

The **VENTANA**
MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

DEC, JAN, FEB
OUTINGS



Kevin Collins

Lompico headwaters may be logged
p. 3



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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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.

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VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

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#5	Sep. 20	Oct. 7
#6	Nov. 15	Dec. 2

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

CHAPTER CHAIR

Trail Guides make great gifts

A small, dedicated group of Chapter members have just released the newest edition of the Los Padres Trail Guide. Joyce Stevens and Steve Chambers co-edited this version which has significant revisions from the previous edition due largely to the 1999 fires in the Kirk/Hare and Tassajara/Five Mountain areas. While primarily a handbook for hikers and backpackers, the

guide gives a concise history of the forest with great descriptions of the roughness of the terrain and colorful photographs of the spectacular habitat.

To produce this guide, volunteers hiked hundreds of miles of trails to update descriptions of trail conditions as well as to list the many interesting historical and cultural artifacts left by early settlers and travelers. Extensive detail is provided, including directions to trailheads, mileage along the trails, elevation gain, presence of water and noteworthy natural features. Some of the trails which were overgrown or impassable in the

past such as the Black Cone Trail are now much improved thanks to the efforts of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, an organization dedicated to restoring areas of the wilderness.

During this holiday season, make a gift to yourself and others to get away from this hectic world. Join one of our Chapter organized outings or pick up a guide and go on your own. Reconnect with nature and see for yourself the blissful sanctuary of the wilderness in your own backyard.

—Rita Dalessio

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FROM THE EDITOR

Lorax or Clorox?

People can get used to almost anything. Psychologists use the term, "habituation" to describe the process of screening out the background noise that dominates our daily lives. So most of the time we are not consciously aware of the hum of the refrigerator, the roar of highway traffic, or the smell of tailpipe emissions as we step out our front door.

What was once obnoxious has become normal and, to some, comforting. Groomed and watered sports fields seem more normal than the dark and scary woods. One year, the 8-to-11-year olds in my Safe Hiking class were reluctant to sit down in the redwood duff because it was dirty and unfamiliar.

The glittering lights of Las Vegas (and the local mall) are seen as more beautiful than the glittering lights of the stars in the open desert. We are used to pesticides in our food and debate the acceptable level rather than ask why any level is acceptable.

We expect to see animals in game parks rather than in their natural settings. When William Manley came to California in 1849-50, he encountered

antelope in Merced and grizzly bears in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

In the winter of 1979 I could still see the snow-capped Sierra from my neighborhood in Sacramento. Today, Sacramento is among the 5 worst cities in the U.S. for air quality.

In the Dr. Seuss book *The Lorax*, the reclusive plundering industrialist sits alone in the ruins of his factory amidst the clearcut forest and the smog-filled air. As he tells his sad tale, he says to the young listener:

"UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Back in the 1960s when I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia, I used to soak our lettuce in a weak bleach solution to kill bacteria and parasites. My then husband, Jim, got used to the taste. After we got back to the States and I served him a salad, he looked at me accusingly. "What's wrong with this salad?" he demanded. "I didn't add the Clorox," I responded.

The Clorox is all around us. Try not to get used to it. It may get a lot worse, UNLESS . . .

—Debbie Bulger

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.

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The Ventana welcomes letters. Send to:
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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.

Appalled at crawdad feast

I am writing to express my dismay that group leaders of the Miller Canyon backpacking trip (October 11) are planning to prepare "local crawdads with garlic and lemon sauce" each night of the group hike. It's one thing for one or two people to go off into the woods and have a few of the local inhabitants for ingredients for their dinner, it is something else again to collect enough of the indigenous creek animals to feed a group.

Whereas the flesh of a fish is edible, the only part of a crawdad that is eaten is the tail, a mere bite of food. I am appalled at the idea of a Sierra Club group killing so many crawdads for the sake of what? To feel like they are living in nature for the weekend? It is my opinion that our members shouldn't have to kill the animals that live in the natural habitat to experience the joy of being there. Isn't our motto to "Leave only footprints and take only pictures?"

Please reconsider the idea of allowing a Sierra Club group to go into nature and kill numerous little indigenous crawdads for the thrill of eating a tiny bit of their body.

Teetle Clawson
Santa Cruz

Editor's note:

The biologists *The Ventana* consulted informed us that the common crayfish is an introduced species and is not native to California. They have all but replaced our original native species which is now on the California Fish and Game list of threaten and endangered species, and which occurs only in northeastern California.

Given that fact, a crawdad feed might be compared to ripping out invasive exotics such as Pampas grass or ice plant.

Regarding wastage, up to 50% of the biomass for marine fishes like ling cod and rockfish are discarded after the fillets are taken, and similar numbers pertain for crustaceans and mollusks. The "waste" for freshwater fish is somewhat less. Returning the offal to the ecosystem by leaving it for scavengers or by burying, ensures that it will be re-used, and not really wasted at all.

If 1% of California Sierra Club members had 1 kilowatt solar PV systems, each year they would replace power produced by 3,330,000 pounds of coal, and avoid releasing 3200 tons of CO₂.

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Santa Cruz County will appeal Lompico Timber Harvest Plan

by Kevin Collins



Kevin Collins

Most of the redwood is found along the stream corridors.

After more than two years of foot dragging, (34 extensions!) on October 30, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) finally approved the highly contentious Lompico Timber Harvest Plan. Santa Cruz County has submitted an appeal to the Board of Forestry which will decide in early December whether or not to hear the appeal. If the Board of Forestry denies the appeal, the Plan will still have to go before the Regional Water Board for a Waste Discharge Requirement Permit or waiver.

This Timber Harvest Plan generated the largest public hearing on record for a

local timber harvest. Over 300 letters of opposition were sent to CDF. As reported previously in *The Ventana*, one of the reasons for such great concern is the fact that this 425-acre property is the headwaters of Lompico Creek, which is the major water source for the Lompico County Water District. The district has been under a state-imposed moratorium preventing the release of new water connections for many years.

Most of the redwood is found along the stream corridors with hardwood and chaparral in the uplands. Any increase in sedimentation in Lompico Creek will reduce winter water withdrawals from the creek and increase the demand upon the District's wells. Thus the logging of Islandia, as the area is known locally, will reduce the water available to a community already suffering from insufficient water resources.

The Redwood Empire logging operation targets land so steep, complex and erosive that it can only be logged by helicopter, which would subject residents to intensive noise. A landslide analysis commissioned by the Lompico Watershed Conservancy showed that the land is far more unstable and vulnerable to disturbance than indicated in the timber harvest plan or reported in the CDF review.

This property has lain largely undisturbed since it was clearcut before 1900. In the intervening hundred years it has healed from the extensive landslides, soil

fertility losses, and streambed log skidding that occurred during the brutal clearcut. There are scattered old growth trees among the tall stands of second growth redwood. Together they support habitat for endangered steelhead trout, every local owl species and forest hawk, bats, salamanders, and rare sand hills plants and insects.

Efforts by the Lompico Watershed Conservancy and the Water District to purchase the property from Roger Burch, owner of Redwood Empire, have been unsuccessful even though these groups were willing to pay many times what Burch paid for the property in 1995.

The Sierra Club is supporting the efforts to stop this logging operation. To keep informed, contact the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, 335-8136 or bats3@cruzio.com or visit www.lompicocreek.org.

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 Gil Gilbreath, 624-7501.

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The environmental **LIES** of George W. Bush

Suppressed or falsified science documented by Waxman Report and *New York Times*

by Richard Stover

Criticism has been growing about the Bush administration's interference in the scientific research and analysis done by federal agencies. Much of that research involves environmental issues. Bush's interference has led to false statements by the President, false statements given to Congress, suppressed reports, altered web sites, and more.

Congressional Representative Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) commissioned a study to document these falsehoods. The report by the Special Investigations Division of the House Committee on Government Reform can be reviewed at www.skyhighway.com/~rjs.

While many of us have heard about the Administration's lies, distortions, and interference, it is still shocking to see so many of them documented in one publication. The report identifies one common attribute of the interference: it benefits powerful Bush supporters including business interests and political conservatives. The interference sacrifices the credibility of Federal research and harms the American public (and the world) in order to promote a political and ideological agenda.

Specific examples are summarized below:

Bush Lie: Feedlots

The US Department of Agriculture suppresses research and information related to agricultural pollution. In one case they prevented a researcher from presenting his results from a study showing antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the air near hog confinements in Iowa and Missouri. The USDA suppressed this research at the request of someone from the National Pork Producers Council. USDA scientists must now seek prior approval (from USDA Bush appointees) for any manuscripts related to agricultural practices with negative health or environmental issues.

Bush Lie: Arctic Refuge

Interior Secretary Gale Norton gave false written testimony to Congress regarding drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge when she said that ANWR's caribou calving occurred mostly outside ANWR while her own department's research showed the opposite. She also deleted important findings by her own scientists that indicated that caribou calving and survival could be harmed by drilling activities in ANWR.

Bush Lie: Water Quality

Perchlorate, the main ingredient in solid rocket fuel, is a serious health threat. Research in 1997 showed significant health risks, even at low levels, espe-

cially for infants and developing fetuses. The Bush Pentagon has systematically suppressed information on the levels of perchlorate in ground water and soils at numerous sites contaminated by the military and its contractors. Instead the Bush Administration is pushing for legislation to protect the polluters from liability.

Bush Lie: Environmental Health

In an effort to make sure science facts don't interfere with Bush pollution policies, in 2002 the administration appointed persons with strong ties to polluting industries to an important environmental health advisory body of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Bush Lie: Global Warming

When Bush rejected the Kyoto protocol on global warming, that was bad enough. But then Bush personally lied when he said his global warming policies would be "science-based." The truth has been the opposite. At the behest of ExxonMobil, Bush had the State Department request the removal of Dr. Robert Watson as chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate. Watson had produced a report predicting 2.5 to 10.5 degree global temperature increases by 2100. This conflicted with the Bush policy of global warming denial.

As part of the policy of denial Bush tried to suppress other information on global warming. In 2002 the Bush administration left global warming out of an annual report on air pollution. In 2003 a major EPA report on the environment also contained no information on global warming. The report originally had a section on global warming, but Bush's political operatives demanded changes that were not true or that distorted the scientific findings. This created enough of an uproar among EPA scientists that EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman decided to drop the global warming section completely.

Additionally the EPA has withheld reports from Congress that show that a proposed alternative to Bush's "Clear Skies Act" would be much more effective, would cost very little more, and would save 17,800 lives from reduced pollution. The alternative would also reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a major contributor to global warming. Bush policy is opposed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Bush also refused to let the EPA release a study requested by Congress which showed that the financial impact to the U.S. economy from controlling

greenhouse gas emissions would be 50 to 100 times less than the amount claimed by the White House.

Bush Lie: Environmental Lead Poisoning

Recent research indicates that the current federal standards for lead exposure in children are too high. In a damaging (to children) attempt to block any changes in the standards, the Bush administration has replaced members of CDC's Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention with persons from the lead industry. It turns out that the lead industry had a direct hand in picking some of these people. Even though research shows that childhood learning ability is impaired at the current federal limits and that those limits need to be reduced by a factor of 2 or more, one of the Bush appointees to the committee actually claims that lead levels 7 times higher than the present standard are safe for children's brains. No one outside the lead industry holds that discredited view.

Bush Lie: Oil Drilling

Halliburton (headed formerly by Vice President Cheney) uses an environmentally damaging drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing that injects benzene and other carcinogens into the ground. In an attempt to cover up potential ground water contamination from this practice, the EPA changed data in a report to Congress. The report in its original form showed that there was real potential for contamination, but at the request of the oil industry the data were changed to show no potential for contamination. The White House also deleted discussion of the environmental hazards of hydraulic drilling from the White House National Energy Policy document.

Bush Lie: Wetlands

Soon after Bush took office the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers changed its policy from protecting wetlands to one of destroying wetlands. U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientists concluded that proposed rule changes on wetlands would lead to significant environmental damage and that the Corps' own data supported this conclusion. Interior Secretary Norton suppressed this information by failing to present the Fish and Wildlife scientists' report to the Corps. The pro-

posed harmful rules were enacted.

Bush Lie: Yellowstone

A report written by Park staff detailing several ongoing environmental concerns at the Park was edited to remove any mention of these concerns. The Bush Interior Department used the altered report to argue that Yellowstone should be removed from a list of parks in danger and in need of international attention. The United Nations World Heritage Committee removed Yellowstone from the list based on the bogus report.

Bush Lie: World Trade Center

In a sickening disregard for the health and lives of Americans, the White House pressured the EPA not to warn the public about the potential health effects of the smoke, dust, and debris from the collapse of the World Trade Center. This was apparently done in order to get the New York Stock Market reopened as quickly as possible. The White House prevented the EPA from issuing guidelines about cleaning apartments and offices. Indeed the EPA made false statements about the safety of the debris and dust without any monitoring data to back it up, and they gave false advice on how to do the cleanup.

The Towers were known to contain thousands of pounds of lead, tons of asbestos, and thousands of gallons of chemicals which when burned produced dioxins and other highly toxic byproducts. While the EPA already had procedures in place for dealing with the health and environmental problems of a major terrorist attack, the EPA did not follow its own procedures. As a result tens of thousands of residents and workers in Manhattan have been put at risk for serious, long-term health problems, and much of the contamination still remains in the environment at dangerous levels. All of this information, including the direct involvement of the White House in falsifying EPA reports and press releases, is contained in a report by the EPA Inspector General. Although the report was suppressed by the White House, a copy was leaked to the *New York Times* and the full report is now available. This lie came to light after the Waxman report was released.

Links to the entire Waxman and EPA Reports, are at skyhighway.com/~rjs.



City of Santa Cruz reduces pesticide use

by Celia Scott

The City of Santa Cruz hires goats to clear brush around the Bay Street Reservoir, Newell Creek Dam and the Water Treatment Plant instead of using herbicides. On city-owned DeLaveaga Golf Course, workers remove invasive English Daisies (masquerading as golf balls) by hand. And around the city, park employees are using "green-flaming" with a propane torch to remove weeds from fencelines and other places. It's all part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a program which has enabled the City to

substantially reduce pesticide use.

In November 1998, the City Council approved a policy requiring all City Departments and contractors to "eliminate or reduce pesticide applications on City property to the maximum extent feasible" and to educate the public about the dangers of toxic chemicals. The resulting IPM Program is an ecological approach to pest management, where non-chemical methods are preferred, and least-toxic pesticides are used only as a last resort.

The program has evolved over the last

five years under the guidance of consultants (Daar/IPM Consulting Group), the City's new Resource Ecologist, and an IPM Technical Advisory Committee composed of citizens and city staff. In December 2002 the City received an IPM Innovator Award from the State Department of Pesticide Regulation.

This October, the IPM Program passed another milestone when the City Council adopted an IPM Guidance Manual for use by City staff, as well as a Reduced-Risk Pesticide List (RRPL).

The RRPL includes a list of acceptable products that have a relatively low hazard to users, the public, and the environment. The use of more hazardous products is tightly controlled through precise limits as to use, and a strict, one-time-only, exemption process. An annual report to the City Council on all pesticide use is required.

Current estimates of direct costs to the City for implementing an IPM Program are upward of \$50,000 per year, without taking into account the hard-to-measure benefits to public health and the



Steve Ash



Sheila Daar

environment. However, experience in other communities (such as San Francisco, the pioneer on IPM efforts) indicates that over the long run, costs to local government are reduced.

For more information on the City of Santa Cruz IPM Program, and to obtain copies of the IPM Guidance Manual (which includes valuable chapters on IPM use in gardening and on how to deal with aphids, gophers, pink snow mold, rats and yellow jackets), call the City Resource Ecologist and IPM Coordinator, Kirk Lenington, 420-5364 or visit the City IPM website: www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/advbod/pk/ipm.html.



Terry Tompkins, City of Santa Cruz

Above: Living lawnmowers clear brush at Newell Creek Dam. Right: A city worker "greenflames a park fence line. Far right: Gardeners remove English Daisies at DeLaveaga Golf Course.

NEWS CLIPS

Finally a park

In late October the California Court of Appeal upheld the transfer of Hatton Canyon from Caltrans to State Parks. Attorney Michael Stamp represented the Club in the suit. The appeal had been filed by the Citizens for Hatton Canyon, who sought to block the transfer in the hopes that Caltrans would one day build the freeway.

Fly boys

Six juvenile male condors and a 12-year-old mentor male condor are slated to be released in the Pinnacles sometime in December. It has been more than 100 years since California Condors soared

over this rugged park. Since the birds travel great distances, it is hoped the males will eventually mate outside the park. Their task for the present is to learn how to exist in the wild.

SIMoN says

Check out the new Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary website, www.mbnms-simon.org. SIMoN stands for Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network and showcases scientific monitoring projects conducted by hundreds of researchers. The site includes an interactive mapping application that allows users to create their own maps incorpo-

rating information from various data sets to monitor major habitats, species and issues.

Under new management

The Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge is now being run by Miramar Hospitality, a hotel management group based in Los Altos. Guests should start seeing some changes including remodeled bathrooms in time for ski season. Herb Holden is now employed by Miramar instead of the Club.

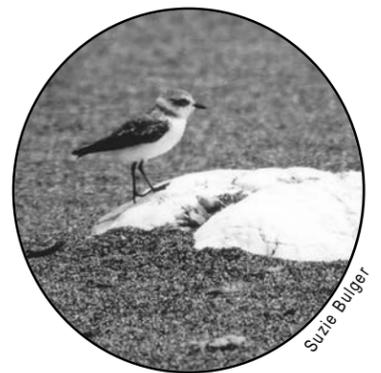
Poetry

Snowy Plover

A nest of sand she made herself,
Never knowing: one night,
Life's wind-driven waves
Would wash her world away.

Beyond flood tide she found herself,
Never dreaming: one day,
Love's storm-shattered wings
Would whisk her off again.

—Eugene Sobka



Suzie Bulger

Sierra Club Events

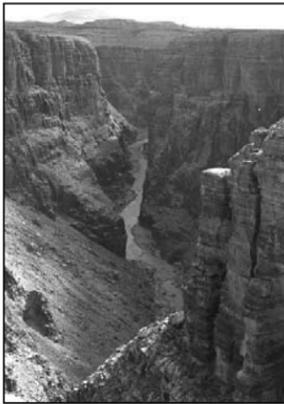


Thursday, January 1

Singles New Year's Pizza Party

Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Tony & Alba's, 226 Mt. Hermon Rd. in Scotts Valley (King's Village shopping center). \$8.00 per person; drinks are extra. Please be punctual so we know how much food to order. For more information call leader, Karen Kaplan, after 11:00 a.m. at 335-3342.

bring your plate, cup and serving utensils and a potluck dish to share. No red wine. For information call after 11:00 a.m. leader Karen Kaplan at 335-3342, or host Lulu Durham at 476-9673.



Richard Stover

Colorado has many scenic wonders.

Friday, January 9

Potluck - The Grand Canyon

Jeff West will present slides from his trip to the Grand Canyon. 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.

Sunday, January 18

Vegetarian Potluck: Speaking Up For Animals

The potluck is at 6:00 p.m. Afterwards we will see a documentary video about the ethical treatment of animals. Please

Friday, January 23

Singles Potluck and Games

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide an opportunity to make 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) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Tuesday, January 27

Potluck: Colorado

Join Bob Hale on an adventure to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. 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 Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more information call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Friday, February 13

Potluck - Costa Rica and Guatemala

Jann McCord will present this slide show from her recent trip to Costa Rica and Guatemala. 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.

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.

Tuesday evenings - January - March

Master Composter Training

Learn everything there is to know about backyard and worm composting. FREE training for Santa Cruz County residents. In exchange, students will volunteer to teach others about composting. Includes 7 Tuesday evening classes and 5 Saturday field trips. All class materials including books, worm bins and worms provided. Contact Ecology Action, 426-5925 x 14 or www.ecoact.org. Sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

Sunday, December 14

Benefit Concert

The Lompico Watershed Conservancy will hold a benefit concert at Don Quixote's Restaurant in Felton. 4-9 p.m. Four popular blue grass, Celtic, and country rock bands. Call Jessica, 334-7696 for updated information.

Wed. - Sat., January 21-24

Ecological Farming Conference

Major meeting on sustainable agriculture. Preconference session on Wednesday on sustainable fisheries. Sponsored by Ecological Farming Association. Asilomar. For more information visit www.eco-farm.org.

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.

Second and fourth Saturdays

Habitat restoration - Watsonville

Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply lot at Green Valley Road and Main Street in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

Saturdays (see dates below)

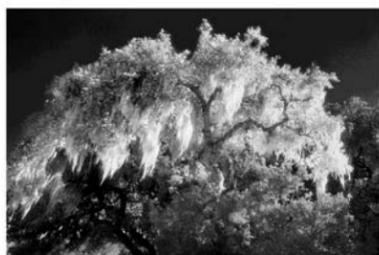
Habitat restoration - California Native Plant Society

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.

Dec. 13, Sat. - Henry Cowell State Park
Jan. 10, Sat. - Quail Hollow County Park
Jan. 24, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park

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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.

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/Bagel Bakery: 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 and the Bagel Bakery are 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.

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.

D E C E M B E R

Wednesday, December 3

HIKE: POGONIP

Enjoy a walk through this 640-acre expanse of open meadows, woodlands, and creeks that was once part of the Henry Cowell Ranch. We'll walk up to UCSC to eat our sack lunch and return on the Pogonip Creek Nature Trail. 6 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool, or at the Golf Club Drive entrance to Pogonip. (Park on street by bus garage, and walk to park gate for 9:30 meeting.) Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, December 6

BIKE/HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH

Bike and hike in Pebble Beach, doesn't that sound like fun? Bike 4 miles (gentle uphill). Hike 3 miles. Meet at the Fishwife Restaurant at Hwy. 68 and Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove with bikes at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860 or outbeck@juno.com.

Saturday, December 6

WALK: POGONIP

Join Friends of the Pogonip for a 3-hour morning walk on the Pogonip. We will discuss a recent revival of a proposed paved road to the University across the Pogonip. Meet at the top (north end) of Spring Street in Santa Cruz at 9:30 a.m. Call leaders Celia or Peter Scott, 423-0796 if you have questions.

Sunday, December 7

HIKE: SANTA LUCIA TRAIL

Strenuous 11-mile loop from Arroyo Seco. We'll hike through a variety of habitats including chaparral, river, and oak woodlands. Some of the hike will be along the seldom-traveled and infrequently-maintained Santa Lucia Trail. Expect overgrown sections with poison oak and considerable elevation gain. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead at Arroyo Seco. Call leader for directions. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, (510) 215-9255 (new number) or

bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Sunday, December 7

WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY COUNTY

Meet me for a walk in the surrounding area, depending on the weather and our whim. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Albertson's at 9:30 a.m. Call for more information. Leader: Harry Rocky, 625-7632.

Wednesday, December 10

WALK: BAMBOO GIANT NURSERY

This world-famous nursery in Aptos features 47 different varieties of bamboo from around the world and is one of the largest of its kind in

North America. They have a trail system featuring 3 self-guided walks and a picnic area. Bring lunch. After lunch we'll continue down Freedom Blvd. to Green Valley Rd. and walk around Pinto Lake County Park. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool at 9:00 a.m., in front of the Express Deli at Rio Del Mar exit at 9:20 a.m., or at the nursery, 5601 Freedom Blvd., Aptos at 9:45 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, December 13

HIKE: ANDREW MOLERA WEST

8-mile hike up Ridge Trail, down Panorama Trail. Lunch on the beach. Redwoods, meadows, views galore. 1200' elevation gain. Footbridge is gone, so be prepared to wade the Big Sur, shin deep. Bring water, lunch, windbreaker, hat, and \$ for carpool. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 9:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Saturday, December 13

HIKE: CHALK MOUNTAIN.

Climb Chalk Mtn., the highest point in Big Basin State Park. 1800 feet elevation gain and

9 miles. Dress in layers. There is a 3/4 hr. drive to the trailhead. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Ctr. at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, December 14

WALK: FORT ORD

Take a break from holiday frenzy and join us for a 2-3 hour loop around the southeast corner of Fort Ord. Bring water and snack. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead off Portola Drive, near the Reservation Road exit from Hwy. 68. (Hint: follow signs to CHP office, bear right by open field on paved lane to parking area.) Hard rain cancels. Leader: Mary Gale, 422-6970.

Wednesday, December 17

HIKE: HIDDEN VILLA

Nestled in Los Altos Hills is a youth hostel on the 1,600-acre non-profit organic farm and wilderness preserve founded by Frank and Josephine Duveneck in 1924. They held many multicultural summer camps here, and the Santa Clara Loma Prieta Chapter of Sierra Club was founded here in their home. We'll visit the hostel, the organic vegetable garden, the education center, and hike 5 miles of the trails behind the historic house built in 1880. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool, or at 10:00 a.m. at Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills off El Monte Rd. and Hwy. 280. Parking \$5. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925. Co-leader: Irvin Lindsey.

Saturday, December 20

HIKE: MAL PASO TO SOBERANES

We'll walk up Mal Paso Cyn, then south up a steep ridge on good trail, then up to Soberanes Trail. Return via Rocky Ridge. Car shuttle. Expect some adventure, 7 miles, 1,500' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water. Wear hiking boots. Meet at Albertson's at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Charles Gagarin, 659-1062, co-leader Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Saturday, December 20

HIKE: HENRY COWELL

Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Ctr. at 9:00 a.m. or at the park headquarters in front of the store at 9:30 a.m. 8 miles. Bring

NOTICE

Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 6 in the Calendar listings.

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



Escape from the winter crowds. Rent a cottage on a high alpine lake and experience the tranquility of the Sierra.

Polar Bear Cottage-Winter Tranquility

Polar Bear Cottage is rustically elegant with spectacular views of Silver Lake. The two bedroom cottage sleeps six, has a full kitchen, and large livingroom with fireplace and propane furnace. The cottage is part of Kit Carson Lodge and sits on 12 acres of lakeside frontage at Silver Lake on Highway 88. During the winter the Lodge closes the rest of it's facilities. Enjoy cross country skiing or snowshoeing, along the lake shore right outside your door, with access to the back country. You virtually have the trails and lake edge to yourself. For downhill skiers, Kirkwood Meadows Ski Resort is just 5 miles east. South Lake Tahoe is only 45 minutes away. Whether you hike, ski or snowshoe the short distance from your car to the cottage, you immediately escape from the hustle and bustle crowds of the winter ski resorts. For information contact: KIT CARSON LODGE, Kit Carson, CA 95644 (530) 676-1370

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The Sierra Club/Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 6, 2003 7

O U T I N G S

lunch and water. Leaders: George Jammal, 335-7748 and Gary Harrold, 662-0102.

Saturday, December 20

WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.
See December 7.

Sunday, December 21

HIKE: POST SUMMIT & MOUNT MANUEL
Very strenuous hike from East Molera over Post Summit and Mount Manuel to Big Sur State Park. 12 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Beautiful views of the Big Sur coast. Car shuttle. Hike will take all day. Bring \$ for carpool. Wear boots, bring a big lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422 or bruinrn@aol.com.

Sunday, December 28

BIKE RIDE: CSUMB/FORT ORD
Work off some holiday calories. 20 miles, mostly on paved streets. We'll explore the Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), the East Garrison area, and see native plant reserves. Hilly terrain; leisurely pace. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the thrift shop parking lot just inside the main gate off Hwy. 1. Bring water and a snack. Helmets mandatory. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton 372 7427.

JANUARY

Thursday, January 1

HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH
We can never hope to equal the great New Year's Day hikes by Bob de Yoe (for 25 years) and Joan di Stefano (for the last 12 years), but come along with us for a laid-back 4 miles. It's a Ventana Chapter New Year's tradition. We'll try to include a surprise. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in Pacific Grove at Sunset Drive & Asilomar Ave. Cloudy or shine. Dress for weather. It's usually windy along the coast. Bring water and snacks. For more info, phone co-leaders: Mary Gale, 422-6970 or Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Saturday, January 3

WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.
See December 7.

Tuesday, January 6

SENIOR SAUNTER: SUNSET BEACH
We'll walk both the bluffs and the beach. 4 miles with some hills. Bring lunch, water, \$2 for carpool and your share of entrance \$. Dress for windy and/or wet weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m., or at Sunset Beach at the kiosk parking lot about 9:50 a.m. Leaders: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803 and Mary Lou Schneider, 479-1859.

Wednesday, January 7

HIKE: ALMADEN VALLEY/LOS GATOS
This recently opened trail links Almaden Valley with Los Gatos as it snakes along the ridgeline below Mt. Umunhum. This longest stretch of new Bay Area trail in more than 10 years goes through an area once laced with mining caves and mine dumps. Bring lunch and water. 9 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or 10:00 a.m. at trailhead in San Jose (Hwy. 17 to Camden to end of Hicks Rd.). Leader: Diane Cornell 423-5925.

Saturday, January 10

HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL
We'll ascend the ridge from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 10-miles with 3000' elevation gain. Panoramic views all the way. Bring lunch, plenty of water, \$ for carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Sunday, January 11

HIKE: POGONIP/GRAY WHALE/WILDER
We'll use the bus system at the start and end of this hike to enjoy a fine 8-mile walk in the greenbelt lands surrounding Santa Cruz, traversing the Pogonip, the upper UCSC campus, the Gray Whale Ranch and Wilder Ranch State Park. Our route will take us through forests, and over meadows with spectacular views across Monterey Bay as we descend toward the ocean. Bring lunch and \$3 bus fare. Meet at the Santa Cruz Metro Center on Pacific Ave. in time to catch the 9:05 a.m. #16 bus to campus; we'll return to the Metro Center at 4:55 p.m. Call leaders Celia or Peter Scott at 423-0796 to confirm bus times, or for further information.

Sunday, January 11

HIKE: WEST MOLERA
Hidden Trail to Ridge Trail to Panorama Trail to Bluff Trail. Fantastic ocean views. Stream crossing. 8 miles, and 1000' elevation gain. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water, extra shoes for the stream crossing. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 655-3109 (new telephone number).

Sunday, January 11

WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.
See December 7.

Tuesday, January 13

SENIOR SAUNTER: WEST CLIFF/ NATURAL BRIDGES
We'll walk along the bluffs to view large winter waves. At Natural Bridges we'll visit the

monarch butterflies in the eucalyptus grove. Lunch at the picnic tables by the Visitors' Center. 4 easy, flat miles, shorter option. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m., or at 9:50 a.m. at the Lighthouse Field parking lot next to the restrooms. Bring lunch, sunscreen, hat and \$1 for carpool. Binoculars optional. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: JOSEPH T. GRANT COUNTY PARK
We'll explore the upper reaches of this Santa Clara Co. Park in the foothills of Mt. Hamilton east of San Jose. 12 miles with 2000' elevation gain. See some of the largest white and black oaks I have ever encountered and beautiful views overlooking Santa Clara County. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Ctr. at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. It is a 1 1/4 hour drive over Hwy 17. to the trailhead. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: EWOLDSSEN TRAIL
5-6 mile hike starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park to a panoramic viewpoint high above the ocean. After we'll visit the waterfall. Bring hat, water, lunch, and \$ for carpool. Meet at Albertson's at 10:00 a.m. Back around 5:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, 884-9705 or andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH
Hike 2.5 miles on the ridge with optional 4.5-mile canyon hike (both on dirt roads). With good weather, we'll sit overlooking the ocean and share poems and stories. If weather is inclement, we'll do this in Virginia Mudd's studio on the ranch, which looks out on the mountains and valleys. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Big Sur Land Trust office. Heavy rain cancels. Call or email to reserve a spot. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860 or outbeck@juno.com.

Sunday, January 18

HIKE: DANISH CREEK
Continuing our exploration of the perimeters of the Ventana Wilderness, we'll hike from Los Padres Dam, join the Big Pines Trail, and then down to secluded Danish Creek. Possible extra mile to Rattlesnake Camp. 8 miles, 1800' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, and wear hiking boots. Meet at Mid-Valley Shopping Center in Carmel Valley at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.



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Tuesday, January 20

SENIOR SAUNTER: HISTORICAL BOULDER CREEK

By special arrangement, we'll tour the San Lorenzo Valley Museum and the old town jail. Then a short walk to the new library, followed by an additional little country walk before lunch at a park beside the river. Overall, 2 miles. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, \$2 for carpool and \$ for a museum donation. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

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



from bulldozing during the 1999 fire. 8 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Bring lunch and lots of water. Meet behind Brinton's at 8.30 a.m. to carpool. Day-use fee we can share between car occupants. Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton 372 7427.

Sunday, January 25

HIKE: JUNIPERO SERRA

Carpool 1-1/2 hours to Fort Hunter Liggett to climb the highest peak in the Ventana Wilderness. Very strenuous. Reserve all day. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or e-mail at Bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, January 27

SENIOR SAUNTER: SEACLIFF BEACH

Hiker's choice of a level 4-mile hike along the beach path, or walk up Cliff Drive in a neighborhood for a mile and back down to the beach along a secret path. Lunch at the picnic tables. Dress for weather and bring a sit-upon (benches may be wet). \$1 carpool fee. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Rio del Mar by Cafe Rio at 9:50 a.m. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 662-2434.

Friday - Sunday, January 30 - Feb. 1

SKI: HUTCHINSON LODGE



Hutchinson Lodge is the small lodge near Clair Tappaan. We'll have it to ourselves. The lodge has 2 sleeping lofts, 2 wood stoves, and a sauna. The cost of this weekend/person is only \$50/members. Non-members/\$54. The price includes all meals! (Vegetarian available) X-country ski rentals and lessons available (for a fee) at the main lodge, in addition to free access to groomed trails right from the back door. Free shuttle bus to nearby cross-country and down-hill ski areas. We'll share cooking and cleaning. For reservation and trip information, send the completed form below, a check for the total (payable to Sierra Club) and a SASE or e-mail address to: Hutchinson Ski, P.O. Box 604 Santa Cruz 95061. Mail-in reservations must be received by January 22. Information will be sent to you on Jan. 23. Early reservations are a must; space is limited. Refunds for cancellations are 100% before

Jan. 25, 50% by Jan. 28, none after the 28th. For more details call leader, George Jammal, 335-7748.

Saturday, January 31

HIKE: POINT LOBOS EAST

Short hike up to Huckleberry Hill from Hwy. 1, just south of the entrance to Point Lobos but at the east side. Perhaps we'll check out Gibson Cyn. Bring water, lunch. Call for more details. Meet at Albertson's at 9:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Charles Gagarin, 659-1062, co-leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

Wonderful hike around the Middeldorf Preserve, administered by the Big Sur Land Trust. 9 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Great views and gorgeous old trees (the largest redwood in Monterey County). Bring lunch and water, wear boots. Meet at the San Carlos Ranch Gate, one mile off Carmel Valley Road at 9:00 a.m. Call leader for reservation. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, February 3

SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND/SEYMOUR CENTER

3-mile easy walk by Antonelli Pond to visit the Homeless Garden, then on to the Seymour Center, which has free admission

the first Tuesday of the month. After a brief visit, we'll walk past remains of a shipwreck to DeAnza then return to the picnic tables at Natural Bridges for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or on Delaware Ave. in Santa Cruz, at an entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Dress for the weather; bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and \$1 for carpool. Binoculars optional. Leader Jean Harrison: 425-5447.

Wednesday, February 4

HIKE UVAS CANYON COUNTY PARK

This lushly wooded 1200-acre park is nestled on the eastern side of the Santa Cruz Mountains. After hiking the waterfall loop, we'll hike uphill to Triple Falls and then Knibbs Knob (steep). 7 miles. Bring water and lunch. Hiking boots recommended. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool at 9:00 a.m. or at 9:15 a.m. at Express Deli at Rio Del Mar exit, or at entrance to Uvas Canyon County Park. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, February 7

HIKE: PINNACLES

Winter is the best time for the Pinnacles. The "grand tour" entails the High Peaks, Balconies and caves. 9 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, a flashlight and \$ for carpool and parking. Meet at K-Mart in Seaside, next to the gas station at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Wednesday, January 21

HIKE: JACKS PEAK

This 855-acre Monterey County Park has excellent views of Monterey Bay and Camel Valley from the 5 miles of trails through coastal scrub, chaparral, and Monterey pine. We start near the top of the peak. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m., or at Express Deli at Rio Del Mar exit at 9:15 a.m., or at the trailhead, 10:10 a.m. (Hwy. 68 to Olmsted Rd. to Jacks Peak Dr. Go left 0.3 mile to east parking area.) Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 24

WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.

See December 7.

Saturday, January 24

HIKE: VICENTE FLAT

Great views on this 11-mile hike through meadows and in redwoods. 2,000' elevation gain. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$ for 1 hr+ carpool. Wear good boots. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Sunday, January 25

HIKE: DEVILS PEAK

Starting at Botchers Gap, this hike goes steadily uphill through oak and madrone woods to Skinners Ridge, then up the steep, dry path to Devils Peak. Panoramic views from the coast to the interior of the Ventana Wilderness. We'll see how the wilderness is recovering

Hutchinson Lodge Ski Trip
Friday - Monday, Jan. 30-Feb. 1
(Read the write-up for more details)

Names _____

Street _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Eve Phone _____

of members _____ @ \$50 each = _____

of non-members _____ @ \$54 each = _____

Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) = _____

Departing day/time _____ Returning day/time _____

Carpooling information: I/we have room for _____ riders
 I/we need a ride

You may give my name and phone number to other participants.
Rides cannot be guaranteed, reserve at your own risk.

A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed OR email: _____

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The Sierra Club's



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Come visit Sierra Club's flagship lodge and enjoy the winter. The Lodge is now managed by Miramar Hospitality, but you will notice few operational changes. You can still bring a bottle of wine for our greatly improved dinners.

Clair Tappaan offers many exciting workshops and outdoor activities including snowshoe ecology tours, back-country ski trips, avalanche safety courses and moonlight hikes. There are cross-country ski and telemark lessons daily and groomed trails right outside the back door.

Popular annual activities this winter will include

Ski Bus Trips

January 23-25, February 20-22, and March 26-28. Leave from and return to Oakland. \$115 members, \$125 non-members, \$65 kids 12 and under. Free shuttles to all five local resorts.

Kids' Ski Weekends

January 30-February 1 and February 6-8. Cross-country ski lessons, snow play. \$85 kids 8-12.

Bluegrass Weekend

March 12-14. Professionals and amateurs welcome.

Snowshoe Ecology Tours

January 2-4 and April 2-4. Broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology and see some magnificent scenery. \$100 members, \$110 non-members.

Spring Skiing in the Sierra

March 21-26. Five days of guided ski trips. Moderate to challenging trails and classic Sierra scenery. \$475 members, \$495 non-members.

New Midweek Lodge/Ski Packages!

One or two nights, cross-country or downhill.

For more information about the lodge, rates, updates to the program and activity schedules, and ski packages, please visit our website www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call 530-426-3632.

www.ctl.sierraclub.org

Post Office Box 36, Norden, CA 95724
530.426.3632 (voice) • 530.426.0742 (fax)
e-mail: CTL@sierraclub.org

O U T I N G S

Sunday, February 8

WALK: POINT LOBOS, NORTH COAST

Easy 2-mile loop around Whaler's Cove, the Pit and Moss Cove then over to the south end of Monastery Beach. Although short, the walk will be splendid—or your money back. Meet at the Bank of America on Rio Road in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. Bring snack, water, and dress for the weather (windbreaker advised.) Rain cancels. For more information, call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Sunday, February 8

HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL

We'll hike up from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 11 miles, 3000' elevation gain with incredible views. Wear boots, bring lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 655-3109 (new phone number).

Sunday, February 8

HIKE: TASSAJARA LOOP

This strenuous hike in the heart of the Ventana Wilderness is best done in winter. Expect a great wonderful tour. Call for necessary information. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or Bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, February 10

SENIOR SAUNTER: SALINAS RIVER BEACH HIKE

We'll walk along the beach to see an old shipwrecked boat half buried in the sand, and then on to nearby Salinas River. Walk is on dirt road and sand. Easy 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south to Marina - Del Monte Blvd. exit and turn right. Meet at dirt parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch, jacket and \$2 for car-pool. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

Come hike with us!



SIERRA CLUB

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Fishy fact

Remember to buy only wild Pacific salmon when you eat out or go to the market. The average salmon farm creates as much raw sewage as a city of 65,000, says Ian McAllister of the Washington-State-based Raincoast Conservation Society. Even worse, this untreated poop is laced with antibiotics. The resulting ocean dead zones can extend up to 500' around the holding pens.

The Bird Feeder A Birder's Emporium



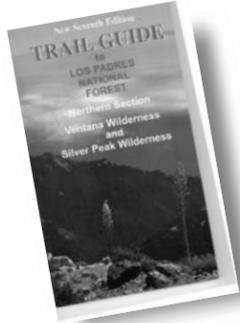
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Updated Los Padres Trail Guide now available

The 7th edition of the "Trail Guide to the Los Padres Forest" is now available for sale. Containing over 100 pages of trail descriptions, general lore of this ruggedly beautiful terrain and helpful advice, this pocket-sized volume is a must-have for exploring the Northern Los Padres Forest, the Ventana and the Silver Peak Wilderness.



The Trail Guide, which has been published by the Chapter since 1969, is a comprehensive and essential handbook for the hiker and backpacker in this remote region. It is organized

by the 6 major watersheds: Carmel River, Little Sur River, Big Sur River, Arroyo Seco River, San Antonio River and Kirk Creek. The Guide is illustrated throughout with color photos and black and white drawings.

This new version of the Trail Guide is based on the work of Nancy Hopkins, who put together the first edition in 1969. Nancy passed away in 2001, but her outstanding vision and knowledge live on.

Many people contributed to the production of this edition from walking the trails to proofreading. In addition to the work of Ventana Chapter members, substantial support was provided by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and the Mounted Assistance Group. Co-editors Joyce Stevens and Steve Chambers thank the following helpers: Bob Eaton, Gordon Williams, Larry Parrish, David Nelson, Boone Hughey, Robin Way, Rita Dalessio, Mary Gale and Ben Post.

Trail Guides are available through Sierra Club Books, the Ventana Chapter bookstore in Carmel (624-8032), P. O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA 93921, and at many local retailers. The cost of the guide including the map is \$14.95 plus tax and shipping.

Resurrected Eastern Access road would harm Pogonip

Petition signatures needed

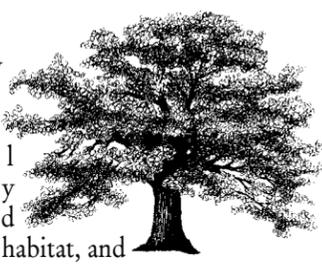
Revival of an old threat to the integrity of the Pogonip Greenbelt in the City of Santa Cruz has mobilized the Sierra Club and sparked the formation of a new group, Keep the Greenbelt Green. The Club opposes a paved roadway (known as the "eastern access") through the Pogonip. Proponents envision a road from Hwy. 9 to UCSC which they believe would relieve university-related traffic on the westside of Santa Cruz.

Keep the Greenbelt Green acknowledges the traffic problems in Westside neighborhoods, and supports more effective, energy-efficient and environmentally-sound solutions rather than violating the integrity of City greenbelt lands. Effective solutions to Westside traffic are included in the Master Transportation Study (MTS) now pending before the Santa Cruz City Council.

Keep the Greenbelt Green is circulating a petition to the UCSC Chancellor and the Santa Cruz City Council urging them to reject a roadway through the Pogonip and to implement instead the solutions outlined in the MTS. The petition will be submitted to the City Council at the 3:00 p.m. public hearing December 9, where the Council will take action on the Master Transportation Study.

A paved, heavily-used roadway through Pogonip's steep terrain would

severely damage its natural beauty and wildlife habitat, and would replace its peaceful serenity with traffic noise and air and water pollution. For many in our community, as well as the resident wildlife, Pogonip is a sanctuary from the urban world. Roads and traffic have no place in Pogonip.



How to help

- Sign a petition. Petitions are available for signing at the Sierra Club office, 1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz (phone 426-HIKE), or at various locations in the City of Santa Cruz (phone 429-6166). They may also be obtained on line at sensibletransportation.org/greenbelt, along with a flyer and a fact sheet on the "Eastern Access."

- Download a petition and gather signatures.

- Email the Santa Cruz City Council (citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us) and Chancellor Greenwood (mrcgrnwd@ucsc.edu) to oppose a road through the Pogonip.

- Contact 429-6166, or greenbelt@sensibletransportation.org to volunteer or for more information.

- Come on the Dec. 6 Pogonip hike to view proposed routes for the roadway.

"As far as I could see, a dark green sea of untouched forest rolled out to the whole encircling horizon. In a lifetime—mine, anyway—one is given this blessing only rarely: the chance to stand on high ground, turn in every direction, and see absolutely not one single sign of humanity. This is how the world once was, without our outside dreams and dominion."

—Barbara Kingsolver
"The Way to Nueva Vida," *Sierra*,
Sep/Oct, 2003.

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Male/Female: 63% / 37%
Median Household Income: \$56,227
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Sierra Club heralds environmental wins in State Legislature



47 of 48 bills supported by Club signed into law

This was a banner year for the environment in the California State Legislature with laws passed to protect our watersheds, coastal waters, air quality, and community environment. One of our highest priorities, SB 810 (Burton) marked the first significant reform to the State Forest Practices Act in 30 years. This new law gives the Regional Water Quality Control Boards the authority to block the approval of logging plans that would violate water quality standards.

Two other bills signed into law which will improve enforcement of State water quality law were SB 923 (Sher) and AB 897. SB 923 requires that State Water Board waivers from waste discharge requirements be in the public interest, authorizes a fee on waivers, and requires waiver conditions to include a monitoring requirement except when discharges do not pose a significant threat to water quality. AB 897 (Jackson) strengthens water quality enforcement by reducing distinctions between nonpoint and point source violations.

Also signed were AB 121 (Simitian) and AB 906 (Nakano), which regulate discharges by cruise ships in our coastal waters. AB 16 (Jackson) will protect our coastal waters and shoreline by requiring offshore oil to be piped rather than shipped by tanker to shore.

A groundbreaking package of bills authored by Senator Dean Florez (Bakersfield) will address the terrible air quality in the Central Valley where children suffer from asthma at three times the national rate. Other significant air quality bills signed include SB 656 (Sher), which strengthens regulation of particulate matter, and SB 288 (Sher), which locks in place California's air quality regulations in the face of rollbacks by the Bush administration.

Two important bills that address solid waste were signed. SB 20 (Sher) requires establishment of a system to recycle cathode ray tubes (CRTs—televisions and computer monitors) and AB 28 (Jackson and Sher) expands the state's bottle bill law. Televisions and computer monitors typically contain five to seven pounds of lead. In California, more than 10,000 computers and TVs become obsolete daily. A fee collected when CRTs are sold will be used to collect and safely recycle discarded CRTs.

Special thanks goes to the Club's lobbying team in Sacramento and Club members who wrote and called their legislators about specific bills. To sign up for the Legislative Action Network visit, <http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>.

Sierra Club California priority bills signed into law in 2003

- SB 20 (Sher) creates an advance recycling fee on electronic waste to fund recycling of discarded electronic equipment.
- SB 189 (Escutia) moves California closer to the goal of establishing an environmental health tracking system.
- SB 245 (Sher) restricts salmon, transgenic, and exotic finfish aquaculture in State waters.
- SB 288 (Sher) blocks the Bush Administration rollback air quality regulations.
- SB 331 (Romero) codifies the doctrine of delayed discovery as it applies to the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit for illness, injury, or death caused by exposure to a hazardous material or toxic substance.
- SB 352 (Escutia) prohibits the siting of a school within 500 feet of a freeway and brings closer scrutiny to the siting of schools near large agricultural operations or rail yards.
- SB 412 (Sher) allows for the collection of any fully-protected species as is necessary for scientific research, including efforts to recover those species.
- SB 418 (Sher) streamlines and clarifies the streambed alteration agreement process.
- SB 552 (Burton) requires the Department of General Services, in consultation with the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission to develop minimum fuel efficiency and emission standards and specifications for all vehicles leased or purchased by the State of California.
- SB 649 (Kuehl) prohibits mining operations from selling their products to the State agencies unless they have complied with SMARA.
- SB 656 (Sher) works to improve air quality by requiring the California Air Resources Board and local air districts to identify and adopt cost-effective measures to reduce particulate pollution.
- SB 666 (Bowen) facilitates the protection of Ballona Wetlands.
- SB 700 (Florez & Sher) repeals the current agricultural exemption on air quality permits.
- SB 704 and 705 (Florez) will phase out open field burning of agricultural waste in the San Joaquin Valley over the next decade.
- SB 777 (Escutia) improves whistleblower protection by creating a confidential Whistleblower Hotline in the office of the Attorney General, providing a safe-haven for employees who want to expose wrongdoing within their companies.
- SB 796 (Dunn) allows workers to file civil actions against their employers for violations of the Labor Code.
- SB 810 (Burton) gives the Regional Water Quality Control Boards the authority to block the approval of logging plans that would violate water quality standards.
- SB 923 (Sher) authorizes the State Water Board to issue waivers from waste discharge requirements, authorizes a fee on waivers, and requires waiver conditions to include a monitoring requirement except when discharges do not pose a significant threat to water quality.
- SB 1004 (Soto) establishes safeguards to protect Californians from perchlorate contamination and require those who contaminate drinking water supplies to pay for the costs caused by their pollution.
- AB 16 (Jackson) requires that oil produced offshore be transported by pipeline instead of by ship.
- AB 21 (Jackson) establishes terms for Coastal Commissioners appointed by the Legislature (response to lawsuit by Pacific Legal Foundation).
- AB 28 (Jackson, Pavley, Burton, Sher) increases the deposit amount for beverage container recycling.
- AB 47 (Simitian) requires landowners to include maps of their past logging conducted in the watershed.
- AB 110 (Oropeza) allows the establishment of a regulatory fee structure that ensures that those who pollute our air and water will bear the full cost of regulation.
- AB 121 (Simitian) prohibits cruise ships from dumping sewage or oily bilge into State waters.
- AB 302 (Chan) bans the use of fire-retardant polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) after 2008.
- AB 334 (Goldberg) allows local governments to limit the availability or prohibit the installation of water softeners that discharge to community sewer systems.
- AB 433 (Nation) reauthorizes the model ballast water discharge management program, which will help control the introduction of invasive species accidentally released from ship ballast water.
- AB 455 (Chu) prohibits the use of four regulated heavy metals—lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium—in packaging materials.
- AB 514 (Kehoe) requires water meters on all service connections of urban water suppliers that receive water from the Central Valley Project.
- AB 826 (Jackson), the Perchlorate Contamination Prevention Act, requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to establish standards for best management practices for the handling of perchlorate materials.
- AB 859 (Nakano) facilitates the protection of Ballona Wetlands.
- AB 897 (Jackson) strengthens water quality enforcement by reducing distinctions between nonpoint and point source violations.
- AB 906 (Nakano) prohibits cruise ships from discharging graywater from kitchens, laundries, and showers into State waters.
- AB 998 (Lowenthal) imposes an initial \$3 per gallon fee on perchloroethylene (perc or PCE) to fund a grant program for alternative dry cleaning systems considered to be nontoxic and nonsmog-forming.
- AB 999 (J. Horton) reduces mercury pollution by making non-mercury dental fillings eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement.
- AB 1168 (Berg) assigns Wild & Scenic River status to Albion and Gualala Rivers.
- AB 1244 (Chu) encourages the modernization of urban schools and will help to revitalize urban neighborhoods.
- AB 1330 (Simitian) creates a privately-funded State Department of Education study to analyze the scholastic and behavioral effects of outdoor education on underserved populations.
- AB 1360 (Steinberg) provides a statutory basis for CalEPA's Environmental Indicators for California Project.
- AB 1492 (Laird) closes loopholes in the Williamson Act by restricting lot line adjustments and construction of nonagricultural buildings not allowed in the contract.
- AB 1497 (Montañez) helps ensure that solid waste landfills throughout the state are operated in a manner that protects public health and the environment by increasing the ability of communities to participate in decisions about local landfills.
- AB 1541 (Montañez) improves reporting of water pollution by classifying failure to file reports of the discharge of waste into waterways as "serious violations" under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.
- AB 1548 (Pavley) facilitates coordination of environmental education curriculum.
- AB 1685 (Leno) extends the California Public Utilities Commission's Self-Generation Incentive Program and requires certain distributed generation projects using fossil fuels to meet specific emissions targets to be eligible for the program.
- AB 1700 (Laird & Wiggins) helps clean up contaminated military bases by saving positions at the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the State Water Resources Control Board that oversee base remediation and that are not funded by the General Fund.
- AB 1756 (Assem. Budget Committee) prohibits the California Integrated Waste Management Board from spending public funds on the incineration of waste tires.

Sierra Club togs make great holiday gifts

Shopping for just the right present for your special tree-hugger? Check out the new Sierra Club clothing for men and women. These fashions not only look good, but also use sustainable fabrics such as wool, hemp, organic cotton or EcoSpun fleece, produced entirely from post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Even the denim is politically correct. It is manufactured in Denmark using golf balls instead of mined pumice to give the fabric its traditional worn look.

Best of all, the Club receives a royalty on each item sold. Styles include jackets, pants, sweaters, and shirts.

The clothing is produced by Isda & Company based in San Francisco. Sierra Club requires its suppliers to adhere to the workplace code of conduct of the Fair Labor Association, a coalition of universities, non-governmental organizations and companies such as Eddie Bauer, Patagonia and others.

If you think it's time to supplement your own winter wardrobe or you need some inspiration for holiday gifts, the Sierra Club line of Fall/Winter apparel has an array of warm winter clothing that will keep you toasty during the coming outdoor season and for many



The men's boiled wool jacket includes hand warmer pockets and buttoned chest pockets.

years to come.

A full selection of men's and women's apparel is available at: www.sierraclubgear.com. Locally, Sierra Club clothing is sold at EcoGoods in downtown Santa Cruz, 1130 Pacific Avenue and, in the near future, at the Friends of the Sea Otter Education and Retail Center, 381 Cannery Row in Monterey.

This "Preserve" cuts protected trees and harms steelhead

The Chapter is raising significant concerns about the Potrero subdivision planned for Rancho San Carlos (aka "The Preserve"). We are especially concerned about the impacts to water usage and the cutting of protected trees. A proposal for the "Potrero Subdivision," mostly in the Carmel Valley area, is detailed in a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, on which the Chapter commented.

Rancho San Carlos (RSC) proposes 29 more estate homes for this "phase." Even with the huge lots, the developer wants to ignore its promises to "site the houses in the least environmentally sensitive locations" and make them "subordinate to the landscape" by cutting 259 "Landmark" and "Protected" trees. In addition, the Chapter believes the tree-cutting already approved on RSC could be taking the project well beyond the

botanical impacts analyzed in the EIR for the overall project.

In addition, the water system for the entire project has a cloud over it. In particular, the Chapter and Carmel River Steelhead Association recently documented serious drawdowns of Garzas Creek, which runs through RSC. As reported in the last *Ventana* Garzas Creek is a major tributary of the Carmel River and a vital link in the life support system for the federally-listed steelhead trout in that river. The proposed Potrero subdivision would draw from the same "ranch-wide water system" that is apparently significantly impacting Garzas Creek, and may be impacting Potrero and San Jose Creeks as well.

Hydrological consultant Dr. John Williams conducted much of the technical data and field work submitted with the Club's comments.

Holiday gifts at your Club bookstore

by Nada Kovalik

Desert Solitaire

The tourists have gone home. Most of them. A few still rumble in and ramble around in their sand-pitted dust-choked iron dinosaurs, but the great majority, answering a mystical summons, have returned to the smoky jungles and swamps of what we call, in wistful hope, American civilization."

Yes, that's the gravelly grumpy voice of Edward Abbey echoing across the years from 1968, when he first wrote that impudent masterpiece, *Desert Solitaire*. If you've not read it since its publication 35 years ago, you're in for a treat. If you've never read it, an even bigger treat.

As a young man Abbey spent a season as a park ranger in Arches National Park in southeastern Utah. His stories and ruminations on those days are sparks from a fiery, protective love of nature.

Often Abbey was prescient. Even then, he was proposing what is now being hotly debated as part of Yosemite's future: a banning or large reduction of private automobile traffic. Here's what he said:

"Excluding the automobile from the heart of the great cities has been seriously advocated by thoughtful observers of our urban problems. It seems to me an equally proper solution to the problems besetting our national parks. Of course it would be a serious blow to Industrial Tourism and would be bitterly resisted by those who profit from that industry. . . . But such a revolution, like it or not, is precisely what is needed. The only foreseeable alternative, given the current trend of things, is the gradual destruction of our national parks."

Desert Solitaire in paperback, published by Touchstone Press of Simon and Schuster, remains a jewel of a little book, easy to drop into a backpack.

Stikeen

Another small classic, *Stikeen* by that grand old man, John Muir, can be found on the bookstore shelves. Originally published in 1909, the modern paperback edition is published by Hayday Books. It will charm anyone from 8 to 80+.

Stikeen was a small raggedy dog which Muir picked up on one of his travels in Alaska. (More accurately, Stikeen picked up Muir and stuck to him like a

little black bur through wild blizzards and horrendous glacial excursions.

The little mongrel is charmingly depicted with an attitude and a jaunty tail in illustrations by Carl Dennis. The story is tempered with Muir's musings on "the unity and sanctitude of all living things."

Trail Guides

And of course, be sure to get your new copy of the Trail Guide to Los Padres National Forest and Popular Outings, which describes day hikes and bike rides in the Monterey Bay area and beyond.

The Club bookstore is located on the south side of Ocean Avenue in Carmel, midway between San Carlos and Dolores. Volunteers are on hand to help you from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Court rules Yosemite Merced River Plan not protective

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on October 27 in favor of Friends of Yosemite Valley and MERG (Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth), that the Merced River Management Plan does not protect the River. The opinion by Judge Wardlaw ruled that the National Park Service's (NPS) Plan for the Merced River violates the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by "insufficiently addressing user capacities and improperly setting river area boundaries within El Portal.

In its ruling the court stated it expects the NPS to implement measures to avoid environmental degradation. The court also ruled that the boundaries the NPS set for its El Portal area, on the Park's western boundary, were improperly set as they do not protect the Merced River's outstanding remarkable resource values.

This appeal was accompanied by an Amicus Brief filed by Pete Frost of the Western Environmental Law Center on behalf of 52 other environmental groups including Sierra Club. The case will now return to the District Court in Fresno to implement the appellate decision. To read the full opinion, visit www.ca9.uscourts.gov and click opinions where you can search by date.

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Forest Service studies may help Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign

As reported in the last *Ventana* the Club is working with other environmental groups to achieve "Wild and Scenic River" designation for free-flowing Central Coast rivers. Currently only the Big Sur River has this designation. A "wild and scenic" designation would protect additional rivers or river segments from dams, diversions and new development.

Earlier this year the U.S. Forest Service agreed to study designation of

the Arroyo Seco River, San Antonio River, and the North Fork of the Little Sur River. If the Forest Service determines that these rivers merit listing, the recommendation will be incorporated into the draft Management Plan for the Los Padres National Forest. The public comment period of the proposed plan would be an opportunity to express your support for permanent protection of wild and free flowing streams of the northern Santa Lucia Mountains and the Big Sur coast.

Rivers are added to the National Wild and Scenic River System by Congress, which means that the process is always political.

Whatever happens, local activists will continue to survey the wild and free flowing rivers and streams of the northern Santa Lucia to document their "Outstanding Remarkable Values" and work for their protection. Additional information on the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign is available at: www.ventanawild.org/projects/rivers and www.nps.gov/rivers.

Sierra Club launches Southern California Forests Campaign

Early in 2004 the Forest Service will release details of six options for managing the Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests. The resulting management plans will affect over three and a half million acres of forest lands. Brief descriptions of the options have already been released and range from the good to the bad to the downright ugly.

The good option, based on recommendations from the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, focuses on protecting and restoring our forests while maintaining opportunities for low-impact recreation. This option would stop destructive development such as highways, oil wells, and power lines. The worst options increase resource extraction (more oil wells, logging, and mining) and off-road vehicle use. The outcome is very much in doubt.

In response, the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations have organized the Southern California Forest Campaign to lobby for the option which emphasizes resource protection, restoration, and low-impact recreation.

Without many voices raised in defense of these national forests, the Forest Service will hear mostly from mining and oil companies, developers, and others who wish to exploit these public lands. To learn more about the Southern California Forests Campaign and sign up to help out, visit www.sierraclub.org/ca/4forests.

12 states sue EPA over failure to address global warming

Twelve states, several cities, and over a dozen environmental groups joined forces to challenge the Bush Administration's continued failure to confront global warming. The plaintiffs are targeting the unprecedented ruling by the Environmental Protection Agency late last summer that summarily disavowed the agency's long-standing jurisdiction under the Clean Air Act to regulate global warming emissions. The states, cities and groups challenged the EPA decision in the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

States challenging EPA's decision are CA, CT, IL, ME, MA, NJ, NM, NY, OR, RI, VT, and WA. Baltimore and New York City filed a separate petition.

Environmental Groups joining the challenge include the Sierra Club, Bluewater Network, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Defense, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, National Environmental Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Union of Concerned Scientists and U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG).

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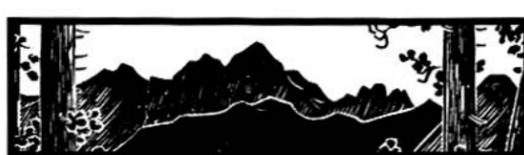
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VOLUNTEER FOR THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. The Santa Cruz Group is looking for members who are politically savvy, are good listeners, and are willing to become well versed in Club positions on issues. Work on endorsement of candidates. Stay in touch with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



Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Protecting the Northern Santa Lucia

Visit our website for current trail conditions, an open discussion forum, our quarterly journal and more Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness information.

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Deborah F. Bulger, editor** Date: **10/23/03**

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Las Tiendas Building, Ocean Avenue between Dolores and San Carlos, Carmel

Mailing Address – The Ventana Chapter, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA, 93921, e-mail:ventana@mbay.net
Phone – 624-8032 Fax - 624-3371 (Santa Cruz Group Phone – 426-4453) Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org

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	Clark Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
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Alternates	Mary Gale	1310 Prima Vera #122	Salinas, CA 93901	422-6970
	Lorri Lockwood	P.O. Box 264	Big Sur, CA 93920	667-2564

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	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766.	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556

Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter

Group Office: 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, near Actors' Theatre Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org
Mailing Address: Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604
Phone: 831-426-HIKE (426-4453), Fax: (831) 426-LEAD (426-5323), e-mail: scscrg@crzuzio.com

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MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Ventana Chapter (Monterey Co.)</p> <p>Information: 624-8032</p> <p>Executive Committee: Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.</p> <p>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, January 17 at 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Santa Cruz Regional Group</p> <p>Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453) Meeting place: Sierra Club Office 1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11</p> <p>Executive Committee: Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: Wednesday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m.</p>
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The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

DEC, JAN,
FEB
OUTINGS



Terry Tompkins, City of Santa Cruz

Naaa to pesticides p. 5

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P.11



McCabe Canyon added to Pinnacles National Monument



McCabe Canyon preserves an increasingly rare and important California habitat: valley oak woodland. This new acquisition is a key addition to the Pinnacles.

The 240-acre McCabe Canyon (known as the Francis Ranch) was added to Pinnacles National Monument in September. The property abuts the park across the road and north of the entrance station. It preserves an increasingly rare and important California habitat, valley oak woodland, and provides a key piece of the boundary protection envisioned in the park's 2000 boundary expansion. The property owner, a willing seller who has been working with park officials over the past two years, will retain a life estate on the property.

Threatened valley oak ecosystems, extremely rare within the park and disappearing throughout the state, are extensive throughout McCabe Canyon. The valley oak systems have healthy native understories which are both excellent wildlife habitat and an extremely valuable seed source that will provide an outstanding opportunity for restoration with native genetic stock. The park will manage this site for its natural resource values.

At present, there is no developed public access to McCabe Canyon. Park officials are working to make McCabe Canyon more accessible while preserving both the resources and the privacy of the former owner, who lives on site.

The 24,000-acre Pinnacles National Monument, protected since 1908, preserves intact a remarkable diversity of habitat and natural resources unique to the central coast region of California. A boundary expansion in 2000 added over 12,000 acres to the park, some 2,500 acres of which was private property. With the purchase of McCabe Canyon, Pinnacles National Monument is one step closer to completing its critical land acquisition priorities. The park's top acquisition priority remains the 2000-acre Pinnacles Ranch, which is rich in natural and cultural resources and will provide critical habitat for California condors, which are slated to be released at Pinnacles National Monument in December.



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