy guides to help you find the car that best meets your needs. There you can also learn about tax credits, rebates and other incentives, prepare your home for EV charging and get connected with a qualified EV dealer near you. Go to:

www.PlugInAmerica.org

Bullard said the Oxnard show had over 50 EV drivers who shared their vehicles with the public numbering about 500 potential EV adopters. “There was a lot of networking and Q & A going on, we are sure the participants benefited from meeting you and learning from your EV experience,” he wrote in a letter of thanks to the volunteer EV owners.

“EVs can save people hundreds of dollars a month on transportation costs, especially when they can utilize local and state EV incentives,” commented Jen Hernández, CEC’s Energy & Climate Associate who recently used incentives to get her own clean vehicle. Speaking to why more people do not take advantage of the incentives, Hernández noted, “Until you start to do the research about potential savings and see EV options that are available, it is not always clear how an EV can fit your lifestyle and budget.”

Besides the practical effects of driving an EV is the personal satisfaction. “It’s a quiet, glide ride,” said Condor John Hankins who has driven a Hyundai Electric for nearly three years, along with his wife Suz’s Prius hybrid which is clocking in at over 100mpg around town. They also own electric trikes and a



More than just cars and bikes, an electric school bus and truck was on display at Channel Islands Harbor Sept. 26 during National Drive Electric Week sponsored by the Sierra Club and Community Environmental Council. (Photo by Jim Taylor) There was also a CEC EV show in Goleta. (Right photo by Michael Chiacos)

scooter and power their house with the sun.

Famous people who have driven an EV for the first time – President Biden, Anderson Cooper and Bill Nye the Science Guy – all said it brings a smile to their face

that stayed on throughout their drive.

Same with Hieu Le, Sierra Club’s Clean Transportation rep: “After an exciting announcement from President Biden on a plan to make 50% of new cars electric by

2030, I recently rented an EV to see what all the hype was about. I was shocked by how fun it was to drive -- all while not polluting our air and climate.”

Ready to join the Electric Vehicle revolution?

SIGHTINGS

Region is a hot bed of issues

By John Hankins

Here’s what we’ve been up to the last two months, pandemic be damned! Lots of good info and links.

Please join our activities and activism; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. We encourage all to go outside on your own or by MeetUp. And check out our free outings on pages 6&7.

If you’d like to donate (it helps a lot and the money stays here at home), do not pass go, but go directly to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Sept 29: WE WON!!! SB County planners recommend 3-2 denial of Exxon trucking plan to Board of Supervisors proclaimed Jon Ullman, our Executive Director, when it happened in real time. Ullman led the chapter’s charge against Exxon asking to transport offshore oil by up to 70 trucks per day. The media blast (along with other opponents) worked. (More details in story, pg 1)



Sept 26: Drive Electric week was pared down due to the pandemic, but nevertheless our Sierra Club sponsored a live event at the Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard, thanks to our Transportation Chair Kent Bullard, and a Goleta show was sponsored by the SB Community Environmental Council.

Sept 24: Build Back Better national call-in effort sponsored by the Sierra Club to tell our representatives in Congress to Pass the BBB act, which

addresses climate change, clean energy, public transit, replacing lead pipes, expanding social safety net and more.

Sept 23: Los Padres Forest reopens along with the Angeles, Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests that were closed due to ongoing high fire danger and eleven large, uncontained fires wildfires. For current details go to:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf>

Sept 18: Coastal Clean-up Day found Ventura Sierra Club members and friends cleaning up the Santa Clara River. The club has done this for six years and have literally taken out tons of trash that would be washed into the ocean. Highlights include “Most unusual thing ...” contest.

Sept 2: Call to action for Sierra Club members to vote no on recalling Gov. Newsom and helping with phone calls to other members urging the same. It worked!

Aug 31: “Our oceans and our communities are facing unprecedented challenges from a changing marine environment. From warming ocean waters, to increased threats of new offshore oil drilling, it is clear we need to act to protect these valuable resources that help grow our economy.” That was the urgent message to the feds from our Reps. Salud Carbajal, Julia Brownley and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla urging the administration to (finally!) advance nominating the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. And on Sept. 22 it advanced to the Senate.

Aug 31: We signed on to Environmental Defense Center’s comments to the federal government’s environmental impact statement that basically advocates full removal of SB Channel oil platforms “unless the platform becomes part of a State artificial reef program” which has its own requirements.

Aug 29: Invasive Plant removal at Ventura Land Trust’s Harmon Canyon with a volunteer contingent provided by the Ventura Sierra Club’s Green Team. Thanks to Nina Danza for organizing the event.

Aug 20: Words of the Wild August issue is out and features two articles which quote our own Conservation Director Jim Hines. Subjects are the Los Padres Wilderness bill and the Channel Islands National Park wilderness planning. Read them here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WOWildNews>

Aug 16: ExxonMobil’s restart of its three offshore platforms is the target of an environmental impact report out today, and it’s not good news for the oil company. It proposes transporting the oil via up to 70 round-trip tanker trucks per day. Our chapter strongly opposes the trucking plan. See story pg 1.

Aug 13: Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Action plans are out and ready for your input. A virtual public meeting will happen in the fall, TBA. Meanwhile, read it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/OrmondVisions>

Aug 13: After 10 years of leadership, Michael Brune resigned as the Executive Director of the National Sierra Club, effective at the end of the year. “He has been instrumental to many of our successes in the last decade,” said the club’s president, Ramón Cruz. Dan Chu was appointed as Acting ED for the time being, retaining his post as director of the Sierra Club Foundation. A nationwide search will be conducted and Brune will help with the transition.

Aug 12: California First, again. On this date it became the first state in the

We can bank our seeds

By Lorenz Schaller

Far, far up in the North, far beyond where the Northwoods stop, in a cold place where polar bears pad in and off the sea ice, seeds are sleeping.

Perhaps some readers have heard of this cold place: the home of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Deep inside a mountain on a remote island in the Svalbard archipelago, halfway between mainland Norway and the North Pole, lies the Global Seed Vault. Operated by an international consortium, the Vault is a hedge intended to protect and conserve humanity’s precious agricultural seedstocks.

Readers of the Condor Call may be happily surprised to learn that a similar (though smaller) facility exists right in our own backyard, in the small town of Ojai. Founded in 1980, The Kusa Seed Research Foundation is celebrating its 41st year of existence in calendar year 2021.

The organization is California’s oldest and finest non-profit heirloom seed organization, a conservator of thousands of lines of

EVENTS

Oct 12: **Audubon Sanctuary**, Protecting and Promoting SoCal Wildlands is a free Zoom talk by Sandy DeSimone and sponsored by the Ventura Audubon Society. Sandy will detail an innovative approach that integrates ecological research into education. Details at: www.venturaaudubon.org/monthly-speakers

Oct 23-24: **Special Art Sale and Fundraiser** for us and CEC; see story back page. Remember, ‘Earth’ without art is just ‘Eh’!

Oct 30: **OAKtober event** at the Ventura Land Trust’s Harmon Canyon Preserve from 9-10:30am at the preserve, 7511 Foothill Road, Ventura. Guests are encouraged to RSVP and see other events to be announced at: www.VenturaLandTrust.org/events

Nov 6: **Used Gear Sale** by Los Padres Forest Assn. from 9am to noon, Tucker’s Grove Park. All proceeds go to its Trail Care Program. Donate your gear at Info@LPForest.org

Nov 7: **Santa Barbara Wild!** Invites all to celebrate its accomplishments raise support for our public lands and help families in need via the Food Bank of SB County. This year it’s a hybrid, virtually and in person outdoors at the Garden Street Academy. Details at: www.SBWild.org

U.S. to include electric heat pumps as a baseline technology for new homes and buildings, passing unanimously by the CA Energy Commission. It would remove natural gas from buildings by encouraging electric heat pumps, thus reducing emissions. The move is endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Aug 6: Federal Priorities by the Sierra Club listed with highlights: move to 100% clean energy, advocate for electric vehicles and public transit, end fossil fuel subsidies, replace lead pipes, electrify public housing, schools and hospitals and create a civilian climate corp.

rare, unhybridized, non-GMO food grains, living seeds. So precious are these seeds to humanity, that scholars have labeled these crops “the pillars of civilization.”

To prolong and safeguard the life of the seeds, the Kusa Seed organization stores them at arctic temperatures, maintaining those below-freezing temperatures constantly. Recently, the need for a “Seed Guardian” has arisen; someone who can help maintain these sleeping seeds on their journey. The “Seed Guardian” opening can be filled by any member of the community willing to host one of Kusa Seed’s botanic “treasure chests.”

What’s needed is a dry, secure, indoor space with electrical service available. A quiet corner in a church, school, office, shop, garage, or outbuilding will do fine.

Anyone in the community with hosting suggestions, ideas or questions should call me, Lorenz Schaller, the voluntary director of the Kusa Seed organization at (805) 646-0772 or e-mail: info@ancientcerealgrains.org

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Climate Watch

A trip to Tajiguas' trash

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair

There is a saying that democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others.

The same could be said of our landfills, according to County employee Carlyle Johnston. “The Gaviota coast is the worst possible place for a landfill,” he said, pointing to the Tajiguas Landfill behind him, tucked away in a scenic Gaviota canyon, “except for all the alternatives.”

Carlyle is Project Leader with Santa Barbara County's Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division and led our Sierra Club group on a tour of the newly updated facilities. He shared the inside story of what happens to all our trash.

He pointed out that no one wants or should live next to a landfill, but you also don't want to drive trash too far either because of the environmental impact. By that measure we're doing well locally. There's a landfill in Lompoc and one in Santa Maria. Tajiguas serves the rest of mid and south county, except for Carpinteria, which sends its trash to Ventura.

The biggest landfill in our region is in Simi Valley. There are some old landfills in our cities, a reminder of when landfills were closer to people, such as Elings Park in Santa Barbara. In fact, watering its fields has started releasing methane again, the ghost trash coming back to haunt us.

This decaying organic matter is the reason landfills are big sources of greenhouse gas pollution and why state law mandates we divert more organic material from landfills. When NASA did a flyover and identified “methane super-emitters” in 2016, the main culprits were various oil and gas facilities, as well as landfills, including Tajiguas. That is about to change.

On Aug. 30 the Tajiguas

Anaerobic Digester Facility began operation. Now all organic waste from our trash cans – the dead flowers, the food scraps, the doggy doo – is separated out and sent to concrete bunkers where anaerobic (oxygen-free) bacteria break it down, releasing methane, which is captured and sent to an adjoining power plant that turns it into energy for use at the facility and for sale to SoCal Edison.

The remaining material will then be dried and converted to compost for local use.

The facility is also covered in solar panels, adding to the energy production. This means greatly lowered methane emissions – though pipes are still needed to capture the methane from our trash of yesteryear. With this new facility Tajiguas will produce more energy than it uses and reduce 117,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to that emitted by 28,668 cars annually.

On average, every person in our county generates 2,034 pounds of trash per year or about 5.5 pounds per day. There's a number we can all try to bring down by reducing one-time use plastics and otherwise wasting less. We can also get better at putting paper, cardboard, aluminum, and clean, dry glass and rigid plastics in the recycling bin. The sorted bales of these recyclables fetch a better price on the market than recyclable material tossed in the trash and help keep our trash prices down.

The state-of-the-art Tajiguas Materials Recovery Facility separates the trash. Optical scanners with video cameras and lights identify recyclable materials and use air jets, magnets, and electromagnetic fields to pull it out. The education room in the new facility overlooks this process so visitors can see the various conveyor belts in action.

Recyclables recovered from the trash are dirty and less valuable, but the good news is that pulling out organics and recyclables reduces the

volume of trash otherwise buried in the landfill by 60%.

After being separated and baled, our glass, aluminum, and some plastics are being recycled in California. The remainder, including all paper and cardboard, go to Asia. It is cheap to ship to Asia because so many container ships come here filled with goods and head back with empty space. According to Carlyle, cardboard trash has risen greatly



from all our Amazon shopping during the pandemic.

As for our green waste, it's all shredded and turned into mulch, which is used locally and helps reduce water use. We produce an above average amount of mulch per person on the South Coast. This “mulch metric” is the sign of a wealthy area with abundant yardwork and

expansive landscaping.

As we surveyed our mountains of trash, the one from the 70s-90s, and the recent one forming from recent decades, long-time hike leader and board member, Robert Bernstein asked Carlyle what he wanted our take-away from the tour to be.

“This is the single biggest greenhouse gas reduction project

in the county,” he said. “We need many more projects like this.” They may not all be perfect, but we need more renewable energy, more greenhouse gas reductions, more positive projects if we are to meet the challenge of the climate crisis.

To see the facilities and learn more, visit:

www.LessIsMore.org

Condors dying from lead

Perry Van Houten

pvh@ojaivalleynews.com

Despite a new law banning the use of lead ammunition in the state, California condors continue to die from lead poisoning.

Of the 42 condor deaths in the wild in 2020 — the first full hunting season in which non-lead ammunition was required for all hunting of animals, including pest control — 12 were due to lead poisoning, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Andrew Clare is hunting and conservation outreach coordinator with the nonprofit Great Basin Institute, which has an office in Ventura. He works on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service condor team to address lead poisoning deaths in the free-flying condor population.

The problem, according to Clare, is that little engagement was done with the hunting community when the new law took effect, so now proponents of non-lead are playing catch-up. “To reach out to hunting and ranching stakeholders in the state and essentially get them on board with the non-lead ammunition,” he said.

The main hurdle for hunters and ranchers in switching to non-lead has been a nationwide shortage of ammunition, Clare said.

For some shooters, the difference in performance between lead and steel ammo, which loses its velocity faster, has been an issue. Clare's role is to help them make the switch. “And essentially help them improve their success and accuracy out in the field with these alternatives,” he said.

The most important part of the process, according to Clare, is seeing how non-lead ammunition works with your gun. “That's a tough sell when we're short on ammunition across the country, but we highly

encourage people to practice with their guns and get used to the alternatives, because there's a good amount being made and there's more being manufactured as hunters increase demand for it,” he said.

Of the 213 condor deaths in the wild between 1992 and 2020, half (107) were due to lead poisoning, according to USFWS. Other known causes of mortality in the wild include predation, power lines and fire.

Use of lead ammo in hunting waterfowl was outlawed in 1992. Its use in hunting all animals and in pest control was banned in California in 2019.

In the meantime, the condor's territory has been continually expanding across the state, including locally. “There have been some recent sightings around the Sulphur Mountain area. They've been nesting in the hills around Ojai. We've seen them around Casitas Springs,” Clare said.

As of Dec. 31, 2020, the total world population of California condors was 504, with the wild, free-flying population numbering 329. Of those, 186 were in Southern California, according to USFWS.

With populations of the massive bird spreading out statewide and searching for carcasses to feed on, the hunting and ranching community is going to be on the frontline of the switch to non-lead, according to Clare. “Condors are a scavenging species, and their success is going to be based on the hunters and ranchers making this switch,” he said.

It's not just condors that are dying from lead exposure, but other scavengers such as bald and golden eagles.

To find out what the issues are with moving to non-lead ammo and to hopefully help remediate those, Clare's organization holds shooting

demonstrations, tests ammunition and hosts a booth at hunting events to talk with hunters in a non-confrontational way. “To see what the concern is and how can we help,” he said.

Many people are very much in favor of the switch, Clare said, or they're at least willing to comply with the switch to help save condors. “Hunters are conservationists. That's an old phrase but it's a very true one, especially when it comes in context with this issue.”

The switch to non-lead ammunition by hunters and ranchers will be the last piece of the puzzle in the conservation success of the condor, according to Clare. “They will be the ones that will be credited for the long-term survival of the species,” he said, “if the switch is made.”

For more information on switching to non-lead ammunition, visit:

www.huntingwithnonlead.org

~ **Editor's note:** This story first appeared in the Ojai Valley News in July; reprinted with permission and thanks. Check out this excellent publication at:

www.OjaiValleyNews.com



A bird's eye view of the newly upgraded Tajiguas facility and underneath you'll find Digester Bunkers (below)



Condor flies over Sulphur Mountain near Ojai. (© Photo by Keith Chancey)



Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <https://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres>

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted.

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://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites. See Group News on page 3 for links.

Fire Danger

Due to drought and heat, fire danger is extremely high so do not build any fires or smoke except in official campsites that have fire rings. For latest information on this and other aspects of the forest, go to: www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf

Shooting ban

A ban on discharging any kind

of firearm except in permitted gun ranges has been extended to Jan. 31, 2022.

Covid Precautions

We will be observing any state/county rules effective at the time of the outing. Each participant should observe these rules and take any additional precautions that they deem necessary to protect their health. In addition, the following rules will be observed on Sierra Club outings.

- * If you feel sick, please do not attend the outing
- * Each participant will fill-out a sign-in sheet with clear contact information.
- * Masks will be required for any indoor activity such as carpooling.
- * Masks are optional outdoors.
- * Group size will be limited, depending on the type of outing.

Please note that in going on a Sierra Club outing you are potentially on a trip with individuals vaccinated and unvaccinated. It is your choice to attend the outing knowing this information.

OUTINGS

From mountains to the shores



YES, all our Outings leaders are trained in first aid and are re-certified every two years. Here, 28 of our leaders took the class this summer from Instructor Matt May (shown kneeling) from "4 Points Expedition". We learn victim assessment and care management, as varied as trauma, heat stroke, hyperthermia, and dehydration among others. Snake bites, bee stings and pre-existing medical conditions are also discussed. The class was held July 31. (Photo by Suzanne Tanaka)

October 11

Grant Park to the Beach: Meet in the Vons parking lot on the corner of Main St. and Ventura Ave. at 8:45am. This is approximately a 6 mile hike with an early 350 ft elevation gain. The terrain is pavement. No shade so prepare for sun exposure. Sign up or contact the leader at www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Limit 20 people. Maureen (Ventura)

October 16

THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Difficult but short 5 mrt. Primitive trail with a 10-foot boulder to climb and lots of boulder hopping along Mission creek to reach a beautiful pool. Bring swimsuit, lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

October 18

Ventura River Preserve: Meet at the Oso Trailhead off of Meyers Rd. in Ojai. We'll make either a 5.5 or

8 mile loop depending on weather and group's ability. There is a 912 ft. elevation. Terrain is dirt and rocky in places. A short river crossing over boulders and rock is required once out and once back. Sign up or notify the leader on www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Limit 20 people. Maureen. (Ventura)

October 23

ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree/rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate with some boulder hopping and agility required, 4MRT. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 / event@swt.org (SB)

October 25

Hill Canyon from Newbury Park: Meet at the end of Rancho Conejo

EAVESDROPS

"How did the moose cross the road? On the Overpass, of course."

~ Letter to NY Times Editor by Frances Figart, author of 'A Search for Safe Passage,' a children's book about the need for wildlife crossings which have reached "a global tipping point."

Rd. at 8:45am and park along the street. This will be a 5-6 mile loop hike with an elevation of 520 ft. There will be shade in Hawk Canyon, otherwise the trail is exposed so prepare for sun. Sign up or contact the leader on www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Limit 20 people. Maureen (Ventura)

November 1

Ventura Harbor and Settling Ponds: Park in the lot behind Penache on the corner of Harbor and Spinnaker Dr. in Ventura. Meet at 8:45am. We will take a 5-6 mile walk into the Settling Ponds and through the harbor to the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center and return to the cars. Sign up or contact the leader at www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Limit 20 people. Maureen (Ventura)

November 6

SAN YSIDRO TRAIL to EAST CAMINO CIELO: Strenuous

conditioning hike, 9 mrt 2970' elevation gain. Bring lunch and adequate water depending on weather conditions. Group limit 7. Meet at San Ysidro trailhead, 1801 E Mountain Dr, Montecito at 8am. DALE 805-886-1674 (SB)

November 8

Pratt/Griddle Loop: We will meet in the Pratt Trailhead parking area at 8:45am. The hike is 6.7 miles with 1295 ft. elevation. Griddle is a bit steep and rocky at the top. Wear sturdy shoes and bring poles if you use them. Sign up or contact the leaders on www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Susanne with Phil & Lora assisting. (Ventura)

November 13

PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 / event@swt.org

November 14

MISSION RIDGE: 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. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

November 15

Two Ponds: Meet in the Dos Vientos Community Park at the end of Borchard, 8:45am. We'll do either the 5 or 6 mile hike, depending on weather, around the ponds. It's a loop with 780 ft elevation. The trail is mostly exposed so prepare for sun. Sign up or contact the leader on www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Maureen (Ventura)

November 20

LA CUMBRE PEAK via RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Beautiful views from the highest peak on the front range. Strenuous 11 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss. Experienced hikers only. Bring

Donate or buy used gear

The Los Padres Forest Assn. will once again be hosting its annual members Used Gear Sale from 9am to noon on Saturday Nov. 6 at Tucker's Grove Park in Goleta.

Details and more at the website: www.LPFA.org

For those of you who know, you know. For those who have not been, there will be an incredible assortment of used camping gear available, highlighted by tons of packs and tents from Gossamer Gear.

LPFA is also looking for used gear donations so if you have any collecting dust in the garage or closet, (tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, mattresses, cook gear, etc...) it'll gladly take it off your hands and try to get it to folks who need it for a second life.

All proceeds go towards the LPFA Trail Care Program.

To donate anything or help with the event email: info@LPForest.org



HIKE LOS PADRES

CONDITIONS

Campgrounds trails and roads in Los Padres National Forest can be closed, have restrictions due to habitat protection, repair or weather. Before you go into the backcountry ensure you check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (805 area unless noted) are:

Los Padres Forest Districts

Headquarters	865-0416
Ojai-Ventura	646-4348
Mt Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

Other Areas

Santa Monica Mtns	370-2301
Conejo Park	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Information

For updated info, maps, news releases, and other goodies: <http://FS.USDA.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info

Lots of local info on websites that give you varied info on outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, work opportunities and much more.

- <https://www.sierraclub.org/lospadres>
- www.LPForest.org
- <https://LPFW.org>
- www.HikeLosPadres.com
- www.SBSierraClub.org
- www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
- www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
- <https://SBTrails.org>
- www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

LOS PADRES FOREST ASSOCIATION

USED GEAR SALE

GREAT DEALS ON PRE-OWNED GEAR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6

TUCKER'S GROVE PARK

9AM-12PM

FEATURING SPECIAL DISCOUNTS ON GOSSAMEAR GEAR: THE PREFERRED BRAND OF ULTRALIGHT BACKPACKERS

Got old gear that needs a new home?
 Donate your usable camping, hiking, backpacking, or other outdoor gear and equipment to the LPFA's Used Gear Sale!
 Contact INFO@LPForest.org for details!

continued next page

Outings...

continued from page 6

lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Starbucks, La Cumbre Plaza at 9am. JIM 805-479-7063/805-644-6934 (SB)

November 22

Danielson Cabin Site: Meet in the Satwiwa Cultural Center parking lot at the end of Via Goleta in Newbury Park at 8:45am. The hike is a 6 mile out and back with 600 ft elevation gain. Poison oak usually grows around the old cabin site so be careful. Sign up or contact the leader at www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Limit 20 people. Maureen (Ventura)

November 29

Carpinteria Bluffs and Salt Marsh: Park in the Rincon Beach lot the of Bates Rd. Meet at 8:45am near the bathroom. We'll walk along the bluffs to the salt marsh and return along the shore. Low tide at 11:54am. Distance is 6-7 miles and mostly flat except for a short incline. Terrain is dirt, pavement and sand. No dogs allowed on the Carpinteria State Beach. Sign up or contact the leader at www.meetup.com/sierraclub/ventura. Limit 20 people. Maureen (Ventura)

December 4

ROMERO CANYON TRAIL to ROMERO SADDLE: Strenuous conditioning hike, 8 mrt 2175' elevation gain. Bring lunch and adequate water depending on weather conditions. Group limit 7. Meet at Romero Cyn trailhead, Romero Cyn Rd, Montecito at 8am. DALE 805-886-1674 (SB)

December 11

WEST FORK COLD SPRING TO LOOKOUT AND BEYOND: Start on Cold Spring Trail, cross stream and hike west up to the Homestead. Moderate, but steep 5 MRT. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 805-685-1283 / event@swt.org

December 18

CATHEDRAL PEAK LOOP II: Head up Mission Canyon trail and then branch off onto a steep and rocky primitive trail to Cathedral Peak for lunch. Spectacular views, including "Three Pools," and echoes from the Canyon. Return down west side to Jesusita trail. Strenuous 6 mrt with hundreds of knee-high steps and some Class II rock climbing. Some agility needed. Bring gloves, lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. ALEJANDRO 805-451-1239 (SB)

Al Sladek's Friday eve hikes



Al Sladek has been leading Friday Sierra Club hikes since March 15, 1974! He hardly ever misses leading one and always finds a substitute if he is away. His hikes meet in front of the SB Mission at 6pm and -- at 6:15pm sharp -- carpools leave for one of a variety of local front country hikes. During the recent Parma Park hike, the group went to the Hidden Benches area (above) and below was a delightful encounter with a flock of sheep from Cuyama Lamb. Take a look at Robert Bernstein's photos and a video of the hike here: <https://tinyurl.com/ParmaHike>

GREETINGS FRIENDS

As lovely as a tree

By Jim Hines

My first handshake with a tree was when I was 6 years old and I grasped the limb of a large Poplar tree growing at the entrance to my family's ranch, the tree shook my hand and hundreds of Autumn yellow leaves fell to the ground showering me along their way. . . I felt one with the tree . . . my lifelong bond with trees was made that Autumn morning.

Growing up with trees and appreciating their beauty and their importance to our world has been a true delight for me.

We had hundreds of different varieties of trees on our ranch property north of Lake Casitas: flowering trees, oak trees, evergreen trees, fruit trees and most of those are still standing today, a testament to their power and durability.

One of my favorite visits is to our former homesite on a hill which we called The Pine Grove where a large grove of Aleppo pines my father planted decades ago still dominates the hilltop site. My father is buried beside one of the large pines.

Trees provide life-giving oxygen, hold soil from eroding, provide wildlife habitat, provide shade, dazzle us with beauty and remain stately partners in our world.

For many years I worked as the sales person for what is known in the nursery industry as a specimen tree growing nursery. We grew, dug, boxed up and delivered to our clients many varieties of trees from 30 foot tall to 100 foot tall. Trees which had to be lifted by large cranes onto

flatbed trucks and moved along roads and freeways in southern California with Highway Patrol escorts because of the tree's size. Many times, our trees had to be craned over the top of lavish estate homes to be planted in the backyards. Trees are amazing, resilient and seemed to enjoy their journey from our growing fields to their new homes, many times homes of the rich and famous.

The Sierra Club is a major supporter of all things trees, not just working to protect the great wild forests of North America but also to the urban forest, for trees live among us.

One of the projects I am currently working on for the Sierra Club is protecting urban forests for their wildlife habitat value across the western U.S. I am working with a committee to develop a wildlife protection ordinance for the City of Los Angeles which would among other things protect trees and plants which are used by wildlife in the city.

Trees in an urban setting reduce air pollution, cool our world, provide habitat for urban wildlife and enhance our lives with beauty.

We have a great climate to grow trees here in the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter region of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. On the mild coast we can grow tropical flowering trees such as Jacaranda, Acacias, Metrosideros, Cassias and many more as well as subtropical fruit trees. In our inland areas we can grow hardy flowering trees such as Crepe Myrtle and Magnolias as well as citrus and deciduous fruit trees.

So make your world, a world of trees, trees and more trees.

I have lots of trees in my urban forest on my property, 10 white birches surround the garden pond, a large multi red trunk Arbutus 'Marina', lots of lace leaf Japanese maples, a tropical red flowering Metrosideros, a dwarf southern Magnolia known as 'Little Gem', a Tulip flowered Magnolia, red leafed redbud, a red leafed Euphorbia and more.

My yard is cool on hot days, birds sing in the trees and delight me.

And just think, my love and appreciation of trees began with that one handshake with that large Poplar tree years ago.

~ For the trees, Jim



Shake a limb with a Poplar Tree, Jim Hines did!

Celebrate OAKtober with VLT

Through the month of October, Ventura Land Trust will celebrate its first annual OAKtober with a series of events that acknowledge and celebrate Ventura County's oak trees and ecosystems.

On Oct 30, a special event features Bryant Baker of Los Padres ForestWatch who will delve into the habitat, biology, and natural history of oak woodlands in the Los Padres National Forest and in Ventura County with a walk-up Harmon Canyon to an oak grove with trees that are over 300 years old. The event is from 9-10:30am at the preserve, 7511 Foothill Road, Ventura. Guests are encouraged to RSVP and see other events to be announced at: www.VenturaLandTrust.org/events

Oaks are the foundation of several major ecosystems in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Each oak is home to a hundred interdependent

plant and animal species. Oaks, and trees in general, help clean our air and water, filtering and storing carbon dioxide as the "lungs of the planet". Too, oaks reduce flooding and support our native wildlife.

The OAKtober launch happened on Oct. 2 at the Harmon Preserve featuring Dr. David White of Once Upon a Watershed. He talked about the role of oaks in the ecosystem and tips on how to grow an acorn into a sprout. Writer Melina Watts read from her 2017 novel "Tree", the story of a

EAVESDROPS

"Tap water is 3,500 times better for the environment than bottled water, according to scientists. In fact, it takes three times as much water to produce a plastic bottle as it can hold."

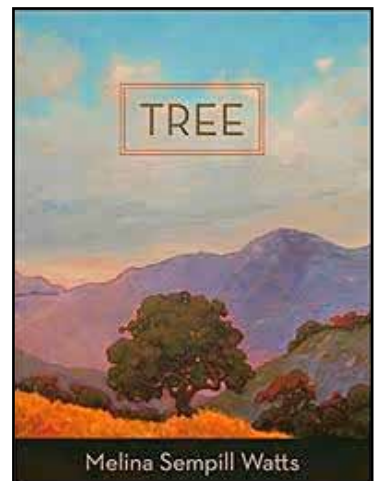
~ Euronews item, based on research of a plastic bottle's 'life cycle' from extraction of raw material, manufacturing, delivery, use and disposal.

California live oak from its point of view.

Anyone who becomes a member of VLT during OAKtober will receive a signed copy of Watts' book.

To become a member and/or get involved as a volunteer or docent, go to:

www.VenturaLandTrust.org



Melina Watts' 2017 novel "Tree" is the story of a California live oak from its point of view.



Craig Carey signs Condor John's copy of his updated classic, *Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura*, at the Bank of Books in Ventura recently. Get it here: www.CraigRCarey.net

Become a Member

As a Ventura Land Trust member, you'll join a community of people who love nature and support VLT's efforts to conserve open space, restore habitat, and offer environmental education programs that inspire the next generation of land stewards. **Goodness is growing - join today!**

- **EXPLORE** Experience protected lands on members-only guided outings.
- **LEARN** Members receive the *Outlook* newsletter twice a year.
- **PROTECT** VLT preserves are protected forever and open daily at no charge because of support from members like you.

\$45 | \$100 | \$250

GIVE MONTHLY

JOIN TODAY AT
WWW.VENTURLANDTRUST.ORG

SIERRA CLUB
LOS PADRES CHAPTER
P.O. Box 31241
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

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Art and environment combine for climate

It's not often scores of local artists get together for a live and virtual event, but on the weekend of Oct. 23 and 24 there is a very special event called: Climate + Art = Change for a Clean World.

It's an exhibition and sale of paintings by 125 well-known local Central Coast artists under SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment).

All proceeds are going to the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter and the Community Environmental Council.

It's happening both live, in accordance with current Covid protocols and virtual. The online showing will be set up by the CEC and is active on Oct. 12th, with the online show itself up for sale from Oct. 16-22.

The live event is at the Community Arts Workshop (631 Garden Street in downtown Santa Barbara). Dynamic local artists will be on hand to talk about their work. Al

Gore's Climate Reality Project will host speaker panels and an educational showcase. Explore Ecology will be providing children's activities as well.

The reception from 5-8pm on Saturday will include wine and light refreshments, as well as an award presentation and live music.

Times are 1-8pm for Saturday Oct. 23 and from 10am to 5pm on Sunday, Oct. 24.

"Although this is an open show, landscapes, figures, still life and abstracts were accepted with special emphasis placed on subject matter that relates to Climate Change," said Natalie Wilson, the Exhibit Chair. In fact, artists can submit works up until midnight Oct. 8. For information, call Wilson at 805 687-7123 or visit:

<https://SCAPE.wildapricot.org>

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event or need more information, contact Emily Engel of the Sierra Club:

emilyaengel@gmail.com


Check out SCAPE for more details and photos of artworks at:

<https://scape.wildapricot.org>

For generations, the local Sierra Club and CEC have advocated for a cleaner environment and energy sources, all of which affects our local ecology, and the artists take it from there. Please help support these organizations by participating, buying and even donating.

The recipients deeply thank SCAPE artists for their contributions.

Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment & The Climate Reality Project



Invite you to this FREE event to benefit the Community Environmental Council (CEC) & Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter

October Sat. 23 & Sun. 24, 2021
Saturday 1-8 pm & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Reception Sat. 5 - 8pm, Wine, Music, Awards
Community Arts Workshop
631 Garden Street, Santa Barbara
Online show runs from Oct 16 - 22

Climate + Art = Change

FEATURING:

- Over 130 SCAPE paintings along with on-site artists
- Juror artist Holli Harmon
- Explore Ecology children's activities
- Educational displays
- CRP hosting speaker panels, videos on sustainability, global perspectives, and
- Santa Barbara Fire Chief, Pat McElroy to moderate a discussion on wildfires

40% of the art sales benefit CEC and SIERRA CLUB, Los Padres Chapter
Information for Art Exhibits: 805-687-7123 • For Educational Exhibits: 805-886-7479

Community Environmental Council 50+ years
scape
SIERRA CLUB LOS PADRES CHAPTER
The Climate Reality Project

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT ONE PAINTING AT A TIME
Graphic design by CherylFontanaDesign.com

Join our Green Team

The Ventura Sierra Club Green Team gave the local ecosystem a helping hand at the newly opened Harmon Canyon, working under the guidance of Ventura Land Trust (VLT) leaders on Monday, Aug.2 and they followed up with another volunteer day on Aug. 29.

What is Green Team? Get the info at:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura/green-team

"We are of any age, any ethnicity, any lifestyle, and are joined by the common thread of caring about the environment in our area," a statement that defines the Green Team.

Tasks at Harmon included a mile hike for streambed invasive plant removal (tamarix) and pulling small invasive plants by hand. There are other opportunities to help at the

2,100-acre Harmon Canyon, open free to the public forever. Docents and volunteers of all kinds are needed; go to:

www.VenturaLandTrust.org

Harmon Canyon Preserve, established last year, is Ventura's first large-scale nature preserve. located at 7511 Foothill Road. Free parking at the trailhead off McVittie Place.

If the restoration sounds like fun to work at the preserve, you too can help during other events. Check it out as well as hikes and other outdoor fun at:

www.MeetUp.comSierraClubVentura/

Next event you can join is on Oct. 17 to help Friends of the Santa Clara River in realizing the vision of a river trail from "Inland to the Sea" and are volunteering to do a route clean up before their 5K run.



Speaking of art and environment, an LA artist turned the Sierra Club's Sierra magazine cover featuring Interior Secretary Deb Haaland into street art. Read the article here:

<https://tinyurl.com/HaalandInterview>