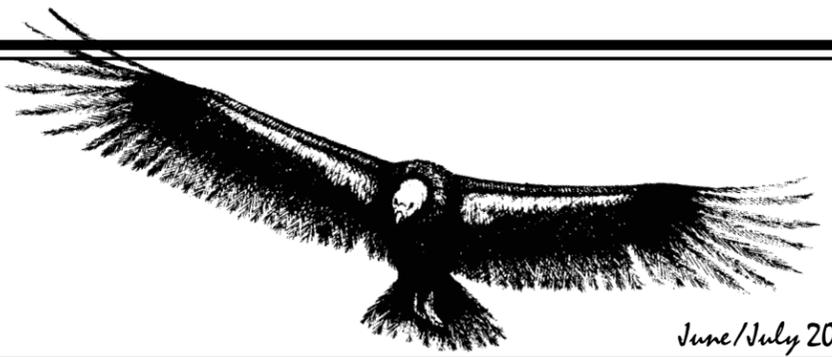


Condor Call

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



June/July 2006

Hearings set for Islands' sanctuary plan



It took split-second timing to get this image of the famed Arch Rock, perhaps the most familiar image of the Channel Islands (east Anacapa Island). A new plan for the future of the marine sanctuary around all five islands is now out and awaiting your comment. (Photo by Robert "Swift Shutter" Bernstein)

The six-mile buffer around the five northern Channel Islands is a national marine sanctuary, and a new plan on how best to manage it, is out for public comment until July 21.

Sierra Club California is offering four- and five-day adventure cruises to all five islands. See story on page 6.

Public hearings are scheduled in Ventura (Tuesday, June 27, 6-9 p.m. at Sheraton, 1050 Schooner Dr.) and Santa Barbara (Thursday, June 29, 6-9 p.m. at Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real).

The draft plan, not updated for 26 years, suggests regulating various activities within the sanctuary, such as boat discharges and banning "personal watercraft" within one mile of the park. The most controversial aspects of restricting fishing and extending the boundaries are not part of this release.

To view the details, go to local libraries or log on to: www.channelislands.noaa.gov.

You can also request a copy (on paper or CD) by calling 884-1464 or emailing: mp.request@noaa.gov.

Comments should be sent by the July 21 deadline to: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Management Plan Coordinator, 113 Harbor Way #150, Santa Barbara CA 93109 or via email: cinms.mgt-plan@noaa.gov.

New idea offers hope for foothills

Julie Kummel

SAN MARCOS Foothills COALITION

A revised project for the San Marcos Foothills has been presented that would not only protect the West Mesa, but allow the public access to it.

The Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Environmental Defense Center, San Marcos Foothills Coalition and developer Bob Comstock—who worked closely with

conservation organizations to protect Ellwood Bluffs—agreed on an alternate development plan.

The Sierra Club's Santa Barbara Group is part of the coalition and has approved the new plan "in principle."

To protect habitats and species of the West Mesa, Comstock proposes to cluster up to 44 units around the southern portion of the mesa near Via Gaitero. The alternate plan would add about 100 acres to the already protected 200-acre designated remainder, and eliminate the already approved eight mansions and "private conservation areas" from the West Mesa.

If the obstacles can be surmounted, this bold plan would contain the development adjacent to the foothill ecosystem to the smallest

possible footprint, and eliminate prominent hilltop development. The "Comstock Plan" would decrease fragmentation of the unique and fragile foothill ecosystem, and would allow public access to the west side of the property. It would also cluster development near the existing urban boundary.

Last summer SWAP, represented by the EDC, appealed the Planning Commission's approval of the Preserve at San Marcos to the Board of Supervisors.

Despite voluminous comments, extensive arguments, and the involvement of dozens of community supporters, the appeal was denied and the project approved in November 2005. Litigation appeared the only remaining option.

Without an alternative to the development approved by the County in November 2005, the West Mesa of San Marcos Foothills would soon become a memory to the few who witnessed its unique ecology and cultural history firsthand.

Lacking a new vision, the songs

of birds would be replaced by the sounds of explosives used to pulverize the ancient boulders and of bulldozers grinding and grading the tops of the hills. Under the approved project, eight large mansions, each with acres of private backyards, would be built, placing nearly the entire West Mesa behind "No Trespassing" signs.

San Marcos Foothills is a place of many pleasures—a place where one can experience the last assemblage of foothill habitats that were once a common part of our local landscape. The songs of birds drum and echo across the intact grasslands, woodlands and canyons of San Marcos Foothills.

Located at the edge of our urban landscape next to Highway 154 and north of Foothill Road, these unique foothills can be seen from the coast and many neighborhoods of Santa Barbara and Goleta. The West Mesa is an essential part of this foothill ecosystem—it is a gateway to wilderness, a place still alive with the songs of grasshopper sparrows,

Foothills . . . page 3

EAVESDROPS

"All those years the right wing sat around yammering about government incompetence, and it took this administration to make it true."

—Columnist Molly Ivans in a long list of "heck-of-a-jobs" committed by the Bush Administration.

Meet legislators and change their minds

You can get directly involved in helping Sierra Club California discuss priority environmental issues with our state legislators at the state capitol during our annual Lobby Day, set for Monday, August 14.

Beginners are welcome, as there is training by SCC's professional lobbyists on the day before, Sunday Aug. 13, in Sacramento.

This is a great opportunity to protect the environment by influencing the political process and to practice your advocacy skills, as well as meet new people with simi-

lar issue interests from around the state.

The training provides guidelines for achieving successful meetings with legislators and their staff, along with information on the legislative process and "talking points" on the priority bills that you will discuss in the capitol.

Participants will attend meetings with key legislators and will end with a debriefing and wrap-up back at the Sierra Club office.

SCC will provide free hotel accommodations and meals, and most transportation expenses will be reimbursed with prior approval.

Deadline to register is August 1, but due to demand, register ASAP.

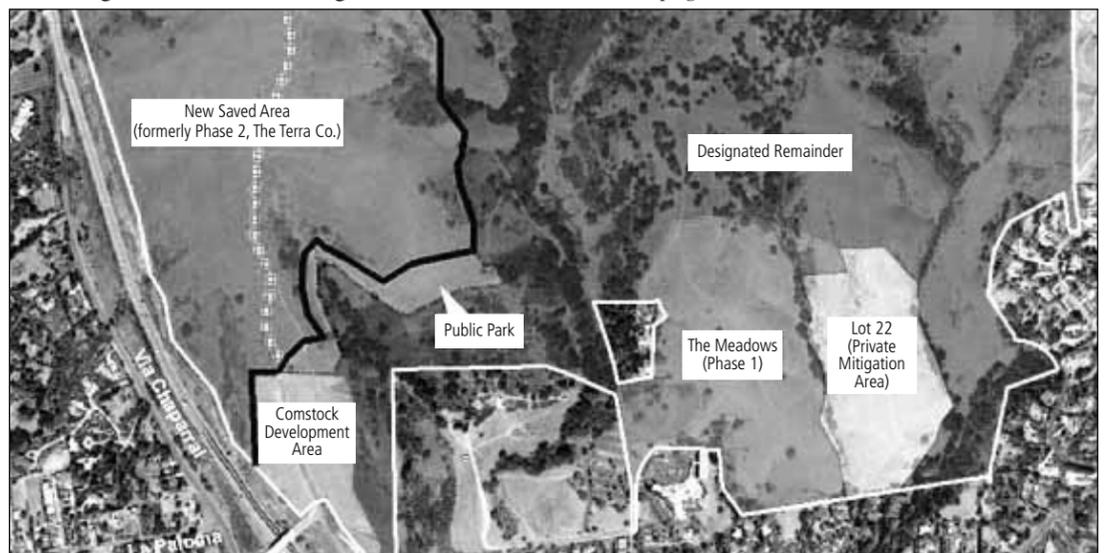
Contact Sabrina Juarez, Sierra Club California legislative aide, for more information at (916) 557-1100 ext.107 or email: Juarez@sierraclub.org.

New solar web shines

The California Energy Commission has a new and practical website about alternative forms of energy you can use now at www.newsolarhomes.ca.gov

It is part of the Million Solar Roofs Initiative, which seeks to gain 3,000 megawatts of solar electricity in the next decade. The website features much information about solar, wind and other renewable energies, rebates and numerous links to companion sites.

Current priority is working with developers for new residential plans, plus school districts and local governments, followed by solar installations on existing buildings, both residential and commercial.



Generally bounded by Highway 154 (left) and Highway 192 (Foothill Road, bottom of map, not shown), developers have long wanted to build expensive homes in this area. However, a coalition has presented this new plan that has much less impact than the mansions planned for the large area to the left and along Hwy 154.

COVER PHOTO

The birds, bees and blooms are all bursting with energy this Spring on the Channel Islands and the excitement is palpable, according to our photographer Robert Bernstein. There are special trips planned (see story on page 6) and a management plan out (see story above).



ChannelKeeper's Leigh Ann Grabowsky samples the water in the Ventura River, part of a five-year effort to determine the source and amount of pollution. Volunteers are needed to help in this effort (see story below).

Tests show pollution high in some creeks

After five years of monitoring the Ventura River Watershed, Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper revealed pollution from agriculture and urban runoff that is causing extensive nutrient and bacterial pollution problems.

The most severe problem from the sampling identifies treated sewage effluent, animal waste from horse and cattle facilities, faulty septic systems, pet waste, general urban runoff, fertilization and irrigation of golf courses, parks and landscaping as the probable sources of nutrient pollution.

Two areas were particularly high in nutrient pollution: along Canada Larga and San Antonio creeks.

The report makes a number of recommendations, including education of property owners, agricultural and horse facility operators about better ways to manage and keep their waste out of local creeks, and

heightened enforcement of water quality and discharge standards by regulatory agencies. To read the full report, go to www.sbck.org.

Launched in January 2001, the Ventura Stream Team goals are to collect baseline data on the health of the Ventura River watershed; to identify sources of pollution, and to educate and train a force of volunteer watershed stewards.

Since the project's inception, more than 350 volunteers have contributed more than 3,600 hours to the project. To get involved, contact ChannelKeeper at 563-3377 or ben@sbck.org

Two government agencies provided funds and the California Coastal Conservancy just approved a \$100,000 grant to support an expansion of the Stream Team to identify and develop plans for habitat restoration projects in the Lower Ventura River watershed.

Transportation tax improves

(Editor's note: The Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors on May 23 unanimously agreed to put the \$1.6 billion "Measure D" sales tax measure on the November ballot. A majority of the county's cities must render a similar decision before it's a done deal.)

By Robert Bernstein

Pressure by the Sierra Club and the rest of the Coalition for a Fair Measure D has moved us closer to sustainable transportation.

The Santa Barbara Association of Governments (county and cities) tried to push through a renewal of the existing Measure D sales tax, which primarily has been a \$30 million/year subsidy for private motor vehicle use.

Fuel taxes have been falling in real dollars for decades and Measure D subsidized these low taxes with a Santa Barbara County sales tax on all goods for traditional road projects, but 22 local environmental and social justice groups joined together to lobby for a fairer use of this sales tax.

SBCAG tried to appease the coalition by adding a second sales tax measure for sustainable transportation to the ballot. But it would only have passed if Measure D were renewed by the voters and would also need its own two-thirds majority vote.

The Coalition prevailed in demanding that there be just one measure. This new Measure contains the funding for buses, rail, bikeways, pedestrian projects and safe routes to schools in addition to the road projects. The compromise would earmark 57 percent of the sales tax revenue for road maintenance and projects and 43 percent for alternative transportation, such as expanding regional bus routes, possibility of a commuter rail, more van pools and ride sharing.

The new Measure D still contains the subsidies for driving that go against Sierra Club policy, however. This policy can be seen at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/trans.asp>

It reads, in part: "These subsidies should be publicly scrutinized and eliminated by appropriate fuel and carbon taxes, parking and road user charges, annual vehicle fees, and elimination of tax credits and deductions for motor vehicle use."

The Coalition decided that it would strongly endorse this plan in

order to get guaranteed funding for the sustainable transportation projects. Now, the hard work of passing this Measure with a two-thirds vote before 2010 just begins.

Measure D was passed in 1989, imposing a half-cent sales tax increase over a period of twenty years solely to fund transportation projects and programs. It has garnered \$270 million so far and revenues will continue to be collected until the program sunset date in April 2010, unless the voters extend the tax.

Thanks for the plug, Doc

Dr. James Caballero, the spirited "Hike With Doc" leader who also creates his own trail maps of Ventura area for sale, has graciously sent the following notice to his regular participants to join the Sierra Club and go on our outings.

"In an effort to promote more hikes for you, I am enclosing the Sierra Club's Newsletter, *Condor Call*. It is easy to log on to and not only can you read interesting articles but you can view their complete schedule of hikes.

"Don't be shy. You can meet new people and see new trails and be with leaders who know the areas. My schedule may be changing and I may not be available to lead hikes. As of today, I have scheduled hikes thru August. I'll let you know about future hikes later."

1. Log on to www.lospadres.sierraclub.org

club.org

2. Click on 'Newsletter.'
3. Click on current issue (i.e., 2006 Apr/May)

4. Read any article and/or scroll down to "Outings Schedule."
"Take a hike with any group. The leader's phone number is usually posted and he/she can help you if you have any questions.

"Lastly, I recommend that you all join the Sierra Club. It is about \$35 per year. The Sierra Club does a lot to help safeguard the trails and protect valuable land for our use. It is a small price to pay for such great rewards.

"The Sespe Group representative is Joy Kobayashi and if you have any question in regards to the Sierra Club, ask her at: tandemstoker@adelphia.net"

Best regards, Dr. Caballero

Delisting plovers targeted

Editor, *Condor Call*:

Would you believe groups like the Surf Beach Commission and the Audubon Society both want to have the Western snowy plover delisted?

The Surf Beach Commission and similar groups have been trying to achieve their goal of delisting through legal action, while Audubon and other like-minded groups have made their effort through proactive conservation programs.

These programs have resulted in an overall increase in the WSP population statewide and in our local area. Continued success of the programs will result in fulfilling the requirements of maintaining a healthy WSP population, allowing it to be delisted.

Habitat integrity is more than protecting one species. Habitat that is being protected for the WSP is also home to various plants, animals and insects.

Without "plover habitat," the others would no longer have a place to exist. Lompoc would be left with barren beaches devoid of wildlife instead of one of the last truly wild

beaches accessible to the public.

The La Purisima Audubon Society believes that education is the vital first step in providing a foundation for understanding what is needed to protect the beach habitat not only for the wildlife including the WSP, but also for the enjoyment of beach visitors. Over the last three years LPAS has conducted the Beach Ecology Program at Surf Beach to help visitors understand and appreciate the entire beach ecology, including the part the WSP plays in having a healthy beach.

Beach Ecology Program volunteers can usually be located on Surf Beach between noon and 2 p.m. each Sunday during the plover-breeding season. You are encouraged to drop by to talk with our volunteers, take a look at the plover, ask questions, maybe learn something new and most importantly enjoy one of the things Lompoc can be proud of—a truly beautiful, wild beach.

John Vickers, *President*

LA PURISIMA AUDUBON SOCIETY
JfV@lapurismaaudubon.org

Foothills . . .

Cont'd. from page 2

lazuli buntings and red-tailed hawks, the movements of small animals in coastal sage scrub, and swells of native grasslands. It's a place with majestic boulder fields where birds and snakes sleep, where a coyote can hide.

The Coalition explored raising funds for the purchase of the property, but funding sources outside the coastal zone are few, even for lands as special as the West Mesa. Private sources would be hard pressed to underwrite such an effort. It became apparent that some other method of preservation had to be developed.

But as part of the appeal to the Supervisors, a series of negotiations took place exploring other ways to save the West Mesa. As part of a comprehensive settlement, the landowners agreed to give the Coalition and SWAP a two-year option to propose a revised project for the West Mesa.

SWAP believes the alternative plan meets the challenge to find a project that is economically and technically feasible and that preserves the vital resources on the West Mesa.

The revised project will now undergo a supplemental environmental analysis and hearings before the Planning Commission. The Coalition encourages members of the public to join us in this important effort to preserve the vast majority of the San Marcos Foothills property and protect its ecological value.

For more information visit the San Marcos Foothills Coalition website, www.sanmarcosfoothills.org.



La Purisima Audubon runs the Beach Ecology Program at Surf Beach with the help of volunteers. Here, Bruce Beebe (vest) educates visitors about the sensitive habitat needed by the endangered snowy plover. To get involved in this and other Lompoc-area programs, go to www.lapurismaaudubon.org (Photo by John Vickers)

Condor Call

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www.santabarbaratrailguide.com

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Art Benkaim, 645 Costa del Mar, #C, Santa Barbara 93103

Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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The Chapter Executive Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of each month

at IHOP Restaurant at the Casitas Pass Rd. exit off Hwy. 101 in Carpinteria, 7:30 p.m.

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Joe Connett, secretary, joe.connett@nav.mil

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Conejo: Jeri Andrews, 379-2768

Santa Barbara: Ed Easton, 967-1113

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Conservation Chair Santa Barbara:

Legal Chair: David Gold, 642-7748

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Joy Kobayashi, tandemstoker@adelphia.net

Ada Babine, 962-2042, Council of Club Leaders

Treasurer: Richard Hunt, 962-8166

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Outings Schedule

Los Padres Chapter — Sierra Club

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>



The wildly successful annual "Museum Gone Wild" event this year on Sept. 2 will feature Kim Stroud of the Ojai Raptor Center, who will be showing live birds (such as this peregrine falcon named Sophia) and snakes at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. Now showing is Ventura photographer Stephen Schafer's historic images and on July 15 he'll have a live show of "vintage views." (Photo by Kim Faust)

Forest campgrounds ready for heavy summer use

Summer is a great time to visit Los Padres National Forest, but high fire danger of heavy vegetation from winter rains makes it necessary to be extra careful.

Many campgrounds are available on a first come basis, while others require reservations. Campsites can be reserved by calling (877) 444-6777 or online at www.Reserveusa.com.

Visit the Los Padres National Forest website for names, locations and amenities of campgrounds in the forest: www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/camping.

Wood and charcoal fires or barbecues are allowed in provided stoves or fire rings in developed campgrounds and picnic sites. If you intend to visit backcountry areas, make sure you have a campfire permit, available free at ranger stations, LPNF offices, Visitors' Center on Highway 33 behind Ojai (see list on page 4) and online at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/passes/campfire.

Backcountry streams, creeks and pools can be deceiving. All water sources on the Los Padres should be considered unsafe to drink without treatment.

Carry bottled water with you. Some water sources can be treacherous for swimming or diving due to rocks, tree stumps and other natural debris.

The so-called "Adventure Pass" continues to be required for day use activities in the forest's most popular and heavily visited areas including Goldhill and Ballinger (Mt. Pinos Ranger District); Rose Valley (Ojai Ranger District); Santa Ynez Recreation Area (Santa Barbara Ranger District); Figueroa Mountain and Pozo-La Panza (Santa Lucia Ranger District)

The Forest Service is now transitioning into a new policy regarding fee compliance, now in effect. Anyone who repeatedly fails to pay the recreation fee may receive a citation, with a fine of \$100 for the first citation. The Pass is \$5 per day or \$35 per year, but Golden Passes are valid.

Volunteers are always needed to help maintain and/or renovate trails. Contact the Forest Service or the non-profit Los Padres Forest Association (both listed on page 4) for schedules.

EAVESDROPS

"The hikes made me feel better . . . because random thoughts on the trail reminded me of the important things in life."

—Lifestyle sports columnist Mike Takeuchi (*Santa Barbara News-Press*), writing about how hiking is healthy in more ways than the physical.

June 7
NEWTON CANYON - BACKBONE: Moderate 5-6 mrt hike with 800' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at Kmart on Hampshire Road, near Burger King, in Thousand Oaks at 5:30pm or at the trailhead just north of the third tunnel on Kanan Road at 5:50pm. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

June 9
STUNT HIGH TRAIL: Moderate 8 mrt hike of 4 hours duration. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. See big rock formations. Meet in parking lot near Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 12
MONDAY MORNING WALK - VENTURA HARBOR: Start the week off with a five-mile walk in our local area. Meet at 8:30am. Harbor Boulevard and Spinnaker. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

June 14
ROSEWOOD TRAIL LOOP: Moderate 6 mrt loop hike with 700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet in the parking lot on Lynn Road 100 yards west of the intersection of Ventu Park Road at 5:30pm. SANDY CORRIGELLO 584-8781 (CJ)

June 16
MOUNT BONEY TRAIL - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderately strenuous 10 mrt hike with 1500' (est.) elev. gain along Mt. Boney Trail (not to peak). Get close to the mountain and enjoy beautiful vistas. Wear light-colored long pants (ticks) and lug-soled shoes. Bring water and food. Meet at Satwiwa parking lot (entrance on Via Goleta before Two Winds Riding Stables on Lynn Road next to Dos Vientos in Newbury Park) no later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

June 17
PIEDRA BLANCA POOLS: Moderate 8 mile hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek. If it is nice, a swim might be fun at a deep pool where we stop for lunch. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 8am, Ventura carpool lot. Suzanne 643-2815 (SP)

June 18
RED ROCK TO GIBRALTAR DAM AND THE MINE: Hike up the road to Gibraltar Dam and on to an old mercury mine. Then walk back past a popular swimming area. Moderate-strenuous 10 mrt. Bring swimsuit, wading shoes, lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 681-0916/965-9953 (SB)

June 19
WILDWOOD PARK - FATHERS' DAY HIKE - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy 2.5 mrt with minimal elev. gain. Look for wild roses and other spring flowers. Meet at 3pm in the parking lot at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. TOM MAXWELL 492-2184 (CJ)

June 20
SERRANO CANYON TRAIL MAINTENANCE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Meet 8:30am at Sycamore Canyon day parking. Entrance is north off Pacific Coast Highway at Sycamore Canyon. Tell the attendant that you are part of the volunteer trail crew. Leader: TOM SIEBERT (818) 865-1594 (CJ)

June 21
RAY MILLER TRAIL TO LA JOLLA VALLEY: Moderate 7 mile in La Jolla Valley. Great view of coastline and the islands. Meet 8:45am at La Jolla Canyon parking lot. Wear trail shoes, hat, sunscreen. Bring water, snack, lunch. Ben 479-4846 (SP)

June 22
SUMMERLAND SCENIC WALK: This is an easy 1.7 mrt walk around the hills and streets of Summerland. We will start at Lookout Park in Summerland and walk up Ortega Ridge via Evans Ave. and the Ortega Ridge Ranch connector trail. We will take the short path to Ortega Ridge Rd. and catch our breath. We will follow the extension of this trail into the hills back of Summerland, returning to the streets of Summerland at Olive Ave. We may be hiking thru some high grass, so long pants are recommended. We will return to Lookout Park via Banner Ave. Bring a light snack and water. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

June 23
FOREST TRAIL MAINTENANCE - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Meet 8:30am at the Malibu Creek day parking lower lot for shuttle to the trailhead. Tell the attendant that you are part of the volunteer trail crew. Leader: BURT ELLIOTT 498-2475 (CJ)

June 24
SULPHUR MTN: Hike and dinner afterwards at the Oak Pit in Oak View. Meet at 4pm at the trailhead at the end of So. Sulphur Mtn. road, turnout @1.2 mile to the right beyond Casitas Springs. Moderate 6 mrt, bring water. SHEILA 649-9044 (SP)

June 25
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderate 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 687-1929 (SB)

June 26
SYCAMORE CANYON TO DANIELSON RANCH: Easy, leisurely paced 8 mrt hike thru Big Sycamore Canyon to Danielson Ranch for lunch under the trees. Bring water, lunch, hat, and insect repellent (optional). Meet 9am at old bridge by entrance to Sycamore Canyon campground (parking fee or park along PCH where allowed). Ted Guenther 985-8963 (SP)

June 27
MONDAY MORNING WALK - EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH: Start the week off with a five-mile walk in local area. Meet at 8:30am at the parking lot end of Main Street before the bridge. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

June 28
OLD CABIN SITE: Moderate 6 mrt hike with approx. 700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at Wendy and Potrero trailhead in Newbury Park at 5:30pm. LINDA BARRY 492-0071 (CJ)

June 10
SNYDER TRAIL: Hike up from Paradise Road to the remains of Knapps Castle. Enjoy breathtaking views of mountains while eating lunch. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850

June 11
FISH CREEK: Long car pool to Nira Camp, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to nice water falls. Moderate 9mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID 563-2176 (SB)

June 12
SANDSTONE PEAK - MISHE MOKWA TRAIL: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1500' elev. gain. Highest point in the Santa Monicas. Great views. Hike past balanced rock and eagle perch. Loop back via Backbone Trail to the parking area. Meet in parking lot at Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. SANDY CORRIGELLO 584-8781 (CJ)

Outing Notes
The two letter abbreviation at the end of each outing is a key to the group who has organized the outing.
AR—Arguello Group
CJ—Conejo Group
SB—Santa Barbara Group
SP—Sespe Group
WLA—West LA (Angeles Chapter)
All phone numbers are in area code (805) unless otherwise noted.
The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have questions contact the leader listed. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.
A frequently updated listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>. This website also contains links to the Group web pages.

Ongoing Outings

Every Monday morning

Join Elizabeth Budworth and Patricia Jump every Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. for moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. Now in its seventh year, the walks last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. CALL 643-0270 or 642-6971.

Every Wednesday

URBAN EVENING HIKE: Weekly urban hike in Ventura meeting at 6:45 pm for a 4 mile hike up the hill to Father Serra's cross with view of sunset over the ocean and the Channel Islands, then down the hill to the ocean and walk to end of pier, then along beach promenade to mouth of Ventura River. Meet at the fountain across the street from the San Buenaventura Mission. DAVE RIVAS 701-2466

Tuesday Evenings

HIKES: Short, easy 90-min. hikes at Surf Beach, the Mission, Miguelito Canyon, or other spots near Lompoc (approx. 3 miles) Novice hikers will find these hikes to be a good introduction to group hiking. Meet in the parking lot behind the Lompoc Civic Center Pool by 6:25 pm for carpool to hike location. Wear walking shoes and bring a flashlight. Rain cancels. VERN 733-2903 or DEAN 736-6685. (AR)

Every Friday

SOCIAL HIKE: An easy-to-moderate 2-4-mrt night hike in Santa Barbara front country, beach, or back roads. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at the Old Mission. Bring a flashlight. Optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLAYDEK (SB)

Sunday Afternoons

CONEJO GROUP is leading a special series of Sunday Afternoon Hikes approximately twice a month. These hikes are geared to the interests of individuals or families who wish to take a 2-3-hr. walk in the outdoors with frequent stops to examine or study wildlife and the ecology. Exercise is of secondary concern. The hikes are not intended to be strenuous, but may entail some ascending of hills or walking on rocks. No pets or radios. TOM MAXWELL, 492-2184 (CJ)

Monthly Programs

ARGUELLO GROUP: Slide shows, speakers, and movies—third Friday of each month. Inquire for details: 928-3598. (AR)

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Help keep Highway 1 beautiful. Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup from the Lompoc 'Wye' to the Base boundary. Meet at Vandenberg Village Shopping Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of odd-numbered months. Rain cancels. For information contact Connie (805) 735-2292.

San Luis Obispo Outings

THERE ARE MANY south San Luis Obispo County outings planned monthly that should interest Los Padres Chapter members and the public. They include hikes, bike trips, campouts, trail riding with horses, kayaking Avila and Morro bays, and treks through the Nipomo Dunes area. To get on the mailing list, contact the legendary Bill Deneen at (805) 929-3647 or email him at bdeneen@kcbx.net.



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139 detailed Day Hikes and 850 miles of local trails covering Ventura, Santa Barbara & L.A. counties.

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See Hikes: www.geocities.com/oxnardhiker
30-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

\$25

. . . about 18 cents a hike and years of hiking enjoyment and a great investment in your health.

Conditions

A number of campgrounds and roads in Los Padres National Forest are closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats and species or are under repair. Before you go into the local backcountry, it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted, all 805 area code):

Los Padres National Forest Districts:

Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai Dist.	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

Other Areas:

Santa Monica Mts. Area	370-2301
Conejo Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Notes

For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest website:

www.r5.fs.fed.us/lospadres
Public's Forest

Best website run by citizens of the Los Padres Forest Association, with info as varied as wildflower alerts, trailwork opportunities and factious issues, welcomes your input too:

www.lpforest.org

June 30

BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy 4 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Hike along the beach, up to the bluff and whale watching platform. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

July 1

MATILJA FALLS: Moderate to strenuous 8 mile hike up Matilja Creek to double waterfall for lunch and swimming. Many creek crossings, some bush-wacking and boulder-hopping. Wear appropriate clothes and shoes. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 8am, Ventura carpool lot. Suzanne 643-2815 (SP)

BUENA VISTA TRAIL: This hike will follow the San Ysidro Trail from the Park Lane trailhead to the catway road and then over to Buena Vista Canyon and down to the Pueblo Trail. A nice little hike with great views of Montecito. Moderate, 4 mrt, 1000 ft gain/loss. Bring water and a light lunch. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave. & State St. at 9am. Paul 964-9002 (SB)

July 2

COLD SPRINGS WATER TUNNEL: Hike up Cold Springs Trail to a forgotten historic water tunnel. Steep at times, about 3 or 4 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 965-9953/681-0916 (SB)

SUNDAY BRUNCH IN CARPINTERIA: Leisurely 7 miles rt scenic beach walk along Rincon bluff to Carpinteria for Sunday Brunch. Meet 8:30am at Ventura carpool lot or 9am at Bates Beach. Ted Guenther 985-8963 (SP)

July 3

MONDAY MORNING WALK - BUBBLING SPRINGS: Start the week off with a five-mile hike local area. Meet at 8:30am at the park will walk through the park to the beach circle. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

July 7

LA JOLLA VALLEY - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike of leader's choice. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at Wendy Drive and Potrero Road for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

July 8

BATES BEACH TO CARPINTERIA: Nice summer walk along the beach/coastline with great views of the Channel Islands. Moderate pace, 7 miles rt, to Carpinteria for breakfast. Bring water, wear hat, sunscreen, shoes for hiking on beach and trail, \$\$ for breakfast. Meet 8:45am at Bates Beach parking lot. Ben 479-4846 (SP)

BASE OF CATHEDRAL PEAK SPINE: Start at Tunnel Trailhead toward Seven Falls. Make steep climb to the base of the Cathedral Peak Spine. Moderate but difficult 3MRT 800 foot gain with some boulder hopping. Bring water and snack or lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

ANNUAL MEDITATION MT. HIKE: Dinner afterwards at Boccali's. Meet at 2:30pm at the downtown Ojai Park and Ride (at the Fox St. Signal), or 2:45pm on Reeves Rd. a block beyond Boccali's. Bring water. Moderate. SHEILA 649-9044 (SP)

July 9

TRAIL WORK: Join the Sierra Club in maintaining one of our local trails. Help to support the trails that have given you so much hiking pleasure. Call leader for details. TONY 687-1929 (SB)

ANNUAL SUNDAY BBQ AND POOL PARTY: BBQ & Pool party in Ventura. Come join the fun! Bring your own meat to BBQ and a dish to share. 2 - 5pm. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

July 10

MONDAY MORNING WALK - OJAI TROLLEY: Take Ojai Trolley. Start the week off with a five-mile hike local area. Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza or 9:04am at Rite Aid, Miramonte. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

July 12

SAGE RANCH - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy 2.6 mrt saunter with 300' elev. gain. Identify poison plants and anything in bloom. Meet at 2:30pm at park entrance or call Tom for meeting place in T.O. or S.V. TOM MAXWELL 492-2184 (CJ)

July 14

LATIGO CANYON - CASTRO PEAK: Moderate 8 mrt with approx. 1000' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks not later than 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

July 15

SAN ANTONIO CREEK: Beginning at Tuckers Grove County Park, we will walk on a creek side trail that meets up with Hwy 154. A short walk on this busy highway will link us to a return via San Antonio Creek Road. Easy, 2 mrt. Meet at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave. & State St. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

July 16

THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 687-1929 (SB)

July 17

MONDAY MORNING WALK - CARPINTERIA BLUFFS: Start the week off with a five-mile walk in our local areas. Meet at 8am, Ventura car pool lot or at 8:30am, Bates Beach to walk Carpinteria bluffs. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

July 21

STUNT HIGH TRAIL: Moderate 8 mrt hike of 4 hours duration. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. See big rock formations. Meet in parking lot near Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

July 22

COLD SPRINGS - HOT SPRINGS LOOP: Start at Cold Springs trail head, up to just below the

eucalyptus trees, down into Hot Springs Canyon, back up on the catway road and down to the car by the upper trail. About 7-8 miles, moderate-strenuous. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Paul 964-9002 (SB)

July 23

UCSB LAGOON: Stroll for an hour or so around the Lagoon and over the Bluffs at the University. Children welcome, bring water, slow paced 3 miles or so. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KEITH 681-0916/965-9953 (SB)

July 24

MONDAY MORNING WALK - OJAI TRAIL: Start the week off with a five-mile hike in our local area. Meet at 8:30am at Foster Park in Casitas Springs to walk north on Ojai Trail. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

July 28

SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate 7-8 mrt hike with 1200' elev. gain. Hike Rising Sun and Upper Sostomo Loop Trails. See tropical terrace, oldest stone building in Malibu and 150' waterfall (seasonal). Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

July 29

LIZARD'S MOUTH: Explore the interesting rock formations and wind caves on West Camino Cielo near a popular climbing spot. Short Easy hike with some boulder hopping. Bring snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

July 30

SAN YSIDRO TO THE FALLS: Hike past a favorite rock climbing location to a seasonal waterfall, returning to a pool for lunch. Steep in spots. Moderate 5 mrt. with 1150 ft elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

WILDWOOD PARK - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy 2.5 mrt with minimal elev. gain. Look for early summer flowers. Meet at 3pm in the parking lot at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. TOM MAXWELL 492-2184 (CJ)

July 31

MONDAY MORNING WALK - VENTURA KEYS: Start the week off with a five-mile hike in our local area. Meet at 8:30am at Ventura car pool lot walk through Ventura Keys. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

August 1

FILLMORE EVENING WALK: Join us for ice cream and a level, five mile walk on Fillmore's bike path, through town and along the bank of the Sespe Creek watershed. Meet 6:45pm at the pedestrian walkway next to the railroad crossing near the corner of Mountain View and Main St. in Fillmore. Bring water, warm clothes and flashlight. Call Teresa 524-7170 for more info. (SP)

August 4

LOWER NEWTON CANYON: Moderate approx. 6 mrt hike. We will visit a double waterfall if there is water. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

August 7

MONDAY MORNING WALK - OJAI LAND CONSERVANCY: Start the week off with a five-mile hike in our local area. We'll cross the Ventura River and hike into Wills Canyon. Meet at 8am at Mission Plaza or 8:30am in parking lot Rice Road Meiners Oaks. Pat 643-0270 (SP)

August 11

BEACH WALK - POINT DUME - EASY HIKE SERIES: Easy 4 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Hike along the beach, up to the bluff. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Burger King on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

August 14

MONDAY MORNING WALK - CARPINTERIA: Start the week off with a five-mile walk in our local areas. We'll walk from Bates Beach to Carpinteria and return. Meet at 8am, Ventura car pool lot or at 8:30am. Pat 643-0270 (SP)



A trail on the Ilvento Preserve offers a good long view of the Ojai Valley. (Photo by Lisa Snider)

Ilvento Preserve is bloomin' fun

By Lisa Snider

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's hike on the 80-acre Ilvento Preserve in Ojai provided hikers with a once a year opportunity to experience a guided tour by experts on the 80-acre property.

I heard about the hike from Rich Handley, preserve manager for the OVLC—the nonprofit which owns and manages the property—and decided it was time to get some fresh dirt on my boots.

We made our way to the trailhead which abuts Thacher School just east of the Horn Canyon trailhead at the east end of the Ojai Valley. The Ilvento Preserve is open year-round to the public but about 20 hikers signed up for the guided 2-mile trek, with notebooks and pencils at the ready to record wildflower sightings.

The preserve's chaparral ridge, known for its dramatic topographical relief, plant diversity and important wildlife corridors, was deeded over to the OVLC by the Ilvento Family in 1997. It became the Conservancy's first successful land acquisition.

Rich served as our guide and plant expert for the 2-hour botanical expedition. Though 80 percent of the preserve was burned in a wildfire in 1999, its recovery has been steady and strong, yielding tremendous spring color and lush green plant life.

Rich pointed out many of the property's 150 plant species, most of which were in full bloom. Among the wildflower sightings

were: sticky monkey flower, fiesta flowers, Chinese houses, blue larkspur, hummingbird sage, wild peony and wild hyacinth.

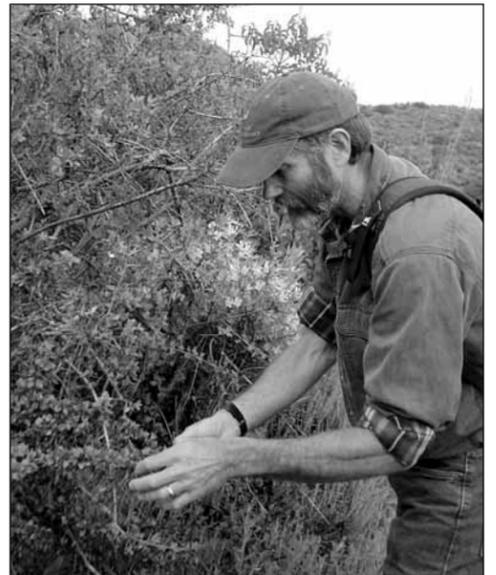
We marched our way single-file

up the narrow trail and soon reached the high point of the Ilvento at 2,024 feet. We took a moment to take in panoramic views down the valley to Lake Casitas and up to the Topa Topa Mountain and Chief Peak. Rich pointed out the important geological features of the preserve and its surroundings using an old, but still relevant, Thomas Dibley map.

As we made our ascent, many of us had to stop to flick and brush away dozens of blood-seeking ticks! It seems that recent rains provided a perfect breeding environment for the little buggers. Having forgotten one of the cardinal rules of hiking by not dousing ourselves in repellent, we found it necessary to perform an on-the-spot de-lousing. Fortunately, no one got bitten, but we all vowed to remember the bug spray next time.

With notebooks filled with flora findings, the wildflower seekers concluded the hike more than satisfied.

The OVLC conducts a series of free guided hikes on its properties, sometimes providing access to restricted areas. Hikes focusing on plant and bird life are offered on a



A rare guided hike on the Ilvento Preserve to enjoy the spring blooms featured the executive director of Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, Rich Handley, stopping to smell the flowers. (Photo by Lisa Snider)

regular basis, and self-guided enthusiasts on horseback or bicycle will also find excellent trails.

For more information on the OVLC or to find out about their guided hikes, check-out their website at: www.ovlc.org

Lisa Snider is a 7-year resident of Ojai and freelance writer. Enjoy her other columns at www.findingojai.com.



Bianca Ramos shows off a turtle she found during a local Sierra Club hike while Chris Maisto and Suzanne Hartley look on. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968**

F94Q **W1000** 1



You, too, can visit Cuyler Harbor on San Miguel Island and be followed by marine life if you go on Sierra Club California's Channel Islands trips. (Photo contributed)

Islands voyage also fun(d)raiser

Imagine taking a four or five day adventure to the Channel Islands and help fund important political programs in California too.

It's all possible this summer, complete with experts revealing the best of all five islands.

The fundraising cruises are:

—July 21-24: 4-days, 4-islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa Islands (\$750).

—August 25-29 & September 14-18: 5-day, 5-islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Island (\$875).

Each island is unique and offers its own special charm: San Miguel for its white, sandy beaches and huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for its rare Torrey Pine forest; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling waters and Santa Barbara Island for pristine waters and a friendly colony of frolicking sea lions.

All islands have rugged shore-

lines, dotted with sea caves, and inhabited by an abundance of wildlife. Activities include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea. In summer, warmer, pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice snorkelers and swimmers.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Participants are invited to board the boat the night before to ensure an early morning departure. Prices include assigned bunks, meals and snacks, and a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and help us identify species on land and sea. An archeologist will travel to help identify artifacts left by the native Chumash who inhabited these islands for thousands of years.

Proceeds benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. To make a reservation, send \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. Information: (626) 443-0706 or jholtzln@aol.com.

Others include *Mammals of California* by Tamara Eder, detailing information on the 179 species and two California Natural History Guides entitled, *Introduction to the Plant Life of Southern California*, by Philip Rundel and Robert Gustafson and *Introduction to California Birdlife* by Jules Evans and Ian Tait.

New guide books out

There are a number of new and revised books about the flora and fauna of our region that are worth a look.

Two books about the California condor were recently published: *Introduction to the California Condor*, by Noel F.R. and Helen Snyder and John Nielsen's *Condor: To the Brink and Back*.

Thank you for your generosity

Many gracious thanks go to the hundreds of members listed below who responded to our once-per-year March Appeal drive. It is these donations that help us protect and enhance the land and sea around us, as detailed in the scores of projects listed in the appeal letter and in last month's issue of *Condor Call*. Contributions are particularly important this year due to various political changes that increase the threats to our quality of life.

We ask for donations only once per year, but you may contribute at any time. To donate, send a check to Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter, 300 E. Canon Perdido B-1, Santa Barbara CA 93101.

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Stanley and Dorothy Flaster	Andy and Susan Lentz	Margery Ricards	Pamela Zwehl-Burke
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It's cool to stop global warming

By Nancy Whelan

It's pretty big news that 2005 tied 1998 as the hottest year on record and nineteen of the hottest twenty years in recorded history have all occurred since 1980.

The majority of mainstream scientists worldwide seem to agree that the rapidly rising temperatures are primarily caused by excess emissions of carbon dioxide and deforestation, both created by humans.

Our activities as Californians make us one of the top 10 largest emitters of carbon dioxide worldwide, more than most small countries. The individual choices we make here have a big impact on global warming.

The main source of excess carbon dioxide emissions is the burning of non-renewable, polluting coal, oil, and gas to generate electricity and drive our cars. Carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere and wraps around the earth like a blanket and traps heat—hence the term “greenhouse gases.”

A second primary cause of global warming is deforestation. Trees and forests capture and store large quantities of carbon dioxide. The continued practice of clear cutting forests and chopping down trees not only destroys places where CO₂ can be sequestered, it releases the previously stored CO₂ back into the atmosphere.

Here are some individual choices we can make to reduce our contribution to global warming.

—Minimizing driving (walk, bike or use transit if possible) and/or drive smart. Choosing where to live can make this possible for many trips.

Nearly 30 percent of California's CO₂ emissions come from vehicles so this makes a huge difference.

—Save Electricity. Compact flu-

orescents are a bit more expensive, but they last 10 times as long and will lower your energy bills by about \$15 per year.

Look for the “Energy Star” logo when buying new appliances.

Consider buying clean energy certificates which represent clean power. You can calculate the global warming pollution associated with your everyday activities, then buy Tradable Renewable Certificates to offset your activities and become “climate neutral.” For information, see: www.Green-e.org

—Plant a Tree. Okay, plant a whole bunch of trees.

—Buy Good Wood. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) supports forests that are managed in a sustainable way. Go to www.fsc.org.

—Spread the Word. Tell your elected officials and businesses you frequent that you are concerned about climate control. Inform yourself, your friends and family. Financially support groups working at the local, regional or national levels so they may promote practical and timely solutions.

These are but a few choices and activities you can do to curb the pressing reality of global warming. Check out the following websites for more information:

www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/gore_speech

www.climateneutral.com - Climate Neutral Network

www.ucsusa.org - Union of Concerned Scientists

www.Nrdoc.org - National Resource Defense Council

www.lccc.ch - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

www.Nationalgeographic.com

www4.nationalacademies.org

The author, Nancy Whelan, is a freelance writer on topics of sustainable lifestyles.

We recycle your cell phones, etc.

Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter is doing its share to lessen the impact of using and disposing of old cell phones, inkjet cartridges and lap tops, and your help will turn them into cash for activists to work on local environmental issues.

The Chapter has teamed up with Phoneraiser to recycle old phones and electronic devices, which are then refurbished or disposed of using only the most ecologically sound methods backed by EPA standards.

Inform, an independent research organization, issued a study explaining that by year 2005 there will be more than 500 million used or obsolete cell phones in homes

and offices across America. Chances are you have one or two covered with junk in a drawer, and it is time to recycle them now.

These devices contain toxic substances such as arsenic, lead, cadmium and beryllium that can pollute the air when burned in incinerators and leach into soil and water when buried in landfills.

Donate your electronic waste today at the Sierra Club office at 300 E. Canon Perdido St, Suite B1 in downtown Santa Barbara. If no one is there, just slip it through the mail slot or mail the devices.

For more information or to help collect cell phones, contact Erin at 965-9719 or at 252-6547.



Blue-eyed grass at the UCSB Sedgwick Reserve in Santa Ynez Valley is just one of the many features you may see during monthly hikes on the second Saturday of each month; next one June 10. Three hikes occur on those Saturdays from easy to strenuous and even a short stroll for persons in wheelchairs and kids in strollers. Get the full schedule by calling 686-1941. (Photo by Nick DiCroce)

Photographer's eye illuminates Alaska oil debate

Editor's note: Jeff Jones is a Santa Barbara County resident who was hired by the Arctic Refuge Action Coalition, which includes the Sierra Club, to document oil development at Prudhoe Bay and the threat of expansion into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is his story, adding insights about impacts not usually reported.

By Jeff Jones

The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is our nation's only piece of Arctic coastline that remains free from oil development.

Despite its singular status, the coastal plain (which was denied wilderness protection in Section 1002 of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act) can be opened to oil interests if so authorized by Congress. This pristine region of enormous biological and ecological significance has withstood the threat of oil development many times in the past two and a half decades.

However, under the current pro-oil administration, pressure to drill in the 1002 has been mounting. Last year, proponents ingeniously connected drilling first to the nation's energy initiative, then to the budget reconciliation process, and finally to the defense appropriations bill. None of these strategies succeeded, but proponents are pressing on. On May 24, the Republican-controlled House voted to open the refuge to drilling. It will be tougher for proponents to win the Senate.

Should oil proponents prevail, the coastal plain, our "Serengeti of the North," will become yet another industrial oil complex. The losses in terms of the Porcupine caribou herd that calves on the plain, the hundreds of migratory bird species that depend on the Arctic's brief but intense summers, and the native peoples who have long called this land home, are incalculable.

The land under contention is wild and remote; these are the very characteristics that kept it safe from development until oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay. Now, its wild and remote nature works against it. That is, many U.S. citizens have never seen the Arctic Refuge nor the type of Arctic oil development that could spell the 1002's demise.

This need to bring images of both the Arctic Refuge and Arctic oil development to the people led me to use my landscape photography in order to inform, inspire and motivate individuals to action.

RAISING AWARENESS

Having fallen in love with the North Slope on my first trip there in 1982, I knew that I had to act in response to recent threats. With funding from the Alaska Wilderness League (representing the Arctic Refuge Action Coalition that includes the Sierra Club), I set off in summer 2005 to develop a photographic project that would accurately capture the scale and scope of the Arctic oil industry while juxtaposing developed areas, such as Prudhoe Bay, with the vast and sweeping panoramas—and the sometimes stark but boundless beauty—of the Arctic Refuge.

Wedding a photojournalistic approach with my fine art photography, I hoped to follow in the tradition of those who have used their art of the natural world to help save wilderness and park lands for future generations.

What I saw graphically reflected the Natural Resources Defense Council's description of Prudhoe Bay, where oil has turned ". . . 1,000 square miles of fragile tundra into a sprawling industrial zone containing 1,500 miles of roads and



The images showing a Prudhoe Bay gravel pit (left) and a braided river on the 1002 area where oil companies want to drill poses the question: What is your vision of wilderness? Gravel pits or gravel bars? (Photos by Jeff Jones)

pipelines, 1,400 producing wells, and three jetports."

What I saw also was in line with what the Defenders of Wildlife noted, namely that oil development in the refuge "would require a spider's web of industrial complexes across virtually the entire plain . . . (including) refineries, living quarters for hundreds of workers, landfills, water reservoirs, production plants, gas processing facilities, power plants, and gravel mines."

GAINING PERSPECTIVE

To comprehend the massive size of oil processing and related facilities, compare satellite imagery of North Slope oil fields with that of your home using the free software GoogleEarth (<http://earth.google.com>).

By typing "70 13N 148 26W" in GoogleEarth's "Fly To" dialog box,

EAVESDROPS

"No one seemed outraged enough to seriously reassess any of the tired and rigid thinking that has paralyzed America's energy policy for years."

—Ronald Brownstein, L.A. Times columnist, about soaring gasoline prices, noting that "the average fuel economy . . . hasn't improved since the mid-1980s." It's not just the Republican's fault; a bill last year to require 40 mpg by 2016 garnered only 28 Democrat votes in the Senate, due to pressure from auto companies and unions.

you will direct GoogleEarth to a portion of the Prudhoe Bay/ Deadhorse oil fields. Monitor the altitude of your descent with "Eye alt" located below the bottom right corner of the map. Stop your descent by clicking on the red dot in the center of the directional wheel at an altitude of about 30,000 feet, that of a commercial jetliner. Large buildings and an airport are visible.

Roads can be followed to more clusters of buildings. Now, type your home address (including state and zip code) in the "Fly To" box to compare the size of your home from 30,000 feet to North Slope oil infrastructure.

ILLUSTRATING COSTS

The gravel mining required for Arctic oil development illustrates the cost of doing business on the North Slope, a place where the perpetual permafrost is covered by a thin skin of soil. Because roads and buildings collect and generate heat downward, they eventually sink into the melted permafrost. This is why oil pipelines in the Arctic are

raised off the ground and all roads, building, and drilling pads are built on or above gravel beds from five to eight feet thick.

Gravel for these beds is mined from surrounding unspoiled areas, creating large scars that in the delicate Alpine environment never really heals. The images I was able to attain, of gravel pits versus natural gravel bars, enable individuals to literally see for themselves the price that will be paid by opening the 1002 to drilling (see photos).

Proponents of drilling claim that more efficient and effective oil extraction technologies would require a small footprint of oil development, the impact of which would be negligible. But experience suggests otherwise.

As per the Wilderness Society's brief (Alpine Oil Development: Nothing to Brag About), the industry in 1997 insisted that Alpine would require only two drilling sites. In 2004, the industry received clearance for five additional sites; the long-range plan now calls for up to 24 drilling sites.

DEBUNKING MYTHS

Proponents of drilling also contend that oil development would not impact the Porcupine caribou herd. However, according to biologists, the coastal plain is the caribou herd's preferred birthing ground for a number of reasons:

- The plain's cooler, breezier weather and easy access to water in which to immerse themselves provide caribou with relief from insects

- The tundra's patchy snow conditions (mottled white on brown) camouflage the caribou and protect them from predators

- The green plants, which emerge as the caribou are calving, offer the herd significant forage which is supplemented by the plain's ubiquitous cotton grass and low-growing willows

- The plain's scarcity of predators increases the chances of survival for each newborn calf

Also at risk due to oil development are the grizzly bear, polar bear, foxes, wolves, and hundreds of bird species for which the coastal plain represents a critical link in their global migrations.

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

My hope was that the information and images I obtained would constitute compelling reasons for keeping the 1002 free from oil development. To get the message out to those in Santa Barbara who are distant from the Arctic, I worked with the Community

Environmental Council (CEC) to create an art and education exhibit entitled *A Wilderness Worth Saving*. The exhibit included my fine art panoramic photography of the Arctic Refuge and my photojournalistic images with written text. The exhibit was designed to achieve two important goals.

The first goal was to show that if drilling could occur in the 1002, then it could easily occur through precedent in areas we thought inviolate, even in other parts of the Arctic Refuge. To accomplish this goal, I included in *A Wilderness Worth Saving* panoramic photography that showed other important parts of the Arctic Refuge (that is, parts other than the 1002). These panoramas included the Sheenjek River Valley, the site of Olaus and Margaret Murie's 1956 expedition which had far-reaching consequences for America's emerging environmental movement.

The second goal was to encourage communities to act locally to affect change globally. To accomplish this goal, the exhibit featured CEC's recently launched—Fossil Free by 2033—campaign. The campaign is designed to dramatically reduce the fossil fuels produced and consumed in California's Central Coast region within less than 30 years.

A *Wilderness Worth Saving* received significant notice in the

local media particularly given that its opening reception this year occurred on the 37th anniversary of the devastating 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill.

SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

The community response to *A Wilderness Worth Saving* was overwhelming. Individuals stepped up to produce the education piece in booklet form for wider distribution. Additional organizations have shown the exhibit to new audiences.

And many individuals have indicated that they now understand the Arctic Refuge to be not a frozen wasteland, but rather a place so wild and rare—a refuge in every sense of the word—that to do otherwise than save it would be simply unconscionable.

With regard to saving the Arctic Refuge, we have won many battles, but not the war. To ensure the long-term survival of the refuge, we must connect the issue of drilling there to our nation's dependence on fossil fuel and our country's deleterious impacts on global warming.

We must use our ingenuity, intelligence, and our concern for our global community to become fossil free before it's too late.

See more images of Alaska and Jeff Jones' fine art photography at the following websites:

www.lumnos.com/prudhoe_anwr
www.lumnos.com

Oil vote shows House is 'starved for ideas'

In light of the House vote on May 24 to approve oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope issued a statement (excerpts below) and urged all to get involved in stopping it. Information is available at: www.sierraclub.org/arctic

"Many in Congress have been too busy currying favor with Big Oil to address forward-looking energy solutions. Their misplaced priorities have hurt American families for far too long, and the tired calls for drilling in the Arctic Refuge have become a broken record of a failed energy policy.

"Congress has already insulted Americans this year with a proposal to give everyone \$100 as part of a scam to open the Arctic Refuge and temper ire over gas prices.

"When pressed to provide real

solutions to America's energy woes, the leadership in Congress is so starved for ideas that drilling the Arctic Refuge and our coasts is all they come up with.

"America is still addicted to oil, oil companies are drowning in record high profits, and average American families are feeling the pinch at the pump. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will do nothing to change that. Energy experts agree that the best ways to reduce our dependence on foreign oil are to make cars go further on a gallon of gas.

Congress is expected to address Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards in the coming weeks, including a bipartisan proposal to set a minimum standard of 33 mpg. This is the way to break our oil addiction and save families' money at the pump, not by drilling the Arctic Refuge."

Integrity of endorsements upheld

Editor's note: The following article has been submitted to the Ventura County Star to address the club's policies on the use and misuse of political endorsements.

On Saturday, May 20, the *Ventura County Star* ran on its front page an article by Timm Herdt entitled "Sierra Club Tells Assembly Candidate to Stop Using its Logo on Campaign Mailer."

In the article, Carmen Ramirez, a Sierra Club member, claims that the Club's 41st Assembly District endorsement of Kelly Hayes-Raitt was not reviewed by any committee of the Los Padres chapter. This is blatantly not true.

The Executive Committees of both the Sespe Group and the Los Padres Chapter endorsed Hayes-Raitt unanimously. Although

Sierra Club endorsement rules state that a Chapter with more than 80 percent of club members within an electoral district has sole endorsement power over that district, the Angeles Chapter was gracious enough to ask the Los Padres Chapter to participate in the endorsement process.

Last fall, Alan Sanders, Conservation Chair of the Los Padres Chapter, joined me in helping the Angeles Chapter write a detailed questionnaire sent to all the Democratic candidates in the 41st Assembly District in the race at the time. In addition we, along with several Angeles Chapter members, personally interviewed five different candidates. These preliminaries led to both the Los Padres and Angeles chapters recommending the endorsement of Hayes-Raitt and then the Club's

statewide political committee endorsing her.

When it came to the Angeles Chapter's attention that another candidate was using the Sierra Club logo on a campaign mailer, the Angeles Chapter, with the full support of the Los Padres Chapter, issued a press release asking the candidate to cease its use, because it violated a written pledge the candidate signed when he completed our questionnaire.

This press release was authored by the Angeles Chapter and did not need to be approved by any committee. In direct contrast with Ramirez, I do think that the candidate's use of the Sierra Club logo was meant to be misleading and do not think that the Club's response was "over the top." The Sierra Club has the right to protect the use of its logo and make sure that its members and the public clearly understand who we are endorsing in a particular race.

More importantly though, Ramirez herself is misusing her membership in the Sierra Club by implying that there is disagreement within the Club about which candidate should be endorsed in the 41st Assembly District race and about the use of the Club's logo.

The fact is that the Sierra Club is a membership organization. Anyone who is willing to pay the membership fee can join and say they are a Sierra Club member. As individuals they are free to endorse any candidate they

choose. What they cannot do is to represent themselves as spokespeople about the Club and its endorsements. This is left to the Club's leadership, Executive Committees for both the Group and the Chapter that are democratically elected every year by all of its members.

If Ramirez wants to be able to speak for the Club on political matters, she needs to take an

EAVESDROPS

"I was in a rush and had no clean underwear that day . . . just what mothers warn you not to do."

—Lauren Elder, describing how she was ill-suited for an emergency when a private plane crashed on Mt. Bradley in 1976. She was the only survivor and had to climb down 13,264 feet in the snow with a broken arm and other injuries, as told in her book, "And I Alone Survived," and on a recent Discovery Channel program.

active role in the two respective Executive Committees, which she has not yet done. At this point, I should be the sole source for information on Sierra Club political endorsements in Ventura County.

Joy Kobayashi, Los Padres Chapter Political Co-Chair



Petra Salmeron peeks out from among the many rock formations in the Gaviota hills, a favorite area for Sierra Club outings. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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