

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



**FEB, MAR, APR
 OUTINGS**

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Richard Stover

Garden wisely



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed below. No exceptions.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Email to dfbulger@cruzio.com. Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

PHOTOS

Photos submitted to *The Ventana* must meet the following requirements: No laser copies or inkjet outputs. Electronic photos should be no smaller than 1200 x 1100 pixels or 300 dpi. Cover photos must be 3000 x 2000 pixels. Film photos, slides or negatives are fine. Please call the editor if you have any questions.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

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2006

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#5	Sep. 25	Oct. 11
#6	Nov. 27	Dec. 13

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

Update on Monterey County's General Plan

This column will update you on the status of the General Plan Update (GPU) continuing in Monterey County. The Chapter has been very actively participating in this process for six years. One outcome has been the Community Initiative which will be on the ballot in June. We strongly recommend that you support this initiative.

The County continues to waste scarce public funds (now well over \$5 million) while favoring commercial and developer interests in the GPU process. The Chapter remains involved in these hearings by commenting on some of the worst features of the County GPU.

The latest bad news is the Monterey County Agriculture Advisory Committee's recommendation that the County Board of Supervisors change its trails policy to prohibit trails on private property. Such a new, anti-public policy has no public benefit and could subject the County to both ridicule and expensive lawsuits.

Also objectionable is the proposed provision that trails could not be created on lands, public or private, "adjacent to agricultural lands or operations." This loosely-defined rule ("adjacent" means close to, as well as next to) would almost certainly subject the county to lawsuits and would give agribusiness interests partial control over the property of others, without cause and without legally-required findings.

Finally, the attempt to limit all trails or easements throughout Monterey County to a "voluntary program," that

would require the approval of "all adjacent landowners," is too vague to be enforced. How, for example, does one define a landowner as "adjacent"? As worded, some could argue that this language might require the approval of every landowner in the County before any trail could be established. Of particular concern are some newly-acquired park properties on the Monterey

Peninsula for which trails are currently being planned as well as the long range planning for extended coastal trails.

The trail policy is still under review, and we are watching. Unfortunately the majority of the Supervisors have made it very clear they do not favor public benefit in their land use planning.

—Rita Dalessio



Wintertime visitor

On rainy days in the winter I am visited by a special little friend. I don't know if it is male or female. It arrives at my doorstep or on the concrete walk leading to my tiny porch. I have to take special care during rainy weather not to step on it. It is called an Ensatina. It's a salamander.

My California reptile and amphibian book tells me that Ensatina are lungless salamanders. That is, they use their skin to breathe. They are nocturnal and eat a great variety of foods including earthworms, sow bugs and beetles. I think the ones in my yard must eat a lot of beetles because they have jaws like a pit bull. I read that they catch their prey with their tongues and crush it with their jaws.

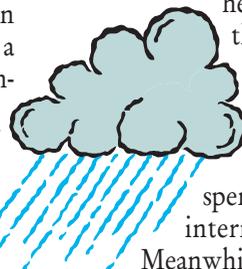
Perhaps the ones that visit my porch are looking for worms on rainy nights. But where do they come from? My book reports that they prefer damp woodland, rotting logs and leaf litter. They live beneath rocks and often go below ground using gopher holes and other burrows.

Well, my yard has plenty of gopher burrows! There is also an abundance of leaf litter as I prefer a more natural appearance to my yard than the super-tidy, remove-every-fallen-leaf look. I have a modest woodpile which I use from time to time for car camping trips. Meanwhile, it serves as habitat.

And of course, I don't apply pesticides

to my yard. Not even ones touted as safe. Even so-called safe pesticides kill fragile salamanders and frogs. If they do that, I shutter to think of what they do to children.

Perhaps some night I'll be lucky enough to see two Ensatina mating. With Ensatina, mating is a graceful dance. The male rubs the female's throat with his head and body. She then lays her throat on his lower back or tail, and



he leads her about. After the male deposits sperm on the ground, he leads the female to that spot where she picks up the sperm with her vent for internal fertilization.

Meanwhile, the male strokes the female's body with his tail.

The particular Ensatina visiting this year must have had an unpleasant encounter with a bird. Or perhaps it was born that way. It has only one eye. That's how we know that it's the same animal as previous visits.

Although I live on a city street and have only a small yard, I have learned how to create a front row seat to watch nature's grandeur by providing a bit of habitat and by not using killer chemicals. Lucky me.

To see a photo of an Ensatina, go to page 9.

—Debbie Bulger

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Hike to save the pines February 18

Come on this important hike

Monterey County is known worldwide as one of California's premier coastal vacation spots, offering something for everyone—surfing, hiking, quiet, and relaxation. The county also boasts at least 20 places where golfers can enjoy a day on the links as well as acres of rare and undeveloped forestland where nature lovers can experience California's rapidly disappearing "wild coast." But this balance, delicately preserved for decades, is at risk

with a developer's proposal to cut down 17,000 threatened Monterey pine trees to build what they have ironically named "The Forest (Golf) Course."

Sierra Club, starting with John Muir himself, has worked for over 100 years to protect the Del Monte Forest, the largest natural forest of Monterey pines left in the world, and all the endangered plants and animals which call the forest home. Final decisions are expected soon, as the California Coastal Commission has scheduled a hearing on this development this spring.

Sadly, at risk is more than the loss of one grove of trees, more even than the loss of one of the last stands of a tree which once covered so much of our coastline. The threat here is one of statewide precedent. By allowing a developer to cut down 17,000 threatened trees, decision makers could well be helping to cut down one of California's strongest environmental protection laws.

The California Coastal Act is unique among conservation laws because it respects Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. According to this law, it is not just the frog, or the bird or the flower that is worthy of protection, but the area in which the critter or tree lives. Our coastal protection laws are designed to protect the area, and in this case, that means the forest.

The Del Monte Forest has long been considered as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area since the Monterey pines are not only threatened themselves, but also as protection for the wildlife that depend on the trees for survival.

There is still time, however, to save this forest. This is why on Saturday morning, February 18, Sierra Club's Coastal Director, Mark Massara will join outings leaders and Sierra Club members from throughout California to hike in this beautiful and threatened forest. With fun and easy hikes Sierra Club hopes to raise awareness of the importance of this forest. Join us for a fun morning and to learn the simple things that people can do to help protect this forest for future generations.

Check out the outings listing for February 18. And hike to save the pines.



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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.

Stop using poisons

RoundUp is not safe for use around your home. You could be hurting your family, guests, neighbors, pets and the environment. (RoundUp is lethal to amphibians.)

Human defenses against chemicals are much like those in plants. A plant-killing product can penetrate the human body and do damage.

RoundUp's ingredients can reach reproductive tissue 18 minutes after contact (recent French study). Embryonic tissue is so sensitive that disruptions can be passed on to the next generation of tissues that can make up any of several organs.

Cancer, brain damage, and fetal death can result from such disruptions. Damage can be done by very low doses.

Years of "Our product is safe." from the Tobacco Industry and the makers of Agent Orange (who make RoundUp) have shown us that we can't trust the word of some big corporations.

The safety claims for RoundUp have been forbidden by New York State.

Chemically we are not so different from plants that we can expose ourselves to plant poisons without being hurt. Herbicides and the other pesticides we use carry high risks to us all.

The spray bottle quick fix can bring disaster to the door.

Please stop using poisons. The County of Santa Cruz has stopped using RoundUp for three years, but not forever, and Caltrans still sprays us. Tell the reluctant Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County to stand up to Caltrans.

—Richard Moss

Aptos



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Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

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

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking 4 times more active than the average adult
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Cross-Country Skiing 5 times more active
Whitewater Rafting 5.5 times more active
Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

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Bush administration abandons long-standing protections for critical wildlife habitat on Alaska's North Slope

Oil leasing plan ignores public opinion

Ignoring vocal opposition from Alaska natives, scientists, and hunters, the Bush administration opened for oil leasing 100% of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in Northwestern Alaska in mid January. The decision repeals the last remaining protections for critical waterfowl and big game habitat around Teshekpuk Lake. The repealed protections were first established by Reagan administration Interior Secretary James Watt, who is not usually noted for conservation achievements.

"It is clear that this administration cares much more about doing favors for the oil industry than conserving wildlife for future generations," said Betsy Goll, Sierra Club's Alaska Regional Representative. "Even James Watt protected Teshekpuk Lake, yet the Bush administration can't deem one acre of this magnificent region worthy of protection."

The Teshekpuk Lake area is one of unparalleled big game and waterfowl habitat. One in four of the world's population of Pacific black brant utilize the

area. Approximately 37,000 black brant, 30% of the entire population, utilized the Teshekpuk Lake area for molting in 2001. Other waterfowl that rely on the area include lesser snow geese, white-fronted geese and long-tailed duck that find critical nesting and molting habitat in the Lake's environs. Spectacled and Steller's eiders, both listed as "threatened species" under the federal Endangered Species Act, use the area for nesting.

BLM's draft plan, released in June 2004, elicited more than 220,000 comments from across the nation with the vast majority opposed to oil drilling in the area. Other federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also raised concerns.

Congress and three Secretaries of the Interior have recognized the ecological importance of the area around Teshekpuk Lake. Former Secretary of Interior James Watt closed an area of more than 200,000 acres north of Teshekpuk Lake to oil and gas leasing. In 1998, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt established an oil and gas leasing plan for

the northeast Reserve, which protected much of the sensitive habitat around Teshekpuk Lake from leasing for oil and gas facilities.

In early 2004, the Bush administration announced its intent to alter the 1998 plan, and in June 2004 the BLM released a draft plan that proposed opening 96% of the entire Northeast Planning Area to oil leasing. BLM Alaska Director Henri Bisson acknowledged BLM's plan to dismantle long-standing rules that had set core wildlife habitats in the area north of Teshekpuk Lake off limits to drilling since the Reagan administration.

"Despite the administration's spin, 100% of the Teshekpuk Lake area will ultimately be open to oil leasing, and not a single acre will be permanently dedicated to conservation. The bottom line is that one of North America's best remaining waterfowl habitats will be fragmented by roads, pipelines, air strips, gravel mines and industrial sprawl," said Goll, representing the Sierra Club.

Santa Cruz Group submits comments on University expansion

The Sierra Club is concerned that the growth planned for the two UCSC campuses in Santa Cruz will exceed the carrying capacity of the city. Accordingly, the Santa Cruz Group submitted comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

prepared for the University's expansion. The fact that two separate DEIRs have been prepared, one for the main campus and another for the Marine Science Campus (Terrace Point) appears to be an attempt to segment the expansion project, a tactic that is forbidden under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Besides the "significant and unavoidable" impacts which the plan itself identifies, the Club enumerated other impacts in the areas of aesthetics, biological resources and major loss of natural resources. Especially egregious is the meaningless wording where proposed mitigations are to be carried out "to the extent feasible." This is no mitigation at all.

The impact that campus development will have on wildlife habitat is great. Habitat will be fragmented with a significant impact on wildlife. The Draft Environmental Impact Report greatly underrates the effect on wildlife.

The Club's comments also ask for a more serious analysis of the alternative of locating the projected University growth at its satellite campus in Silicon Valley.

Public Utilities Commission approves solar plan

In January, the California Public Utilities Commission approved Governor Schwarzenegger's Solar Roofs Initiative. The solar energy plan, approved on a 3-to-1 vote, would provide subsidies over 11 years (through 2016) to encourage both business and residential customers to install enough rooftop solar energy systems to generate 3,000 megawatts of electricity. That's enough power to serve about 2.2 million homes and would eliminate the need for six modern power plants, according to the commission.

The plan will be funded by monthly surcharges paid by customers of investor-owned utilities—Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Edison Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.—in California. However, customers of municipal utilities, such as SMUD in Sacramento, will be also be able to take advantage of this plan.

This initiative was supported by the Sierra Club California.

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On May 5th, 2005, one of the most popular conservation policies in American history was revoked by the Bush administration. Their decision to abandon the landmark Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and replace it with a convoluted petition process, leaves America's last wild forests at risk from destructive commercial logging and road building. This ill-conceived plan ignores the overwhelming public support and forces state governors to petition the Department of Agriculture to protect wild, roadless national forests in their state.

America's last roadless national forests belong to each and every American. All our remaining roadless areas should be protected, completely and permanently through reinstatement of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001.

Now you can add your voice to the chorus of Americans who want our national forest legacy protected from destructive commercial logging and logging road construction. Sign the petition today! It's quick, it's easy, and the mes-

sage is clear; protect all of the nearly 60 million acres of roadless wild national forests, reinstate the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Take Action!

Sign the petition online at: www.sierraclub.org/forests/roadless/petition.asp

All our remaining roadless areas should be protected, completely and permanently.

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Resort or refuge?

Coastal Commission to consider Pebble Beach project

From March 8-10, the California Coastal Commission will be meeting in Monterey at the Hyatt Hotel, and it is likely the Pebble Beach Company plan and Measure A will be on the agenda. The Pebble Beach Company's proposed project area is almost 200 acres and includes a new golf course, 33 luxury homes, 160 new hotel rooms, a driving range and a new equestrian center—all in the Coastal zone. This massive project is proposed for an area thickly forested with native Monterey pines and which also has multiple wetland habitats with healthy populations of wetland vegetation, defined under the Coastal Act as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area.

The plan would require cutting down 17,000 trees. The plan also threatens coastal dune habitat and rare maritime chaparral. Nineteen species of plants in the project area are considered to be rare or endangered, seven of which are State and/or Federally-listed.

When the project sailed through the approval process at the Board of Supervisors last March, for weeks domestic and international papers from as far away as London and Australia wrote scathing reports, especially concerning the chopping down of so many native trees.

The Coastal Commission has the power to modify or deny the project. Over 20 private persons and organizations including the Ventana Chapter have filed appeals with the Commission requesting that they deny the project.

How to help

Please plan to attend these hearings. Help save these trees and the habitat for all the plants, animals and birds that will be adversely affected by this massive project. For more information on times, dates and location, go to: www.coastal.ca.gov.

NEWS CLIPS

Greenskeepers

There are plenty of golf courses in Monterey County, but fewer and fewer native Monterey pines. In December, attorney Mark Massara and Club members representing the Great Coastal Places Campaign traveled to the Coastal Commission meeting in San Francisco bearing gifts: small potted Monterey pine trees adorned with more than 1200 ornaments containing notes from members urging the Commission to protect the Monterey pine forest.

Mark reports, "I was proud to represent all of our Great Coastal Places members in asking the Commission to protect this magnificent forest for our children and our children's children."

To view of photo of the trip visit www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts.

Life in the fast lane

More than 40,000 hybrid car owners have received permission from the DMV to use carpool lanes whether or not they have passengers. The law allows only the issuing of 75,000 such permits.

Spin

Don't be fooled by ads in leading women's magazines touting the beauty and sustainability of wood. The only problem is the disconnect between what could be and what is. The ads are sponsored by the Abundant Forests Alliance, a coalition of eight timber companies. While logging can be sustainable, the timber industry continues to cut irreplaceable old growth trees.

Gov takes action

Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois announced a plan to require his state's coal-fired power plants to reduce the levels of toxic mercury released into the air and water. The plan forces the plants to reduce mercury pollution by 90% in the next three

years. The Sierra Club played a big role in this decision, holding nine mercury testing events prior to the ruling.

Mercury is a developmental neurotoxin that can affect developing fetuses, young children, and at higher doses, can lead to serious health effects in adults. The EPA estimates that one in six women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood that are high enough to put a baby at risk. Nationwide, as many as 630,000 infants are born every year with unsafe mercury levels, putting them at risk of cognitive and developmental damage.

To get a kit to test the mercury in your body go to www.sierraclub.org/mercury.

You can see forever

Sempervirens Fund reports that their campaign to raise money to purchase the 40-acre Panorama Ridge as an addition to Castle Rock State Park was a resounding success. A grand opening of the property to the public is slated to occur this spring. The present owner has established a life-tenancy agreement which allowed him to sell the property and continue living in the existing house on a 5-acre area that will remain off limits to park visitors. Panorama Ridge offers views of the entire Monterey Bay. On a clear day, you can see all the way to the Farallon Islands!

Be a picky eater

What do you do if you're worried about pesticides in your food but your budget is strained by the cost of buying organic? Pick and choose based on pesticide residues. Apples, peaches, strawberries, celery and other fruits and veggies consistently carry higher levels of pesticide residue according to USDA data as reported in the February 2006 issue of *Consumer Reports*. Find out the whole story at your public library.

Moving?

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CALENDAR

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.

Saturdays (see dates below)

Habitat restoration —

California Native Plant Society

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear 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. Contact Linda Brodman, 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net. website: www.cruzcnps.org.

February 11, Quail Hollow Co. Park

February 25, Moore Creek Preserve, Santa Cruz

Month of February

Nature photo exhibit

"For the Love of Wild Fish, Waters, & Forests," by photographer Kate Stafford. Boulder Creek Library. Made possible through a grant from the California Department of Fish & Game, the County of Santa Cruz Fish & Game Advisory Commission, and the Valley Women's Club.

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Habitat restoration —

Watsonville

Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply parking 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.



A scene from "Becoming a Man in Siberia," to be shown at the Banff festival. Photo: Benoit Segur, Philippe Potbon, courtesy of The Banff Centre. See listing above for Feb. 24-26.

Friday -Sunday, February 24-26

Film Festival

Ignite your passion for adventure! The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate you with amazing big-screen stories. Journey to exotic locales, paddle the wildest waters and climb the highest peaks. Rio Theatre in Santa Cruz. \$12 General, \$10 Students/Seniors. Tickets from UCSC box office, 459-2159; on line @ events.ucsc.edu/tickets, and at sponsors listed in ad on p. 12.

Free Wormshops (dates following)

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. FREE workshop for Santa Cruz County residents. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin, \$15. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

Sunday, Feb. 26, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz.

Saturday, April 15, Wilder Ranch

Saturday, May 20, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

Saturday, June 17, Aladdin Nursery, 2907 Freedom Boulevard, Watsonville

Sunday, July 23, Quail Hollow Ranch Co. Park, 800 Quail Hollow Rd, Felton

Monday, March 13

Potluck and slides

Join botanists Jim West, Randy Morgan, and Roy Buck and photographers Albie Miles and Dylan Neubauer for an illustrated journey through the flora of the incredibly diverse Scotts Creek watershed. UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building. 6:30 p.m. potluck; lecture at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the UCSC Arboretum and the California Native Plant Society.

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.

Sierra Club Events

Friday, February 10

Potluck & Slides:

South America

Jann will share her slides of Chile and Argentina. 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.



Friday, February 24

Singles Potluck and Games

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide an opportunity to work out some weekend plans with other like-minded individuals. The potluck starts 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.

Friday, March 17

Potluck & Slides: Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti

Isabelle will show her pictures of the journey she made last summer to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro at 19,340'. It was a challenge she made for herself when she discovered that she had breast cancer. After the trek, she went on a photo safari through the Serengeti. She will share her journey through recovery and dedication to helping others recover through her amazing photographs. The potluck starts 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.

Thursday, March 30 - Sunday, April 2

Channel Islands Cruise

Visit the Channel Islands National Park with Sierra Club members accompanied by a ranger/naturalist. Proceeds from this four-island tour benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. For more information contact Joan Jones Holtz, jholtzhln@aol.com, 626-443-0706.



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Club and CDF disagree on logging plan for Soquel Demonstration Forest



Blue paint on the trunk marks this old-growth tree for cutting.



Jodi Frediani

Members of the Review Team conduct a pre-harvest inspection on the proposed timber harvest in the Soquel Demonstration State Forest. Team members include representatives from the California Department of Forestry, Soquel Demonstration State Forest, Department of Fish and Game, and members of the public.

by Jodi Frediani, Forestry Task Force Chair, Ventana Chapter

The Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF), adjacent to Nisene Marks State Park, was established in 1990 thanks to AB 1965 sponsored by then Assembly member, Sam Farr. The 2681-acre forest, previously owned by Pelican Timber Company and slated for extensive logging, became part of the 71,000-acre demonstration state forest system.

Farr and his aide at the time, Fred Keeley, made sure the enabling legislation for SDSF included safeguards to prevent the demonstration forest from becoming a "cash cow" for the state. The safeguards included: watershed protection; base-line monitoring; studies of the hazards, risks, and benefits of forest operations; public education; sustained yield timber production, and protection of old growth redwood trees. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) which manages the state forests, may conduct limited commercial logging at SDSF only to

fund maintenance and operations and fulfill the other objectives of AB 1965.

An advisory committee, also required by the enabling legislation, was formed to help CDF develop a General Forest Management Plan for this particular demonstration forest. The general public also has been actively involved in ensuring that the management plan adhere to the enabling legislation.

Since the formation of SDSF, one timber harvest has occurred and a number of small hardwood harvests have taken place. Some studies have been conducted including research on snags (dead, standing trees) and snag creation, bird populations, sudden oak death and large in-stream wood. Various educational events have also taken place.

Last year, SDSF foresters prepared a second timber harvest plan (THP) to occur along the east branch of Soquel Creek. This plan, still under review, does not conform to the General Management Plan for SDSF.

The initial proposal included using water from Soquel Creek for road con-

continued on p. 9

RUSTLE THE LEAF™

BY PONCE & WRIGHT



Jodi Frediani

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continued from p. 8

struction and to keep dust down during the logging; however, the state forest does not have water rights to Soquel Creek. The listed species inventory needs to be re-done, and the sustainability analysis required of all owners of over 50,000 acres of timberland has not been done. Certain mapping and on-site flagging still needs re-doing.

It also turns out that the THP does not conform to the General Forest Management Plan. The THP intends to fell a large old-growth redwood which CDF has deemed a public safety hazard. SDSF plans to construct a road immediately adjacent to this leaning old tree, thus converting it into what CDF believes will be a hazard. However, Sierra Club and Citizens for Responsible Forest Management contend that the Management Plan does not allow for felling *any* old growth as the Management Plan says that ALL old growth conifers will be protected. Additionally, the THP calls for winter operations, while the Management Plan prohibits logging during the winter. Further, no baseline monitoring studies,

as outlined in AB 1965, have been conducted to study the "hazards, risks, and benefits of forest operations and watersheds to urban areas."

How to help

Submit comments to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on THP 1-04-046 SCR. Insist that the SDSF timber harvest plan adhere to the enabling legislation and the SDSF General Forest Management Plan. Send comments to: Leslie Markham, Deputy Chief Forest Practice, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 135 Ridgeway Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or email: santarosapubliccomment@fire.ca.gov.

The deadline for close of public comment had not been set at press time, but comments should be submitted as soon as possible. Letters and emails can be cc'd to Representative Sam Farr, 100 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, samfarr@mail.house.gov and also to Fred Keeley, Treasurer-Tax Collector, County of Santa Cruz, P.O. Box 1817, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, TTC.WEBMAIL@co.santa-cruz.ca.us.

Club adopts conservation initiatives for next five years

by Bruce Hamilton, Sierra Club National Conservation Director

The Sierra Club National Board has adopted a new set of three conservation initiatives for 2006-2010. They are Smart Energy Solutions, America's Wild Legacy, and Safe and Healthy Communities.

At the Sierra Summit in San Francisco in October the delegates voted "building a new energy future" as the top grassroots priority. Although focusing on energy marks a significant change for an organization founded to protect public lands and wilderness, in fact, the greatest threat to wildlands these days comes from energy extraction such as oil drilling and coal mining.

The Club's direction-setting process started early in 2005 with a survey of chapters, groups, national committees, strategy teams, and staff, and then, before and during the summit, deliberation and voting by delegates representing all levels of the Club. The Conservation Governance Committee and other relevant governance committees then reviewed and distilled the direction-setting results and submitted their recommendation to the board.

Executive Director Carl Pope noted that the board acted with a clear understanding that "the Club's major challenge for the next several years is not to influence short-term environmental policy, but to shape long-term public sentiments and to regain power for environmental values."

The Club does not expect to see major federal policy shifts in the next few years, given the anti-environmental leadership in the White House and the Congress and the growing anti-environmental slant of the federal courts.



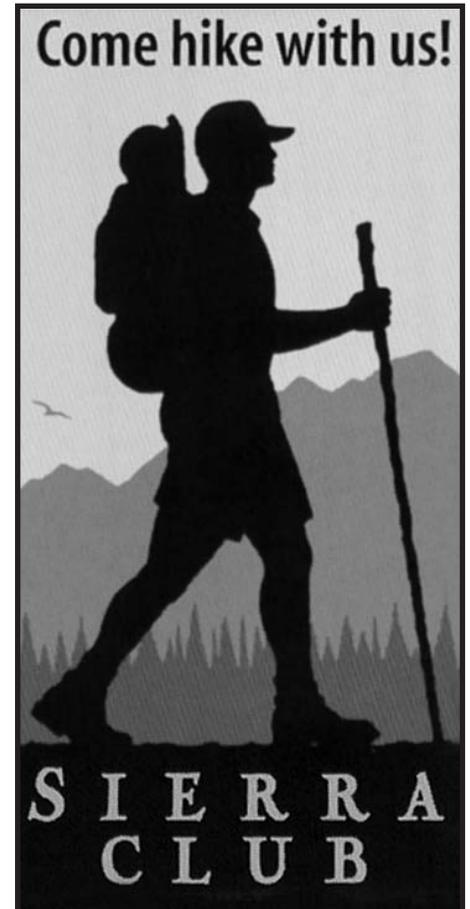
Erica Crawford

Phacelia (violet) and goldfields blanket the Carrizo Plain in the spring. 2005 was an especially good year for wildflowers.



Richard Stover

Many commonly-used garden products will kill amphibians such as the Monterey Ensatina. Read labels carefully, and select non-pesticide alternatives that will not harm children, pets and native animals.



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



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ROOTS

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

ARTICLES FROM OLD VENTANA NEWSLETTERS

Reported in September 1969:

Efforts of conservationists over a period of several years were crowned with success on Aug. 16, when President Nixon signed the bill establishing a Ventana Wilderness Area of nearly 98,000 acres in the Monterey Division of the Los Padres National Forest.

Reported in November 1969:

DDT and other pesticides are a continuing threat to all life on this planet, including man. And very little is being done about it.

... Look closely at [brown pelicans]. Look at them now, because you may never see their like again. Our short-sighted chemistry has doomed them to lay lifeless eggs. Time, for them and maybe for us, is running out.

Reported in March 1970:

Roach Canyon:

Park or Parking Lot?

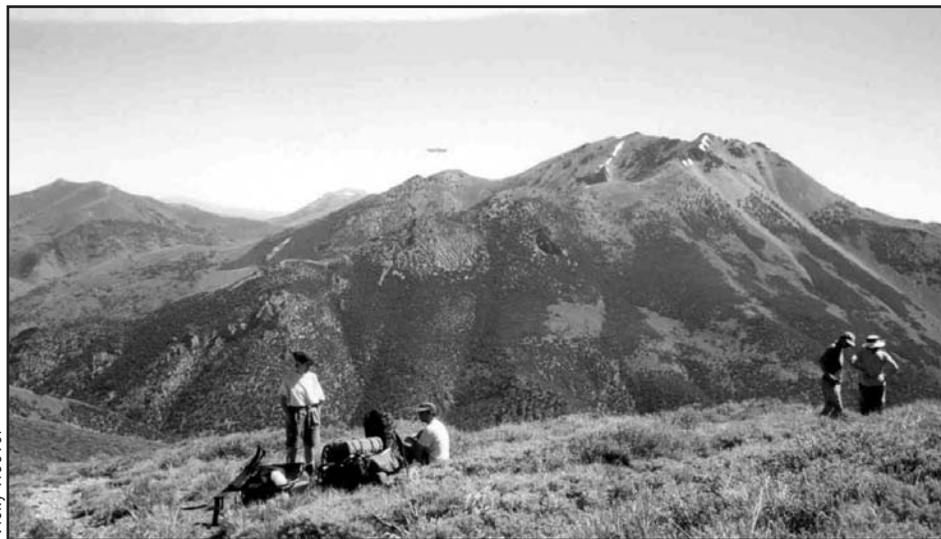
On March 25 in Salinas the Monterey County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the joint application of the Carmel Unified School District and the County Road Department to use County property in Roach Canyon for a combination corporation yard and school bus yard.

The 15-acre County property in Roach Canyon is a long, narrow parcel, running north-south, and located off Carmel Valley Road just east of De La Mesa, Carmel. The property was donated outright to the County in 1964 by the developers of De La Mesa who, at the same time, granted the County a scenic easement on an additional 271 acres surrounding the development. Both the 15-acre gift and the scenic easement were given by the developer in return for clustering and density concessions on the buildable mesa.

That the County accepted the gift with the intent of putting it to park and/or open space use is evidenced by the fact that the County Parks Director and his Parks Commission met with an advisory committee of Peninsula citizens to discuss how best to develop the land for this type of use. It was the consensus at that time that the 15 acres should be left undeveloped, and that the land would, in the future, serve as a key element in a hiking and riding trail system, and as a southern access to an anticipated public park on the Peninsula's ridge.

... The Executive Committee ... adopted a resolution opposing the use of Roach Canyon for anything but park or open space ...

Combine advocacy and adventure on an activist trip



Vicky Hoover

Participants on a Nevada trip enjoy expansive views along the Toiyabe Crest Trail in Central Nevada.

by Vicky Hoover, Activist Outing Chair

Sign up for a 2006 Sierra Club national activist outing and become part of the new Wild Legacy Conservation Initiative that the Club inaugurated as a result of the Sierra Summit. Our nation's Wild Legacy is at the heart of the Sierra Club mission, and our outings program is tied to this proud tradition. National Activist outings inspire people to fight to preserve our wild legacy and also train participants to become strong advocates for preservation on their return home.

Sign up now while space is still available. For details, contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Ask about partial trip scholarships if cost is a deterrent. For a trip brochure and application form, call the Sierra Club Outing Department's 24-hour voicemail, 415-977-5522, or visit www.sierraclub.org/outings/national.

July 6 - 12

ENDANGERED WILDERNESS OF THE TOIYABE CREST

Follow leader Melinda Goodwater on a 43-mile moderate backpack along the lofty dazzling crest of this unprotected roadless area in the longest of this wild state's 300 mountain ranges. The trail weaves among peaceful meadows at 10,000', cascading trout streams, and sheer cliffs with bighorn sheep. Trip #06101A, \$395.

August 27 - September 4

FROM THE TUSHAR HIGHLANDS TO THE AQUARIUS PLATEAU

Enjoy Central Utah's undiscovered national forest plateaus on two short, moderate backpacks separated by a rest day. From these remote heights, admire broad views over Utah's basin and range to spectacular Escalante canyonlands. Learn Utah wilderness history and issues with Vicky Hoover and Jim Catlin. Trip #06102A, \$545.

September 8 - 16

BIG SKY AND WINDING RIVERS

A hidden land of high desert and a vast, undulating volcanic plateau deeply cut by abrupt gorges is known to few people. We'll day hike the Owyhee's dramatic ridges and rivers while van-camping along obscure backcountry roads in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. Leader Craig Deutsche shows off this prime habitat for pronghorn antelope, eagle, sage grouse and more. Trip 06103A, \$725.

September 10 - 17

AUTUMN IN WILD VERMONT

Come enjoy our mixture of moderate backpacking and trail maintenance in Vermont's proposed Glastonbury Mountain Wilderness. Early autumn colors and an exciting wilderness campaign enhance our two separate short "working" backpacks in the legendary Green Mountains, with leader Debbie Smith and Vermont activist John Harbison. Trip #06104A, \$595.



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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.

www.ventanawild.org P.O. Box 506, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 831-423-3191

O U T I N G S

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; slight elevation gain; easy pace.

Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2,000' gain; boots; better than average fitness required.

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

MEETING PLACES

DIRECTIONS:

Park and Ride/Black Bear Diner: This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.

Albertson's/Bagel Bakery: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn right at the light toward the stores. Albertson's and Bagel Bakery are on the right.

Santa Cruz County Govt. Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot 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 Ave.**

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.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 4

HIKE: PT. BONITA

After driving to San Francisco, we'll take the bus across the Marin Headlands to the Pacific coast. We'll visit the park Visitor Center and Pt. Bonita lighthouse, then hike back via the Coastal trail to and across the Golden Gate Bridge. 10 miles with 1000' elevation change. Bring water, lunch and a snack, hiking boots and \$3.25 bus fare. Binoculars and/or camera optional. Dress for windy weather. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:45 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

NOTICE

Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 7 in the Calendar listings.

Saturday, February 4

WALK: MONTEREY'S PATH OF HISTORY

Have you ever walked through Old Monterey and really looked at the historic adobes and monuments and wondered what kind of stories they could tell? Here is your chance to become an expert in Monterey lore and take a leisurely 3-mile walk. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey Public Library parking lot on Pacific Street across from the fire department. Wear walking shoes; bring water and a snack. Rain cancels. Phone old historic leader, Joyce Stevens, 624-3149 for more information.

Sunday, February 5

HIKE: JACK'S PEAK

We'll walk around Jack's Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near airport). 6 miles with less than 1,000' elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, dribble doesn't count. Dress for winter weather. Confirm by calling leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, February 7

SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND

3-mile easy hike starting at the west side of Antonelli Pond, visiting the Homeless Garden, then to Terrace Point and the Seymour Center. Back to Natural Bridges for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or on Delaware Ave. just past Swanton at entrance to Natural Bridges at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Saturday, February 11

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

A 9-mile loop with 900' elevation change, along the Engelsman, Long Meadow, Chinquapin, Eucalyptus, Old Cabin and Wild Boar trails in the eastern and northern sections of Wilder Ranch State Park. We'll traverse several riparian forests and open meadows with beautiful ocean vistas. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$1 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, February 11

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

4-mile walk, starting from Hwy. 1, to the Pit, then back past Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and back via southern trails. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. for short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of the animal life. Leader, Martha Saylor 372-9215.

Saturday, February 11

HIKE: PINNACLES

Hike North and South Chalone Peaks. Experience a hike that few dare to take. Views

of the Diablo range to the East, Santa Lucia Mtns. to the west, overlook of the great Salinas Valley, and if nature permits, we will be able to see from Moss Landing all the way to Santa Cruz. This 3500' elevation gain hike is worth every inch of its strenuously-steep 15-mile loop. Bring plenty of food, water, dress in layers, and \$ for carpool. Starting time is early. For information call Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968. Please call in advance.

Sunday, February 12

HIKE: FT. ORD

10 miles in rolling hills on Fort Ord Public Lands with some elevation gain. Exact path to be determined, perhaps some early wildflowers. Heavy rain cancels. Bring water, lunch, wear boots. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Home Depot, exit 218. Leaders: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, and Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday - Monday, February 12 - 13

OVERNIGHT SKI: PETER GRUBB HUT

Peter Grubb is a Sierra Club hut built in the 1930s near Castle Peak north of Interstate 80. Experienced skiers only. We will depart around 10:00 a.m. on Sunday from Clair Tappaan Lodge to the Boreal Ridge Snow Park where we will park then ski with backpacks for 2.5 miles to Peter Grubb hut. We should be back at Clair Tappaan lodge by sunset on Monday. You may choose to stay Saturday night and/or Monday night at Clair Tappaan. \$16/person. For reservations and



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Expect convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 3-5 Snow Camping Skills Course Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members.

FEBRUARY 10-12, MARCH 24-26 Bay Area Ski Bus Trips Ride in comfort from Oakland to Clair Tappaan. Price: \$175 members, \$200 non-members, \$140 children (includes lodging/meals).

FEBRUARY 17-19, MARCH 24-26 Snowshoe Ecology Tours Enjoy guided snowshoe day tours and broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology. Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members (includes lodging/meals).

MARCH 10-12 Kids Ski Weekend Start kids off right with lessons and short trips on CTL trails. Price: \$125/child (includes equipment rental/lodging/meals).

MARCH 17-19 Snow Camping Trip Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members.



For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

O U T I N G S

detailed information call leader, Jukka at 429-8513 between 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. only.

Tuesday, February 14

SENIOR HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We'll climb the Baldwin Loop trail 3.5 miles with moderate steep uphill with great ocean views. No restroom facilities, but we can stop at Wilder Ranch to use restrooms. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission & King Streets by Shen's at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, drive past Wilder Ranch entrance about 2 miles. When you see sign saying "Quilted Fish," park in lot to the left. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Saturday, February 18

HIKE: DEL MONTE FOREST

Join Club members from other chapters for a get-together and walk in Del Monte Forest. Bring lunch. Mark Massara of the Club's

Great Coastal Places campaign will be there to talk about the Sierra Club's opposition to the Pebble Beach Company's plans to cut down 17,000 trees for a golf course and other development. There are picnic tables and several choices for hikes and walks in the forest. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Park in the City of Monterey on the edge of Skyline Forest. For more information call D'Anne Albers, 402-8144.

Sunday, February 19

HIKE: PICO BLANCO PUBLIC CAMP

Let's hike to the most beautiful waterfall and pool in the Ventana Wilderness. This 15' fall and 30' pool is surrounded by redwoods, granite and ferns. Strenuous 11 miles and 1500' elevation gain with the first two miles along the Little Sur river. Bring lunch, water, wear boots and maybe bring sandals. Meet at Albertson's at 8:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, February 21

SENIOR HIKE: COASTWAYS/AÑO NUEVO

A 3-mile hike from the Año Nuevo trailhead across Hwy. 1 from Coastways Ranch (now closed). We'll walk the trails to the nesting beaches and back to the Visitor Center for lunch. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$4 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission & King Streets by Shen's at 9:50 a.m. For further directions, call leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Wednesday, February 22

HIKE: JACK'S PEAK

Jack's Peak County Park sits on a wooded ridge separating the Monterey Peninsula from

Carmel Valley and surrounds the 1,068' peak. We'll hike through Monterey pine forest and coastal oak trees to overlooks of Monterey Bay, Carmel Valley, the Santa Lucia

carpool news

Meet 1 hour before formal meeting time in order to save gas and protect the environment when participating in out-of-county outings. Informal (no leader) carpool meeting spots:

Santa Cruz: County Gov't Center.
Monterey: K-Mart Seaside

Mountains, Point Lobos and the blue Pacific. 8 miles looping around Skyline, Rhos, Iris and Coffeeberry trails. Bring water and lunch. Park entrance fee required. Meet to carpool from Santa Cruz at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or behind the gas station in Aptos at 9:15 a.m. We will meet at the East Picnic parking lot at the park at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, February 24

WALK: SPANISH BAY & POINT PINOS

We'll walk around Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, then loop back to explore the boardwalk area of Asilomar Conference Grounds. Next we'll walk along coastal paths to Point Pinos looking for shorebirds. Our return will be along the old railroad path. Bring water and lunch, which we'll eat in the leaders' garden. Easy walk with ocean breezes and views. Meet at 10:30 a.m. outside the Fishwife

Restaurant in Pacific Grove (Follow Hwy 68 west until it reaches Asilomar Blvd.) Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, February 25

HIKE: PAT SPRING

Let's hike 14 very strenuous miles to Pat Spring with 2000' elevation gain. From Devil's Peak we'll be able to admire the back of Pico Blanco. Unforgettable vistas. We can refill our water bottles at Pat Spring with the help of my water filter. Bring plenty of food for energy, water, dress in layers, and most important of all comfortable shoes for the day. Leisurely pace; we can take our time on this LONG hike. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, February 25

HIKE: WHALE PEAK

Join us for a day hike within Garrapata State Park to the crest of Palo Corona where one can see north past Santa Cruz and south past Big Sur. This hike will take us along Soberanes Creek 1 mile through the redwoods where we begin an 1800' climb to the top of Palo Corona for lunch. Spectacular views. Our 5-miles round trip hike takes us down the Rocky Ridge Trail. Bring lunch and lots of water; wear good hiking shoes. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. for a car shuttle. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Henry Leinen, 655-1948.

Sunday, February 26

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/WATERFALL

Let's stroll around some of the lower trails of this beautiful park and find out if there is water in the waterfall. Easy pace, elevation change slight, but footing can be slippery, so wear footwear with good tread. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the lower parking lot, 9 miles east of Hwy. 1 on Carmel Valley Road or at Albertson's at 9:30 a.m. to carpool (no leader). Hard rain cancels, fog drip does not. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, February 28

SENIOR HIKE: POGONIP/HARVEY WEST

4 miles with uphill climbs (some steep) from Harvey West parking lot by baseball fields. We'll walk by Sacred Tree and have lunch at the Ranger Station. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at the Harvey West parking lot at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1

HIKE: LEXINGTON PARK

We've all driven by the reservoir built in 1952 that was named after the logging town of Lexington. This basin is believed to have been used by the Ohlone Indians for thousands of years as part of a trail corridor to the coast and later used by the Franciscan missionaries. We'll see some of the historic spots and discuss the history as we hike 8 miles along the trail up to Priest Rock and down



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O U T I N G S

Limekiln trail. This will be part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail which will connect with Kennedy Rd. and Almaden Quicksilver Park. Bring water, lunch, and be prepared for some uphill walking. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or take the Alma Bridge Road exit off Hwy. 17, pass the boat launch area, and park by the rowing club at 9:45 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, March 4

HIKE: SUNOL COUNTY PARK

We'll be looking for early wildflowers in this East Bay park. The rolling grassy hills east of San Francisco Bay get more sunlight and heat so our chances are good. 10 miles with some steep hill climbs. Long sleeves and long pants recommended for ticks. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring \$5-6 carpool contribution for this long drive. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, March 4

HIKE: BLOMQUIST RANCH

We'll hike up a dirt road along Tularcitos Creek in upper Carmel Valley. This is a remote section of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. 6 miles round trip to the old cabin site, with 700' of elevation gain. We hope to see many early wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Call for reservation and meeting times as space is limited. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, March 5

WALK: CARMEL CIRCLE

Come with us on a 3-mile, rambling circle in Carmel. We'll start at the Carmel River Beach, past Mission Ranch, up Mission Trail Nature Preserve, through Carmel, back along the Carmel Beach Walk to our starting point. Pine trees, postcard houses, ocean beaches, gardens. We'll see it all. Meet at Carmel River State Beach parking lot, south end of Carmelo Street at 10:00 a.m. From Santa Cruz, take Hwy. 1 south to Ocean Avenue exit, then downhill on Ocean to Carmelo, left on Carmelo. Bring water and snack, wear comfortable shoes. Back by lunchtime. Leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Sunday, March 5

HIKE: TORO PARK

Join us on this 8-mile hike with 1800' elevation gain, but worth the climb. We'll have wonderful views of Salinas Valley plus Monterey Bay from Ollason Peak and Cougar Ridge. Lovely oaks, grassy meadows at lunchtime, and wildflowers with a few docile cows thrown in for good measure. Meet at Home Depot in Seaside, exit 218 at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, sunhat, and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, or suzannecarmel@aol.com.

Friday, March 10

HIKE: VEEDER TRAIL & REDWOOD CYN

In spring the Veeder trail in Garland Park hosts a profusion of wildflowers. It may be a bit early for the big displays, but we'll take a look. Meet behind Brinton's at 10:00 a.m. to

carpool to the trailhead on East Garzas Road. Our 4-mile loop hike is very steep both up and down hill. Bring water and lunch which we'll enjoy at the wildlife pond at the high point of our leisurely walk. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, March 11

HIKE: FALL CREEK EAST RIDGE

A 7-mile loop hike, with 1200' elevation change, along the Bennett Creek, Ridge, Truck and Big Ben trails in the east-ridge section of this state park. Our return will follow gorgeous Fall Creek where we'll see the machinery at the remains of the old barrel mill and the three granite-block lime kilns that date from the 1870s. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 10:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$2 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, March 11

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

Easy 4-mile figure-8 loop hike. We'll hike up to the Mesa via Buckeye and Waterfall trails, come back via Fern, Mesa, and Lupine Loop Trails. Early wildflowers. The trails may be muddy. Meet at Albertson's to carpool at 9:00 a.m. or at Garland Ranch parking lot at 9:20 a.m. Bring a snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, March 12

HIKE: KAHN RANCH

We'll watch for early spring flowers as we take a short but steep loop on the Hitchcock Canyon and Manzanita trails. 500' elevation gain; 5 miles. Because access to this area of Garland Park is strictly limited, phone leader for meeting time and place. Participants will need lunch, water, sun and/or rain gear, and their own transportation to Carmel Valley. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, March 14

SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS

This is one of our favorite spots. We'll park at Whalers Cove and hike the North Shore, the Allen Cypress Grove, then Sand Hill Trail to Piney Wood for lunch. Bring binoculars. 3 miles on good trails. Heavy poison oak. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Whalers Cove parking lot about 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool and share of entrance \$. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Wednesday, March 15

HIKE: LODATO PARK

Our trail in this Scotts Valley park heads uphill from Hwy. 17 off Green Hills Rd. to the ridge overlooking Scotts Valley. It circles from Blair Ranch Rd. to Redwood Rd. with spectacular views over Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay and then descends into a private nature park in the redwoods. For this

moderate 6-mile hike bring water and lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the end of Green Hills Rd. at 9:25 a.m. in front of the gate across the road. Park in front of the last commercial building. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, March 18

HIKE: HENRY COE STATE PARK

This hike will be another wildflower effort. 10 miles with 1800' elevation gain, some of it quite steep because the park originally was a cattle ranch (trails planned more for horses than Sierra Clubbers). Coe

also is prime tick location which requires long pants and other defensive measures. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Saturday, March 18

HIKE: PINE VALLEY

Join us on this strenuous, steep 14-mile loop with 2,000' elevation gain. The views of the Ventana Wilderness are breathtaking. We'll hike up from China Camp, down to Church Creek Divide up to Pine Ridge Trail, to Bear Basin Connector to Pine Valley. Hopefully we'll get to meet and talk to the legendary John English who might have wonderful tales to share with us by the creek. Bring lots of food, plenty of water (filter provided), dress in layers, and wear boots. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, March 19

HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK

Celebrate the spring equinox with this 10-mile hike, including magnificent old-growth redwoods, the headwaters of Butano Creek, and the north ridge with its fine views. We should see many wildflowers, including, if

we're lucky, a colony or two of the uncommon Calypso orchids (John Muir's favorite wildflower). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring lunch and water. Contact leaders, Peter and Celia Scott, 423-0796 or drip@ucsc.edu for details.

Sunday, March 19

HIKE: MT. MANUEL & POST SUMMIT

This strenuous 12-mile hike with 3000' elevation gain has wonderful views of the coast as well as the inland mountains. The drop down to East Molera is beautiful in the late afternoon sun. This hike was canceled due to rain last session. Short car shuttle. Bring lunch, lots of water and wear boots. Meet at Albertson's at 8:30 a.m. Call leader before the hike. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, March 21

SENIOR HIKE: DE LAVEAGA

Feel as if you are in your own backyard. Hike by Branciforte Creek, redwoods, laurels and oaks. Some uphill. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at De Laveaga Park by restrooms at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water and \$2 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Wednesday, March 22

HIKE: GARZAS - REDWOOD CANYONS

Garzas is a stream-fed canyon bisecting Garland Ranch. The Garzas Canyon Trail heads up the lush garden-like canyon past rock-lined pools and numerous creek crossings. The hike goes into Redwood Canyon, a remote side canyon with clusters of towering redwoods and then down the East Ridge Trail. If there has been a lot of rain, you might want to wear waterproof boots for this 9-mile hike. There are numerous footbridges as the trail climbs and then dips down by Garzas Creek. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or drive 10.3 miles down Carmel Valley Rd. to Boronda Rd. and after 0.6 on Boronda Rd. turn left on East Garzas Rd. and continue 0.2

Getting to outings

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



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miles to the trail sign along the road. We'll meet there at 10:20 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Sunday, March 26

HIKE: POGONIP

We'll see the haunted meadow, sacred oak, kilns, and other thrilling sights. 6 miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center. Leader: Sheila Dunningway, 336-2325.

Sunday, March 26

HIKE: TERRACE CREEK

Let's try the rained out hike from January. This time along the Ventana Resort up the Old Coast Road, down the beautiful Terrace Creek trail to the Pine Ridge trail and out to the Ranger Station. 10.5 miles with about 1,600' elevation gain. Leisurely pace. Great views up and down the coast and wildflowers. Bring a big lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson's at 8:30 a.m. for a car shuttle. Heavy rain cancels. Call before to confirm. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, March 28

SENIOR HIKE: SOBERANES/GARRAPATA

Scenic 3-mile walk with lunch on the cliffs. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. To go direct, Soberanes is on Hwy. 1, 7.3 miles south of Rio Rd. in Carmel. Look for a barn on left side of road and a grove of cypress trees on the right. Parking along the ocean side. Primitive restroom available. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, a sit upon, water, \$5 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldson, 649-1714.

Wednesday, March 29

HIKE: CRYSTAL SPRINGS LAKES

Home to rare wildflowers, elusive creatures and old-growth evergreen forests, the 23,000-acre Crystal Springs Watershed is one of the Bay Area's most treasured undeveloped lands amid the Peninsula's suburban sprawl. Part of the mystique of the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail on which we will hike is its forbidden status. There is a reservation system of scheduling. 10-mile hike along a service road from an old quarry near Hwy. 92 to the end of the watershed known as Portola Gate. Call leader to reserve a space. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday - Saturday, March 31 - April 1

CAMPING/HIKE: PINNACLES

Come and celebrate my birthday by camping

at the Pinnacles. Friday night we'll serve cheese and wine at dinner. On Saturday there is a 12-mile hike from the campground to the reservoir, the high peaks and down to the west side, to the caves and back to camp. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

APRIL

Saturday, April 1

HIKE: WILDER RANCH STATE PARK

In November and December CDF (CA Dept of Forestry) did controlled burns of significant portions of the grasslands in this park. The purpose, according to the CDF chief in charge (whom I happen to know), was to give native plants an opportunity to grow. We'll see 9 miles and 1200' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Wednesday, April 5

WALK: PT. SUR LIGHT STATION

The Point Sur Light Station is the only turn-of-the-century light station open to the public in California. It still guides ships with its automated light, but from 1889 until 1974 families lived and worked there atop Pt. Sur. Restoration is mostly complete, and buildings have been furnished with tools and relics of the 1920s. Be prepared for some wind and a 300'-walk up to the top of the rock. We could see some whales swimming north as we look below to the crashing surf. Call leader for a reservation. \$10 fee. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 8:30 a.m. or at 9:40 a.m. along the west side of Hwy. 1, 1.19 miles south of Rio Road in Carmel and 1/4 mile north of the former Pt. Sur Haval Facility. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Diane Cornell 423-5925.

Saturday, April 8

WALK: PEBBLE BEACH & ASILOMAR

Come along on this 4-mile walk on streets and walkways in Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, then via a trail between fairways to the beach and out to Point Joe. We'll return on boardwalks with ocean views, finishing at Asilomar. Bring water and a snack. We'll be done about noon. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive at Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, April 8

HIKE: COOK SPRING CAMP

We'll start hiking from Memorial Park Camp along the Arroyo Seco River to Forks Camp, past beautiful False Madrone Camp, to Madrone Camp, to Cooks Camp and back. Beautiful river sites, redwoods, pines, madrones and spectacular views of mountain ranges. Strenuous 12 miles. We'll benefit from the maintenance work that the VWA has done on this wonderful trail. Early start for long ride to trailhead. No shorts, wear long sleeves, dress in layers, bring substantial lunch, water, wear comfortable boots and bring \$ for carpool. For information about meeting place and time, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, April 8

HIKE: PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

A 10-mile loop hike, with 1500' elevation change, along the Purisima Creek, Soda Gulch, upper Harkins Ridge, upper North Ridge and Whittemore Gulch trails, in this open space preserve. From Hwy. 1, we'll travel northeast 4.5 miles on Purisima Road to the trailhead. This 2,633-acre preserve has the northernmost major redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and it is also wooded with Douglas fir, madrone, oak and chaparral. The ridge tops will provide us with views of the Pacific and the local mountains. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$5 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, April 9

HIKE: VICENTE FLATS

We'll have a wonderful drive down the coast and then climb steadily but not steeply over meadows, through redwoods and finally to an open spot under huge trees where we saw a gazillion groggy ladybugs last year. About 2000' elevation gain and 11 scenic miles. Meet at Albertson's at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and \$ for carpool; wear sturdy shoes. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042, suzannecarmil@aol.com.

Sunday, April 9

HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

What's up in the wildflower world? We'll check out the blooms along the Terrace Trail then drop down to Garzas Canyon to return along the creek. 5 miles, elevation gain slight. The flowers should make it all worthwhile.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the main parking lot of Garland Ranch (on Carmel Valley Road) to avoid crowding at the trailhead. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, April 11

SENIOR HIKE: FORT ORD

4 to 5 mile hike with some steep uphill on Ford Ord Public Lands. We'll see a great variety of wildflowers blooming this time of year. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. Call leader for directions if you wish to go direct. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, April 15

HIKE: HOLT ROAD TO SNIVELY RIDGE

We'll walk up from Mid Valley on Holt Road through the forest to the "closed" south trail to Garland Ranch's Snively Ridge and higher, if we want. We may return down to the park or go back on the north trail to Mid Valley. 9 miles, 1,500' elevation gain. Expect some poison oak, so wear long pants. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid Valley shopping center in Carmel Valley next to the bank on Berwick Street at 9:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Call to confirm. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, April 16

HIKE: WEST PINNACLES

This is a great spring hiking area with lots of wildflowers. 10 miles with 1000' elevation gain that will take us through the high peaks with the possibility of viewing a condor. Bring lunch and lots of water, wear sturdy shoes. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 8:30 a.m. or at the West Pinnacles parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Call leader before the hike. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

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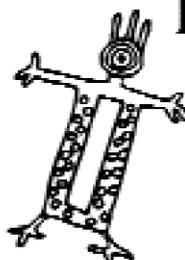
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Vice Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	375-1389
Treasurer	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
Other Members	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
	Julie Engell	15040 Charter Oak Blvd.	Prunedale, CA 93907	633-8709
	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
	Kimberly Marion	310A High St.	Monterey, CA 93940	648-1417
	Denyse Frischmuth	283 Grove Acre Ave.	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	643-0707

Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565
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	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567

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Alternate	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046

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

Forestry Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter

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	Charles Paulden	415 Palisades Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	462-3423
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	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	427-2626
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• ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE CLEANING, BUILDING, GARDEN & PET SUPPLIES •

MEETING SCHEDULE

Ventana Chapter (Monterey Co.)

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.
March 18, 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, Feb. 8, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Mar. 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:

Wednesday, Mar. 1, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Apr. 5, at 7:00 p.m.

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



Nathan Luedtke

Bicyclists enjoy the new Beach Street Bikeway in Santa Cruz at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in December. This bikeway provides two-way travel for bicyclists on a one-way street fronting the beach and Boardwalk. Beach Street is a major travel corridor for bicyclists traveling between the Westside and the Eastside of Santa Cruz.



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FEATURES

- Chapter chair 2
- From the editor 2
- Letters 3
- Newsclips 6
- Calendar 7
- Roots 10
- Outings 11
- Chapter directory 15

ARTICLES

- Hike to save the pines 3
- Feds to drill on North Slope 4
- Solar plan approved 4
- Protect wild forests 5
- Pebble Beach development to come before Commission 6
- Soquel Forest controversy 8
- Activists trips 10
- New bikeway opens 16



**FEB, MAR, APR
OUTINGS**

Pick a wildflower hike

pp. 11-14

Erica Crawford



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