

The VENTANA
MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

AUG, SEP, OCT
OUTINGS



Douglas Steakley

Club honors Sam Farr and Douglas Steakley
p. 4



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed in *The Ventana* publication schedule (see below). No exceptions.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Submissions are preferred via e-mail or on a high density 3-1/2 inch diskette. Save files as "text" or "ascii." Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: Debbie Bulger, Editor 1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 e-mail: dfbulger@cruzio.com

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Editor:

Debbie Bulger • 457-1036
e-mail: dfbulger@cruzio.com
(no change of address calls, please!)

Production:

Lynnelle Wing, Art Director;
Vivian Larkins, Clove

Writers:

Rita Dalessio, Debbie Bulger,
Jodi Frediani, Patricia Matejcek,
Lois Robin

Photographers:

Douglas Steakley, Jodi Frediani,
Lois Robin, Lynnelle Wing,
Dan Miller

Proofreaders:

Richard Stover, Vivian Larkins
Charles Koester, Julie Hitchcock

Distribution:

Lew Weinstein, Debbie Bulger,
Sheila Dunnaway

Advertising Sales:

Debbie Bulger

Late Night Food Delivery & Software:

Richard Stover

Chapter website:

<http://ventana.sierraclub.org>

Please send all Letters-to-the-Editor to:
Editor, c/o Sierra Club • 1603 King St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Send e-mail to: dfbulger@cruzio.com



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#5	Sep. 15	Oct. 2
#6	Nov. 10	Nov. 28

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

We share the planet

Since enactment of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, over 1,200 species have been protected nationally—300 in California. Since then, efforts of environmentalists have led to the recovery of frequently-seen local species such as the gray whale, peregrine falcon and brown pelican, making America a world leader in conservation.

Early leaders in our country saw the value of wildlife to our emerging nation. In the nineteenth century, national parks and special wildlife refuges were put aside to conserve habitat and their species. America signed treaties with foreign nations to protect migrating birds.

It's hard to believe this is the same country, when today special interests control our Congress and the White House. As a result, the Bush administration has weakened many environmental laws. Further, it intends to diminish the impact of the entire structure of environmental protection that has carefully been constructed over the years.

Developers are also flexing their power locally. As growth increases in our scenic coastal communities, the threats to listed animals and plants is greater than ever. Wetlands have been impacted the most. Our state has lost 95% of its wetlands.

Wetlands habitat in Central California sustains such species as the once common California red-legged frog. Now, we have lost 70% of red-legged frog population statewide making the local populations of great significance. While almost all coastal drainages from the San Mateo County line to the city of Santa Cruz support this species, human impacts cause a variety of threats. Projects such as development plans for Luers Barn near Davenport, proposed channeling of the Pajaro River, and construction of a high school by the sloughs

of Watsonville could further reduce red-legged frog habitat.

A recovery program has been developed for the red-legged frog. But the program itself may need protection. Last year, the Navy planned to conduct bombing exercises at Fort Hunter Liggett, in the area of an ongoing recovery program for the endangered California Condor. Only a huge public outcry, and the intervention of Representative Sam Farr, prevented this

ecological outrage.

Sierra Club has been in the forefront of protection efforts for threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. It has begun a series of projects to increase awareness of the Club's role in this effort. We can feel proud of our leadership in protecting endangered species. And we urge your continued vigilance in protecting the life with which we share our planet.

—Rita Dalessio

FROM THE EDITOR

A culture of waste

I am embarrassed by our culture of waste. I don't mean overconsumption; I mean waste. It's shocking enough that Americans with less than 5% of the world population account for 25% of the world's energy consumption. Worse, we don't even *use* much of these resources. We literally pour them down the drain.

Like letting sprinklers run during a rain shower or allowing water to run into the gutter because the ground is saturated or the sprinkler head is misaligned. Despite city concerns about water availability for the future, we act as if water were an infinite resource.

Every day I see vehicles with their motors running while drivers run into buildings to do errands. Oftentimes I see parents sitting in idling cars waiting outside a school for a child. Sometimes the vehicles sit there for five or ten minutes spewing noxious gasses into the schoolyard and wasting gasoline. We act as if world oil reserves will last forever. There is scant acknowledgement that gasoline is a precious resource that should be carefully managed.

At construction sites I see dumpsters filled with perfectly reusable wood and other materials combined with non-reusable rubble destined for the landfill. And yet we continue to non-sustainably cut down our National Forests and private timber holdings.

One might argue that we need to live more simply and use fewer resources. From daily observations, I must conclude that the average person doesn't yet have the awareness that resources are finite.

Back in Colonial times Ben Franklin wrote, "A penny saved is a penny earned." That concept seems to be lost on the American public today. Government policies offer little guidance or education for residents. When we drive more, we are rewarded with new roads and parking garages; current water pricing has little effect on wasteful practices, and planned obsolescence is not taxed but rather considered good for business.

In the 60s I lived in a third world country where everything was used and reused because residents had so little. Water was fetched with time-consuming labor. Old tires were made into sandals, discarded cans were reused or reworked into sheet metal. The lack of resources and absence of government subsidies did not mask scarcity. Market forces produced a culture of reduce, reuse, recycle.

I am embarrassed by our culture of waste.

—Debbie Bulger

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Staff for Sierra Club Bookstore in Carmel

A chance to enjoy working in Carmel and helping the Club. Volunteers work 4 hours a month. Meet interesting people. Join the team! Call Vi Fox, 626-1588



LETTERS

The Ventana welcomes letters. Send to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Ventana, 1603 King Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 or email to dfbulger@cruzio.com

Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.

Highway expansion threatens salamanders

While committees of humans contemplate the Highway 1 widening, the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander goes about its business of living, breathing, and eating mosquitoes, unaware that one of its last remaining breeding ponds is as endangered as the salamander itself. On rainy winter nights one segment of these salamanders migrates from upland areas down to Valencia Lagoon on Bonita Drive in Rio Del Mar, the only breeding pond left for this sub-population. However, the proposed added southbound lane stretching to Larkin Valley could obliterate this pond, a death knell for one out of only three remaining sub-populations of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.

Though some shrug it off, the progressive threat to this amazing species threatens us as well. As David Suzuki, the eminent geneticist and environmentalist, has written, "When we forget that we are embedded in the natural world, we also forget that what we do to our surroundings we are doing to ourselves."

In fact, it has been highway construction in particular in Santa Cruz County that has caused severe habitat loss for the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander. The brutal irony, of course, is that, touted car-pool lane or not, any such amelioration of Highway 1 traffic will be short-lived, as studies show time and again that added lanes ultimately foster more cars. To contemplate the loss of yet another beautiful creature to accommodate further human folly is tremendously saddening.

The public saved these salamanders from obliteration in the '70s; in serving as their voice, I'm hoping we can save them yet again. Anyone interested in helping the salamanders, please email me at leeseve@aol.com. By the way, there is an excellent website about these phenomenal amphibians: <http://www.montereybay.com/creagrus/CAsczlongtoedsalamander.html>.

—Elissa Wagner
 Aptos

Environmentalists' work pays off for Marks Ranch

Efforts underway to add Marks Ranch to Toro Park

Two years of determined effort by the Citizens to Save Marks Ranch and by LandWatch Monterey County to prevent development of historic Marks Ranch on the Monterey-Salinas Highway have succeeded. The owner of the property, St. John's College, has terminated the 28-year option they had with Las Palmas developers, Michael Fletcher, Sr. and James Fletcher, to subdivide the oak-studded Marks Ranch property. The Fletchers are noted for building on tree-stripped terraces.

As reported in *The Ventana* in 2001 (Vol. 40, No. 3), the Marks Ranch property was in danger of intense development. Herman Marks had willed his homestead to St. John's College for a college and open space. As such, it was zoned public/quasi-public. Instead St. John's decided to sell the property to the developers of the neighboring Las Palmas subdivision. The Fletchers then attempted to have the ranch re-zoned to residential.

Citizens to Save Marks Ranch galvanized public support against the rezoning. Chapter member Robin Way provided photo panoramas of the property which showed the oak woodland habitat and adjacent Toro Park (to which Herman Marks had deeded 5,000 acres).

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Using the photos, organizers attended meetings and gathered over 3,600 protest signatures which were presented to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Reporters covered the story in the local papers.

Ventana Chapter member Harriet Mitteldorf wrote a powerful article for the *Monterey Herald* censuring the violation of Herman Marks' will with its environmental intent. Her commentary generated indignant letters to the editor. Two supervisors publicly stated that they would never vote to rezone Marks Ranch. Even so, for two years there was no response from St. John's College.

Finally on May 8, 2003, a "Memorandum of Termination of Option to Purchase Agreement and Mutual Release" between St. John's College and the Fletchers was recorded with the Monterey County Recorder. This ends the Fletchers' attempt to pursue a massive residential development on beautiful Marks Ranch.

Now the hard work begins to fund the purchase of the property. The Big Sur Land Trust and Monterey County are working to add Marks Ranch to Toro Park.

Save Our Peninsula donates \$10,000 to Chapter

The Ventana Chapter gratefully acknowledges the recent gift of \$10,000 from the Save Our Peninsula (SOP) committee. Ed Leeper, an SOP spokesperson, stated that these funds were part of a settlement of a lawsuit SOP brought against the Robles Del Rio Lodge, in Carmel Valley. The suit was based upon Robles Del Rio's sale of water credits to wealthy developers at exorbitantly high fees.

Attorney Richard Rosenthal filed suit on behalf of SOP. As part of the settlement, Robles Del Rio was ordered to place \$35,000 in an escrow account, to be used for specific enumerated purposes. If not expended within a year, the funds were to (and did) revert back to SOP which donated them to Monterey County environmental groups. In addition to the Ventana Chapter, groups receiving donations from the fund were the Big Sur Land Trust, LandWatch and Helping Our Peninsula's Environment (HOPE).

SOP was founded in 1995 to stop the Developer's Dam, and worked with the Ventana Chapter on that issue. Since then, SOP has served as an environmental watchdog concerned with development projects proposed for Monterey County.

Contact Your Representatives

President George W. Bush
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500
 Comment line: (202) 456-1111
 FAX: (202) 456-2461
samfarr@mail.house.gov

Vice President Dick Cheney
 (202) 456-1414
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Gray Davis
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 (916) 445-2841
 FAX: (916) 445-4633
graydavis@governor.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
 331 Hart Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 (202) 224-3841
 (415) 393-0707
 1 Post Street, Suite 2450
 San Francisco, CA 94104
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer
 112 Hart Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 (202) 224-3553
 (415) 403-0100 (Voice)
 1700 Montgomery Street
 San Francisco, CA 94111
senator@boxer.senate.gov

U.S. Representative Sam Farr
 100 W. Alisal Street
 Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 429-1976 (Santa Cruz)
 (831) 424-2229 (Salinas)
 (202) 225-6791 (FAX, Washington, D.C.)
samfarr@mail.house.gov

U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo
 698 Emerson Street
 Palo Alto, CA 94301
 (408) 245-2339
 FAX (650) 323-3498
eshoo.house.gov/communicate.html

State Senator Bruce McPherson
 701 Ocean Street, Room 318-A
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 (831) 425-0401 (Santa Cruz)
 (831) 753-6386 (Salinas)
 toll free: 1-800-224-8050
senator.mcpherson@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Jeff Denham
 369 Main Street, #208
 Salinas, CA 93901
 (831) 769-8040
senator.Denham@sen.ca.gov

Assembly Representative Simon Salinas
 100 W. Alisal Street, Rm. 134
 Salinas, CA 93901
 (831) 759-8676
 FAX (831) 759-2961
assemblymember.Salinas@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly Representative John Laird
 701 Ocean Street, Room 318-B
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 (831) 425-1503
 100 Campus Center, Building 58
 Seaside, CA 93955
 (831) 649-2832
assemblymember.Laird@assembly.ca.gov

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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 4, 2003

Representative Sam Farr wins National Sierra Club award



Once again Central Coast residents will be recognized by the National Sierra Club at its annual banquet in San Francisco September 20. If you would like to attend the event with other local Chapter members, see the information in the sidebar.

Sam Farr

U. S. Representative Sam Farr has been selected to receive the prestigious Ed Wayburn Award given for outstanding service to the environment by a person in government. Representative Farr has had an outstanding environmental record in the U. S. Congress culminating in the passage of his Big Sur Wilderness Bill and Conservation Act of 2002. This bill added wilderness protection to 17,000 acres in the Silver Peak Wilderness and 37,000 acres in the Ventana Wilderness both in the Los Padres National Forest as well as some acreage near Pinnacles National Monument.

Locally, in addition to the Wilderness Bill, Farr responded to protests from environmentalists and stopped the Navy bombing exercises planned for Fort Hunter Liggett. He has also been an unwavering proponent of affordable housing on Fort Ord, a previous army base now under conversion. Affordable housing lessens sprawl especially in areas like Monterey County which is fighting to save its rich agricultural lands from development.

Nationally, Farr has furthered the environmental cause by increasing appropriations for the national marine



sanctuary system as well as designating a portion of those increases for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Farr also introduced legislation to prevent over-fishing of limited or dwindling fish stocks.

While on the Agricultural Committee, Representative Farr was responsible for originally proposing legislation (93rd Congress) on conserving agricultural land from urban sprawl. He has continued his commitment to this issue by protecting or increasing appropriations for the program. Farr has also secured funding for the first federal organic research position in the nation.

When the Chapter submitted its nomination to the Awards Committee, we received several testimonials from Sierra Club members regarding Sam Farr's environmental achievements:

Vicky Hoover, Chair of the California/Nevada Wilderness Committee:

"The Big Sur Wilderness bill would never have passed in this administration without Sam Farr seizing an unexpected opportune moment and giving it his all."

Ventana Wilderness Alliance board member Gordon Johnson:

"We are all indebted to Congressman Sam Farr for having the vision to preserve these lands for future generations and also for having the political skill to bring together the necessary bipartisan support in Congress to turn that vision into law."

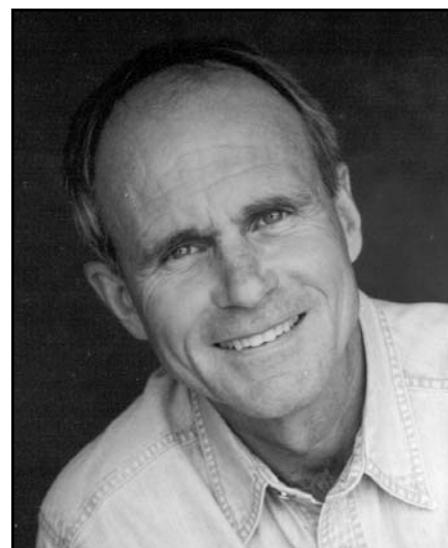
Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on page 15.

The post office charges us 60 cents each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by using the coupon on page 15.

Thank you

Big Sur photographer Doug Steakley to get Ansel Adams award



ties to the Land Trust for use. In addition to the generous donation of his images, Doug was also the driving force behind the publication of *Big Sur and Beyond, The Legacy of The Big Sur Land Trust*, a hardcover coffee table book featuring his spectacular photography of the Trust's conserved properties. During the two years of working on the book, Steakley donated all of his time, expertise and expenses.

More recently Steakley has also been contributing his photography to other conservation groups including national organizations such as Land Trust Alliance, The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Land.

In addition his photography of Monterey County, Steakley is an avid photographer of Yosemite and Mexico. His first book of photography was *Pacific Light*, published in 2000.

Sierra Club Awards Banquet

Reserve your place now!

Saturday September 20, 6:00 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel

480 Sutter Street, San Francisco

For more information check the Chapter website, www.ventana.sierra-club.org. Contact Rita Dalessio.

659-7046



Steakley's stunning image of Rocky Point captures the beauty of Big Sur.

Douglas Steakley

State Parks recommends approval for inadequate Nisene Marks Plan

Public comments ignored regarding Marks' will

The California Department of State Parks is recommending approval of a seriously-flawed Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR for the Forest of Nisene Marks. This plan goes before the State Parks and Recreation Commission on August 22 in San Jose.

The Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club has submitted comments to the Commission regarding the inadequacy of the Draft Plan. The level of analysis in the plan is insufficient to determine the impact of designated uses and development on habitat and species within the park.

The plan contains no comprehensive biological inventory of the park. Without such an inventory, it is impossible to determine the need for special designations such as natural preserves.

There is no modern carrying capacity analysis nor cumulative impacts analysis for expansion of visitor facilities and use of trails by bikes. This results in a piece-meal or segmented plan which State Parks is calling a "Tiered Plan." Segmented plans violate the California Environmental Quality Act and are used

by developers to install more than would be allowed if the projects were presented at the same time.

Trail plan omitted

The Draft Plan does not include a trail plan in an obvious attempt to avoid the issue of whether mountain bikes would be allowed on trails above the steel bridge. A trail plan should be included and should be science-based with consideration of impacts on soil erosion, and sensitive habitat and species. The intention of the Marks Family to keep the property in a natural state should be honored.

During public hearings in 2001 and 2002, there was considerable public input asking that trails within the park remain peaceful, safe for hikers and free of mechanical transport. The Marks deed specifies that the Forest of Nisene Marks be "preserved as a natural preserve" and be used for "camping, nature study, hiking and associated activities." State Parks should honor that deed.

Copies of the Preliminary General Plan/DEIR are available for review at:

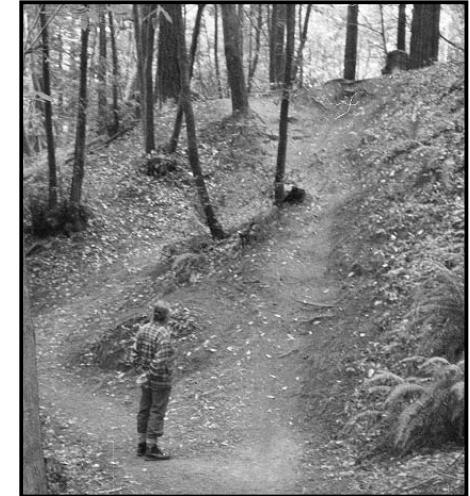
State Parks Santa Cruz District Office, Aptos Public Library, Santa Cruz City Library, and on the internet at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21501.

How to help

- Attend the Park and Recreation Commission Hearing in San Jose, on August 22. Contact Sandy Henn, ixnae@aol.com or 662-2843 for carpool information.

• Attend the tour of Nisene Marks with the Park and Recreation Commission on August 21. Contact Louis Nastro, L.Nastro@parks.ca.gov or (916) 653-0524 for information regarding the tour. If you cannot attend the entire tour which includes other parks, ask what time the tour will arrive at Nisene Marks and join it there. It will be important to attend this tour in order to hear what State Parks is telling the Commissioners.

• Send written comments with your concerns regarding the Preliminary General Plan/DEIR to: Ruth Coleman, Secretary, State Park and Recreation



Dan Miller

Illegal bike trails erode soil in the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

Cheney loses appeal on secret Energy Task Force

Court rules Bush administration is not above the law

In a victory for the rule of law and the public's right to know, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the Bush Administration's request to overturn a lower court ruling requiring the Administration to produce information about the secret meetings of the Cheney Energy Task Force.

In a 2-1 decision, the Court of Appeals said the Bush Administration is subject to "discovery," and must comply with requests for information from Sierra Club and Judicial Watch. These groups are suing the Administration to shed light on how much influence polluting industries had over the Administration's destructive energy policy that is the basis for the disastrous energy bill currently before Congress. In rejecting the government's arguments, the Court noted that the Administration's position would "transform executive privilege from a doctrine designed to protect presidential communications into virtual immunity from suit."

"The public is one step closer to finding out how much influence polluting industries had on the nation's energy policy," said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

Every American deserves a safe, clean, and affordable energy future.

Fortunately, the technologies exist to get us there. But the Bush Administration and Congressional leadership are taking us down the wrong path with a destructive, expensive, and polluting energy bill. Much of the bill stems from the Bush Administration's Energy Task Force plan.

The Club is suing Vice President Cheney and the Energy Task Force under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, seeking an accounting of energy industry participation in crafting the Bush Administration's destructive energy policy, which relies on subsidies to polluting and outdated fossil fuel industries. The District Court ordered the Administration to provide information about participation from these industries, which the Bush Administration refused to do, claiming Constitutional immunity from such inquiries. The District Court rejected that contention, pointing out that the Administration was attempting to "cloak what is tantamount to an aggrandizement of Executive power with the legitimacy of precedent where none exists." The Administration appealed, asking the D.C. Circuit to make new law that would effectively shield it from any legal scrutiny. The Circuit Court denied their request.

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CALENDAR

Sierra Club Events

Tuesday, August 12

Water Quality Protest - Sacramento

Sierra Club is participating in a large protest with other environmental organizations in Sacramento at the State Water Resources Control Board. Our intent is to demonstrate the serious decline of California water quality and the need for the State Water Board to step up to bat and hold the timber industry accountable for sediment discharges. To carpool call Jodi Frediani, 426-1697.

Friday, August 22

Singles Potluck and Games

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide an opportunity to work out weekend plans with others. 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4) are great too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Monday, August 25

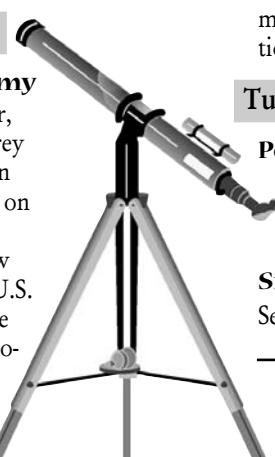
Lobby Day

Come to Sacramento and lobby members of the State Legislature. Political training is conducted by the Club the day before. Contact Marianne Batchelder at (916) 557-1100 x107, batchelder@sierraclub-sac.org. Food and partial reimbursement provided. See article page 14.

Tuesday, August 26

Potluck - Astronomy

Dr. Wm. Bruce Weaver, Director of the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy, will speak on stargazing in Monterey County—one of the few remaining sites in the U.S. with conditions suitable for high resolution astronomical imaging. The growing light pollution in the county threatens astronomical research, wastes energy, and deprives residents of their heritage of the wonder of the night sky. This problem can be solved if addressed promptly.



Bring food to share for 8 and your own plate and utensils. Drinks available. Carmel: 6:15 p.m. Turn east at Hwy. 1 and Rio Road; turn south at the last stop light at Carmel Center Place; park in the lighted area behind the Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more info. call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Saturday/Sunday, September 6-7

State Conservation Meeting

Keynote speaker Kevin Hall will talk about cleaning up the San Joaquin Valley's air. Attend this meeting near San Luis Obispo and get involved in conservation at the state level. Call Patricia Matejcek for information, 423-8567.

Friday, September 12

Potluck - Yellowstone

This slide show is from George & Judy's trip to Yellowstone. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value \$4)

make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Tuesday, September 23

Potluck - TBA

Call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Friday, September 26

Singles Potluck and Games

See August 22 for details.

Saturday, October 18

Membership Luncheon

Big Sur naturalist and historian Jeff Norman will speak. \$15 includes lunch. Hikes and walks at Mitteldorf Preserve included. See ad this page.

Space limited.

Call early.

Joel Weinstein, 624-5338.

Non-Sierra Club events of interest

The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Club makes no representations or warranties about the safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service.

Wednesday, August 13

Save PG tidepools

The Coalition to Preserve and Restore Pt. Pinos Tidepools will hold a protest demonstration at the Fish and Game Office, 20 Lower Ragsdale Ave. at Ryan Ranch, Monterey. 1:30 p.m. Estimated duration, one hour. Bring homemade protest signs if you can. Call 372-0123 for more information.

from Santa Cruz's finest restaurants. Live music and contra dancing. Sponsored by New Leaf Community Markets. A collaborative effort of Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and the Coalition for Community. 5-8:00 p.m. Santa Cruz between Cathcart and Lincoln Streets. Call 469-9264 x 3.

Saturday, September 27

Worm composting - Watsonville

FREE. See Aug. 17 for details. Sponsored by Santa Cruz Co. Board of Supervisors and Sierra Azul Nursery-Garden, 2660 East Lake Ave., Watsonville.

October 6-10

Rideshare week

Link up with others and try not to drive alone. It might become a habit. The air and people's lungs will thank you. In Monterey call 422-POOL; in Santa Cruz call 429-POOL.

Sundays (see dates below)

Habitat restoration — California Native Plant Society

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz County. Wear comfortable layered work clothing. Bring water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Call Linda Brodman, 462-4041 for more information. Email: redwdrn@pacbell.net. website: www.cruzcnps.org.

August 9, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park

August 23, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park

Sept. 6, Sat. - Natural Bridges State Park

Sept. 20, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park

Saturdays

Garland Ranch hikes

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

Activist search

We're looking for a few good activists

Are you, or do you know, an activist who can make a difference by serving on the Chapter or Group Executive Committee? Candidates must have a proven record of interest/involvement in environmental issues and have time to meet monthly and work on issues.

Call a member of the nominating committee. Don't delay.

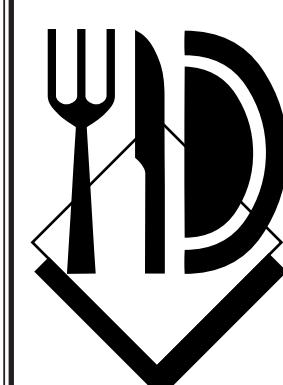
Nominating Committee Members

Ventana Chapter

Terry Hallock	625-1477
John Dalessio	659-7046
Rod Mills	659-3745

Santa Cruz Group:

Betsy Herbert	423-2279
George Jammal	335-7748
Marilyn Hummel	426-3352
Marilyn Fravel	458-1959



**Reserve your place
at the
Membership Luncheon
October 18**

Space limited, reserve early!

**To order tickets call Joel Weinstein
624-5338**

Big Sur Land Trust for permanent protection.

There will be hikes, lunch and a talk by Big Sur naturalist and historian Jeff Norman. The cost is \$15. Reserve your place early. The preserve has a limited capacity.

OUTINGS

RATINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All outings begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling to and from the trailhead is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club; the driver alone, not the Sierra Club, is responsible for the safety of guests while carpooling.

GLS = Gay & Lesbian Sierrans. All are welcome on GLS outings.

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader):

Walk: Between 2-5 miles, leisurely pace.

Easy: No more than 5 miles a day; slight elevation gain; easy pace.

Moderate: 5-10 miles a day; up to 2,000 ft. elevation gain; 1 to 2 1/2 mph; boots; better than average fitness required.

Strenuous: Distance variable; may involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES

DIRECTIONS:

Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot: 3785 Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1 heading south in Carmel, turn left on Rio Road, left on Via Nona Marie, then left into the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank, opposite the Post Office.

Albertson's: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Road (Hwy. G-16), toward Carmel Valley. Go approximately 0.1 mile and then turn right at the light toward the shopping centers. Albertson's is on the right.

Santa Cruz County Govt. Center: This is the large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water Streets in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot that is nearest to the gas station.

Felton Faire: From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Faire shopping center. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.

41st Avenue Sears: From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the Mall. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance heading toward Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road. Senior Saunter meets in Sears parking lot close to 41st Avenue.

MPC Parking Lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

Please Recycle This Paper Again

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 9

HIKE: FALL CREEK

We'll hike a trail at the top of Fall Creek along Empire Grade Rd. 8 miles; 1000' elevation gain. We go through redwoods and it may be cool, so dress accordingly. Meet at the S.C. Co. Govt. Ctr. at 9:30 a.m. to carpool.

Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, August 10

HIKE: WEST MOLERA

Hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we descend via the Panorama and Bluff Trails with views of the ocean and Point Sur. Bring lunch, water, and a windbreaker. Meet behind Brinton's at 9:30 a.m. for this moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with 1200' elevation gain. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Monday, August 11

EVENING HIKE: DEL MONTE FOREST

We'll hike for about 2 hours through beautiful Del Monte Forest. 4 miles with a few hundred feet elevation gain. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. Meet at the following place: from Hwy. 1, take the Pacific Grove exit Hwy. 68 west, drive 1.5 miles. Pay attention after the overpass of a Pebble Beach road when you can see the ocean in the west, turn out on the left side of the road and park in the wide bend there at 6:00 p.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, August 12

SENIOR SAUNTER: MANZANITA PARK

This is a NEW hike for us. Moderate, hilly 3+ mile hike in North Monterey Co. See the ocean and Fremont Peak on a clear day. Lunch at picnic tables. Bring hat, sunblock and windbreaker. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at the park at 10:15 a.m. \$3 carpool share. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 662-2434.

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Saturday, August 16

BUS/WALK BIG SUR

Whatever became of those folks who took a bus to Big Sur in July? Did they ever return? Was it fun? Would they do it again? For answers to these and other vital questions, call the leader and see if she wants to repeat. Leader: Mary Gale, 422-6970.

Saturday, August 16

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

Easy 5-mile hike in sunny Garland Ranch. We'll choose a trail together. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Albertson's at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Harry Rockey, 625-7632.

Tuesday, August 19

SENIOR SAUNTER: WADDELL BEACH TO CAMP HERBERT

This last leg of the Big Basin to the Sea Trail is 5-miles round trip. We can divide into two groups if some don't want to walk the whole way. Shade and sun, lots of trees. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shen's just before 10:00 a.m.

Bring lunch, water, hat, sunblock, tick repellent, and wear sturdy shoes. Carpool share \$3. Leader: Margaret Steele, 465-8565.

Saturday, August 23

KAYAK: CARMEL BAY

Explore beautiful Carmel Bay. For experienced ocean kayakers only. Meet at 9:00 a.m., bring lunch, water, sunscreen, and hat. Call leader for more information and meeting place. Leader: Steve Brooks, 624-7022.

Saturday, August 23

HIKE: BIG BASIN

Surprise walk depending on weather. Call for details. 9 miles with 2,000' elevation gain. Sun and shade, so bring layers. Wear boots; bring lunch and water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, August 24

SINGLES BOATING/VEGETARIAN-POTLUCK

Potluck supper at 4:00 p.m. then we'll go boating, or you may hike or socialize. (No swimming or alcohol allowed in the park.) You may bring your own boat or we may rent row or paddle boats for about \$1/ person per hour. Free parking after 4:00 p.m. To carpool, meet at 3:15 p.m. at Felton Faire or meet at Loch Lomond at 4:00 p.m. Bring your own plate, cup and serving utensils and a potluck dish to share. For more info. call after 11:00 a.m. 335-3342. Leader: Karen Kaplan.

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OUTINGS

Sunday, August 24

WALK: CARMEL/MONTEREY BEACHES

Easy 5-miles along the shore. Maybe on Carmel State Beach or a little further north to the dunes of Del Monte Beach. Dress for the weather and bring water and lunch. Meet at Albertson's at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Harry Rockey, 625-7632.

Tuesday, August 26

SENIOR SAUNTER: FELTON ADVENTURE

This flat, 2-mile hike through redwoods at Henry Cowell will end at the picnic area in Roaring Camp. Good bathrooms, Nature Museum (if open) and gift shop for those not wanting to take the extra 1-mile loop at Park Headquarters. Bring hat, sunblock, \$2 carpool fee and lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

Friday, August 29 - Monday, September 1

13TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT TAHOE

We have 3 family sites at D. L. Bliss State Park. Swim or walk on the beach. Hikes into

Desolation Wilderness to visit lakes to swim or climb peaks for great alpine views. Shorter walks along Lake Tahoe. Potluck dinners. Kids and musical instruments encouraged. Group events where we'll get to know each other and become one Sierra Club family. All 3 nights for just \$8/vehicle plus \$6/person for members, \$8 for non-members and \$3 for kids 12 and under. Include a SASE to receive carpooling information, directions to the camp-ground, the weekend plans, and a list of recommended items to bring. We have lanterns and camp stoves. Don't miss this great time; reserve early; fill out the form, make your check to Sierra Club, fill out a SASE and mail all three by August 17 to: Lake Tahoe Camping, PO Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA. 95061. Information will be mailed to you on August 18. Parking is limited; carpooling strongly encouraged. No phone reservations. Cancellations: 100% refund if cancelled by August 17, 50% by August 28, no refund after the 28th. For more info call George, 335-7748.

Saturday, August 30

HIKE: TERRACE CREEK

Beautiful hike on the Pine Ridge Trail with great views, ferns, and redwood canyons. 2,200' elevation gain, strenuous 10 miles. Wear boots, bring water and lunch, meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042 or suzannecarml@aol.com.

Saturday, August 30

HIKE: POGONIP

Join Friends of the Pogonip for their 3-hour monthly Saturday morning walk on the Pogonip. We may discuss a recent revival of a proposed access route to the university across the Pogonip Greenbelt lands. Meet at the top (north end) of Spring Street in Santa Cruz at 9:30 a.m. Call leaders Celia or Peter Scott at 423-0796 if you have questions.

Sunday, August 31

WALK: CARMEL/MONTEREY BEACHES

See August 24 for details.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 2

SENIOR SAUNTER: WILDER RANCH

Enjoy the ocean breezes along the bluffs in this historic old dairy ranch. We'll see the Fern Grotto and probably walk farther to learn more about the Coast Dairies property. A pleasant, flat 3-4 miles. Bring lunch, water, a hat and sunscreen. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shen's just before 10:00 a.m. \$2 carpool fee. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, September 6

WALK: POINT LOBOS

A nearly level walk around Point Lobos. 4

miles. We'll see beaches and sandstone formations, birds and high pine trees. Bring a wind-breaker, water, and a snack. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, September 6

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We'll explore the shadier parts of the park. 9 miles with 1,500' elevation gain. Wear boots; bring lunch and water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, September 7

HIKE: WEST MOLERA

We'll hike the Hidden Trail, Ridge Trail, Panorama Trail and Bluff Trail. Great views of the Big Sur Coast. Strenuous 8 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, September 9

SENIOR SAUNTER: NISENE MARKS

A mostly shady, 4-mile hike. We start at the Porter Family Picnic area, and then head down the road, going left on the Loma Prieta Grade. At the Porter House site we'll head up the hill on the Bridge Creek Trail to the dry waterfall. Lunch back at the Porter Family Picnic area. Bring lunch, water and wear layered clothing. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just before 10:00 a.m. at Porter Family parking lot. Carpool \$1 each and riders will share in the entrance fee. Leader: Mary Gabel, 636-3307.

Friday, September 12

BIKE RIDE: PACIFIC GROVE TO MARINA

Explore the new links in the Coastal Trail through Monterey and Sand City and see how they connect with the Rec. Trail and the old Fort Ord bike path. Meet at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove at 10:00 a.m., at the start of the rec. trail. Our route will be mostly on a paved bike trail, with some street riding. Relatively flat with a few short hills. 30 miles at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and lunch to eat at a park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, September 13

WALK: RANCHO SAN CARLOS

Here's a special chance to see the best of this beautiful 20,000 acre ranch. A Santa Lucia Conservancy docent will guide us on a 4-mile saunter through oak woodlands, rolling grasslands and riparian corridors. We could see wild boar, deer, bobcats, raptors and wild


Labor Day Camping Trip
Friday - Monday, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1
 (Read the write-up for more details)

Names _____	Street _____	City _____ ZIP _____ Eve Phone _____
# of vehicles _____	@ \$8 each	= _____
# of members _____	@ \$6 each	= _____
# of non-members _____	@ \$8 each	= _____
# of children 4-12 _____	@ \$3 each	= _____
Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) = _____		
Departing time _____	Returning time _____	
Carpooling information:		<input type="checkbox"/> I/we have room for _____ riders <input type="checkbox"/> I/we need a ride
You may give my name and phone number to other participants.		
Departing: Day _____	approx. time: _____	a.m. / p.m.
Returning: Day _____		
Rides cannot be guaranteed, reserve at your own risk.		
<input type="checkbox"/> A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed OR email: _____		

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OUTINGS

turkeys. Bring lunch, water, boots are advised, and dress for the weather. Space is limited, reservation required. Call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Sunday, September 14

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. or near Pacific Rim Restaurant at 9:30 a.m. 8-10 miles. Bring lunch, water, wear hiking boots. Some stream crossings. Leader: Jim Danaher, 427-2727.

Getting to outings

Sierra Club encourages outings participants to walk, bicycle, and take the bus to outings meeting places.



breaker, and plan to be back in town by mid-afternoon. Leader: Mary Gale, 422-6970.

Sunday, September 21

HIKE: FALL CREEK

Explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely burbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. 7 miles. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Felton Faire at 12:00 p.m. to carpool. Leader: Sheila Dunniway, 336-2325.

Sunday, September 21

SINGLES SWIM/POTLUCK

We'll enjoy the Garden of Eden in Felton on the San Lorenzo River. Meet at Felton Faire at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. 20-minute hike to river from cars. Bring your own plate, cup, serving utensils, water and a potluck dish to share. Wear your bathing suit. Bring a towel & sun protection. For more info. call leader Karen Kaplan after 10:00 a.m., 335-3342.

Sunday, September 21

HIKE: TERRACE CREEK

Hike up the Pine Ridge Trail from Big Sur State Park. Then up the beautiful shady Terrace Creek to the Old Coast Road. Lunch high above the ocean with great views. Strenuous 10 miles and 2,200' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and wear boots. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 401-1422 or bruinrn@msn.com.

Sunday, September 21

HIKE: WEST MOLERA LOOP

Moderately strenuous 7-mile hike with wonderful coastal views. 1100' elevation gain. Trail is somewhat overgrown. Bring windbreaker, sun protection, lunch, and water. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042 or suzanne.carmel@aol.com.

Tuesday, September 23

SENIOR SAUNTER: FALL CREEK

Shady, delightful 3-mile hike in the redwood forest, beside a rushing creek. Some moderate uphill and rocky trail in places. Lunch at the limestone kilns. Wear hiking shoes; bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shen's just before 10:00 a.m. \$2 carpool fee. Leaders: Bob and Peggy Mitchell, 426-5374.

Saturday, September 27

HIKE/RIVER WALK: HENRY COWELL

We'll wade across the San Lorenzo River a few times and stop at the Observation Deck. Be prepared to take off your boots. An extra pair of sandals is a good idea. We may hike or wade in the river for up to half a mile. We recommend you wear a swimsuit and have dry clothes and a towel in the car. 7 miles and 600' elevation gain. Bring a snack, water, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 11:30 a.m. or at the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9 (3.5 miles south of the park's main entrance) at 12:00 noon. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Saturday, September 27

HIKE: SAN JOSE CREEK

A new kind of Sierra Club adventure. Easy 2-mile hike on Big Sur Land Trust land at Point Lobos Ranch. For increased sensual awareness, we walk slowly in, sharing our observations. Our return is in silence, with time for personal reflection. Bring water, snack, and sense of openness to new possibilities. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Albertson's. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860 or outbeck@juno.com.

Saturday, September 27

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

Moderately strenuous. About 7 miles round trip. Lunch at the Redwood Canyon. Bring hat, water, and lunch. Meet at Albertson's at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, e-mail andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Tuesday, September 30

SENIOR SAUNTER: MT. MADONNA

This Santa Clara County Park is located high above Watsonville, on Hwy. 152. There are lovely woods, views and meadows along this 2.5-mile hike. Optional return home via Gidich Farms. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, light jacket, "pie money," and \$3 for carpool. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just beyond the park's kiosk entrance about 10:00 a.m. by the restrooms. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 4

HIKE: SAN LORENZO RIVER REDWOODS

Sempervirens Fund recently acquired this 30% increase in acreage to Castle Rock State Park (to the south). New trails, one of which is dedicated in memory of Mike Meyers whose family contributed a significant amount to the acquisition. Visit semper-virens.org for more details. 12 miles with 2,000' elevation gain. Wear boots; bring lunch and water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, October 4

HIKE: POGONIP

See August 30 for details.

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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 4, 2003

OUTINGS

Saturday, October 4

WALK: PEBBLE BEACH

An easy 4-mile walk. Bring a windbreaker, water and a snack. Meet at the Fishwife in Asilomar on Route 68 at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

WINTER CARETAKER NEEDED

Kit Carson Lodge, on Hwy. 88 at Silver Lake, has an opening for a caretaker (could be a couple) for all or even part of the coming winter. The Lodge is closed except for one other cottage. Spectacular lake-side or backcountry skiing and snowshoeing right outside the door of your own cozy cottage. Five miles from Kirkwood's groomed tracks and downhill slopes. Treat yourself to an incredible winter in the High Sierra. (209) 258-8500.

Sunday, October 5

WALK: SYLVAN CARMEL

2-hour walk on the upper section of the Mission Trail. 4 miles. Bring water and snack. Meet at the trailhead across the street from the Carmel Mission on Rio Road at 1:30 p.m. Leaders: Chet and Bev Gadaire, 375-8995.

Sunday, October 5

HIKE: TANBARK LOOP WITH TIN HOUSE

Large madrones and tanbark oaks, huge redwoods and a rushing creek. 7 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Panoramic ocean view from the Tin House at the summit; return by way of Fire Road. Bring lots of water, lunch, and \$ to carpool. Short car shuttle. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042 or suzanne.carmel@aol.com. Call leader for meeting time and place.

Tuesday, October 7

SENIOR SAUNTER: BUTANO STATE PARK

This park with a creek and many redwoods is inland from Pescadero or Gazos Creek. We'll leave our cars by the picnic tables and walk the road and Creek Trail. Shorter hike available. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool, and your share of park entry fee. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shen's just before 10:00 a.m. Leaders: Bob and Peggy Mitchell, 426-5374.

Saturday, October 11

HIKE JACKS PEAK

2-4-mile hike with a different format. It's my intent to facilitate awareness and explore ways that we add to what we sense in nature, and ways that nature touches us. Meet at the end of Loma Alta Rd. Take Hwy. 1 to the 68 Hwy West exit then take Aquito Rd East. There will be two "Y" turns so stay on the right at these turns and proceed to the end of the road. Meet at 10:00 a.m. and bring water and a snack. Leader: Ted Hill 449-1953.

Saturday - Monday, October 11 - 13

BACKPACK: MILLER CANYON

We start at China Camp on Tassajara Rd. We'll see old cabin sites and will cross the Miller Cyn fork of the Carmel River. Our first night is at Miller Cyn Camp. Sunday we'll make numerous river crossings to Carmel River Camp. Each evening we'll be preparing local crawdads with garlic & lemon sauce. Send a check for \$30 made out to Cathy Dezendorf. Note the name of the trip on check. Include a SASE if you do not have email. Please email the following information for the trip participant list and to facilitate carpools: Name, phone, address, email, and carpool preference. Parking limited, please carpool. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Sat. Leaders: Henry Leinen, hleinen@aol.com, 655-1948 and Cathy Dezendorf, cdezendorf@mindspring.com. Email preferred.

Sunday, October 12

HIKE: CHURCH RANCH

Loop hike through the Church Creek area below Tassajara Road. Bring an adventurous spirit for more detours in the sandstone outcrops. This hike features a scramble up through the brush at the end, then a five-mile hike back on a dirt road. 14 miles. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. For more information call or e-mail. Leaders: Betsy MacGowan, bmacgowan@hotmail.com or (415) 673-7239. Co-leader Suzanne Arnold.

Sunday, October 12

WALK: HATTON CANYON/MISSION TRAILS

We'll ramble up Hatton Canyon to enjoy the solitude and birdsong. On the way we'll talk about our hopes for Hatton Canyon State Park and how the canyon escaped from Caltrans' disastrous freeway plans. Then we'll circle back through the Roundtree Arboretum and Mission Trails Park in the footsteps of Father Serra. 4 miles. Bring lunch and water and wear suitable shoes. Meet at 10:00 a.m. on the north side of Albertson's. For more information, call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Saturday, October 18

WALK: NEAR GARRAPATA/SOBERANES

Feel like an easy stroll at Garrapata beach or a mad scramble up Whale Peak at Soberanes Point? Perhaps we'll combine the two. Either way, we'll gaze out at the ocean and enjoy the fall sunshine! Bring water, lunch, windbreaker, and meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Big Sur Land Trust parking lot (see directions at start of outings). Leader: Mary Gale, 422-697.

Sunday, October 19

HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL

We'll hike from Big Sur State Park up to Mt. Manuel. Strenuous 11-miles 3,000' elevation gain. Incredible views. Wear boots, bring lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Steve Legnard, 401-1422 or bruinrn@msn.com.

Chapter members lead national outing to Kauai October 5-12

Based on last year's success, Carolyn & Joe Braun, Ventana Chapter members, are repeating the Sierra Club national outing to Kauai. Day hikes, kayaking, snorkeling, bird watching, and beach walking/clean-up provide a variety of options for this easy trip. Our home for the week is a large, comfortable plantation-era beach house on Hanalei Bay. Awake to the sun rising over palms; take a pre-breakfast stroll on the deserted beach and relax with a gourmet home-cooked meal after the day's adventures.

If this sounds good to you, visit the Sierra Club outings online at www.sierraclub.org/outings. Enter a search for trip number 03063A to learn more about A Land Called Hanalei, Kauai. For more information, or to make reservations, call (415) 977-5522, or national.outings@sierraclub.org.

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Poor logging practices impair Santa Cruz creeks

Come to the Water Board hearing September 12 in Salinas

by Jodi Frediani

If you've taken a hike lately along the San Lorenzo River or any Santa Cruz creek, you've probably noticed the sediment lining the creek or river bottom. Or last winter, perhaps you saw how our rivers and streams ran brown during heavier storms. This sediment is not all natural. Much of it comes from bleeding roads. Many of those are logging roads. In addition to sediment washing off the road and skid trail surfaces, failed culverts, landslides and bank failures resulting from timber harvest activities have played a contributing part to this excessive sediment in our watercourses. In Santa Cruz County most streams have been listed as impaired for sediment under the Clean Water Act.

Such sediment is detrimental to fish. Steelhead and coho salmon in the Central Coast Range south of San Francisco Bay are federally listed as "Threatened" species, and the coho are listed by the state as "Endangered" and near extinction. In this more southerly portion of their ranges they face natural environmental extremes that make them more vulnerable to potentially damaging impacts from logging. They face especially low summer baseflow, warm sum-

mer water temperatures, and highly sedimented streambeds resulting from highly erodible soils.

If additional fine sediment enters streams from eroding timber harvest sites during the important spring feeding period for salmonids, turbidity

is increased and feeding is greatly reduced because the fish must visually locate drifting insects to feed upon. The sediment also covers the cobbles where they lay their eggs, making reproduction difficult.

Our drinking water is also at risk. When turbidity levels are too high, water purveyors cannot take surface water from the rivers and streams. Filtration plants are shut down until the water runs clear again.

For years, the timber industry has been exempted from waste discharge permits. On January 1, 2003, the existing waiver from waste discharge permits expired. Since then, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

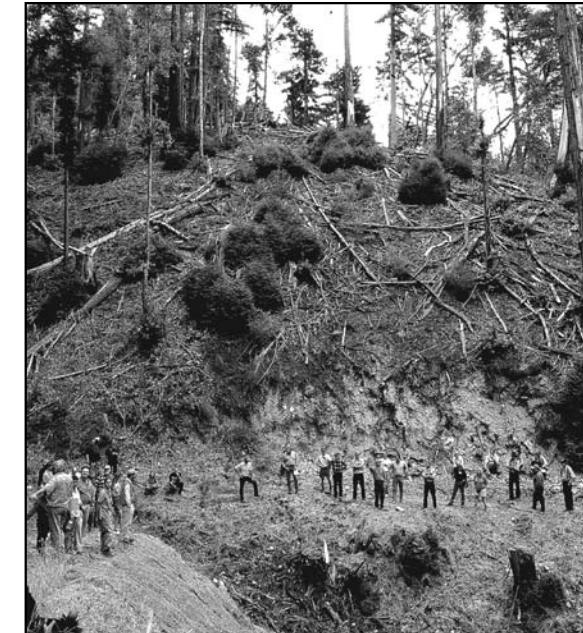
has been issuing individual waivers for each timber harvest plan approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The Sierra Club believes strongly that the Regional Water Board should require waste dis-

charge permits rather than issuing waivers. On July 17, the Santa Cruz Group, in conjunction with Citizens for Responsible Forest Management and the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, submitted a proposal to the Water Board spelling out the need for and content of waste discharge permits for logging operations.

Attend the hearing

The Water Board is holding a hearing on this proposal Friday, Sept. 12 in Salinas. It is critical that we make a good showing at the hearing and support this well-thought-out, scientifically-designed proposal to protect our water supplies, our watersheds and our struggling fish



Jodi Frediani

Severe over-cutting along a perennial reach of Fritch Creek and adjacent hillside in Boulder Creek.

populations. Please attend. To carpool or for more information contact Jodi Frediani, JodiFredi@aol.com, 426-1697.

An educational slide show is being planned for an evening in early September before the hearing date. This issue will be discussed on EcoReview on Channel 27 Community Access Television on August 19, 6:00 p.m.

Sierra Club joins other environmental groups to mobilize voters

The Sierra Club is joining forces with America's other largest grass-roots groups under the umbrella of America Votes to register, educate and mobilize the public for the 2004 elections. America Votes is a non-partisan political organization.

America Votes will combine resources, research, and strategy to develop highly targeted methods to reach out to voters on issues that they care deeply about to encourage greater voter participation. This historic partnership joins together ACORN, AFL-CIO, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

(AFSCME), EMILY's List, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn.org, Moving America Forward, NAACP National Voter Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Partnership for America's Families, People For the American Way, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the Sierra Club.

Cecile Richards, veteran labor and political organizer, has been elected President of America Votes. Richards has worked as a labor and political activist for more than 20 years. She recently led a national program for the

Turner Foundation to educate and organize reproductive choice supporters across the country. Before coming to America Votes, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

America Votes represents nearly 17 million Americans from every state in the country.

The BOULDER CREEK BREWERY



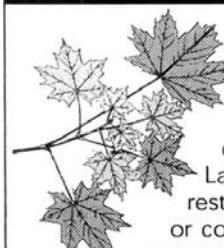
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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 4, 2003

11

Club provides Army Corps with new alternatives for Pajaro River

by Patricia Matejcek and Lois Robin

Dissatisfied with the dredging and floodwalls proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers for the Pajaro River, the Sierra Club Pajaro River Watershed Committee commissioned its own reports which propose flood protection measures that are environmentally and economically superior.

Two reports commissioned by the Club were delivered to the Corps and State and Federal Agencies in July. The first, produced by Philip Williams & Associates (PWA), a hydrological and civil engineering firm, presents five new design alternatives which must be considered by the Corps. The one preferred by the Club has a strong likelihood of being backed by state and federal resource protection agencies who have made clear the present Corps alternatives fail to meet current laws.

The second report is by Dr. Robert Curry, fluvial geomorphologist, and his students at the Watershed Institute at California State University Monterey Bay. Their extensive research yielded data that supports the utilization of upstream sites in Santa Clara and San Benito counties to reduce sedimentation and retain runoff which would clean and slow the progress of upstream waters to the lower Pajaro.

The Club proposes to set back the levees 100' to give the river more room to meander, and remove dirt on one side of the river down to the level of the incised riverbed, increasing flood capacity and allowing restoration of riparian vegetation which will improve salmonid and bird habitat. This will also create a stable channel, requiring little or no maintenance.

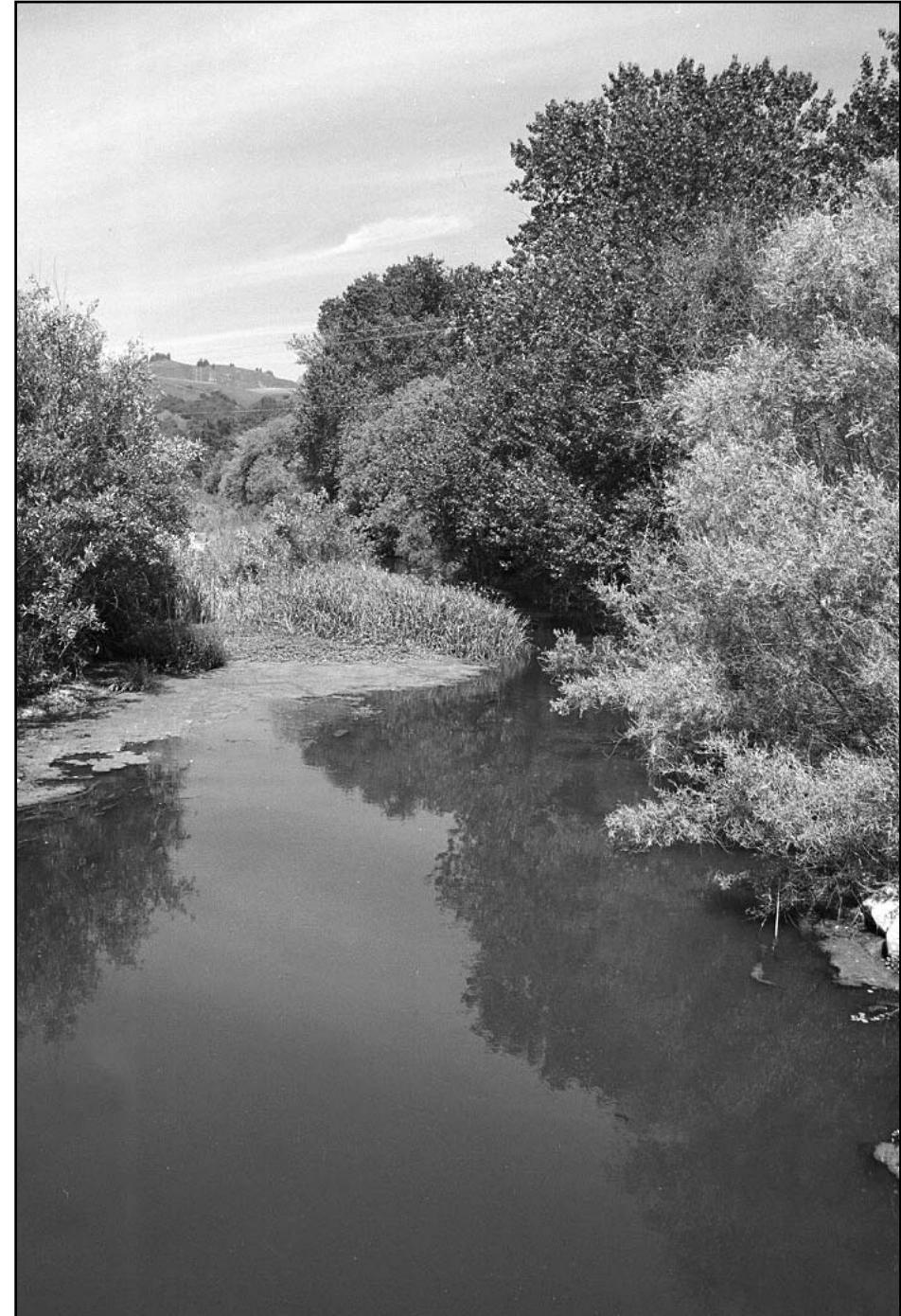
These suggested measures are strengthened by the recently-located 1944 and 1966 Congressional authorization for the original Pajaro levees which mandate environmental restoration as an integral part of any levee work.

Although the PWA report only addresses the river from Murphy's Crossing down to the Highway 1 bridge, significant water quality, groundwater recharge and flood control benefits would be increased if Dr. Curry's upstream retention options are implemented.

Poorly managed development along the Pajaro River has resulted in major degradation over the years. Gravel mining in San Benito county generates excessive siltation, the two communities of Pajaro and Watsonville are built on the Pajaro's rich floodplain, and the lower river has been constrained into an unnaturally-narrow and straightened channel since the mid-1800s, requiring increasingly expensive construction and annual maintenance.

Presently the entire Pajaro River system is degraded, unstable and "broken," but adoption of the Sierra Club's "preferred alternative" and Dr. Curry's recommendations would restore stability, reverse degradation and restore instream and riparian habitat. As we go to press, no response has yet been received from the Corps.

The PWA report is available on the Sierra Club Ventana Chapter website, www.ventana.sierraclub.org. The Curry report is available at: <http://home.csumb.edu/c/currybob/world/Pajaro/>.



Lois Robin

The uncut riparian corridor above Murphy's Crossing on the Pajaro River provides a canopy which attracts birds and provides habitat for numerous species.

Club's California/Nevada Conservation Committee seeking activists

Do you camp in the Sierra Nevada and are concerned with logging in our National Forests? Do you have family in Fresno and worry about the air quality in the Central Valley? Does protecting desert wilderness concern you? Would you like to network with Club members from other chapters on these issues and others? Here's your chance.

Local Club members are invited to participate in the fall meeting of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC), to be held in Rancho El Chorro near San Luis Obispo on September 6-7. The

CNRCC is made up of over 100 activists from California and Nevada. Its primary function is to establish statewide Sierra Club policy on conservation issues. The adopted policies serve as the basis for lobbying the State Legislature as well as the basis for Club positions on statewide ballot issues and candidates.

As a special incentive for new participants, the Club will waive registration fees for newcomers and will reimburse travel expenses for those who need help. Registration includes lunch, dinner and lodging on Saturday and breakfast Sunday. The meeting adjourns at noon on Sunday.

Humanism: Systems of thought stressing rational inquiry & human experience over abstract theorizing or orthodox religion. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value of goodness of human beings and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems. If interested, please contact HAMBA, the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Humanist Association, anneh@redshift.com or P.O. Box 222094, Carmel CA 93922.

Kevin Hall, from the Tehipite Chapter, is this year's keynote speaker. He will talk about "Cleaning Up the San Joaquin Valley's Air." With Kevin's help, EarthJustice and the Sierra Club have won four lawsuits against the air quality management district, earning national recognition for health risks of living in the San Joaquin Valley. Other

topics include urban sprawl, population growth and logging.

For more information contact Lori Ives, ivesico@earthlink.net. To speak to a Ventana Chapter CNRCC member call Patricia Matejcek, 423-8567.

John Monsen and Debbie Bulger contributed to this article.

Deborah A. Malkin

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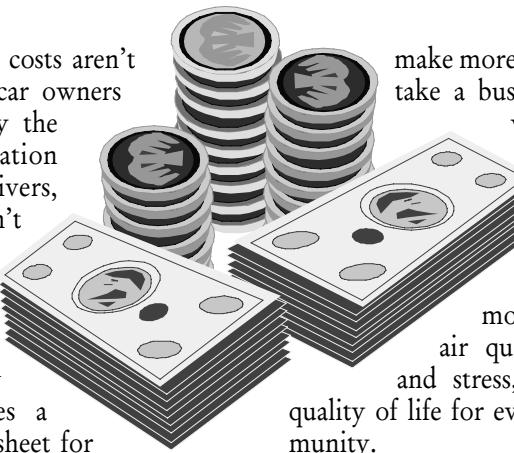
Direct and indirect costs total \$1.19/mile

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission has recently released an update of its widely-distributed *True Cost of Driving* brochure, originally produced in 1997. The brochure identifies both direct and indirect costs of driving. Direct costs are those a driver pays; indirect costs are hidden costs borne by society.

Most people only consider the direct costs of driving: purchasing and maintaining a car, and paying for gas and oil, insurance, registration and parking. Costs associated with automobile use that are often not considered include road construction and maintenance (paid via taxes and fees), air pollution, cost of emergency medical and road service and

more. Since those costs aren't paid directly by car owners but are shared by the general population including non-drivers, they usually aren't calculated as costs of driving.

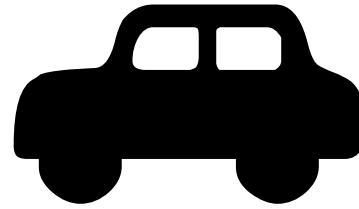
The *True Cost of Driving* brochure includes a short calculation sheet for readers to calculate their own driving costs based on their annual vehicle mileage. Once all costs are considered, it quickly becomes clear that driving a car costs a lot more than commonly thought. The true cost of driving is \$1.19/mile. For many trips, it might



make more sense to ride a bike, take a bus, vanpool, carpool, walk or telecommute.

Using more sustainable transportation can not only save money, it can improve air quality, reduce noise and stress, and improve the quality of life for everyone in the community.

Calculate the true cost of your driving. For a free copy of *The True Cost of Driving*, call the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission at 460-3200 or download the brochure at www.CommuteSolutions.org.



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Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

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Male/Female: 63% / 37%
Median Household Income: \$56,227
Attended/Graduated College: 81%
Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

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Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

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VOLUNTEER FOR THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. The Santa Cruz Group is looking for members who are politically savvy, are good listeners, and are willing to become well versed in Club positions on issues. Work on endorsement of candidates. Stay in touch with office-holders between elections. Call Leda Beth, 426-4453.

DO YOU COLLECT RAINWATER in a cistern? If you do, the editor wants to hear from you. Email dfbulger@cruzio.com or call 457-1036. Be sure to include your full contact information.

Do you use biodiesel in your car? Call the editor, 457-1036, email: dfbulger@cruzio.com.

Come to Sacramento to lobby for the environment

Sierra Club California invites you to Sacramento for our annual Lobby Day on Monday, August 25th. This is your chance to meet with legislators to advocate for current environmental issues on behalf of Sierra Club.

Lobby Day provides activists with an opportunity to talk with legislators and their staff about the Sierra Club's statewide priorities and specific legislation that is pending before the Senate and Assembly. Lobby Day brings Sierra Club's grassroots power to the State Capitol and allows legislators to see the faces behind one of California's most influential environmental advocacy organizations.

The Club will conduct a training session in political effectiveness the day before Lobby Day, on the afternoon of Sunday, August 24th. Through discussion, role-play and some real-life exam-

Bicyclists to identify missing links in Sanctuary Trail

From starting places at Lover's Point in Pacific Grove and Wilder Ranch in Santa Cruz, bicyclists will converge on Moss Landing for lunch with Representative Sam Farr on Saturday, August 16. The riders will be in search of missing links along the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. This proposed 60-mile recreational and interpretive trail will link existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal route around the Monterey Bay.

Riders welcome

Those interested in riding should contact ride leaders. Those planning to ride from Santa Cruz, contact Heath Maddox, 460-3211 or heath.maddox@co.santa-cruz.ca.us. Those planning to ride from Pacific Grove, contact Paola Villacres, 373-4341 or pvillacres@ddaplanning.com.

Round trip riders should be capable of riding about 70 miles. One way riders are welcome, but must provide their own shuttle home.

ples, we will instruct you on how to make the most of your time with an elected official and how to use lobbying to help achieve the goals of a larger campaign. The training will give you the skills to become an effective lobbyist with elected officials both in Sacramento and at home.

This year, we anticipate our topics to include electronic waste disposal, forest protection, land use and air quality.

Sierra Club California will provide dinner Sunday, August 24th, as well as breakfast on Monday. Accommodations will be arranged and participants will be reimbursed up to \$100 for travel expenses. For more details, please contact Marianne Batchelder, (916) 557-1100 x107 (batchelder@sierraclub-sac.org) or Pat Veesart, (916) 557-1100 x103 (veesart@sierraclub-sac.org).

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	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
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Information: 624-8032
Executive Committee:
Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.
Conservation Committee:
Alternate 3rd Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.
Beck's house: 23765 Spectacular Bid, Monterey. Take Hwy 68 to York Rd. to Spectacular Bid.
Saturday, September 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453)
Meeting place: Sierra Club Office
1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11
Executive Committee:
Wednesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m.
Conservation Committee:
Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 1, at 7:00 p.m.

Coastal Cleanup set for September 20

Every year on the third Saturday of September, thousands of Californians participate in California Annual Coastal Cleanup Day to collect litter from our coastlines and watersheds before the winter rains wash the trash and debris into the waterways and the sea. In addition to being an eyesore, the trash and debris collected during California Coastal Cleanup Day cause real danger to both aquatic animals and people. According to the UK-based research group, Sea Life Surveys, scientists estimate that more than one million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die each year from ingestion and entanglement in marine debris.

And if that plastic bag left on the beach doesn't end up in a sea bird's belly, have you ever wondered what is the fate of all the plastic trash floating around out there on the great wide Pacific? Marine biologist Michael Moore and the Algalita Marine Research Foundation

have discovered a shocking answer. Any piece of plastic that enters and escapes our Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, (or any other location on the North Pacific for that matter) is destined to end up in the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch," a 10 million-square mile mass of oceanic desert the size of the African continent where research has documented an average of 6 lbs. of plastic polymers for every pound of phytoplankton, the base of the marine food chain.

The good news: Last year in California alone, nearly 50,000 volunteers picked up over 860,000 pounds of trash and debris on California Coastal Cleanup Day!

Santa Cruz and Monterey County residents can unite on Coastal Cleanup Day to make our rivers and beaches safe and beautiful places for all creatures who share the Sanctuary to live and play. Mark your calendars for this year's Cleanup, Saturday, September 20th,



Lynelle Wing

from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

To volunteer:

Santa Cruz County: Sherry Bryan,

426-5925 x23, sherry@ecoact.org or visit www.ecoact.org.

Monterey County: Jean Scott 647-4238, marina_interp@hotmail.com.



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The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

REGULAR FEATURES

- Chapter chair 2
- From the editor 2
- Letters 3
- Calendar 6
- Outings 7
- Newsclips
- Chapter directory 15

ARTICLES

- St. John's College gives up on Marks Ranch development 3
- Sam Farr and Douglas Steakley win National Awards 4
- Inadequate Nisene Marks Plan 5
- Poor logging impairs creeks 11
- Club finds more Pajaro River alternatives 13
- True cost of driving 14

Locals win awards p. 4



Douglas Steakley



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