

Vol. 24, No. 4 of 6

August - September/June 2024

Condor Call

Journal of the Sierra Club's
Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter



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Kamala, Jane, Gianna ... Changes ... Sightings ... EV shows ... Be a hike leader

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Condor Call

Journal of the Sierra Club's
Santa Barbara - Ventura Chapter



August - September 2024

ENERGY WRAP

Sable's pipe dream up in smoke!

By Katie Davis
Sable's Pipe Dream

Analysts who have taken a close look at Sable -- an oil startup hoping to restart Exxon's shuttered offshore oil production in the Santa Barbara Channel -- are calling it a "pipe dream."

For instance, an extensive article (<https://hntbrk.com/sable/>) by Hunterbrook Media details many of the obstacles Sable faces and starts with this summary:

"Sable Offshore (NYSE: SSOC) is racing against the clock to relaunch an idle fossil fuel complex it bought from Exxon (NYSE: XOM) in February. Three oil and natural gas platforms, called the Santa Ynez Unit, have not produced fossil fuels since one of the pipelines carrying its oil ruptured in 2015. It was the biggest spill in California since 1990. After seven years, Exxon gave up trying to overcome the legal hurdles required to get Santa Ynez and the pipeline back online. Now, despite facing similar obstacles, Sable is telling shareholders it can restart production before October. Since

Hunterbrook Media began reporting, Sable withdrew and refiled a key plan, likely increasing the risk of delays.

Hunterbrook Media's Editorial Board believes that Sable Offshore will not restart production at Santa Ynez on time, if at all. Sable listed on NYSE via SPAC as \$SOC earlier this year. The company's auditors have since flagged Sable's ability to continue as a "going concern." Our Editorial Board agrees.

Exxon — a more well-capitalized and experienced company — spent seven years trying (and failing) to bring Santa Ynez back online. Sable's only apparent novel approach seems to be an attempt to bypass Santa Barbara County, which will likely only bring more scrutiny in California, a state not known as fossil fuel friendly.

The CEO's most recent prior company, Sable Permian Resources, went bankrupt. Before that, he flamed out from Freeport-McMORan. Now, he and his repeat management team seem to be relying on a highly speculative gamble at the mercy of California regulators,

EAVESDROP

"In a peer-reviewed study, *'The Fossil Fuels Behind Forest Fires,'* climate scientists show that nearly 20 million acres of the total amount of land burned by forest fires across the Western United States and Canada since 1986 can be attributed to the carbon emissions from the products of the world's 88 largest fossil fuel producers and cement manufacturers."

~ Eco-writer Robert Taylor of Montecito, writing in Noozhawk entitled: "Wildfires: Another Costly Result of Fossil Fuels."

litigators, and communities."

Since this article was published in April, Sable has faced additional challenges. Their application to the Fire Marshall to bypass Santa Barbara County was denied. Their applications to change ownership from Exxon to themselves were deemed incomplete by both the County and the State Lands Commission so will not be considered anytime soon.

And the settlement they made with landowners who refused access to the pipeline may not be as settled as they claim. We have learned that some landowners are opting out of the settlement.

Sable is financed by a loan from Exxon and speculative funding through a blank check company with the goal to take over and restart three offshore oil platforms, the gas and oil pipelines, including the one that burst and caused the 2015 Refugio oil spill, and the Santa Ynez oil processing facility on the Gaviota coast, which when operating was the largest facility source of greenhouse gas and health-damaging air pollution in the County.

However, decision makers will be highly skeptical of Exxon offloading liability for its aging oil operation to a startup company that would disappear in the event of a spill or other disaster.

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Just as the Lake Fire was winding down in late July after burning over 38,000 acres with hundreds of evacuations and road closures, the Apache fire started July 23 around Apache Canyon Road, Cuyama Valley, Ventura County and along Hwy 33, burning 1,500 acres as of press time. (Aerial photo of Lake Fire courtesy of SB Fire Dept.)

Club cheers Kamala and Stokes is stoked

In an article published by the *Los Angeles Times* about Kamala Harris having environmental chops, it is led by remarks made by a local who is certainly well-known in the pages of *Condor Call*, UCSB's *Daily Nexus* and various national news outlets.

"I'm ecstatic — I couldn't be more thrilled," Leah Stokes, an associate professor of climate and energy policy at UC Santa Barbara, said on July 22.

"Kamala Harris is a climate and environmental justice champion, and she has been for over two decades," Stokes said. "We have a real shot to not just win the White House and have a climate president again, but also to secure strong majorities in the House and the Senate and have an opportunity to pass more climate legislation."

Four leading environmental, clean energy and climate organizations — the Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, the NRDC Action Fund, and Clean Energy for American Action — endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for President.

Another well-known name in these pages is Ben Jealous, Sierra Club Executive Director.

"From prosecuting polluters as California's Attorney General to authoring bold climate legislation that would become central to the landmark Inflation Reduction Act, she has worked for decades to combat the climate crisis and protect our health and future," said Ben Jealous said, adding, "I have had the distinct personal privilege of calling Kamala Harris a dear friend for more than 20 years, but it will be an even greater honor to call her Madam President."

Harris has said the president should hold fossil fuel companies accountable for misleading the public

about climate change. In a 2019 *interview with Mother Jones*, she said: "Let's get them not only in the pocket book, but let's make sure there are severe and serious penalties for their behaviors."

Indeed, she secured \$50 million in settlements from lawsuits against Chevron, BP, Conoco-Phillips and other oil companies during her tenure as attorney general, and led an investigation into Exxon Mobil's history of misleading Americans on the climate crisis. In 2017, she signed a letter opposing the expansion of offshore drilling along the California coast, stating that the expansion would "line the pockets of oil companies."

EAVESDROPS

"Why is the greatest threat to the planet of so little concern to most Americans? It's shocking, frankly, that global warming ranks 24th on a list of 29 issues for voters."

~ Nicholas Goldberg, writing in the *LA Times* advocating for aggressively marketing the issue simply, like saying 'pollution' instead of 'emissions' or 'existential threat'. And talk about what people care about; not so much effect on polar bears but what it means for humans.

COVER PHOTO

With the massive Lake Fire in the Santa Ynez Valley burning from July 5 to 28, we decided a more normal and pleasing image would be welcome. So we went to Mike Eliason, photographer extraordinaire, to provide a more bucolic scene of the valley. As the SB Independent wrote in 2021 after his photo book was published, "Eliason takes you places you think you've seen so many times that you stopped seeing them."



Condors are considered to be a landmark success bringing an endangered species literally from the brink. By 1982, the total population had dwindled to just 22 birds. It was human effort in concert with rare birds and pressure by environmental groups, notably the Sierra Club. (Photo courtesy of NFWS releasing condors.)

A crucial time to act

Summer is here and many of us are out hiking the trails at sunrise and pulling up beach chairs at sunset. One thing can be sure, as Sierra Club members and supporters, we love experiencing the summer joys of our local wildlands.

This season is also a crucial time for our environmental work. We have a window between the legislative session and the impending fall elections to act. Our volunteers and leaders are working hard to get new people into wild places and to rally around a bold agenda to conserve 30% of our local lands and waters by 2030.

This summer, we are

~ Lobbying Santa Barbara County to close the special loophole for the oil and gas industry that excludes oil and gas emissions from the County inventory of greenhouse gas emissions

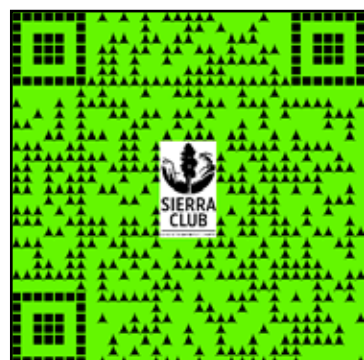
~ Advocating for the protection of local wild lands and wildlife from mountain lions to beavers.

~ Stopping offshore oil by continuing the fight against Sable Energy, the buyer of ExxonMobil's 3 Gaviota offshore platforms

The scope of the work is ambitious, but we cannot do the work alone. Your support will directly make this change possible for our community. The challenges we face are significant, and our adversaries have significant resources, but with your donation today, our impact can be even greater. Please chip in anything you can here:

<https://tinyurl.com/DonateSclub>

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our Chapter. It's because of you that we can look forward to a greener, more sustainable future. With gratitude for your continuing support, Emily Engel, Chapter Fundraising Chair and Volunteer emilyaengel@gmail.com



If you have a printed *Condor Call* in your hand, you can tap into this QR code to get a full color version that has hot links! Try it.

Let's defend wild places.

Your donation supports our powerful and effective grassroots movement to protect vulnerable communities and defend the natural world. Give now: sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura

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SIERRA CLUB
SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER



Jane Fonda, activist and actor with a Climate PAC, tells it like it should be during her visit during Earth Day in Santa Barbara. (Photo contributed)

Sable's pipe dream...
continued from page 1

Climate on the Ballot

Good news on the ballot front. The oil industry has given up efforts to overturn a law limiting drilling dangerously close to homes that they had qualified for the November general election.

In 2022 California banned oil drilling next to homes, schools and businesses in recognition that everyone deserves clean air and healthy neighborhoods. Living near oil and gas production is linked to a higher risk of asthma, birth defects and cancer. The oil

industry could see that they were not going to persuade voters to eliminate these health and safety buffers and withdrew their ballot measure.

Instead, Californians will get a chance to vote on climate funding. In July the legislature passed The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.

This authorizes a first-of-its-kind \$10 billion general obligation bond to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. Each of these bonds are now eligible to appear on the November 8, 2024 General Election ballot.

EAVESDROPS

"The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable . . . we are unequivocally facing a climate emergency."

~ [U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres](#), in issuing a Code Red for humanity.

Is Sable able?

In a July update, Sable Oil's hope to restart Exxon's offshore oil platforms are running into delays, but also the news is getting spread beyond our borders.

A so-called "market-leading provider of news and data for financial professionals" has picked up the news about Sable and just released a news item that indicates the plan faces numerous hurdles. Known as CTFN, based in Connecticut with offices in Washington DC and London, it extensively quotes Katie Davis, chair of our Santa Barbara-Ventura Sierra Club.

The article mentions that the CA State Lands Commission is analyzing the application, which Sable hopes to restart Exxon's offshore platforms by October.

Not so fast, noted Errin Briggs of the SB County Planning Dept. If the Lands Commission rejects the change of ownership from Exxon to Sable, it could appeal to the SB Board of Supervisors which could take up to another three months to resolve.

In a third setback, the CA fire marshal told Sable on July 10 that it "regrets to inform you that the April 11, 2024 risk analysis is determined to be inadequate." That's based on three factors: worst-case discharge volumes, its focus on spill volume reduction not on spill containment and response and that there are no permits for installing valves.

In the CTFN article, Davis is quoted as saying the plan has unusual risks:

"This is a large and complex operation where fracking and other well stimulation will be used. Horizontal drilling extending many miles out, wastewater dumping, and other issues make the prospect of restart by a speculative and small company — which are much more likely to cut corners and make mistakes — a much riskier enterprise."

Too, the offshore oil platforms and associated infrastructure, including pipelines that traverse state waters, "are beyond their projected end of life and there have been numerous documented problems with corrosion and leaks."

The biggest being the Pacific Pipeline Corporation's Pipeline 901 rupturing in 2015, sending 143,000 gallons of crude oil flowing toward Refugio Beach.

Space X, Chumash hearing

The state Coastal Commission will hold a hearing on August 8th about the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS), giving the public an opportunity to weigh in on a new sanctuary to expand protections for one of the most biodiverse marine areas in the world.

It will also hear details about the increased number of rockets sent into space at Vandenberg Air Force Base from six to 36 per year.

The hearing will be in Calabasas and the [public can participate in person or remotely](#).

This will be the last public hearing regarding the CHNMS, so a strong show of support is critical. For more information and talking points about the proposed sanctuary, go to [chumashsanctuary.org](#).

Details of the two items above are: ~ 'Consistency Determination' affecting San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties for a determination by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to designate a new national marine sanctuary, encompassing up to approximately 7,573 square miles of ocean waters and submerged lands thereunder, adjacent to the central California Coast and extending about 78 miles offshore. (JK-SF) [Submit Comment](#)

~United States Space Force for a 'consistency determination' to increase Space Exploration Technologies' (SpaceX) Falcon 9 launch and landing activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) from six to 36 per year as well as the addition of offshore landing locations in the Pacific Ocean. [Submit Comment](#)

HINES CHRONICLES

Things are changing

Editor's note: So much has happened over the last two months (June/July) but the popular Chronicles gleaned from Jim Hines' emails give a look back and forth. Expect joy and sorrow, success and disappointments. Jim is vice-chair of our Chapter and Ventura Network. He is available as a speaker. Email is jhcasitas@gmail.com

By Jim Hines

(Intro): We get mail, thanks to the people who read our *Condor Call* newspaper. Over the years I've received many emails and/or phone calls after each *Condor Call*. They are wonderful comments of thanks for our advocacy, but every now and then I do get some criticism who apparently are not Sierra Club members.

But just yesterday I received a beautiful handwritten letter of thank you from one of our members in Westlake Village; she mailed her letter to Condor John who kindly forwarded the letter to me.

Nice to know that people care about the work we do.

July 26: **Little actions** are making a big impact in a negative way. Such as allowing lead bullets for hunting, a legal rodenticide kills a gopher who is then eaten by a mountain lion, a humpback whale is entangled in nylon line, a burrowing owl awakes to a bulldozer.

Our Wildlife Committee's summer of discontent is determined to do all we can to put a stop to those seemingly small actions..

July 24: **Things are changing** daily in Washington DC, like political musical chairs. The Administration was ready to issue a major land protection designation for YOUR national public lands in Arizona, but decided that it would be too risky politically.

July 22: **Four years ago**, when the U.S. Government initiated a proposal to create a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary the Sierra Club was one of the first supporters.

So, what's the holdup? As usual politics, due to a claim of intertribal disputes, and interference from congress and the looming

election.
July 21: **Taking a short break** from time out among my gardens and greenhouse to share my enthusiasm for Kamala Harris for President.

I first met then U.S. Senator Kamala Harris a month after she took office in January 2017. I was in Washington DC on behalf of the Sierra Club Protect Wild Utah campaign. She turned out to be one of our biggest supporters in the U.S. Senate for protecting America's national public lands and waters.

July 17: **Santa Barbara folks**, you are so fortunate to have mostly environmentally friendly local government officials. We here in Ventura County have mostly MAGA controlled local government from the Board of Supervisors to the majority of the 11 city councils around the county. It is difficult for us with relatively so few people advocating for environmental protection and others discouraged at MAGA-like

EAVESDROPS

"So, I say leave the environment alone, stop murdering the unwanted in the ecosystem - nature can take care of itself just like it did after the mastodons became extinct, the Pacific Ocean retreated from the valleys of Southern California, the Grand Canyon was created, and a 600-foot-deep lake in [Death Valley](#) dried up. And you're not going to stop global warming, so stop trying."

~ End of an article published by Noozhawk by gadfly Ron Fink of Lompoc entitled: "How do you manage the environment?"

policies, rolling along with seemingly little or no opposition.

Oh, to be like Santa Barbara.

July 10: **Start a lobby campaign** at the city hall level to stop the endless approvals who keep approving new gas stations, usually as part of new strip malls. We can build gas stations but can't build EV charg-

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Condor Call
SierraClub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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SIX SUNDAYS OF SUMMER

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- Dates + Time: Six Sundays, July 14-Aug. 18, 3:00-4:30PM
- Location: La Mesa Park, 295 Meigs Road (across from Lazy Acres)
- Donate: Each class is a suggested donation of \$20. Club Pilates will match all donations (up to \$1,500). Pay what you can. Walk-ins are welcome.
- Prizes: Get there early to get your swag bag and enter the raffle.
- Learn More: Visit SacredGardenWellness.com or use the QR code.

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DIGNITYMOVES SIERRA CLUB FREEDOM 4 YOUTH Wilderness Youth Project

SPONSORED BY CLUB PILATES

Attendees will be entered into a raffle to win an 8-pack of Club Pilates classes (\$240 value) and other great prizes.

... and still changing

continued from page 2

ing stations? I sent this idea to the EV Advocates group.

We could also start an auto dealer incentive program to benefit the Sierra Club. We spend a lot of time promoting EVs but when someone walks into a dealership and buys an EV we do not get any credit for it. We're acting as sales agents.

July 8: **We are supporting** the CA Coastal Commission letter to Space X at Vandenberg AFB regarding the massive negative impacts of increased Space X launches on the beaches of northern Santa Barbara county and the ocean environment. Maybe it's time to look at the environmental impacts of missile launches from Pt Mugu Naval Air Station in Ventura County as well.

June 28: **Ten years ago**, two commercial fishermen off the east coast went to court suing the U.S. Government for requiring "observers" on their fishing boats, to guard against overfishing and that marine mammals are not entangled in commercial fishing nets.

Today the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the commercial fishermen and in fact basically ruled that numerous environmental rules and regulations by the U.S. Government to be unconstitutional -- in the court's words. This ruling also applies to other federal agencies besides environmental agencies, the so-called Chevron Doctrine.

The Sierra Club strongly condemns that decision and noted that the same court also ruled that the government cannot enforce protections of wetlands, and the so-called "Good Neighbor" policy requiring states to work together to stop air pollution across state lines.

Without an environmentally friendly partner in the U.S. Gov-

ernment our work will be more challenging than ever.

June 26: **There was much talk** and celebration regarding the county of Ventura dropping proposed new regulations to be imposed on the county's oil and gas industry, notably ensuring oil wells are capped and cleanup. The County Planning Director said these actions were not needed as the State would do the above.

Except that the state has a budget deficit and the projected cost to plug idle oil and gas wells in Ventura County alone would be around \$800 million. Needless to say, the oil industry seemed happy.

June 17: **Our members love** to camp, so why not camp for a purpose? I am going to ask the national Sierra Club staff to sponsor a peaceful encampment and/or a peaceful occupy in DC.

June 14: **Marine areas** are under study and scrutiny over protections by the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

There are about a dozen changes for marine reserves offshore of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Here's the info sheet and how to comment:

<https://tinyurl.com/SeeSeaChanges>

June 10: **Voter Drive:** I have been passing out voter registration forms when I engage various groups and individuals across Ventura County.

It is time the Santa Barbara-Ventura chapter mounted an aggressive voter registration drive because we lost battles, notably the oil industry. I am finding that many voters are NOT thinking about the environment; it is all about the economy, public safety and immigration issues.

~ Edited by John Hankins



Gianna Patchen was active in the Santa Lucia Chapter's Executive Committee and became its Chumash Sanctuary campaign manager, now she leads our sister group to the north. (Photo contributed)

Let's welcome new SLO Chapter leader

Editor's note: Welcome and hello to Gianna Patchen who is the new Chapter Coordinator for our neighbor to the north, the Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter in San Luis Obispo County. Our chapters have many close ties, notably fighting on- and offshore oil, advocating for the proposed Chumash National Marine Sanctuary and so many more common issues.

By Gianna Patchen,
Santa Lucia Chapter Coordinator
Hello Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club! I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Chapter Coordinator for the Santa Lucia Chapter.

It's an honor to step into the office of retired Chapter Director, Andrew Christie. Thank you to Andrew for 19 years of hard work and his mentorship. He left big shoes to fill!

As a former Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee member and intern, I'm grateful for this opportunity to support Central Coast advocates and communities.

For the past two and half years, I worked for the Northern Chumash Tribal Council on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary campaign and beyond. I began as an outreach intern, then executive assistant and ultimately became the Chumash Sanctuary campaign manager. I collaborated with and learned from the NCTC team, Central Coast Tribes, community members, policymakers, and

Electrify!

Electrify Your Life is the SB Community Environmental Council's free concierge service offering one-on-one support in Spanish and English to residents, businesses, and nonprofits that want to access incentives or information on energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.

It covers the tri-counties area: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

There is no red tape, contracts, or commitments. CEC will help you go electric and be part of the movement toward a zero-carbon emission future. [Join us.](#)

Example: You want to know which EV home charger is the best fit for your home/vehicle. Navigate the funding application process and identify the rebates and incentives you qualify for to ensure you get the best price on at-home charging.

Battery incentives are online

There are now new incentives for battery and solar, announced SB Supervisor Das Williams.

"Over the past few years, you may have heard me talk about Central Coast Community Energy (3CE), our regional electricity provider, and our realistic plan to deliver 100% carbon-free energy by 2030. There is an important way that we can all help meet that goal and have more control over our energy costs and usage at home," he said.

3CE just launched a Residential Battery Rebate Program, which can earn customers on-average \$3,900 to purchase and install a home battery. That's not to mention that over the lifetime of the battery, customers with solar are estimated to see \$9,000 in savings on their bills.

Initially, the program is anticipated to allow for the deployment of 400 battery systems per fiscal year. The rebates will be available to residential 3CE customers, regardless of whether they have a solar system or not. Learn more and sign up here: <https://3cenergy.org/rebates/residential-battery-rebate-program/>

Read our blog



30x30

ORGANIZING TO CONSERVE 30% OF OUR LANDS BY 2030.



SUPPORTING STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

- H.R. 973 (Carbajal)
- Chumash Marine Sanctuary
- Carpinteria Bluffs

STOPPING HARMFUL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

- Oil Extraction and Trucking
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Methane Heating & Cooking Fuel

Sierra Club supports federal legislation- H.R. 973 (Carbajal) would:

- Designate 288,672 acres of wilderness in Carrizo Plain National Monument and Los Padres National Forest
- Create two scenic areas (34,882 acres)
- Establish the 400-mile Condor Trail
- Safeguard 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

- 140 square miles
- Cambria to Channel Islands
- Connects existing marine sanctuaries



JOIN US!






Most meetings continue online for now

Group News

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/SantaBarbara-Ventura

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 2nd Tuesdays, 11-12pm 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 send an email request to: ConejoGroupHiking@gmail.com.

Or view the Conejo Group website: www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura

www.sierraclub.org/SantaBarbara-Ventura/outings

Climate Watch

Food: waste not want not

Less in the Can: Reducing Food Waste

Editor's note: We continue to feature specific and practical actions each issue that you can take to help tone down climate change, in this case reducing food waste. The series is written by UCSB lecturer in Environmental Studies, Deborah Williams.

The average American household wastes almost one-third of the food we buy, or about 250 pounds a year.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), wasted food "is the largest stream of materials in American trash." Over 42 million tons of wasted food ends up in landfills or combustion facilities a year, generating powerful greenhouse gas methane emissions and other pollutants. The energy and other resources used to grow, transport, manufacture, store, sell and dispose of all of this wasted food also has a significant carbon and pollution footprint.

Wasted food constitutes approximately 11% of the greenhouse gas emissions from the food system, and in the US is equivalent to the emissions from 37 million cars.

We need to waste less food.

Here are some great actions to take:

~ Purchase Strategies: Buy only what you know you can eat in time. Before shopping, double check what you already have, and when you are shopping keep asking yourself the question "can I eat all of this before it spoils?" Look at expiration dates on foods.

~ Storage strategies: To prevent mold, wait to wash berries until you

are ready to eat them. For all other produce, when you first get your fruits and vegetables home, remove any spoiled spots, then wash and dry. Because they emit gases that cause other fruits to ripen faster, store apples, bananas and tomatoes by themselves. If you have more meat, bread, or other foods than you can eat in time, freeze them; or, as another possibility to cook and then freeze certain foods to be consumed later.

~ Use food creatively to avoid waste: Instead of throwing food away, ask yourself, is there something else I can do? Here are a few possibilities. If vegetables are past their prime for eating raw, use them in soups, sauces, casseroles or stir fries. If fruits are past their prime, use them in smoothies, bake them or cut them into pieces and freeze them. If bread is a little dried out, consider croutons.

~ Share foods with neighbors and/or friends. Sometimes food comes in large quantities. Sharing the cost and amount of bulk purchases with friends and/or neighbors is economic and fun.

~ Donate unused food. Donate shelf stable food to food banks such as the [Foodbank of Santa Barbara County](#), [Food Share Ventura County](#), and [Associated Students Food Bank](#). Also, if you have overloaded fruit trees or gardens, [Food Forward](#) has volunteers that will pick them to feed the hungry. Finally, also consider donating food to local animal organizations such as the [Santa Barbara Zoo \(produce\)](#) and [BUNS](#). For a comprehensive list for both North and South County, [click here](#). Also, there is a new app called [Olio](#), designed to facilitate giving away free food items to neighbors.

~ Compost: Among other ben-

efits, composted organics improve soil health and structure, return nutrients to the soil, and improve soil water retention. To read EPA's excellent "Composting at Home" guidelines and recommendations, [click here](#). Alternatively, you can create an [indoor worm composting bin](#). Also, the County of Santa Barbara offers a [discounted composting bin program](#); and has a terrific [composting booklet](#).

~ Buy ugly / imperfect food: There is a growing market for [ugly/imperfect food](#). Consider being part of it. [Click here](#) to read about some options (including [Misfits Market](#) and [Imperfect Foods](#)).

~ Finally, take the EPA "Get Smart: [Keep Good Food from Going to Waste](#)" Challenge. It's both fun and impactful.

There are so many other reasons to reduce food waste. Importantly, doing so saves money. A four-person household can save [up to \\$2,000](#) by wasting less food.

Then there are equity issues. The EPA [notes](#), "wholesome, nutritious food should feed people, not landfills." Over 10% of Americans are living in food insecure households.

More generally, the US throws away more food than any other country in the world, nearly 120 billion (yes, billion) pounds every year, which also represents 24% of solid waste in our municipalities. In the US, municipal landfills are the third largest source of human-related methane emissions, contributing meaningfully to climate change.

In short, like other greenhouse gas reduction strategies, minimizing food waste is good for our environment, saves money and promotes equity.

THE POWER OF PARTICIPATION

**Thursday, August 15
6 - 7:30pm**
CEC's Environmental Hub
1219 State St.
Santa Barbara



How you can help good environmental bills become law

Speakers will demystify the California legislative process & share their insights:

- Michelle Sevilla, 350SB
- Katie Davis, Sierra Club
- Kathi King, CEC
- Carla Mena, Los Padres ForestWatch
- Irene Cooke, Fearless Grandmothers-SB

RSVP HERE







Danger hasn't passed

Summer is a busy time for California legislation as bills make their way through committees and lobbyists try to influence the process. This year a remarkable number of good environmental bills have been proposed and ordinary people can help get them passed.

On August 15 Katie Davis will be joining a panel discussion on effective activism. I'll discuss bills we're watching and the role of Sierra Club California. Other speakers include Michelle Sevilla, 350SB steering committee member and Director of Communications for Assembly-member Steve Bennett, Kathi King from the CEC, and Carla Mena, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs for Los Padres ForestWatch. Don't miss it!

Power of Participation

Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024 from 6-7:30pm
CEC's Environmental Hub, 2019 State St., Santa Barbara

Learn more and sign up:
<https://cecsb.org/events/the-power-of-participation>

SIGHTINGS

Pot penalty, beach reports, wind wise and easy on the eyes

By John Hankins

We are here to *Explore, Enjoy and Protect* the planet (Sierra Club's motto), despite turmoil in the political and environmental realms.

Join us by getting involved and have fun too. We offer activities and activism and free hikes. See Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved or enjoy our free hikes via links on page 5, including via MeetUp and internet lists.

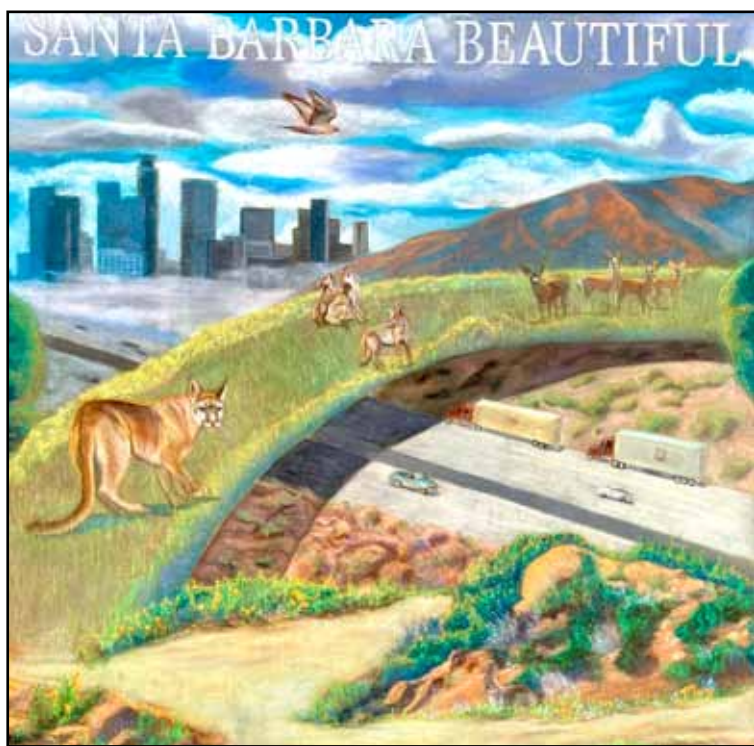
Donations help a lot, and the money stays here at home doing good stuff. Donate here:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Check out the stories and links below on what happened in the last two months.

July 31: "Plastic People," a landmark feature documentary that chronicles humanity's fraught relationship with plastic and one woman's mission to expose shocking new revelations about the impact of microplastics on human health. The video was brought to you by the SB Community Environment Council, and can be viewed here:

www.cecsb.org



Artist Lorelle Miller was so inspired by the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing over Hwy 101 in Agoura Hills that she used her talents for a chalk rendering at the 37th I Madonnari Festival, held at the SB Mission during Memorial Day weekend. The crossing is due to open in 2026. Its importance was multiplied on June 15 when a cougar was found dead on the 101 not far from the crossing. See more of her artistry at www.LorelleMiller.com

July 27: Free educational event to reduce your energy bills, steps to

energy independence, safeguard your family's health, and reduce our carbon footprint, sponsored by the Ventura County Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby.

<https://www.cclventura.org/>

July 25: Tunnel Trail is closed for up to six months starting today! It's due to SoCal Edison's Restoration Project.

July 24: Ormond Beach Wetlands National Wildlife Refuge proposal was unanimously approved by our Executive Committee from both SB and Ventura.

July 21: "Joe Biden's legacy as the

greatest president for climate and environmental action is etched in stone," said Sierra Club Executive Director Ben Jealous in a statement. "America's air and water is cleaner because of him. Our future is more secure because of him. The Sierra Club and the country will celebrate his legacy now and forever . . . the Sierra Club will marshal its resources and grassroots power to guarantee the Biden-Harris legacy continues."

July 19: Heal the Bay's annual report card for California beaches gives high marks for cleanliness at County Line Beach in Ventura County and no dirty, bad beaches in either Ventura or Santa Barbara. Find out the best and worst here: <https://healthebay.org/>

July 18: Wind Power got a huge boost from the California Energy Commission which unanimously approved a sweeping plan to develop a massive floating offshore wind industry in ocean waters — a first-of-its-kind undertaking that will require billions in public and private investments and could transform parts of the coast. "The climate crisis is upon us. Offshore wind is a real opportunity for us to move forward with clean energy," said energy commissioner Patty Monahan. However, a first wind turbine isn't expected until at least 2030.

July 18: Chumash uprising of 1824, a look-back by Ryan Cruz in the SB Independent. It chronicles the largest indigenous revolt of the Mission Period. Read it online at: www.independent.com

July 16: The Plastic Crisis: Science and Solutions is a webinar by

the SB Community Environmental Council via Zoom. It features Plastic Free Future founders Alejandra Warren (CEC's 2024 SB Earth Day Festival Environmental Hero) and Dr. Matt Warren. You can view it on CEC's website (among other webinars) here:

<https://cecsb.org/>

July 17: Santa Barbara Green Guide, a collaboration between the Santa Barbara Independent and Bluedot Living, with lead sponsorship from the Community Environmental Council (CEC). This handbook is a guide to living sustainably in Santa Barbara. It includes info on how to recycle, compost, volunteer, shop secondhand and more. Also, it's available at the Independent, CEC and online: Santa Barbara Green Guide

July 9: Your comments wanted about the General Plan Update to prepare Gaviota State Park (SP), Refugio State Beach (SB), and El Capitán State Beach (SB) for the future. Informed by community

continued next page

EAVESDROPS

"Sitting in town, the mountains choked with smoke (re Lake Fire), it was easy to feel helpless. I'd like to introduce you to a website that could be a lifesaver or . . . serve as a wealth of information in the future:

<https://ftp.wildfire.gov/>

~ Ray Ford, Noozhawk writer and photographer who covered the Lake Fire in detail but who was frustrated to find specifics and understand the fire's behavior - until he discovered the wildfire site!



More electric buses are being purchased by school districts - in this case the Ventura Unified School District - because they are cleaner for the health of the children and cheaper to run. Buellton in SB County also got one recently. (Photo courtesy of Thomas Built Buses)

EV shows galore

Our Sierra Club chapter will be participating in several Electric Vehicle events in September and October, thanks to Kent Bullard, our Transportation Chair.

Those who drive EVs and want to show off their car and answer questions from the public have lots of opportunities to do so by registering at the links below. Here's the list:

~ **Sept. 27, Santa Maria**, 'Downtown Friday' with EV Showcase and Educational Booth. We will be returning for our third showing at this event. It's a local street fair and community happening. Register to participate @ <https://driveelectricweek.org/4404>

~**Sept 28, 2024. Port Hueneme** Banana Festival. We will return to this very active event which has lots of interest

from the Oxnard / Port Hueneme communities. Small EV showcase and all the bananas you can eat. Register to Participate @ <https://driveelectricweek.org/4402>

~ **Oct. 3 at CSUCI** to hold a National Drive Electric Week and Clean Air Day event at the campus.

This will be a good opportunity to connect with future EV drivers. Stay tuned for further information. Register to Participate @ <https://driveelectricweek.org/4403>

~ **Oct. 6, Ventura Harbor**. This is our big annual EV Showcase for National Drive Electric

Week in Ventura Harbor. Pencil in the date and join others who are registering early at <https://driveelectricweek.org/4123>

The event last year was fantastic if I say so myself. Your participation and help will make this year's event even better.

~**Oct 20, Thousand Oaks** Rotary Club Street Fair, website here: <https://tostreetfair.com>

We will host the "Return of the EV Showcase at Chick-fil-A" with Brian Pletcher serving as ringmaster of our booth and EV showcase. Please also sign up to volunteer at our booth. Register to attend and bring your vehicle at: <https://driveelectricweek.org/4378>



You can depend on our participation in events, such as the July 4 street fair in Ventura. Gang's all here, including our Ventura Sierra Club Ex-ExCom chair Julie Henzley, her husband Michael and their dog Cooper. Also seen is the man who puts together all our EV shows, Kent Bullard of EV Advocates, the one with the Cyber Truck. (Photo by Condor John)



Ventura to Ojai bike path is getting quite a makeover with new pavement and solar lighting from West Park through Sycamore Village. And just past the Village you'll see a brand new and awesome mural at the flood control gate, done by artist Anthony Ortiz, aka Antho. He won the job due to his prior murals in Oxnard and elsewhere, and his theme of "The Flora and Fauna of the Ventura River". Condor John found him finishing the mural of three panels.



"Overwhelming support" from the community has enabled the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy to protect 234 acres, across three parcels of land along the Ventura River, reaching its goal of \$4,146,000. "Let's take a moment to celebrate this success and the enduring legacy it creates for our valley and future generations," said Tania Parker, OVLC Deputy Director. Shown is the Riverview Trailhead. (Photo by Nathan Wickstrum)

Be a condor volunteer



Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex is seeking volunteers for upcoming workdays. Join the Friends of California Condors Wild and Free and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support our local national wildlife refuges at a 2024 volunteer workday event on three Saturdays:

- ~ Aug. 24 Hopper Mountain NWR
- ~ Sept. 28 Bitter Creek NWR
- ~ Oct. 26 Bitter Creek NWR

Volunteers should have the ability to carry and use hand tools



www.friendsofcondors.org

 FriendsOfCondors/
 FriendsOfCondors/
 @FriendsOfCondors/

such as shovels and pruners and the ability to walk distances up to two miles in occasionally rough terrain. Work involves such tasks as weed removal, trail maintenance, fence removal, facility maintenance, bird box installa-

EAVESDROPS

"JD Power Says EVs Cost Less to Own Than Gas Vehicles in All 50 States"

~ Reporting on a [recent video](#) by EV YouTuber Sam Evans, also known as the Electric Viking, The study reveals that electric vehicles (EVs) cost less to own than internal combustion vehicles over a five-year period in all 50 states in the United States.

tion, and California condor flight pen maintenance.

Condor sightings are possible but not guaranteed. For questions, contact:

kris@friendsofcondors.org
To sign up go to: www.friendsofcondors.org/events

Condor Viewing Booth

Join Friends of California Condors Wild and Free at our viewing booth on Hudson Ranch Road where it runs through the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge. This is an opportunity for guests to learn about California Condors and possibly see some out in the wild via a spotting scope and materials about the Condor Recovery Program and their historic nesting grounds at Bitter Creek.

No need to register, just drop by and learn about the critically endangered California condor, and hopefully see one in the wild. More info including directions at: kiosk@friendsofcondors.org

More Condor views are likely on the first and third Saturdays Aug. 3 and 17 and Sept. 7 and 21, 10am to 3pm.

The location is at the upper Bitter Creek NWR sign at 30018 Hudson Ranch Road between Maricopa and Pine Mountain Club. Look for the shade canopy and the life-sized condor banner.



Sightings...

continued from page 4

input, the plan will include recommendations for protecting significant resources, modernizing park infrastructure, adapting to climate change impacts, and providing sustainable recreational opportunities. Learn more and get involved here: <https://ecrgplanupdate.com/>

July 7: An injured hiker was airlifted from Seven Falls while hiking the Tunnel Trail after emergency personnel received a report of a 24-year-old female hiker sustaining a leg injury from a fall. Let's all give a shout-out and/or donations to the Search and Rescue teams in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties!

July 4: EVs and Classic Cars were on display downtown Ventura during and after its annual Street Fair & Pushem-Pullem Parade. Thanks to our Transportation Chair Kent Bullard of EV Advocates for informing the public about these clean cars. Lots of local music, eats and treats.

June 26: "Good news! This is a HUGE deal and defeat for the oil industry! Now communities finally will get the SB-1137 protections (3200 ft setbacks) from oil drilling," wrote our Chapter Chair Katie Davis when she heard that the oil industry was dropping its initiative for the November ballot that would not have given such protection.

June 15: Cougar found dead on the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills, not far from the Annenberg wildlife crossing being built to reduce the number of wildlife fatalities.

Already, there are signs that other animals are using the crossing, expected to be finished by 2016.

June 14: Newly restored trails at West Mesa provide expansive views from the San Marcos Foothills as the efforts continue to restore native habitats and species, noted Ray Ford, outdoor writer for Noozhawk. "The hike along the Westside Trail is as easy on the eyes and the feet as it gets," he writes. Read his story about the new changes at the San Marcos Preserve. <https://tinyurl.com/TrailsAtPreserve>

June 11: Carpinteria Bluffs got a line item for \$800,000 when the County Board of Supervisors approved the funding to preserve a part of the bluffs. Good news but our SB Group chair Jim Taylor said, "It's a drop in the bucket. The developer is still full speed ahead, unfortunately, and the City has very limited grounds on which to deny it." To learn more, or make a tax-deductible donation, the public is encouraged to visit: www.carpinteriablufts.org.

June 4: Zero Emissions by 2030. That's the goal of SB Metropolitan Transit District which will purchase eight new electric buses and charging stations. Cost is \$14.97 million, funded by grants etc.

June 6: Pot enterprise in Lompoc fined \$1.4 million for repeated air quality violations. Central Coast has agreed to settle the penalties associated with its cannabis manufacturing facility. Meanwhile, it has met APCD's requirements which will likely reduce its emissions by 90%.

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
where activism gets inspired

Saturday
August 24, 2024



VENTURA LAND TRUST venturallandtrust.org/events



What will your legacy be?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now, yet enable a powerful movement and vibrant outings programs for years to come.

(805) 617-3106
jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

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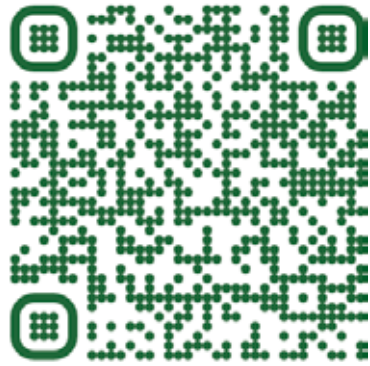


Take a Hike!

SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

UPDATES: www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura



HIKE WITH CLUB



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.

See updated listing of all outings via the QR code (above) or: <https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

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.



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.

- www.sierraclub.org/santabarbara-ventura
- www.LPFforest.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>



Our Sierra Club led a hike to Mt. Pinos a while back where this rock pile is located. Check out our link and others (below) welcoming hikes to just about everywhere locally. (Photo by Jean Paul Tummler)

From our Mountains to the Sea: Where to go?

“Maybe they shouldn’t be called hikes. Maybe that defeats the joy and the purpose. I don’t like either the word [hike] or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not ‘hike!’”

It’s a beautiful word and originated away back in the Middle Ages. People used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages asked where they were going, they would reply, ‘A la sainte terre’ (To the Holy Land). And so they became known as ‘sainte-terre-ers’ or saunters.

Given that Sierra Club’s co-founder John Muir was one of history’s greatest saunters, we should not only allow him his grumpiness, but give it profound consideration. And there is no better place than the Ventura - Santa Barbara region to amble in the great outdoors and give anything consideration.

As a wise soul once said, “It’s only in the great open spaces that we find ourselves.”

(Editor’s note: Taken from Visit Ventura website with light editing to include Santa Barbara! Photo:

<https://www.facebook.com/SteveACattanach>

Click to access all hikes

All links are now live!

We used to print our Sierra Club Outings here covering a two-month period. But we find that planning that far ahead may change due to weather, Covid restrictions, closures etc.

So, we ask that you now rely on the many Meetups and websites for the chapter and some others. For our chapter Meetups go to Group News box always on page 3, otherwise, here we go: The chapter’s website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura>

A very special personal website run by

Diane Soini which includes our chapter hikes, blogs, connections and a dragonfly on the screen:

Visit Ventura has a lot of information about hikes in the county and the Channel Islands. Go here:

<https://visitventuraca.com/biking-hiking/>

Los Padres National Forest is the turf for Los Padres Forest Association and it’s the ‘bible’ for the forest as it shares amazing information gleaned from hikers and others outdoor sites. Here’s its hiking site (see QR code too)

<https://www.hikelospadres.com>

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has a handy Trailfinder for our phone. Go to:

<http://www.ovlc.org/trailfinder/>

Going a bit more afield, the LA Times has published a trail guide for the So-Cal region here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NearUsLA>

Even more! UCSB’s Deborah Williams created a new and expanded website as part of her “Public Lands and Waters” class. Here’s the link:

<https://50greatpubliclanddestinations.org/>

Just do trails

Are you looking for a fun and rewarding way to explore new places on foot? Look no further than the Santa Barbara County Trails Council’s 5-Trails Challenge open to everyone, regardless of age or ability.

Participants who verify completing five hikes by Tuesday, Sept. 3, will be entered in a drawing for one of five prizes. The winners’ prizes will be awarded at a Trails Council event in Santa Barbara on Sunday, Sept. 8

The Trails Council is raising funds to repair the Midland School Trails burnt in the Lake Fire. Participants can register for the challenge by making a \$20 donation to support the Lake Fire Trail Fund. Miles of trails need rehabilitation before the fall hiking season and winter storms, so your donation will go a long way in ensuring that everyone can enjoy these revered trails.

To participate, hike five trails that you have not hiked before. Once you’ve completed a trail, submit or

post a photo of yourself on the trail until you have completed all five trails. It’s that easy!

It’s more than just a hike; it’s a journey of self-discovery. You’ll experience breathtaking views, get some exercise, and connect with nature. Those completing the challenge will receive a frameable certificate of completion and a custom-designed sticker.



Lace up your hiking boots, grab your phone, and head out on the trail!

For all information, visit the Trails Council’s website:

<https://sbtrails.org/5-trails-challenge/>



Here’s some hikers along the Arroyo Quemada trail in Santa Barbara, no doubt gearing up for the 5 Trail Challenge. (Photo by Justin Memenas)

ForestWatch creates ‘story maps’

Los Padres ForestWatch now has a new interactive “StoryMap” of Ventura County’s Wildlife Corridors and it is appealing and important.

Wildlife corridors are essential for protecting biodiversity in developed areas. ForestWatch conservation intern, Iris Yuh, created the latest information on those wildlife corridors.

“Highways, malls, housing developments, and more have all had

significant consequences for native plants and animals living in the area,” noted the ForestWatch website.

“It is necessary to find ways for humans in urban and suburban areas to coexist with local wildlife populations. Therefore, it is important to ensure that we work to strengthen the positive relationship between biodiversity conservation and people living in urban development, especially since it has been

shown that positive interactions between wildlife and humans have psychological benefits as well.

Our Santa Barbara -Ventura Sierra Club Chapter applauds the efforts and is sure to use the information for our adventures and activism for the wild.

Learn about their importance, see their locations, and explore ways to improve existing protections here:

<https://tinyurl.com/Ventura-Corridors>

EVENTS

July 31-Aug 11: **Ventura County Fair** at the Ventura County Fairgrounds is in its 150-year anniversary and features known musicians and tribute bands along with typical Fair goodies like agriculture (visit our Sierra Club display in the Ag building), plant and animal exhibits and contests. Details here: <https://venturacountyfair.org/>

Aug 10: **Free Family Day** at the California Nature Art Museum (formerly Wildling) 10am-3pm in Solvang. Enjoy a variety of art-and-nature inspired activities. Go to the website for many more events in the next two months: <https://www.calnatureartmuseum.org/>

Aug 11: **Invite to all enviros** for a bi-monthly kids bike fix & clean days at Ventura Bike HUB. We have bikes that need cleaning and light mechanical work. These bikes are donated to needy families and it’s a perfect way to fight climate change and get kids outdoors with a healthy lifestyle. Details and sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/MeetUpBikeFix>

Aug 21: **Happy Hour Fundraiser** for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper from 5:30-7:30 at Rincon Brewery 205 State St. Features libations, raffle, trivia quiz and prizes. Purchase ticket and details at: <https://www.sbck.org/>

Aug 24: **Wild & Scenic Film Festival**, returns for its 15th year for the Ventura Land Trust, AND The Ventura Sierra Club will have a welcoming booth along with other eco-groups all designed for a fun and educational affair starting with live music, food, and drink. Then an outdoor showing of nearly two hours of inspiring films. Details at: <https://www.venturalandtrust.org/wild-scenic-film-festival>

Sept 6: **TGIF resumes** at the Environmental Defense Center with live music, drinks, food vendors, raffle, and good company. It’s 5:30- 7:30 at the EDC Courtyard, 906 Garden Street. It repeats on Oct. 11. Details and tix at: www.environmentaldefensecenter.org

Sept 15: **ForestWatch Fall Family Festival** at the Stow House at Rancho La Patera in Goleta. It commemorates two decades of protecting wildlife, wilderness, water, and sustainable access to our region’s public lands. Sponsors welcome and details at: www.lpfw.org

Sept. 19: **Santa Rosa Island trip**, a unique visit to this island sponsored by Channel Islands Restoration, featuring white sand beaches, Torrey Pines, and endangered animals and plants. Details at: <https://cirweb.org/>

Sept 21: **2024 Green Gala**, set to take place with the theme, “Regeneration,” which underscores the crucial work being done to support climate action on the Central Coast of California. This is CEC’s largest fundraising event for local climate action and a sustainable future. Details at: www.cecsb.org

Sept 21: **Mountainfilm on Tour**, a fun and educational series of films benefitting the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. A farm-to-table dinner with music, films, etc. precedes it on Friday Sept. 20. Learn all about it at: www.OVLC.org/events

Labor Days to Bass Lake & Yosemite

Thanks to our hike leader Victoria Vohland, there are two outdoor events during Labor Day Weekend: at Bass Lake and Yosemite Valley.

Willow Creek Run is a 5k and Half Marathon on Aug. 31 at 8am. Join us for a scenic run at Bass Lake, going up Willow Creek. Enjoy the fresh mountain air and beautiful surroundings. The 5k Entry Fee: \$65 comprising 3.1 miles 600 feet elevation gain while the Half Marathon Entry Fee is \$125, which could result in prizes up to \$750.

For the race, there are no on-trail aid stations and bring your own water carrier and food. Race Volunteers will be able to provide minimal aid. Snacks will be provided at the end (oranges, pickles, bananas).

Also, free Swag bags will be distributed the day before at the campsite (Lupine Site 64). Sticks, full size Dragons Fire Pain Relief Balm, and more retailed at \$60+ dollars.

Ten percent of all proceeds go to Sierra Club donations. Look for Dragons Fire banners.

Check weather, plan clothing, gear, as needed and there will be an optional Lake "polar plunge" at the end.

Volunteers are needed to help manage the event. As a token of appreciation, volunteers will receive a free campground spot from Thursday to Monday at Bass Lake.

Volunteer Tasks include monitoring the trail and runners, stand at turn-around points and help remove trail tags/trash at the end of the race.

Yosemite Falls Hike on Sept. 1 at 7am, a moderate 7.2-mile hike, 2,425ft elevation gain. The cost is \$50 and includes park entrance, shuttle, guided hike and donation to Sierra Club.

Dress appropriately and bring water, wear lug-soled footwear, and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Meet at the Lupine campsite #64; we can carpool in to avoid additional park fees and permit restrictions. Note: Avoid the car lines into Yosemite by arriving early.

Volunteers are also needed to co-lead the Yosemite Falls hike and assist with any additional needs. Medical safety forms are required.

To volunteer, call Victoria at 480 231-2008 or email: vic.vohland@gmail.com

Adventures with a cause

Embark on a journey where adventure meets purpose!

At Sierra Club Outings, we love to recreate in nature and are dedicated to being responsible stewards of the environment. Give back to the planet and join us for a fun and affordable volunteer vacation!

Take your pick of projects such as building and maintaining trails or removing invasive plants. Our service trips often have leisure time scheduled for hiking, swimming, and more.

After a day of fulfilling work or play, you will be treated to delicious camp dinners served by our renowned and experienced volunteer cook staff. **Spaces are filling up fast so reserve your spot on a service trip while there's still room!**

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/GetOutdoorTrips>

SIERRA CLUB
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Contact Gerry Ching to get your free training and start leading hikes today!

gching@cox.net email
805-637-1052 text

Scan to learn more

<https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/become-leader>

SIERRA CLUB
SANTA BARBARA-VENTURA CHAPTER

4 REASONS TO BECOME A HIKE LEADER TODAY!

- 1 Get free training from an experienced hiker
- 2 Create fun hiking trips for members in our beautiful and diverse wildlands
- 3 Network with like-minded people and develop new leadership skills
- 4 Get discounts on premium outdoor apparel and gear

Wilderness Basics Course reunion makes us happy

By Dinh Thai

Join us for our first annual Wilderness Basics Course staff and participants' car camp reunion potluck. It will be a great opportunity for us to meet up and reconnect since our class in 2023.

It is a potluck event so please bring something to share. Also let us know what dish you will bring when you RSVP.

I'm asking for a \$10 donation per person to offset the campsite

cost. Any extra funds will be used to purchase drinks, ice, plates, utensils etc. We are limited to 50 people at our site so this will be a first pay - first reserve situation. I can create a waitlist once we exceed 50 participants.

You may choose to come for the day or camp with us. Parking is \$10 per vehicle so carpooling is recommended. There are several hiking trails in the area to explore.

For details, please contact me via email at babykiwi77@hotmail.com to reserve or with any questions.

Date: September 21 - 22, 2024. Check in: 3:30pm, Check out: 11:30am. Site will be at Sage Hill Campground, 3585 Paradise Rd. Santa Barbara.

Disclaimer: This is NOT a WBC Sierra Club event. Your safety is your own responsibility.



Progress & politics

During this crucial 2024 election season, all eyes are on the presidency, but the 'down ballots' in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are just as critical for our well-being.

We hope we can count on your support for our local Sierra Club's critical actions because we are powerful together, and the exceptional support you provide as a member helps to power not only our environmental actions and advocacy, but also the work of our local political committees. Thank you!

Right now, we are laying the groundwork for political endorsements across our chapter - from Santa Maria to Thousand Oaks.

We are working with an unprecedented number of candidates, and we need resources to support this critical work. For example, in Ventura County, there is a 3-2 majority of the supervisors who are funded by and support the oil/gas industries and refuse to allow even the most rational of environmental controls.

We all know that local elec-

tions are highly consequential - and the time to prevent the most dangerous consequences like electing more fossil fuel allies is now. But the good news is that there is still time to help determine the outcome of many key local and state campaigns.

Our leaders are doing the hard work of supporting environmentally conscious candidates and working to get out the vote this fall.

Fossil fuel and other polluting industries are already contributing heavily to elect local candidates who will let them expand drilling and industrial activity on our public lands and waters.

Your Chapter political committees have a track record of success by endorsing and promoting candidates with climate-forward agendas.

We urgently need your help and any gift you can make to our local chapter will go a long way in protecting our local air and water, and the community your live in to best sustain our lives and families. Donate here:

<https://tinyurl.com/DonateSclub>



Lots of grins, guts and gumption during a Wilderness Basics Course segment. Unfortunately, the program is on hiatus after the untimely passing of one of its founders, Teresa Norris. But hope springs eternal and perhaps the reunion will revive it. The are (from left) Carl Meinhof, Carthik Sharma, John Simon, Dinh Thai, Pete Chavez and Patty Peinado. (Photo contributed)

It's wild, it's scenic happening Aug. 24th

Ventura Land Trust's annual flagship event -- *Wild & Scenic Film Festival* -- returns for its 15th year on Saturday, Aug. 24. Ventura Sierra Club will have a welcoming booth along with other eco-groups all designed for a fun and educational evening. Details and tix here: www.venturalandtrust.org/wild-scenic-film-festival

In addition to nearly two hours of inspiring environmental and activism-focused films, attendees can expect local musicians (Spencer the Gardener!), local food, and a selection of beer-wine from Ventura County locals.

VLT is the entity that is conserving nearly 4,000 acres from the Ventura River (Big Rock) to Harmon Canyon and at the left tree of Two Trees above the city (aka Mariano Rancho). It has changed the environmental dynamic in the county.

The festival site overlooks the ocean at the Ventura County Credit Union headquarters, 2575 Vista Del Mar Dr, Ventura.

Other features are an onsite raffle, and online silent auction. Beverages from Topa Topa, Castoro Cellars, Balcom Cider, Ventura Spirits, and food from a variety of local food trucks will be available for purchase.

In the Ventura Vibe VIP

Lounge, dinner and small bites will be paired with a curated selection of wine, beer, and cocktails. VIP Lounge guests will also enjoy comfortable seating and indoor bathrooms!

This is a family-friendly event, and attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets to take advantage of the lawn. Doors will open at 5pm, with film screenings starting just before 8pm as the sun goes down.

General admission tickets are \$40, children \$5 and teens (13-17) at \$10. For those seeking an elevated experience, VIP tickets are available for \$125 and offer exclusive early access to the Ventura Vibe VIP Lounge, providing additional free beverage and food options.

Tickets and vendor details are at:

www.venturalandtrust.org/wsf2024

Beyond being VLT's signature community event, the festival serves as a call to action and encourages attendees to learn more about what they can do to save our threatened planet. Your support helps Ventura Land Trust restore habitat, build trails, plant trees, and clean up local rivers. Its Preserves are open daily for visitors to enjoy, and always for free.

SIERRA CLUB

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New leader will keep the Sespe wild!

By John Hankins

Long-time advocate for Keep the Sespe Wild (KSW), Alasdair Coyne, is handing over his leader's baton to Peter Deneen, an award-winning writer and a guy who snatched his friend's 50-pound dog from a cougar's jaws while running in Sisar Canyon.

As for his environmental chops, he has studied climate science at Columbia and permaculture design at Cuyama Quail Springs. "It's design science for regenerative human resettlement," he explained, "which focuses on mimicking nature; I really liked that, and its focus was on water, which is limiting in our area." But it could be helped by re-introducing beavers, an idea pondered by our Ventura Sierra Club.

A resident of Ojai after moving from New York, Deneen has a vision for a more modern and public persona for KSW. That means creating a modern website and social media presence. Interactive maps, advocacy, robust search engines along with educational quali-



Peter Deneen, about that dog rescue. Go here: <https://tinyurl.com/PeterVScougar>

ties would follow along.

He would continue the ongoing defense of Pine Mountain and the Sespe's watershed, which means steelhead passages from the sea to fresh water, amphibians, frogs and toads. He also envisions a more active relationship with schools and non-profits.

Meanwhile, Coyne is going out on a roll, living his legacy. KSW started in 1988 to preserve Sespe Creek, one of Southern California's last free-flowing rivers. Of the Sespe's 55 miles, 31.5 were given federal Wild & Scenic River status in 1991.

"I've been doing it for 35 years, it's time to pass the baton on," said the 70-year-old.

The activist group has had success. Its latest venture was to appeal the approval by a lower court of the U.S. Forest Service's plan to log hundreds of acres of old-growth conifer forests along the ridge of Pine Mountain, at the high point of the watershed of Sespe Creek.

"We have had a wonderful response to our online appeal to protect 423 acres of the old-growth forests atop Pine Mountain from the U.S. Forest Service's ill-advised logging and thinning proposal," Coyne said, adding "This marks the FIRST time in our 35 years that we have asked our supporters to fund a specific appeal."

Previously, Coyne became celebrated when he fought hard against the Forest Service's Adventure Pass. Courts decided the Forest Service could charge for developed sites, but allowed free access to all undeveloped forest areas.

He is also proud that, "I led



Here's the long-time leader of Keep the Sespe Wild, Alasdair Coyne, "In my favorite place, floating around the many pools in the Sespe Gorge every summer." He'll still be around even after he handed the baton over to Peter Deneen, who can be reached at: peter.f.deneen@gmail.com

over 90 trips into the Sespe to get rid of Tamarisk, and I recently saw no new Tamarisk in the Sespe Gorge area."

The hand-off comes at a time when much of the Sespe was closed due to weather damage, notably Highway 33, which is now open but with three sets of traffic signals between Ojai and the Rose Valley turnoff.

"After a year of no access to the upper Sespe, it is a joy and delight to be up there again!" he said.

Deneen envisions KSW modifying from being a 501c4 activist group (donations not tax deductible) to adding a 501c3 foundation that could accept donations for its work.

KSW's board on June 4th accepted Deneen as its chief executive officer and conservation director.

He wasn't exactly a stranger having gone out to the Sespe with Alasdair and ten other people. on an annual hike. Alasdair slipped after jumping in the creek. He managed to hike back without a helicopter rescue. "It took 2 days, so we got to know each other," Deneen said."

Peter's background shows his grit and determination: 12 years in US Coast Guard, with a specialty of maritime enforcement, like high seas drug, piracy and counter terrorism. "It gave me experience in managing stakeholders and situations."

"I feel well prepared." he concluded.