

Vol. 12, No. 5 of 6

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club

Condor Call

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



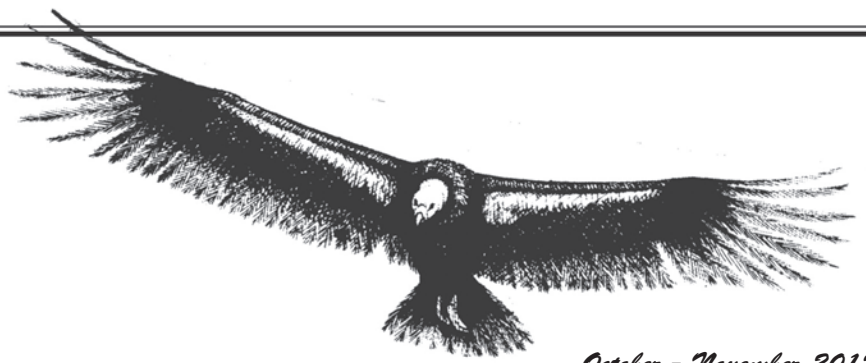
October - November 2012



Endorsements . . . Big Birds . . . Magazine shootout . . . Work party
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Condor Call

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



October - November 2012

Is democracy for sale?

By Fran Farina

The full impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision is now being felt by all of our endorsed candidates.

Whether they are "Super-PACs" with deceptive names like "Restore Our Future" or even worse nonprofit groups like Karl Rove's "American Crossroads" with anonymous donors giving unlimited contributions, the airwaves are being flooded with ads.

This activity isn't just limited to so-called swing states in the Presidential election. The same tactic is being used against our Congressional and

State Legislative candidates. If you think we're overstating the situation, here are a few recent examples:

~ The "Congressional Leadership Fund" bought \$250,000 of air time against Congress member Lois Capps. This is the same group that paid for the "swift boat" ads against John Kerry's stellar military service. There are at least 11 attack ads against Lois and she's being outspent 3 to 1 on television ads.

~ "California Senior Advocates League" bought \$600,000 in TV airtime opposing State Senate candidate Fran Pavley in the 27th District.

This organization has nothing to do with senior issues and its money comes from insurance, tobacco, and development interests. This is also the same organization that funded attack ads against

Hannah-Beth Jackson in the June primary for the 19th District.

We can't match this kind of money, but we can take our message to our family, friends, and neighbors. We can make small donations to candidates, put yard signs on our front lawns, and volunteer to help at campaign headquarters. It means that in addition to voting for Sierra Club endorsed candidates, we must first be active in our support of their candidacies.

As Edward R. Murrow said, "A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves." Don't let the wolves win this election.

Fran Farina is the Los Padres Sierra Club Political Committee Co-Chair and a member of the Southern California Political Review Committee and the Sierra Club California Political Committee.



Help elect our endorsed candidates

The candidates and propositions below have earned the Sierra Club's endorsement on the Nov. 6 ballot for the Santa Barbara and Ventura region. Please go to the websites or call to help with the campaigns, ensuring the best possible outcome for the environment.

PRESIDENT Barack Obama www.barackobama.com/state/CA (312) 698-3670

US CONGRESS

District 24 Lois Capps www.cappsforcongress.com (805) 884-0202

District 25 Dr. Lee Rogers www.leerogers2012.com (661) 200-9205

District 26 Julia Brownley <http://juliabrownley.com> (805) 330-1070

STATE SENATE DISTRICTS

District 19 Hannah-Beth Jackson <http://hannah-beth2012.com> (805) 203-6337

District 27 Fran Pavley <http://franpavley.com> (818) 921-6825

STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

District 37 Das Williams <http://daswilliams.org> (805) 452-1214

District 38 Edward Headington <http://www.edward2012.com> (805) 620-7038

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 31, OPPOSE – A well-intentioned measure that fails to create true reform; would actually undermine current environmental laws.

Proposition 32. OPPOSE - Prohibits political contributions by payroll deduction. Prohibitions on contributions to candidates.

Proposition 37. SUPPORT - Genetically Engineered Foods; mandatory labeling.

Proposition 39. SUPPORT - Tax treatment for multistate businesses; clean energy and energy efficiency funding.

(For details on the propositions, go to: www.sos.ca.gov/elections)

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1 Steve Bennett <http://bennettforsupervisor.com> (805) 653-0831

CITY OF GOLETA City Council - Ed Easton www.EastonforCouncil2012.com

Measure G2012 – SUPPORT - Agriculture vote protection <http://goletaheritagefarmland.org>

CITY OF CARPINTERIA

Kathleen Reddington <http://reelectreddington.com>

Fred Shaw <http://fredshaw.nationbuilder.com>

CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Polly Holcombe, Shirley Johnson, Alexandra VanAntwerp

<http://carpwatertatters.com>



After Al Sladek's popular Friday Night Hike (which meets at the SB Mission at 6:45 every week), outings leader Robert Bernstein will treat you to a slide show of his remarkable travels in the Galapagos Islands this summer. Whether or not you go on the hike, the event will start around 8:30 p.m. at the home of Karen Gumtow, 797 Ben Lomond in Santa Barbara. For more information, call her at 450-7450; otherwise, just be there with some food to share and enjoy the slide show. To see an expanded hike photos page and the full schedule of upcoming Friday potluck/slideshow parties, go to:

<http://swt.org/hikesierra>

Old Condor Call gets a makeover

This issue of Condor Call marks a change in format due to our long-time printer, Western Web of Goleta, going out of business, and a new printer, the Ventura County Star.

Do you like it? ... more on that below.

First we'd like to extend a ginormous amount of appreciation to Western Web for all its years of excellent service, notably our typographer Jim Cook, recently deceased, and its manager Fred Morales. Condor Call only prints eight times per year, but you'd think we were Western

Web's prime client – quality, attention to detail, patient and accommodating.

On top of that great service, a canvass of printers from Santa Barbara through Los Angeles found Western Web to be the lowest cost.

To stay near our current costs, we are experimenting with a lower-cost paper stock, but with four pages of color, thanks to the Star.

What do you think?

Let the editor know; call

452-2885 or email him at:

CondorJohn@gnusman.com

Onward and upward for popular outings

By Mike Stubblefield

Editor's note: Mike Stubblefield is the new Outings Chair, heading up the Los Padres Sierra Club's most popular program in which thousands of people each year go on our free outings throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

First, I want to publicly thank Teresa Norris for her tireless efforts to bring a high degree of professionalism to the Outings Chair job. We hated to lose Teresa, but between a new job in San Diego, Wilderness Basics Course and Outings, something had to give, so she decided to step down from Outings.

I am looking forward to working with all of you to make outings more varied and more fun. I will be writing a series of

articles in upcoming *Condor Calls* about my vision for improving and expanding our already outstanding program, but

I'd also like to hear what changes you would like to see. This month I'll just share with you a few of my concerns.

One area is gaining an even higher level of training for our hike leaders, partly sparked by incidents last year of violent storms trapping individuals and groups in the mountains, which brought out search and rescue teams throughout our region.

I plan to organize a series of outdoor leadership and wilderness first aid workshops to prepare for more extreme and

continued on page 2

EAVESDROPS

"I held Ansel's ass while he made that picture."

~ Ansel Adams' friend, Harold, who loved to tell the story about when the great photographer was shooting the famed Banner Peak photograph, he was holding the donkey which carried all the camera equipment.

COVER PHOTO

Artist Rich Schloss's "More Mesa Grasses" is one of the featured art works of the area by the Oak Group, shown all through October at the Faulkner Gallery of the Santa Barbara Main Library. Any sales will benefit the More Mesa Preservation Coalition, which seeks to protect one of the last open spaces along the urbanized South Coast. For information, log on to: www.moremesa.org

Sisquoc “perfect” for back pack

Are you looking for a great local backpacking destination? Then look no further than the Upper Sisquoc Trail within the San Rafael Wilderness.

Wildfires have hit many of our local Los Padres trails over the past 5-10 years. Unfortunately most of those trails have not received the necessary post-fire trail maintenance. Yet the Santa



Lucia Ranger District was able to secure funds the past two summers to send multiple California Conservation Corp (CCC) crews into the SIsquoc.

The result is a trail that is in near perfect condition.

From South Fork Station, which is an old Forest Service Cabin, up to Alamar Saddle is in great shape and ready to be hiked.

100 oil wells planned

The Los Padres Sierra Club will work with the Environmental Defense Center, PUEBLO, Get Oil Out! and the Santa Barbara County Action Network to review a proposal to drill more than 100 onshore oil wells between Lompoc and Orcutt.

Santa Maria Pacific’s proposed “Santa Maria Energy Project” would utilize an enhanced drilling technique called cyclic steam injection (also referred to as “huff and puff” or “steam soaking”) to extract oil from shallow diatomaceous earth deposits.

Along the way you can visit large waterfalls and deep swimming holes, pass along the northern boundary of the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary, stay at any of the eight Forest Service campsites, and all the while hiking along the Wild and Scenic Sisquoc River, which flows year round from its headwaters along Big Pine Mountain.

There are many different routes to access the Upper Sisquoc and lots of different loops and shuttle trip options. The most common trailheads for the Upper Sisquoc are Nira, which is near Los Olivos, and Santa Barbara Canyon, which is about 30 minutes south of Cuyama off of Highway 33. The Upper Sisquoc can be hiked in a quick long distance weekend, comfortably backpacked in four days or included in a weeklong trip.

The Upper Sisquoc is also a key section of trail that makes up the Condor Trail, which extends

A Draft Environmental Impact Report was released on September 14. The Project is expected to result in significant impacts to biology and air quality. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are estimated at more than 87,000 tons per year.

Santa Barbara County will hold a public hearing to discuss the Project on October 9, and comments on the Draft EIR are due by October 29. The Santa Maria Energy Project is expected to be the first of many new onshore oil projects proposed for Santa Barbara’s North County.

the length of the Los Padres from Monterey down to Lake Piru.

If you’re looking for someplace new to explore this fall, or already day dreaming about your spring backpack trip, take a look at the Upper Sisquoc. You can’t beat the combination of remote wilderness, scenic beauty, interesting side trips and good trail conditions.

For more information, contact the Condor Trail Association at www.CondorTrail.com or email info@condortrail.com

Onward... from page 1 dangerous situations. Here’s a small preview: Sascha Paris, the Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager, has promised to offer a two-day workshop on outdoor leadership next May.

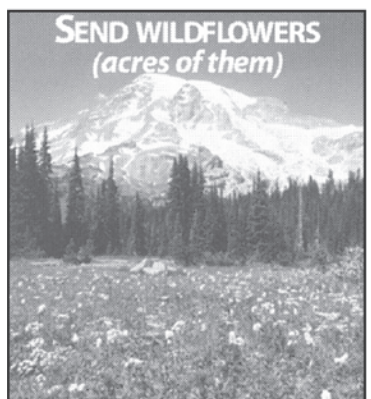
The Club requires hike leaders to recertify with the American Red Cross for CPR and first aid every four years, but that’s really just a starting point. When you provide first aid to someone in town, an ambulance is on the way; your job is to keep the victim alive until professionals arrive. In the wilderness there’s no professional help on the way; you’re it.

So I strongly urge hike leaders to go beyond the basics in learning more about outdoor first aid skills. The Angeles Chapter’s Wilderness First Aid Course, a three-day workshop offered twice a year on Mt. Baldy, is an excellent place to start, as it uses emergency medicine and mountain search-and-rescue professionals, and is packed with lively classroom lectures and realistic outdoor simulations.

Steve Schuster and Sigrid Sexton, the co-founders of WFAC, have graciously given us a couple of one-day versions of their workshops in Ventura County and I will be inviting them back again. If you’d like to recommend other good programs, let me know about them.

In the meantime I’d like to hear your ideas about making outings more popular, more fun and safer. Contact me at 216-2630 (cell), 988-0339 (home) or email at:

motodata@roadrunner.com



Memorial or Commemorative gifts are a unique way to honor an individual or special event and at the same time provide important funding towards Sierra Club’s long-term goals. And like the memories you hold, this is a gift that will last forever. For more information, call (415) 977-5653. planned.giving@sierraclub.org Memorial/Commemorative Program 85 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94105 Chapter Contact Catherine Graham 682-1357



A bit of “Upper Sisquoc serenity” was captured by John Ziegler, part of the Condor Trail Association which wants to establish a Condor Trail in the Los Padres National Forest. The portion in the upper Sisquoc “is in near perfect condition” due to after-fire maintenance crews (see adjacent story).

See raptors up close

The Ojai Raptor Center’s Rehabilitation Center is usually not open to the public, except for its annual open house where you can get up close and personal with birds of prey.

The open house is from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 at 370 Baldwin Road in Ojai.

Hawks, falcons, eagles, and owls will be on hand to greet guests on this afternoon, and drinks and snacks will be provided as well as activities for kids.

“Raptors are learning how to live among us in our cities and towns, as well as being an important part of the ecology of

our farmland and ranches. We need to learn how to co-exist with them,” explains Kim Stroud, Director of the ORC.

ORC takes in an average of over 1400 native birds annually from the Tri County area, focusing on birds of prey, of which 60 percent are released back into the wild. Raptors sustaining permanent injuries which can’t be released are brought into the educational outreach program, and used as “ambassadors,” numbering 24 at this time.

The Open House is a free event with a suggested donation of \$5.

Condor Call electrified

It’s easy to order up the *Condor Call* e-version in full color with hot links to emails and websites, and it’s a pleasure to read that way.

Check out the e-version out at our website: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> and if you like what you see, you can stop the print version and get it sent to your computer.

To sign up, send your name, phone number and email to: CondorJohn@gnusman.com

Note to those already getting the e-version: if you change your email, let us know, we are getting error messages back on about a dozen subscribers.

Go on condor adventure

As part of a nationwide observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week, the Friends of California Condors Wild and Free is sponsoring a walking and driving fieldtrip at Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge on Oct. 20.

Located near Maricopa, the Refuge is an integral part of the California Condor Recovery Program serving as a release and monitoring facility. It is normally closed to the public year-round, so this is a rare opportunity to come and enjoy this conservation treasure.

Your guides will present information about the plants, animals and birds of the refuge, and there’s a good chance you’ll see the endangered California condors. The group will meet at 10 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20 near Maricopa.

Space is limited, so reserve a spot now by emailing Carol at tours@friendsofcondors.org.

Coastal Heroes

After a successful kickstarter campaign this summer, an hour-long documentary on Proposition 20 called *Heroes of the Coast – The Documentary* is now in post-production.

Prop. 20 is the California coastal initiative successfully passed by voters in November 1972 and the documentary will be completed by this November, the 40th anniversary.

Dates are yet to be announced, but information will be posted at: www.earthalert.org

Hear interviews at: www.heroesofthecoast.com

Information Please!

By Arthur Unger

Just as the *Condor Call* keeps us informed of chapter and group doings, email newsletters from Sierra Club headquarters inform us of national environmental issues. We can become members of the Sierra Club’s Online Community. The newsletters offer opportunities to contact President Obama and other officials about issues currently being decided. Below is a list of most and to get any of them, go to: www.sierraclub.org/email

GENERAL NEWSLETTERS

- The Insider** (biweekly): Our flagship newsletter.
- The Green Life** (weekdays): Daily tips for living well and doing good.
- Daily Ray of Hope** (weekdays):

Inspirational quotes and user-submitted images.

- Currents** (weekly): Holding our decision-makers accountable.
- Coming Clean**: Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune’s blog.
- Sierra Student Coalition News**: The latest for environmentally minded students.
- The Buzz** (monthly): News from the Sierra Club’s Building Bridges to the Outdoors Program.
- Clubhouse Updates** (monthly): How to use Sierra Club’s organization and contact leaders.
- ISSUE NEWSLETTERS**
- Green Trader** (monthly): Responsible Trade campaign news.
- Hotline** (twice monthly): Global Warming campaign news.

Condor Call
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Non-members, \$6 per year. Contact:
Editor John Hankins (see EDITOR address, phone and email above)
Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Treasurer: Richard Hunt, 966-4157, Richard.Hunt@LosPadres.SierraClub.org

Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Los Padres Group News
The public is welcome to our programs

STEERING COMMITTEE
~ Usually meets the fourth Thursday of every month in Carpinteria. Email Chair Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

ARGUELLO GROUP
~ Board meets first Monday of most months often with a program. All information on this North County Santa Barbara Group from Jerry Connor, 928-3598 or email: Connor.gd2@verizon.net Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.

CONEJO GROUP
~ Get all information on this southern Ventura County Group from John Holroyd, 495-6391 or backpacker2@earthlink.net. On the web: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org/conejo>

SANTA BARBARA GROUP
~ Get the latest updates on events and issues of this South Coast Santa Barbara area at www.SBSierraClub.org; also join our email list by contacting Stephen@lospadres.sierraclub.org
~ Now looking for ExCom candidates ... see story below.

VENTURA SIERRA CLUB
~ Up-to-date information about the northern Ventura County group at www.VenturaSierraClub.org
~ Group needs funds to continue fighting for Ormond Beach; details in story below.

MAGAZINE SHOOTOUT

Outside vs Backpacker

By Stephen Bryne

Consumers have a lot of options for outdoorsy reading and two of the leading magazines are *Outside* and *Backpacker*. Let's take a look and see how they compare.

Outside Magazine covers general categories of outdoor activities, with wide-ranging subjects for feature articles. For example, the September issue features articles on outdoor survivalist Bear Grylls and the 50 Best Jobs in the outdoors field.

The writing for the feature articles is very good and some are real page-turners, such as "The Vanishing" published in June, about the disappearance of at least 18 women along a remote stretch of highway in northern British Columbia. In September, "The Devil on Paradise Road," details the shooting of National Park Service Ranger Margaret Anderson in Mount Rainier National Park by Iraq war veteran Benjamin Barnes.

Outside's strong suit may not be gear reviews. A review of blenders in the September issue seems oddly random, but it could be useful if you are shopping for countertop appliances.

A monthly section called "The Essentials" lays out what a nature lover might need for particular activities. An example in the September issue included: a weekend cabin, fly fishing, and underwater cameras. Since I am not in the market for a pre-fab weekend cabin (\$89,000 plus assembly), don't fly fish, and don't partake in underwater photography, this information was not particularly useful for this outdoors enthusiast. In summary, *Outside's* ace-in-the-hole may be their feature articles.

As a bonus which includes newsletters, subscribers gain access to online content at www.outsideonline.com.

Newsstand price: \$5.99; Annual subscription: \$24.

Bottom Line: If you like reading entertaining stories about outdoor topics, this mag may fill the bill.

Backpacker Magazine is the king of gear reviews. Lately it seems focused on popular subjects like ultralight hiking and survival. For the media in general, survival seems to be a hot topic lately, with TV shows like "Dual

Survival" and bestsellers such as "Into the Wild" and the "Worst Case Scenario" series.

June's *Backpacker* featured stories on "Survive Anything," which included information on how to survive a grizzly charge, getting lost, a rattlesnake bite, and a broken leg. August's magazine yielded a lifesaving skills section with instructions on falls, flash floods, and rescue signaling.

A monthly feature is the so-called "Chart of Death," which covers various hairy topics including animal attacks, falls, and lightning. With such omnipresent dangers, it's a wonder that anybody goes into the wild!

Backpacker is very destination-oriented. It regularly features hikes in different regions and a helpful online feature offers searches of trails by area code, park, city, or state. Related to this, the magazine often has tutorials

on Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Gear tests are the bread and butter of this magazine. June's issue found reviews of ultralight clothing and knives. August's magazine tested all-purpose boots and September's issue field-tested 3-season sleeping bags.

Subscribers get access to online articles and a newsletter at www.backpacker.com.

A digital version of the magazine is available for the iPad. The September iPad version offered the bonus article, "Can You Drink Pee to Survive?" although I'm not sure if I'd consider this a bonus. Website:

Newsstand price: \$5.99; Annual subscription: \$15.97

Bottom line: If you are interested in equipment or survival skills, this magazine may be for you.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

Help influence issues

Most of you know of the Sierra Club through our fun outings! John Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892 with two missions: To both enjoy and to protect the natural spaces that we value. Protection means organizing!

The Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee (Ex-Com) makes local policy, deals with local environmental issues, trails and organizes action as needed.

Some of the hot issues here are energy, transportation, development, land use planning, oil, conservation, sustainable food and environmental justice. We also make political endorsements and we

organize outings to encourage appreciation of the environment.

Would you consider being on our executive committee? It's a way of making a difference.

We are taking nominations now for the new ExCom and YOU are invited to apply.

We meet the first Monday of each month at 6:45 in the Santa Barbara downtown library, and additional commitments will come with the particular projects and/or committees you want to work on.

For more information, contact vice-chair Robert Bernstein, at: alist@swt.org

VENTURA GROUP

Join fight for Ormond

The Ventura Sierra Club's highest priority is the decades-long efforts to preserve Ormond Beach, with mixed success.

To continue the fight, the group needs funds to help support our conservation and litigation efforts. The most recent news is that local environmental groups have put GenOn Energy Inc. on notice that they will file a lawsuit over its Ormond Beach power plant for

generating excessive levels of iron in untreated storm water runoff.

Please help our efforts by sending checks to Ventura Sierra Club, PO Box 73011, Ventura, CA 93006, or visit our Donation Page at: www.venturasierraclub.org

We also would like volunteer s to help with fundraising. Send your name, phone number and email address to: info@venturasierraclub.org

Condor Classifieds

A.R.E. ALUMINUM CAMPER shell to fit Toyota Tacoma. Has custom rooftop roller kit for easy loading anything on top. Many extra features, in excellent condition and lovingly owned by Sierra Club member. A great deal at \$2,500 or best offer. Call 683-2641 or email Y2KSuz@cox.net.

FIND YOUR SB HOME at www.SBHomeSearch.com; info Kervin Berni, Coastal Properties and UCSB '80. Call 564-3400 or www.sbre.com

ACUPRESSURE MASSAGE, rest your back and feet. Call Paula 687-4671.

USED CELL PHONES for sale as a benefit for the Santa Barbara Group. Only \$15-\$35 for older cell phones with charger. Also chargers for older phones: \$2. Guarantee: You have 3 days to get your cell phone up and running. If for any reason you want to return it within that time,

you'll get a full refund. Call 962-8415.

SAVETHETOWN from demolition; go to SB city planning hearings, 630 Garden St., Gebhard room, agendas posted there or at www.santabarbara.ca.gov/abr or /sfdb, /hic, /sho, /pc and city council. Very important Chumash burial grounds everywhere, don't add on to your house, no condos, no building. Go to the hearings or write comments and Save the Town!

SAVE THE OLD GROWTH redwood houses, shed and 1960s workshop at 1236 San Andres from massive condo project, also Val Verde. Call the SB City Planners at 564-5470, ask for Danny Kato. Tell your friends, call your legislators. Save all SB from demolition of similar historic houses throughout the city and Cottage Hospital. We need another Pearl Chase! Help now.



Hike leader Robert Bernstein led a clean-up at the popular Lizard's Mouth area this summer and the participants picked up 18 pounds of trash, and a lot of light-weight cigarette butts. Proudly showing their loot are (from left), Lauren Wilson, Jill Sherman and her daughter Kennedy Pyper. Others who took part were Heidi Kent, Susan Shields, Barry White, Louise Gray and Bernstein himself. Thanks to all of you. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Club's convention in SLO

By Kathryn Phillips
Sierra Club California

The Democrats had theirs in September, the Republicans in August, and after those two parties face off in November, Sierra Club California will have ours.

This year, Sierra Club California will hold its annual convention right after the November election in San Luis Obispo, just an easy ride up the coast from Ventura and Santa Barbara. We've timed it that way so we can get a jumpstart on planning our environmental

agenda and strategy for the coming year, keeping in mind who wins which election.

The event will be held Saturday, Nov. 10 until Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Rancho El Chorro park and public meeting facility. Registration is easy; go online at:

<http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/cnrcc>

The convention is actually a joint meeting of Sierra Club California and its policy arm, the California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee or CNRCC.

Classified Ad Placement Form

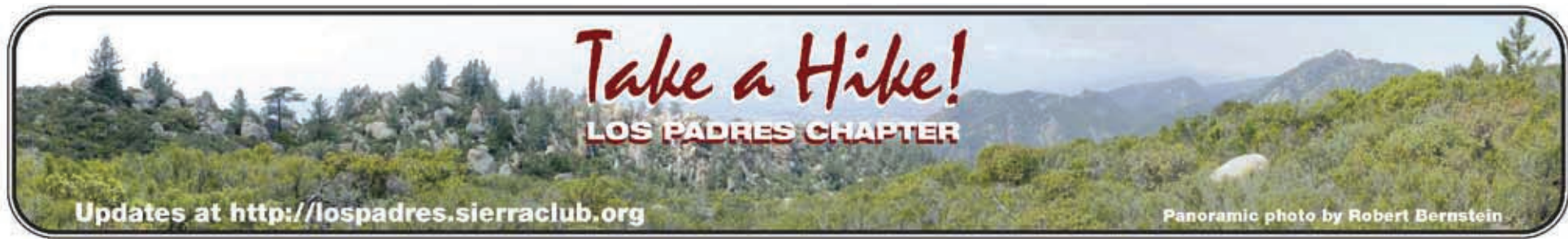
A classified ad in the Condor Call reaches over 6,500 Sierra Club members in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. **Ads cost only \$6 for three lines, and 75¢ for each additional line per issue.**

Specify by circling the months below. Deadline for next issue is November 17. **Questions? Call the Condor at 452-2885.**

Enclose a check made out to the Condor Call, 260 Pacos Street, Ventura, CA 93001

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Number of Issues: _____ Feb/Mar • Apr/May • June/July • Aug/Sept. • Oct/Nov • Dec/Jan



October 6 - 7

BLUE CANYON MODERATELY EASY BACKPACK: Saturday: Backpack about 3.75 miles to Cottom camp, and set up tents. Day hike to Lower Blue Canyon camp, maybe further up canyon if group wishes. Return to Cottom camp for happy hour and dinner. Return to cars on Sunday by about 1 - 2pm. Meeting Time: 9am. Saturday, Oct. 6 at carpool lot in downtown Santa Barbara. Rain/fire cancels. Call leader for more details and to sign up. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

October 7

HIKE LEADER BBQ: This is an opportunity for our hike leaders to get together and enjoy and learn from one another. If you are a hike leader, want to be a hike leader, or are a friend of a hike leader, you are welcome to join us for this pot luck BBQ. This year we'll have live music. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Please call for details. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

October 8

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am to carpool to Miramonte to take trolley to Ojai (25 cents) and return on trail. PAT 643-0270 (VEN)

October 13

TEQUEPIS : Hike up to West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Cachuma Lake and the Pacific Ocean. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

October 13-14

BLUE CANYON MODERATELY EASY BACKPACK: Saturday: Backpack about 3.75 miles to Cottom camp, and set up tents. Day hike to Lower Blue Canyon camp, maybe further up canyon if group wishes. Return to Cottom camp for happy hour and dinner. Return to cars on Sunday by about 1 - 2pm. Meeting Time: 9am, Saturday, Oct. 6 at carpool lot in downtown Santa Barbara. Call leader for more details and to sign up. Rain/fire cancels. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)



During a regular Sierra Club outing to Lizard's Mouth in Santa Barbara, participants ran into bouldering enthusiasts and "their skill was impressive to watch," such as this difficult upside-down "heel hook" maneuver, according to photographer Robert Bernstein.

October 13-14

EXPLORE AND SERVE IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS: Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. This trip is one of a continuing series to either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Saturday will be a work day. We will camp and have a potluck dinner that evening in one of the campgrounds. Sunday, at the choice of the group, will be either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the Plains. Leader: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 13-14

HOT SPRINGS AND COOL NIGHTS-FALL IN THE BLACK ROCK: We'll probably meet up in Reno, NV Friday evening and head on up to the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north. Depending on area conditions, we'll most likely camp at Black Rock Hot Springs, the namesake of the area and a historic site on the Lassen-Applegate branch of the Emigrant Trail. We'll probably visit two other area springs. Soaking under the stars! New moon will mean great stars in this remote area. No RV's or trailers, dogs on leash, LNT. Leader is very familiar with the area. Sign up 9/28-10/10. DAVID BOOK, 775/843-6443. (Great Basin Group - Toiyabe Chapter)

October 14

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

October 14

SYCAMORE CANYON TO DANIELSON RANCH: Easy, leisurely paced eight-mile-round-trip hike through Big Sycamore Canyon to Danielson Ranch for lunch under the trees. Bring water, lunch, hat and insect repellent (optional). Meet at 9 am at old bridge by entrance to Sycamore Canyon campground. You can park for free along PCH (where parking is not prohibited) and then walk in. If you wish to park inside the park, there is a parking fee. For more info, call TED, 985-8963 (VEN).

October 15

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Cory Dell trail (uphill). Beautiful views. PAT 643-0270 (VEN)

October 20

LAKE LOS CARNEROS/STOW PARK: Bird watching hike for an hour or so through this neighborhood park. Bring your binoculars and/or cameras. We never know what we will see. Slow paced, flat 2-3 miles. Children welcome, bring water and meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-

4850 (SB)

October 20

DOUGH FLAT ROAD'S END TO BUCKSNORT SPRING: Experience October in the Sespe Wilderness, with views of the Condor Sanctuary. Hike 2 miles on the road to Dough Flat and then 2.5 miles beyond to the Bucksnot Spring area, about 9 miles roundtrip, 1200 ft. gain/loss. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 7:45am in Fillmore Vons Shopping Center near Starbuck's to carpool on unpaved forest road to trailhead. Rain cancels. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

October 21

ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Outstanding view of the islands and the coastline are featured in this moderate 5 mrt hike. We'll start at Romero Saddle, hike down the Juncal Road a bit, then follow the motorcycle/ATV road to the start of the Island View trail (also known as the Romero Ridge trail). Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm, but bring a light jacket, just in case. This hike involves a long (45 minute) drive to the trailhead on mountain (paved) roads. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

October 22

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Miramonte to do a trail there (some uphill). PAT 643-0270 (VEN)

October 27

LA CUMBRE PEAK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Beautiful views from the highest peak on the front range. Strenuous 11 mrt. for experienced hikers only. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 447-1876/644-6934

October 27-28

GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA: Spend the weekend before Halloween with the ghosts of California's colorful past in this eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets). On Sat, do a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. Later we'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sun, a quick visit

to the infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372; 760-868-2179. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October, 29

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Casitas to do Sulpher Mountain Rd. (uphill) to the cattle guard. PAT 643-0270 (VEN)

November 2

SERRANO VALLEY LOOP, MUGU STATE PARK: This 8.5-mile moderate-to-strenuous loop takes you through some of the most scenic parts of the center of the Park. Start at Big Sycamore Canyon trailhead and climb 1100 feet up steep Serrano Canyon. Along the way, enjoy woodland foliage, a large expanse of chaparral and a variety of other plant forms. About 5 hours of hiking. Park on PCH, north of entrance to Big Sycamore Canyon, or inside the park parking lot (fee required). Meet at 9am on the old bridge near the parking lot's restrooms to walk to the trailhead. Hiking/trail boots, 3 quarts of water and snack required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain Cancels. For more info, call PHILIP at 218-2103 (VEN)

November 2-4

DEATH VALLEY SERVICE TRIP: Work with Death Valley National Park Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callagan on restoration activities in the Park. Projects are to be determined, but will probably include fence removal. Camping will be at Mesquite Springs campground, north of Stovepipe Wells. Arrive Friday afternoon and work for part of the afternoon, work will continue on Saturday, with a potluck Saturday night. Sunday may be a work day or perhaps recreational. Leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

November 3

MONTECITO PEAK: Hike up to a steep peak for a panoramic view of the South Coast. Strenuous 7.5 mrt. Bring lunch and lots of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

November 3

FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN CATWAY: The Catway is a broad undulating jeep trail affording almost continuous views into northern Santa Barbara County's Lospadres National Forest wilderness areas. We plan to have certified leaders available for two types of hike groups: 1) Easy introductory hike or 2) Longer hike on same ridgeline. In any event, the emphasis will be on nature appreciation, not time and distance. Please call the leader before the trip. Car pools from various communities will meet in Los Olivos at Matte's Tavern parking lot, Figueroa Mountain Road and Highway 154, at 9am. JERRY 928-3598 (AR)

November 4

INSPIRATION POINT: Hike up Tunnel Rd., then by trail to a point with beautiful views of the coast and mountains. Easy 3.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet

continued on page 5

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 are area code 805):

Los Padres National Forest Districts	
Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538
Other Areas	
Santa Monica Mtns. 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's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info
There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:
<http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
www.LPForest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

Ongoing Outings
Ventura Every Monday Morning
Join 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.

Ventura Every Wednesday
URBAN EVENING HIKE: Weekly urban hike in Ventura meets at 6:45 p.m. for a 4.5-mile hike up hill to Father Serra's Cross (spectacular scenic views of Ventura, sunset, and the Channel Islands); hike continues across hillside, down to the ocean, and out to end of the pier; then along beach promenade to mouth of Ventura River; up the Ventura River to Main Street, and finally loop back to the Mission. People interested in this hike should meet across the street from the San Buenaventura Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER, 643-5902. (SP)

Santa Barbara Area
SOCIAL HIKE: An easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip night hike in Santa Barbara front country, beach, or back roads. Meet at 6pm at the Santa Barbara Mission. Leave at 6:15pm sharp. Bring a flashlight. Optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLAYDEK, 685-2145. (SB)
• A strenuous, 5- to 10-mile roundtrip night hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the S.B. Mission, 2201 Laguna St. Bring water, flashlight. (Hikers in this group like to wear head lamps to keep their hands free.) The hike is designed for conditioning. For more information, call leader BERNARD MINES, 722-9000.
• Moderate and strenuous hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at Bank of America at State St. and Hope Ave.

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. Contact: CONNIE, 735-2292.

Outing Notes
Key to outing locations (noted in parenthesis at the end of each listing)
AR - Arguello Group (Northern SB County)
SB - Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)
VEN - Ventura Network (Northern Ventura County)
CJ - Conejo Group (Southern Ventura County)
LA - Los Angeles Chapter joint hikes

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 any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.
A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources.

Outings...from page 4

behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

November 4

THE OLD CABIN SITE: Moderate 7-mile-round-trip hike with 900 feet of elevation gain up to the old cabin site in the northern part of Mugu State Park. Bring good walking shoes, water and lunch. Enjoy your lunch under beautiful oak trees. Meet at 9:15 am at the carpool spot at Vons on Seaward in Ventura, or at 10am at Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park. Rain cancels. For more info, call TED at 985-8963 (VEN).

November 5

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9 am at Mission Plaza to walk Emma Wood State Beach Park and beyond. Low tide. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VENTURA)

November 10

RINCON TO CARPINTERIA HIKE: We'll start from Rincon Beach Park, hike a bluff trail above the beach with great views of the Channel Islands. After crossing the railroad tracks, we'll ascend to the Carpinteria Bluff Trail, following it to the seal viewing overlook. Lunch at Tarpits Park. Return by the beach if the tide is favorable. 4mrt, easy to moderate. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

November 11

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

November 12

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9 am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Ojai to Matilija Canyon Trail. Some uphill and possible stream crossings. For more info, call PAT at 743-0270 (VENTURA)

November 16

NORDHOFF PEAK VIA COZY DELL TRAIL TO GRIDLEY TRAILHEAD (OJAI): Strenuous 13-mile round-trip, approximately 3500-foot gain/loss, about 8 hours at moderate-to-brisk pace. Meet at 8am at Gridley Trailhead (Gridley Road is off the 150, between Ojai and the Dennison Grade; turn left on Gridley, just past the ranger station, coming from Ojai, or turn right on Gridley if you're coming from Upper Ojai). From Gridley we'll car shuttle to the Cozy Dell trailhead. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 quarts of water and snack/lunch required. Sunblock, hat and rain jacket recommended. Rain cancels. For more info, call PHILIP at 218-2103 (VEN)

November 17

WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO TANGERINE FALLS Hike along the trail then do some rock-hopping up the creek to the falls. Difficult 3 mrt. Some climbing. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

November 17

SESPE CREEK DEVIL'S GATE: Experience the beauty of the Sespe Canyon. Hike in the canyon bottom, rock hopping at a medium pace (rough or no trail), viewing birds and beautiful hidden scenery, about 6 miles roundtrip, 400 feet gain/loss. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 7:45am in Fillmore Vons Shopping Center near Starbucks to carpool to starting point. Rain or recent rain cancels. For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

November 18

LITTLE PINE MOUNTAIN: A challenging hike to a 4,000 foot peak in the back country. Strenuous 12.5 mrt. for experienced hikers only. It can be cold up on top of Little Pine Mountain this time of year, so check the forecast and bring appropriate clothing. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

November 19

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 am mission plaza to carpool to Bates Beach for a low-tide walk. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VENTURA)

November 24

SAN YSIDRO TO E. CAMINO CIELO: Fairly strenuous hike up to E. Camino Cielo for lunch. Great views of the back country and the coastline. Hike along creek for part of trip. Strenuous 9 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

November 26

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Miramonte, where we will walk down Creek Road and uphill on Encino. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VENTURA)

December 1

ULTIMATE HIKE: Very strenuous 17.5 mile hike. This up-and-down (5000') hike covers parts of 9 different trails on the front range. This is a fast paced hike for experienced, conditioned hikers only. Hike leader approval required. Plan for an all day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

December 1-2

EXPLORE AND SERVE IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS: Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. For nearly eight years work has continued to remove fences and/or modify them to facilitate mobility of the pronghorn. The project has been very successful, and this will be one of the very last of these work weekends. Saturday will be a work day. We will camp and have a pot-luck dinner that evening in one of the campgrounds. Sunday, at the choice of the group, will be either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the Plains. Leader: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

December 2

ROMERO CANYON TO BUENA VISTA BENCH: Short but steep 3MRT morning walk to hidden bench. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

December 2

DAVE'S AND KURT'S URBAN HIKE IN DAYLIGHT: Try Dave's and Kurt's Wednesday Night Hike, in the Daytime! We will meet at 8:30am at the fountain across from the Mission on Main Street. Park for free in the parking lot next to the Ventura County Museum. We will walk up to the cross, then down to the pier, along the beach and then back to the Mission. 4.5 miles round trip. Coffee and snacks afterwards at the Busy Bee. All age groups invited, but those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The overview of Ventura from the cross is terrific. Rain cancels. For more info, call TED at 985-8963 (VEN)

December 3

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 am at Mission Plaza to carpool, or meet us at 9 am at Shelf Road in Ojai. There will be some uphill, over and back. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VENTURA)

December 7

CHUMASH TRAIL TO MUGU PEAK TO LA JOLLA CANYON TRAILHEAD: 4.5 mile, moderately paced, one-way hike from Chumash trailhead to La Jolla Canyon trailhead. Short car shuttle required. Start at trailhead for Chumash Trail, a steep and strenuous climb to Mugu Peak Trail, then on to the La Jolla Valley Loop trail, stopping at Mugu Peak (1266 feet) along the way. End by turning southwest on La Jolla Canyon trail, past the waterfall and ending at La Jolla Canyon trailhead. Meet at 9am in dirt parking lot near Chumash trailhead. Hiking/trail boots, 2 quarts of water and snack required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain Cancels. For more info, call LORA at 218-2105 (VEN)

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EAVESDROPS
"Eventually, all packaging should be edible."

~ And why not? Grapes and apples have edible skins and now there's WikiCells, a pliable, edible skin made up of edibles that can encase ice cream, beverages and so much more, according to the skin's creator, David Edwards of Harvard. Companies are already cropping up to revolutionize food packaging to make it more sustainable.

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Arguello Coast is a rugged pleasure

By Jim Hines

In the north of our chapter lies a beautiful and rugged place, where the land meets the sea: The wild Arguello Coast.

Often overlooked, the beautiful and protected ecosystems located within the Arguello Group's boundary (Northern Santa Barbara County) are some of the most interesting wild places on California's central coast.

A wild and unadorned Santa Maria River flows from her headwater tributaries in the Los Padres National Forest to the Pacific Ocean while forming the northern boundary of Santa Barbara County.

A day spent hiking in this beautiful land starts with day hikes at the state owned La Purisima Mission State Historical Park. In addition to viewing this beautifully restored historic Spanish mission, the park offers miles and miles of trails including creekside walks, hikes through oak woodlands and trails into the Purisima Hills.

And then there are the wild lands which make up the spectacular Guadalupe and Nipomo Dunes National

Wildlife Refuge complex. One of California's greatest coastal dune ecosystems it's a 20-mile protected preserve area managed by private conservation organizations, state parks and the federal government.

A visit to The Dunes Center located in the small town of Guadalupe west of Santa Maria is a must. Learn about this fragile ecosystem and also access to the various preserved lands and guided walks into the dune complex.

Not to be out done, the largest landowner on the Arguello coast, Vandenberg Air Force Base, is a vast complex of preserved lands, though mostly off limits to the public except through Surf Beach.

Another great day trip is the drive out to the rugged coast at Pt. Sal State Beach, an 80-acre preserve that has over a mile of white beach, tidepools, ocean views and several picnic areas.

Less crowded, great natural beauty, thousands of acres of preserved lands and endless species of beautiful plants and animals make a visit to the natural Arguello coast a fun and exciting day trip or weekend getaway.

See you on the trail.



Join us  Adventure Exploration Education

for a relaxing day hike in the Ojai, Ventura or LA areas; have a kayak or standup paddleboard lesson or join us for a guided coastal kayak tour. **4points Expeditions** are professional guides and emergency medical instructors. We work with individuals, families and organizations of all sizes and experience levels.

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Matt May
4Points Expeditions 805-320-7602
<http://4pointsexpeditions.com>



A Great Blue Heron grazes the sea grass on the Naples Coast, an area that is so threatened by development that the Sierra Club, part of the Naples Coalition, considers it a top priority to protect. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)


**Graze the coast
Join the Club**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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PRESIDENT



Barack Obama

“They aren’t in different rooms; they’re on different planets,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune about the differences between President Obama and Mitt Romney over environmental policies.

He cites at least four issues where President Obama has the edge over the challenger.

~ Obama has strongly backed the Environmental Protection Agency.

~ The President has been by far the strongest supporter of clean, renewable energy ever to occupy the White House.

~ He is the first president to actually do something truly significant about our dependence on oil, notably stronger vehicle fuel-efficiency standards.

~ One of Obama’s first acts as president was to sign the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

Outings...from page 5

December 8

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to meadow. Easy 3.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the trail head on Las Canoas Road at the bridge at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

December 9

SAN JOSE CREEK LOOP: This is an easy 3 mrt hike, exploring the neighborhood trails and roads of San Jose Creek in North Goleta. We will begin near the intersection of N. Kellogg and Calle Real and follow the creek on trails and adjacent roads. We’ll travel north of Cathedral Oaks Rd., then return via creek trails, retracing part of our initial route. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

December 9

PLAN YOUR OUTINGS: Take a break from your holiday shopping to plan your outings for the next Condor Call outings schedule. It will cover Feb-May plus 2 weeks into June. Then get your writeups to your Group Outings Chair. Questions? Email Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

December 10

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 am at Mission Plaza to carpool to the trolley, or meet us at the trolley no later than 9:00 am (the trolley leaves at 9:04 am). We will ride the trolley (25 cent fare) to Ojai, then return on the trail. For more info, call Pat at 643-0270 (VENTURA)

December 15

MISTLETOE HIKE: Collect some mistletoe on this stroll in a wooded mountain area. Children with supervision welcome. Easy 4 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

CONGRESS

**Lois Capps
24th District**

Rep. Lois Capps has long been a champion for the environment, both locally and nationally, and the Sierra Club would like to keep her talent in Congress in this newly configured District 24.

Endorsed ever since her first term in 1998, the club cites these reasons:



~ Her focus on developing green energy sources and combatting oil drilling.

~ Continuing to fight for robust environmental laws and to block anti-environmental legislation.

~ Lois serves as a senior member on the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power and the Subcommittee on Environment and Economy. She authored the Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program Act which is now law, protecting sensitive coastal ecosystems, such as the Gaviota Coast and Morro Bay.

~ She also authored an Education Act which supports innovative environment-based programs.

For more information on her stellar record and/or to help out with the campaign, visit www.cappsforcongress.com.

**JULIA BROWNLEY
26th District**

Julia Brownley has been an environmental leader in Sacramento with an astounding 97 percent lifetime voting record with the Sierra Club.

She has worked side by side with us in the Los Padres Sierra Club, helping lead the fights:

~ To stop the LNG installation off the coast of Oxnard,



~ Ensuring that the Santa Susana Field Lab and Halaco sites are cleaned up and,



~ To halt the peaker plant installation on Oxnard’s coast.

As a member of the Assembly Natural Resources committee, she battles to prevent drilling off the California coast, and encourages the use of renewable energy sources.

Also, Julia authored a bill to ban single-use carryout plastic bags in certain stores.

In Congress, we can count on Julia to be a committed leader.

To learn how you can help Julia, call 330-1070 or visit: <http://juliabrownley.com>

**LEE ROGERS
25th District**

The Sierra Club would like to introduce and endorse Dr. Lee Rogers for the 25th District.



While the District includes just a small portion of eastern Ventura, it faces some major issues that impact us, including the cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Lab, due to contamination by Rocketdyne and a reactor meltdown leaving radiation and toxic chemicals.

Boeing is challenging its responsibility for the pollution, but Rogers is determined to get the site clean again and has made environmental protection a centerpiece of his campaign.

For more information, call (661) 200-9205 or: www.leerogers2012.com

STATE ASSEMBLY

**DAS WILLIAMS
37th District**

Since his 2010 election, Das Williams has overwhelmingly voted on critical matters of concern to the Sierra Club.

He has worked to extend public interest energy activities that invest in clean and renewable research and technologies. He supports bills to promote heating and cooling technologies that can contribute to the State’s clean energy goals and a bill aimed at reducing toxics in buildings. Two bills, AB 2340 and AB 2341, would allow for localized energy generation.

As we predicted in 2010, he will continue the great tradition of environmentalism by championing forward thinking policies.

For additional information or to join his campaign visit: <http://vote.daswilliams.org>



**EDWARD HEADINGTON
38th District**

An avid hiker and strong supporter of the environment, Edward Headington loves the open space, environmental quality and recreational opportunities of the Santa Susana Mountains and the surrounding area.



Headington has made enforcement of the cleanup of the radioactive and toxic stew at the

Santa Susana Field Lab a major point of his campaign and cites environmental and wildlife protection top priorities.

While only a small portion of District 38 is in the Los Padres area, we can all benefit greatly by adding a friend of the environment to the Assembly.

For more information or to help with his campaign, call 620-7038 or: <http://www.edward2012.com>

STATE SENATE

**HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
19th District**

Hannah-Beth Jackson’s record and effectiveness on protecting the environment during her tenure in the Assembly (1998-2004) made her one of the strongest champions for conservation efforts.

Her proud accomplishments include protecting our coastline, opposing offshore oil drilling, fighting climate change, and preserving our open spaces.



For her work, she was endorsed by the California League of Conservation Voters and named an

“Environmental Hero” by the league and by the Environmental Defense Center in 2001.

She is an environmental champion, earning awards from Heal the Ocean and the Wetlands Recovery Project in 2001, CLCV Grizzly Award and Guardian of the Coast award in 2002.

Simply put, she is an environmental champion.

“I believe that I have the experience, effectiveness and commitment to help make a difference for the district and our state,” she said.

To help out with her campaign, go to: www.hanna-beth2012.com.

**FRAN PAVLEY
27th District**

State Senator Fran Pavley has been an environmental leader throughout her six years in the Assembly and four in the State Senate, earning the Sierra Club endorsement in the newly configured 27th District.

Her work is so effective that her landmark tailpipe emission reduction bill (AB 1493) is now known simply as the “Pavley” law. President Obama recently announced there would be a new national standard modeled after that bill, which increases auto emission standards.



Locally, Fran was instrumental in the acquisition of Ahmanson

Ranch. She fought alongside us to stop the proposed LNG facility, and to save Ormond Beach Wetlands.

Other bills championed by Fran takes are a greenhouse gas law, a bill to reduce exposure to dangerous toxics and her Environmental Education Initiative.

Fran is a 40-year member of the Sierra Club and serves on environmental committees.

To help with her campaign, visit www.franpavley.com.



PROPOSITIONS

PROP 31 OPPOSE

While this well-intentioned measure touts its devotion to reform, it actually creates a more unmanageable system and undermines environmental laws.

Prop 31 contains a dangerous provision allowing local governments to override state laws. If, for instance, it was decided compliance was too costly and “impedes” local goals, state laws could be circumvented on such issues as air and water quality, protection of coastal lands, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and hazardous waste remediation.

It also gives the governor excessive power and provides incentives for the minority party to block action on the budget.

PROP 32 OPPOSE

Proposition 32 masquerades as campaign-finance reform, but actually it would cripple political action by environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club and by organized labor, with only minor limits on business.

Derisively called the “Billionaires’ Bill of Rights,” it prohibits use of payroll deductions to collect “political funds.” This is grossly discriminatory, since unions get almost all of their funds through payroll deductions and businesses almost none. And it exempts LLCs, partnerships, real-estate trusts, venture capitalists, land developers and law firms altogether.

It defines public employee unions as “government contractors,” and forbids them from attempting to influence any government agency.

PROP 37 SUPPORT

Prop 37 isn’t a ban; it’s a label. It’s simply saying give consumers information so we can choose whether or not we want to eat genetically engineered foods. Consumers in 50 other countries already have this right.

It requires companies to add a few words to labels. Also called GMOs, these modified plant and animal products are altered to combine DNA from one species with another to create combinations that don’t occur in nature. GMO crops have led to an increase in pesticide use, emergence of “superweeds and superbugs,” and contamination of non-GMO crops.

For details, go to: www.CaRighttoKnow.org

PROP 39 SUPPORT

This proposition allows a more fair corporate tax to fund energy efficiency and education, as it will help increase alternative energy while reducing energy supply demand at schools and other public buildings.

It would generate billions of dollars in new funds for education, and for five years fund job-creating energy projects. It would also fix an unfair corporate tax loophole, requiring out-of-state companies to pay taxes on California sales the same way that in-state companies pay taxes.

The Legislative Analyst estimates that Proposition 39 would garner at least \$500 million dollars a year for efficiency and alternative energy projects.

City of Goleta Voters win with G2012

For Sierra Club members who live in the City of Goleta, please vote to support Measure G2012 to protect Goleta's major agricultural parcels by giving voters the final say over protecting ag land.

While the General Plan contains a balance of urban and agricultural uses, and the City has 1,400 housing units

and nearly 2 million square feet of commercial development in process, our concern is that developers threaten to upset this balance.

As recently as September 2011, a developer sought an amendment to develop nearly 1,000 luxury houses on Bishop Ranch. Though it was rejected, it takes only three City Council

Ed Easton is active

Sierra Club is proud to once again endorse Ed Easton for Goleta City Council, as he has a long history with the Sierra Club stretching back to the early



70s when he organized the Central Piedmont Group of the Joseph LeConte Chapter (NC and SC) and served as chair of his Group and Chapter.

He continued his activism upon coming to Santa Barbara in 2000 where he served as the Santa Barbara Group Conservation Chair and then as Group Chair.

Ed has also contributed his time to the City of Goleta, first as a member of the Old Town Project Advisory Commission addressing redevelopment issues, next as a member of the Design

Review Board focusing on neighborhood compatibility, and then as a member of the Planning Commission.

Since his election to the City Council in 2008, he has worked to promote environmental initiatives, using his architectural background to describe and advocate for adoption of the "Reach Code." The code establishes energy efficiency standards for lower heating and cooling through limiting air exchanges from inside to outside.

He used his forest management knowledge to help rewrite the city's Urban Forestry Management Plan, adopted unanimously. Ed is a strong voice against over-development, retaining beach access to beaches, and protecting agricultural parcels.

To learn more, visit www.EastonforCouncil2012.com

Praise to water board

In the Goleta Water District election, Los Padres Sierra Club endorsed three incumbents who were so qualified that they drew no opposition. In fact, their names – Bill Rosen, Lauren Hanson and Rick Merrifield -- won't even appear on the November 6th ballot. Nevertheless their accomplishments merit discussion.

Bill and Lauren were endorsed by Sierra Club when they ran successfully for the Board of Directors in 2008. They took control of a public agency that was rapidly losing customer confidence and set about improving the organization. A new general manager was hired, financial controls were put in place, and strict adherence to the voter-approved 1991 SAFE ordinance was followed, which provides for a community drought buffer and limiting new water connections. Most importantly, Bill and Lauren supported the adoption of groundwater and water supply management plans. These policies protect water resources while controlling the cost of water.

Rick joined the board in March 2011 when a sitting director moved out of state. Rick had served as Director of Environmental Health before retiring from Santa Barbara County and brought additional skills in budget oversight and water quality issues.

All three voted for an infrastructure improvement plan to address accumulated and ongoing needs for maintenance and upgrades to the transportation and treatment systems, much of which is more than 50 years old. They have supported an updated urban water plan and most recently a sustainability plan to evaluate impacts to natural resources while maximizing economic performance.

An "edible garden" will soon be part of the district's demonstration garden and expanded conservation efforts are moving forward.

In less than four years, these Sierra Club endorsed candidates have turned around the largest water district on the South Coast. Kudos to Bill Rosen, Lauren Hanson, and Rick Merrifield.



Bill Rosen



Lauren Hanson



Rick Merrifield

LOCAL RACES

members' votes to amend the Plan. That's why over 2,100 Goleta voters signed petitions placing Measure G2012 on the ballot.

The measure simply requires Goleta voters' approval *before* zoning changes to Goleta's major agricultural parcels can be final.

Measure G2012 is endorsed by Ed Easton, Margaret Connell, Paula Perotte, Das Williams, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Janet Wolf, Doreen Farr, Lauren Hanson, Bill Rosen, and Rick Merrifield, all of whom have been endorsed by the Los Padres Sierra Club and support this effort to preserve agricultural land.

For more information, go to: <http://goletaheritagefarmland.org>

City of Carpinteria Council

Kathleen Reddington

Four years ago, Los Padres Sierra Club endorsed Kathleen Reddington for the Carpinteria City Council because she had several years of experience as a City Planning Commissioner and was active to preserve the city's quality of life and natural beauty.

Now, her record as a sitting councilmember has earned her our endorsement for reelection.

She campaigned to defeat Venoco's Pardon Project and remains actively engaged in monitoring new oil proposals, such as expanded drilling from Platform Hogan.



Polly

She worked to preserve a century old pine near the town center, acquire land from Union Pacific railroad now designated for recreational use, and to enact an ordinance restricting plastic bags. She also supported reduced traffic lanes on the Linden Bridge Overpass.

Together with three other councilmembers all of whom have previously received the Sierra Club endorsement the Council is approving progressive measures to enhance its city.

To learn more or to help out, go to: <http://reelectreddington.com>

Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett a Visionary

The November election will decide the future of open space and agriculture in Ventura County.

Steve Bennett is a visionary leader who has spearheaded protection of the natural



environment in Ventura County for more than two decades. When he saw that urban sprawl was coming into the County in the early 1990s, he brought people together, first in Ventura City and then countywide, to pass the SOAR initiatives, designed to stop the piecemeal urban sprawl policies that had damaged the quality of life in LA and the San Fernando Valley.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he has kept this vision.

He has been effective in protecting our pristine natural areas, our open spaces and our prime agricultural land. He has been a leader on issues as varied as requiring clear environmental review of proposed developments, to joining with business, social service and environmental groups supporting the Ventura River Parkway plan.

He works to improve our bicycle and hiking trails, and streamline the process for landowners to create conservation easements.

The results of this election are crucial in maintaining the balance of power on the Board. With Steve, we will continue to have an advocate committed to protecting Ventura County as an exceptional place to live and raise a family.

To learn more or to help with his campaign, call 628-2860 or: <http://bennettforsupervisor.com>

Fred Shaw

Whether it's helping to defeat Venoco's Measure J oil initiative or volunteering for Carpinteria Seal Watch, supporting Carpinteria Beautiful and acquisition of Bluffs Nature Park, Fred Shaw has been there for the community and the environment.

A retired postal employee, he is actively engaged in his community. He supports preservation of agricultural land through existing tax incentives and promotion of Amtrak for day-trippers who can support Carpinteria's small beach town businesses car free. One of the biggest challenges facing the city is the Highway 101 in Motion project. If on- and off-



-ramp closures are not carefully coordinated, it will produce gridlock on city surface streets for residents and visitors alike.

If you want someone on city council who believes in wetland protection, nature trails, and continued funding for bike and walking trails, he deserves your vote.

Fred's home is adjacent to the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park. When you start each day viewing that magnificent setting, how could you not want to preserve and protect the beauty and charm of Carpinteria?

To learn more, go to <http://fredshaw.nationbuilder.com>

Carpinteria Water District

Polly Holcombe • Shirly Johnson • Alexandra Van Antwerp

If you get your water bill from the Carpinteria Valley Water District, you should read about three capable candidates who are running for the Board of Directors and are endorsed by Sierra Club: Polly Holcombe, Shirley Johnson and Alexandra VanAntwerp.

There are three seats at stake: Holcombe and Johnson are running for seats with four-year terms; VanAntwerp is running for a two-year term.

Water is a renewable natural resource that is becoming more expensive, especially when repairs to aging infrastructure are needed and too much State Water is in the District's water portfolio. Voters should look for candidates who

understand capital improvement projects and balance sheets but are committed to protecting

the resource and promoting conservation and recycling.

You also need directors who are attentive to oil projects near the local groundwater basin and will stand up to protect your aquifer.

Polly Holcombe has been active with Carpinteria Beautiful, the Reusable Bag Drive, and worked against Measure J, Venoco's Pardon oil project initiative in 2008. She has held senior management positions with major U.S. companies and been responsible for a \$20 million budget. Her commitment to protecting the local water resource together with her business skills makes her an exceptional candidate for any water board.



Shirley

Shirley Johnson is a retired executive of an international trading company with experience in finance and

project management. She has been an active volunteer with the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps, done native plant restoration, and served as campaign manager for a successful city council candidate who was strongly anti-oil drilling.

Alexandra VanAntwerp is a fourth generation Carpinterian who grew up working on her grandparents' avocado and lemon ranch where she learned that water is scarce and expensive. She has 24 years of business management experience that includes making multi-million dollar decisions. Alexandra has participated in the Carpinteria Beautiful and Ban the Bag Campaigns and is committed to water conservation programs and



Alexandra

protection of the groundwater table.

For more details, visit <http://carpwatmatters.com>.

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By James Paxton

“Be here at the office at 7:30 a.m. sharp. A minute late and you don’t work.”

Coming from the initially intimidating veteran Mike Vaughn, Head Supervisor of work projects on the CREW, I can tell you for damn sure I wasn’t late to work.

When I first heard about the CREW this summer through a friend of my father’s whose son worked there, I was definitely a little more than intrigued. I immediately envisioned chainsaws, heavy lifting, tough work and truck driving, and that was all it took to get my 18-year-old macho man juices flowing.

And to top it all off, I’d be working for a good cause.

The CREW is an acronym

About CREW

The CREW is an environmentally oriented nonprofit youth leadership and employment organization, founded in 1991. It provides leadership and job training, paid employment and community service opportunities to local youth aged 14 to 26, while providing the resources needed to preserve, maintain, and improve public and private wild lands as well as to protect local communities against the threat of wildfire.

CREW currently operates in Ventura and Santa Barbara

that stands for Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers. They are given grants to clean up ecosystems and remove invasive species, among other projects.

I couldn’t wait to start work. I called the office in Ojai and set up an interview; about a week after that I was getting up at 6 a.m. to make sure I wasn’t late for my first day on the job, Mike’s words still echoing in my head.

It was good to see that most of the other workers there were contemporaries of mine in age. You can start working for the CREW as a paid employee as early as age fourteen, but to be a supervisor you must be at least 21.

For my first job, I was stationed at a project down in Foster Park, Ventura, removing



counties where it contracts with the U.S. Forest Service, City and County fire prevention agencies, and private sector organizations. Each year it trains and employs 100 male and female youths. Over 40 percent of participants are low income or at risk.

Wally McCall is the Chief Executive Officer (ask him about his Australian outlaw ancestors). Call the CREW at 649-8847 or log on to:

www.TheCREW.org



The C.R.E.W. has done an amazing job helping to clear the Ventura River Mouth of the invasive Arrudo Donax weed, which chokes the natural habitat, demands huge amounts of water and serves as cover for scores of homeless camps, plus providing jobs for youth aged 14 – 26. (Photo by Caitlin Pohle)

this horrible bamboo-related reed called Arundo Donax. Joaquin, my supervisor, barked a couple quick orders to “Grab a hard hat, gloves, eye-goggles, and two chainsaws. Make it quick, I’m gettin’ old here!”

My final job entailed camping out at Lake Piru for four days in absolutely blistering heat in order to map out the GPS locations of various invasive species to the area. No removal thank god! At first, I thought to myself, I can handle this, I mean after all it’s just hiking. Boy, did I have another think coming!

After the second full day of work, hiking in jeans and a long-sleeve shirt in 111 degrees led to the worst heat stroke I never thought I could have. After a hospital trip and against doctor’s orders, I somehow convinced Mike Vaughn to take

me back to camp.

I came to have a real respect for the CREW as an organization, and I liked to think of myself as a soldier, part of a team working towards a greater goal, so I couldn’t leave camp while the team was still back there, it was my duty to return.

I recommend the CREW for people looking for a rewarding but physically challenging job; hell, even I’ll admit it, there’s some work you just wouldn’t do unless you got paid.

Next issue of

Condor Call

comes out 1st of December

DEADLINES:

Editorial: November 16

Advertising: November 17

Questions? Call 452-2885