

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

**DEC, JAN, FEB
OUTINGS**

Water woes



Photo courtesy of parents



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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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

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

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Do not call editor! Send address changes to: address.changes@sierraclub.org.

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Editor:

Debbie Bulger, dfbulger@cruzio.com
(no change of address calls, please!)

Production:

Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins,
Dale Nutley

Writers:

Rita Dalessio, Debbie Bulger,
Denyse Frischmuth, Don Monkerud,
Sierra Club California Staff,
Dan Becker

Photographers:

Robert Frischmuth, Joan Jones Holtz,
Parents of Twins, Boon Hughey,
Don Monkerud

Proofreaders:

Jeff Alford, Jim Danaher,
Charles Koester, Wolfgang Rosenberg

Distribution:

Keith Wood, Jerry Houser
Debbie Bulger, Esperanza Hernandez

Advertising Sales:

Debbie Bulger

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Anonymous

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2007

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#6	Nov. 26	Dec. 12

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

Organic produce worth eating

With all the bad publicity recently from some organic food companies shipping out tainted produce, some folks may be wondering if the extra time, effort and money spent on purchasing quality organic produce is worth it. In my opinion, it definitely is.

A valuable source of information about the pesticides found on most of the fruits and vegetables we eat is available from a not-for-profit organization called Environmental Working Group (EWG) based in Washington DC. On their website, www.foodnews.com, EWG posts a "Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce." This guide lists the worst and best

foods based on their pesticide content. The rankings are based on the results of 43,000 tests conducted by the USDA and FDA between 2000 and 2004.

A detailed description of the testing criteria is also available on the website. The highest pesticide concentration (with a score of 100) was found in peaches, then apples, (89), sweet bell peppers (86), and celery (85). The lowest scores in the list of 43 foods are avocado and onions each with a score of 1.

The study determined that while washing and peeling produce can help, they will not eliminate the toxins. Peeling also takes away nutrients.

Currently the scientific community hasn't completed all the studies necessary to precisely explain the effect of pesticides in food. However, there is growing consensus that small doses of pesticides and other chemicals can adversely affect people, especially during vulnerable periods of fetal development and childhood when exposures can have long-lasting effects.

So it makes sense to buy organic and keep our exposure to pesticides as low as possible. Here in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties we are especially fortunate that organics are widely available.

—Rita Dalessio

FROM THE EDITOR**Learning to look**

*Look closely. Look with care.
Little birds are everywhere.*

Until a few years ago, the sweet bird on our front cover was just an LBB to me, a "little brown bird," one of many indistinguishable chirpers on the ground, in the bushes and along the trail. Now I know it is a White-crowned sparrow, distinguished by its handsome crown of black and white stripes.

I see White-crowned sparrows in my yard during the fall, winter, and spring, and in the Sierra during the summer. I am able to identify them because I've learned to look more closely.

A few years ago my husband and I started putting out bird feeders. Now we have three, each different, and each attracting different kinds of birds. Their placement, not far from our dining room picture window, allows us to observe the birds as we eat.

What used to be a blur of indistinguishable LBBs is slowly coming into focus. Artist and bird guide author, David Allen Sibley, recommends *looking* at a bird. It's that straightforward. Look closely at a bird and note details such as shape and color of the bill, food preferences, and behaviors. Only after the observation, should you open your bird

book.

Having the feeders in the yard gives me close-up views of a surprising number of birds. I have noticed the sparrows hang out in flocks much like teenagers. I have watched them feeding on the ground and on the platform feeder. This morning, a White-crowned sparrow chased off a much-smaller goldfinch which was eating nearby. And I have watched a White-crowned sparrow land on my lettuce-gone-to-seed gleaning a snack, then knocking the crunchy morsels to the ground for further eating.

I remember the day when I could finally distinguish the White-crowned sparrows from the Golden-crowned sparrows. It was the same sensation I had in grade school when I was finally prescribed glasses. I could see the blackboard and I could read the words. A whole new world opened up for me. Life was no longer an impressionist painting but a focused film with millions of tiny details I had previously missed.

The next time you look out the window, sit on your front porch or in your backyard, or walk down to the corner; observe the birds around you. You just might see something new.

I know all about looking closely; a little bird told me.

—Debbie Bulger

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Pacific Grove commits to fight global warming



Robert Frischmuth

Members of Sustainable Pacific Grove watch as Pacific Grove Mayor Dan Cort receives the Cool Cities Award presented on behalf of the Sierra Club by Denyse Frischmuth

by Denyse Frischmuth

By unanimous City Council vote, Pacific Grove became the first city in Monterey County to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the U.N.-sponsored Urban Environmental Accords. Santa Cruz County has two signatory cities: Santa

Cruz and Capitola. Worldwide, over 100 cities have signed on to the Urban Environmental Accords, and 326 cities have so far adopted the U.S. Mayors Climate

Protection Agreement.

The overlapping goals of these two agreements include more efficient transportation, energy efficiency, waste reduction, alternative energy, and water quality. The Accords and the Agreement will serve as tools to guide Pacific Grove in its efforts to achieve and promote sustainability. The Pacific Grove city leadership recognizes that the old way of doing things is not what will get a secure future for us, our children, and the generations to come. Implementing smart energy solutions will cut our dependence on oil and save taxpayers dollars.

In recognition of the Pacific Grove commitment, the Sierra Club presented the City a Cool Cities Award. Mayor Cort, who accepted the award for the City, is a strong advocate for sustainability.

Sustainable Pacific Grove, a grassroots citizen action group, is committed to working with the City on implementing the actions recommended in the Climate Protection Agreement and the Urban Accords. Citizen participation is a key component for achieving the goals of these documents.

Contact Your Representatives

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

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

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841
FAX: (916) 445-4633
www.governor.ca.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841; (415) 393-0707
1 Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
go to website to email

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 403-0100 (Voice)
1700 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
go to website to email

U. S. Representative Sam Farr
100 W. Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 429-1976 (Santa Cruz)

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

U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo
698 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(408) 245-2339
FAX (650) 323-3498
go to website to email

State Senator Abel Maldonado
100 Paseo De San Antonio, Suite 206
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 277-9461
senator.maldonado@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Joe Simitian
State Capitol, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-6747 FAX (916) 323-4529
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

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

Assembly Representative Anna Caballero
assemblymember.Caballero@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly Representative John Laird
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-1503
99 Pacific Street, Suite 555D
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(831) 649-2832 FAX (831) 649-2935
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How to help

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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.

Call the DA

I am the Environmental Prosecutor in the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office. Recently, we added a consultant to our staff, former Fish & Game Lt. Dennis Baldwin. Our hope is that by using Dennis's expertise, in some instances we will be able to respond to concerns about environmental violations more quickly than environmental agencies are able to do. While I would not ever want to discourage reporting violations to the proper agency, I'd like to invite you to also call us directly about your concerns. My direct number is 454-2553.

—Morgan C. Taylor
Assistant District Attorney
Santa Cruz County

Supervisors push forward with mega-development plan for Monterey County

Chapter volunteers and representatives from resident groups throughout Monterey County have doggedly pursued a sound General Plan for over seven years by participating in hearings, analyzing massive documents, and conducting public outreach. Now the Board of Supervisors is pushing to approve their version of the plan by December 19 (as of November 26, the Final EIR was not even out.) Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the majority of the Supervisors has gone along with well-financed development interests who stand to gain a great deal from the wholesale conversion of the open space, farmland and steep hills that still exist in this county.

Even though there are currently commute gridlock, overstretched public services, water shortages, and pollution, the Supervisors' General Plan would usher in much more of the same. Steep slopes historically protected by law would be opened up for tree removal, grading, fencing and conversion to other uses. Subdivisions won't be directed to areas that have infrastructure, but would be

allowed virtually anywhere in the rural lands, further compromising oak woodlands and other habitats, as well as wildlife corridors. Farmland is allowed to be paved over if farmland "adjacent" to the developments is protected. This surreal policy hints at the stealth approach of this plan: Make grand statements about protection of natural resources or farmland, but provide policies that, when closely read, actually ensure their destruction.

The Supervisors have also stopped the public from voting on duly qualified ballot measures that would overrule their disastrous decisions on the General Plan and on the notorious Rancho San Juan mega-development North of Salinas. The Supervisors' legal maneuvering and gamesmanship have been decried in the media and among election watchdog groups such as the League of Women Voters—but still the Supervisors persist.

Once again, the community is forced to go to the mat to stand up for the future of their environment and quality of life. This is too important a battle to back down. Stay tuned.

Global Warming Solutions Act, and Smoke Test top legislative successes

by Sierra Club California Staff

Governor Schwarzenegger signed two of the Sierra Club's five highest priority bills which passed the Legislature in 2006. He signed AB 32 (Pavley and Nuñez), which puts a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and AB 1870 (Lieber), which adds a smoke test to Smog Check. He vetoed AB 1012 (Nation), which would have increased clean alternative fuels, SB 1796 (Florez), which would have helped to improve flood protection, and SB 927 (Lowenthal), which would have enabled improved security and air quality at specified ports

In all, the Governor signed 25 of the 39 bills which the Club asked him to sign.

The most important of these was AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, which made California the first state to adopt a binding limit on greenhouse gas pollution. Sierra Club California will now work with the Air Resources Board and other state agencies to effectively implement this landmark law. Enactment of AB 1870, the other priority bill signed into law, literally allows Californians to breathe easier, as it eliminates

the loophole that allowed visibly smoking vehicle tailpipes to pass Smog Check.

Another triumph was the passage of SB 1360 (Kehoe), which creates on the internet a central registry of conservation easements. A comprehensive and centralized list of the easement locations and other relevant information about them will help land use planners and the public to better protect these areas.

The November 7 election results were mixed. We won our biggest priority, defeating the takings initiative (Prop 90), and the parental notification initiative (Prop 85) that we opposed also was defeated. However, two important initiatives that we supported were not approved by the voters: clean energy (Prop 87) and clean elections (Prop 89).

Bonds fared much better, though, as voters approved five infrastructure bonds, including three that we backed: water/parks/land conservation (Prop 84); affordable housing, which has some excellent smart growth/infill provisions (Prop 1C); and schools, which has green school buildings language (Prop 1D).

When EIRs are misused

Carmel Valley's preservation efforts threatened

Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) are often, and rightly, required when developments that could have impacts on the environment are considered. The Sierra Club is often at the forefront of the EIR review process, and we value it highly. However, members of the Monterey County LAFCO, the body that makes decisions on matters such as whether parts of the county may become independent towns (the incorporation process) has claimed without logic or law that an EIR is required in order for Carmel Valley to incorporate. The Sierra Club disagrees, and concurs with LAFCO's own experts and hired consultants' opinion that an EIR is *not* required.

Why is incorporation desired, and why is an EIR not needed?

Carmel Valley is a jewel that draws people to its natural beauty, from John Steinbeck to today's hikers and vista seekers. The downside of such beauty is that it attracts big developers who can make millions of dollars by despoiling

the land. For years the County Government has ignored the concerns of residents and environmentalists, as well as water and road capacity shortfalls, and approved one bad project after another.

Preservationists worked to organize a vote on whether Carmel Valley should become self-governing as a town and get out from under the extreme pro-growth orientation of County Supervisors.

In December 2005, LAFCO approved a "Negative Declaration" which would allow an incorporation vote to proceed. In October of 2006, LAFCO abruptly reversed itself and called for an EIR before a vote could go forward. As the *Monterey Herald* opined, this action was an arrogant attempt to simply prevent a vote from occurring and was not based on any facts, law, or evidence.

Proponents of incorporation note that an EIR would be required by law when the proposed new town actually considers a Master Plan which would change development policies. What would an EIR before the vote study?

Carmel Valley residents are asking LAFCO to stick to the law and send the issue to the voters. Unfortunately, it may take legal action to compel LAFCO to do the right thing. For more information contact Glenn Robinson, cva@mbay.net, 659-1152.



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Water foul

Davenport residents advised to boil their drinking water

When you brushed your teeth this morning, you probably used tap water. This simple daily ritual has been transformed into a complicated event for the 375 residents of Davenport, the small town just north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1. Instead of using tap water, residents must use bottled or boiled water. That's because the water is unfit to drink.

The "Boil Water Notice" which has gone out to Davenport residents directs them to use bottled or boiled water for drinking, food preparation and tooth brushing. For Susan Young and her family it means that toddler twins Alistair and Jonathan must fill a cup with bottled water and dip their toothbrushes. It means that Susan must make sure her sons don't drink any bath water or put their fingers in their mouths when they take a bath.

In the kitchen, adhering to the Boil Water Notice takes planning. Families can't wash fruit or salad greens in tap water. The normal 140-degree water from the dishwasher is not hot enough to kill potentially harmful bacteria and organisms. To clean dishes, residents must first wash them, then treat them with bleached water per directions from Environmental Health.

Although not all Davenport residents are so careful as Young, the County warns that "Failure to follow this advisory could result in stomach or intestinal illness." Would you take a chance with your young children?

The reason for the boil water notice is the sediment or turbidity of the water source. The State Water Resources Control Board has placed the Davenport water source, San Vicente Creek, on its impaired list, meaning the creek's water quality does not meet state water standards under the 1972 Clean Water Act.

In addition, new filtration standards were adopted by the State in January of 2005. As a result, the County has raised water rates for Davenport by 70% in



Toddler twins Jonathan and Alistair, 3, must be reminded not to put their hands in their mouths during bathtime in Davenport.

order to pay for the necessary filtration upgrade. This is the second winter that Davenport residents have had the boil notice.

The problem only occurs and the boil notice is only in effect in the winter. Why does the turbidity level rise during winter storm events? Some say that it is due to natural erosion of the mountainsides during storms causing soil to enter into and pollute San Vicente Creek. Others claim it is due to the ten or so residences that abut San Vicente Creek above the water diversion point. The State Water Quality Board gave the reason as "silviculture" (logging operations) when they listed the creek as "impaired."

In June 2006, Tom Bolich, District Engineer for the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department, wrote the California Department of Forestry (CDF) asking that the CDF not allow timber harvesting between October 15 and May 1 stating the County's "serious concerns about erosion and soil stability

during the winter months that could occur due to timber harvest operations."

The silt-laden water is not only undrinkable for humans, it is also bad for the endangered and threatened animals that inhabit San Vicente Creek. Coho salmon, steelhead trout and California red-legged frogs need cool, well-oxygenated water. Silt ruins spawning



gravel and can prevent young fish from seeing food. Silt particles can absorb heat in the sunlight, thus raising water temperature, which lowers oxygen levels. In addition, silt can settle in pools reducing refuges for fish when water levels drop in summer.

Cemex, the cement plant in Davenport, has logged the San Vicente Creek watershed extensively (6,700 acres in the last 20 years). As we go to press, they have submitted another timber harvest plan for the watershed.

How to help

Replacing the "approve all timber harvest plans" orientation of the CDF with an attitude of forest stewardship and watershed protection is a long-term project. If you want to join the local Sierra Club Forestry Task Force, call Jodi Frediani, 426-1697.

Photo courtesy of parents

Make a difference



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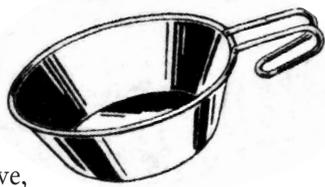
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Cup contest

Do you love your old Sierra Club cup? The Club would like to see how you use it. Take a picture of your cup in use, in action, or on location and National will award a prize to the photographer who takes the most creative, interesting, artistic photo. Submit photos online. For contest details see <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/membership/forsale/cup/competition.htm>.

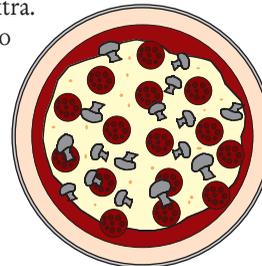


Sierra Club Events

Monday, January 1

New Year's Pizza Party

Sierra Club Singles will celebrate with pizza. 6:00 p.m. at Tony & Alba's, 226 Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley (King's Village Shopping Center) \$9 per person; drinks are extra. Please be punctual, so we know how much pizza to order. For more information, call Karen Kaplan after 11:00 a.m., 335-3342.



Spring, 2007

Channel Island Cruises

Go on an island hopping excursion in the Channel Islands. Four- and Five-day cruises. See details in the display ad on left. These trips are fundraisers to benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Cost for 4-day is \$775. Cost for 5-day is \$925. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. To make a reservation send \$100 check made out to "Sierra Club" to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. For more info contact Joan at jholtzhln@aol.com, 626-443-0706. Website: www.truthaquatics.com/hiking.htm.

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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 (dates below)

Habitat restoration sponsored by 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.

Jan. 6, Sunset Beach State Park
Jan. 27, Quail Hollow County Park
Feb. 10, Natural Bridges State Park

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Habitat restoration—Watsonville

Second and fourth Saturdays each month. Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center located at Pajaro Valley High

School in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and a snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106 for more information. No experience necessary.

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.

Free Wormshops

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, \$20. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

Sunday, Jan. 21, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

volunteers needed to get phone messages to activists



YOU are responsible, dependable, and smart. The Club needs someone to transcribe phone messages at its Santa Cruz office and get the messages to our activists. Must commit to 2 times/week. To apply, call 768-8187.

Deborah A. Malkin

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Return to Wilderness

Director: Ed Schehl
Produced by Raindancer Media

reviewed by Debbie Bulger

Picture this improbable scene: A man climbs uphill through the woods toward the camera with a huge steel drum strapped to his back: "I've got a stone in my boot," he proclaims. "Quit whining," comes the joking retort.

The scene is part of the remarkable story of people working together to clean up newly-designated wilderness. The Ventana Wilderness Alliance carried out this ambitious project in the Willow Creek addition to the Silver Peak Wilderness in southern Monterey County. In all, 59 volunteers collected, broke up into manageable pieces, bagged, and hauled out 10,280 pounds of trash in 267 backpack loads. And they had a good time to boot!

The phenomenal feat is documented in the 28-minute DVD, *Return to Wilderness*. The editing is superb; there is good music and photography.

The debris was left by long-ago miners, hippies from the 60s, and later residents. Before the trash removal, The Ventana Wilderness Alliance hired experts to evaluate the archeological sites and conduct a biologic survey. Some historic artifacts were left on site.

Removing all that trash took extensive coordination by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance including navigating the two-year approval process of the U.S. Forest Service. Besides work for backpackers, there were jobs of all kinds including feeding the backpackers, cutting apart metal structures with welding equipment, setting up the spectacular Tyrolean traverse to transport loads across the creek so as not to negatively affect aquatic life, and carefully packing up hazardous materials such as discarded car batteries.

If you missed this video either on public TV or at the Santa Cruz Environmental Film Festival fall showing, you might want to show it at a potluck for some of your friends. To set up a group showing, contact Tom Hopkins of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, tom@ventanawild.org.

This inspiring story deserves wider distribution.

Chapter joins suit to prevent grazing in new wilderness addition



Boon Hughey

Will the Forest Service be allowed to introduce commercial grazing here at beautiful Kozy Kove Ranch?

The Ventana Chapter has joined an ongoing lawsuit against the US Forest Service for attempting to reintroduce grazing on a portion of the Kozy Kove Ranch in the southern coast of Big Sur. The other co-plaintiffs are the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, Los Padres Forest Watch in California and Wilderness Watch of Missoula, Montana which has two chapters in California. The lawsuit was filed in September and is known as the Silver Peak Lawsuit.

The Kozy Kove Ranch and surrounding wilderness provide habitat for 13 species of wildlife on the federal and state lists of endangered or threatened species, including the peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, California least tern, and Southern sea otter, as well as 14 species of plants recommended by the Smithsonian Institute and the California Native Plant Society for special protection due to their imperiled status.

The shoreline offers coves sheltering elephant seals, sea lions, sea otters and numerous shorebirds and fish. The coastline also has an extensive cultural

history, with abundant remains of the villages, hunting camps and quarries of the prehistoric Esselen and Salinan groups that once flourished in the area.

Livestock grazing occurred on the Kozy Kove Ranch starting in the 1880s, but was discontinued in 1990. Since then, no grazing has occurred on the ranch. In 2002, almost half of the ranch, about 398 acres, was designated as federal wilderness, as a part of Representative Sam Farr's "Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002" becoming part of the existing Silver Peak Wilderness. In September 2005, the Forest Service issued an environmental assessment and decision notice allowing livestock grazing for commercial purposes on the ranch.

The Chapter is opposed to livestock grazing on the ranch for many reasons:

- Livestock would carry and spread exotic and invasive species into the ranch as has occurred in other grazed areas.
- Livestock also would compact the

soil, destroy vegetation, and expose bare earth especially near sources of fresh water.

- Livestock would negatively impact Native American sites on the ranch. It is likely that livestock would congregate in one area in particular—a flat piece of land near a stream—where one can easily find broken pieces of pottery and arrowheads from the ranch's early inhabitants.

- Allowing livestock grazing also would destroy the area's solitude and beauty favored by local hikers and photographers.

If left unchallenged, the Forest Service may decide to allow livestock grazing in other wilderness areas where grazing was not established at the time of designation.

NEWS CLIPS

Farr urges impeachment

If you smile that Impeachment Pie is on the menu in a restaurant in downtown Santa Cruz, you'll be glad to know that Representative Sam Farr is cosponsoring resolutions to impeach George W. Bush. Although it is doubtful impeachment will be pursued by the Congress, Farr says, "nonetheless, I will work for justice."

Comments needed

If you missed the public meetings in both Monterey and Santa Cruz, you still have time to comment on the Draft Management Plans for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The comment period is open until January 5. Comments can be emailed to jointplancomments@noaa.gov. The Plan can be viewed and downloaded from www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/.

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Preserving Wilderness

New wilderness designated in northern California

In October President Bush signed into law the Northern California Wilderness Act. As a result 273,000 additional acres of public land became designated as wilderness including 21 miles of Wild and Scenic River. Protected areas include the King Range, the Cache Creek area, and additions to the Siskiyou Wilderness and the Trinity Alps. The designation covers public lands in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Napa Counties, and the Black Butte River in Mendocino County.

The bill was passed unanimously by the House and Senate last summer in efforts spearheaded by Representative Mike Thompson from Eureka and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.

We're wildly happy.



Granite boulders lie in a jumble above Devil's Bathtub in the Sierra Nevada.

Don Monkerud

by Don Monkerud

At a time when everyplace I have ever lived has been transformed by urban sprawl, it's a comfort to find a place that hasn't changed in hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. The Sierra wilderness is a sanctuary for the soul. The night sky fills with stars, the Milky Way parades across the horizon, and I contemplate the mystery that my ancestors sought to understand as they named the constellations, imagined one set of gods after another, and attempted to elucidate the meaning of life.

Lacking a conflict-ridden mythology of religion, the mystery is enough. The mountains are filled with beauty; the

trees glow golden in the sun; moss sparkles in shades of green as the sun moves across the sky; and granite boulders lie in a jumble, cracks twisting up their surface, each distinct in color and texture. The debris of civilization fades against a background of an abiding earth, and I remind myself to be aware of the world around me, which brings new meaning to life and fills every waking moment with the amazing reality of immediate experience.

Many forests such as this have fallen to loggers' chainsaws, contractors' paved roads and vacation home sites, coalminers' strip mines and developers' strip malls. Even the national parks are falling prey to development. Will our moun-

tainous natural cathedrals fill with more people, more congestion, and more noise to destroy the vibrant quiet of nature?

Being here reminds me of how my time fills up with chores and errands that produce tension and anxiety. How can I find time to get in touch with myself, let alone the people whom I care about? Perhaps by observing? Flowers sprawl over the ground: red columbine, pink shooting stars, magenta penstemon and orange tiger lilies. White breasted nuthatches, Stellar's jays, woodpeckers, chickadees and juncos fly freely among Jeffrey pine and red and white fir.

How will humanity adjust to overpopulation, mass migrations, regional conflicts and wars, famines, floods, hurricanes and other global-warming disasters? Growth appears inevitable, and I wonder whether these pressures will push greater numbers into the remote wilderness.

Will this small mountain lake with the murmur of voices across a crackling fire continue to provide a retreat for future generations? Or will we have the foresight and the will to protect places on earth that give us a quiet, remote space to contemplate nature, our lives and ourselves?

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Most new cars in reverse on fuel economy

by Dan Becker, Director, Sierra Club's Global Warming Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's annual *Fuel Economy Guide* issued in October 2006, documents that most automakers are failing to use gas-saving technology to cut oil addiction, global warming and gas costs. It also shows that some auto companies and the Bush administration are blowing smoke when they tout E 85 ethanol as a solution to oil dependence and global warming.

The report provides official fuel economy information for all but the heaviest model year 2007 cars, SUVs and other light trucks. In many classes of vehicles—from small cars to SUVs—there is an enormous gap between the most efficient vehicle and the average vehicle. For instance, this model year's most efficient SUV is the Ford Escape hybrid, which gets an estimated 34 miles per gallon combined city/highway fuel economy. Compared to the average SUV which gets around 21 miles combined city/highway, the hybrid Escape will consume nearly 2,000 fewer gallons of gasoline and release 30 tons less heat-trapping global warming pollution. Even a segment competitor, such as the Hyundai Santa Fe, gets significantly lower fuel economy—23 mpg city/highway—compared to the hybrid Escape.

The best-in-class vehicles demonstrate that the auto industry has the technology to make vehicles get better mileage. But the low fuel economy average shows that auto companies fail to put that technology in most of their cars and light trucks. Instead of putting this technology to work, the auto industry continues to oppose any effort to increase fuel economy standards. As a result, the average fuel economy of new vehicles sold in the United States is the lowest since the 1980s.

Making our cars and light trucks go farther on a gallon of gas is the biggest single step we can take to saving money at the gas pump, curbing global warming, and cutting America's oil depend-

ence. Taking this step would save 4 million barrels of oil per day—more than the amount the U.S. currently imports from the Persian Gulf and could get from the Arctic Refuge, combined. President Bush has the authority to make significant increases in federal fuel economy standards. While the EPA Administrator claims that President Bush is “investing in energy innovations and bringing breakthroughs in fuel efficiency from the labs to the streets,” the reality is quite different. In its six years in office, this administration has only proposed increasing light truck fuel economy standards by 2.4 miles per gallon by 2011—that is a mere 0.3 miles per gallon per year and only for light trucks.

The EPA report also sheds light on the EPA's efforts to improve the fuel economy window labels for new vehicles. This effort is intended to provide consumers with better fuel economy estimates when they shop for a new vehicle. However, the EPA is unlikely to include any new labeling requirements for “flexible-fuel vehicles” (FFVs)—vehicles that can, but rarely do, run on ethanol—even though the report demonstrates that consumers will get significantly lower fuel economy when operating FFVs, resulting in higher fuel costs and questionable environmental benefits when running on E 85.

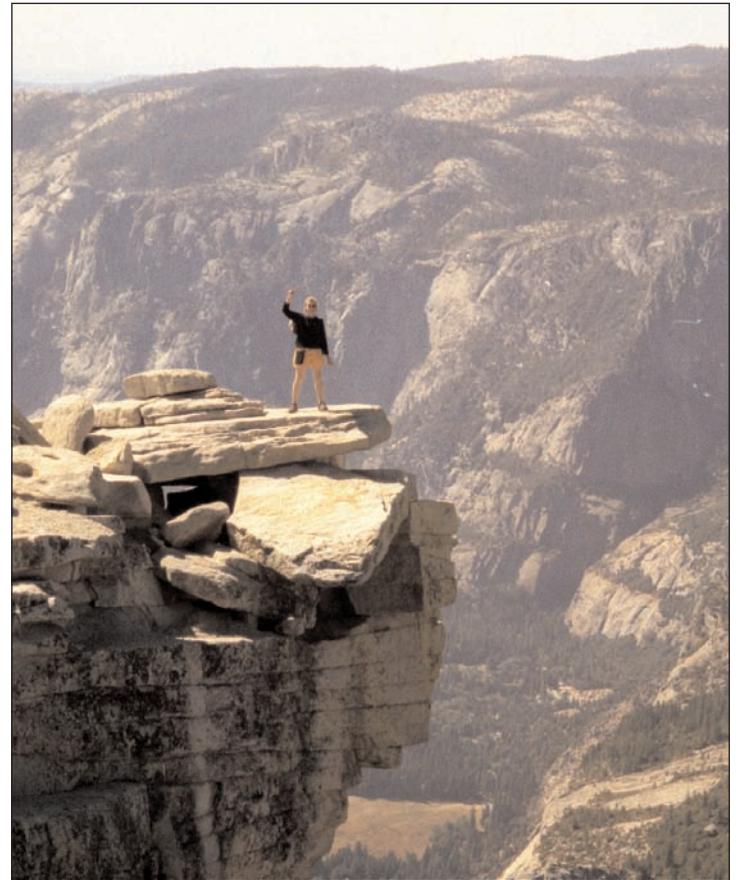
Since the Big Three are aggressively pushing FFVs as environmentally responsible vehicles, it is important that consumers are given accurate information. That is why the Sierra Club, along with other organizations, has petitioned the EPA to address this problem by including specific labeling requirements for FFVs in its rulemaking.

Accurate consumer information on FFVs is particularly important because despite the auto industry's public relations hype, 99 percent of the time these vehicles run exclusively on gasoline, according to a previous EPA report. That's because only a few hundred of the nation's 176,000 gas stations offer E 85. In fact, Department of Energy data indi-

cates that nationwide, there are only 4.5 gallons of E 85 for each FFV on the road. Since they can't fill up on E 85, FFV owners end up running their vehicles on gasoline, even though automakers receive fuel economy credits for producing the vehicles under the assumption that they operate 50 percent of the time on ethanol.

This report makes it clear that most automakers need to shift from ‘reverse’ to ‘forward’ by putting more efficient vehicles on the road. If they don't, American auto makers are likely to fall further behind their foreign competition.

Awesome View



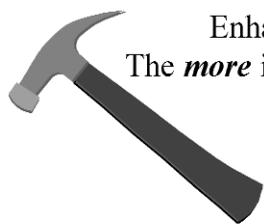
Contributed photo

In September, hike leader Steve Legnard led a chapter outing to the top of Half Dome in Yosemite. The strenuous day hike was 18+ miles with 4500' of elevation gain. Many of you have ascended the thrilling route up the cables and can relate to the joy expressed by new member, Kelly Gardner of Santa Cruz:

“My thanks and gratitude to our leader, Steve Legnard, for getting us to

the top of Half Dome. It took 12 hours, but Steve got 7 out of the 8 of us to the top. The experience and the view were awesome, and the photos and people I traveled with were priceless. I wasn't a member of the Sierra Club when I saw the hike listed in *The Ventana*, but now I am a member. I look forward to getting back out in the wilderness for hikes and camaraderie.”

Doors, Windows, & More



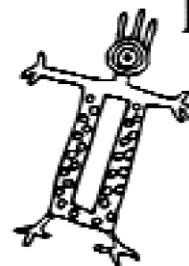
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O U T I N G S

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.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 16

WALK: POINT LOBOS

Join us on a 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 a short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of animal life. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

NOTICE

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

Saturday, December 16

HIKE: GROVER GULCH/ BATES CREEK

A 7-mile loop hike beginning from "The Land of the Medicine Buddha." We'll hike up through Grover Gulch into the southwest corner of Nisene Marks, and return along the ridge above Bates Creek. This moderate hike, with 500' elevation gain, passes through second-growth redwood forest. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$1 for carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Sunday, December 17

HIKE: PINNACLES PEAKS

Now is the perfect cool temperature to visit our local national park, Pinnacles. Experience a climb of North & South Chalona Peaks, a journey that very few people have dared to venture. Mesmerizing views of the Diablo Range and the Gabilan Mountains to the east; the Santa Lucia Mountains west; Moss Landing and Santa Cruz north; and the immense Salinas Valley. 3500' elevation gain; strenuously-steep, 15-mile loop. Bring plenty of energy food, water, wear hiking boots, layered clothing, warm gloves and \$ for carpool. Call leader (leave message) for time, meeting place and information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Wednesday, December 20

HIKE: HAKONE GARDENS/ MONTALVO

We'll start in Hakone Gardens, an 18-acre Japanese garden started by the Stine family in 1915. Japanese gardeners were hired to bring a tea house from Japan and reconstruct it in the center of a garden designed to be like Fuji-Hakone National Park in Japan. After lunch we'll walk the hillsides and formal gardens of Montalvo Arts Center, a Mediterranean style villa nestled in the foothills above Saratoga. This center, the former home of James Phelan a California Senator, is devoted to the development of art, architecture, music, and litera-

ture. 100s of concerts and shows are held here each year. Bring lunch and water. Some uphill; great views of Santa Clara Valley. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool (\$5 for gas and parking) or at the trailhead 21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga and park inside the gardens for a 10:00 a.m. start. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Monday, December 25

HIKE: GARZAS CANYON LOOP

This beautiful Garland Ranch hike is a great way to celebrate Christmas! We'll hike up the Terrace Trail through the Redwood Canyon and along Garzas Creek with 6 creek crossings (4 unbridged). 4 miles with 800' elevation gain. Meet at the Big Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:30 a.m. or at the Garzas Canyon trailhead on East Garzas Road at 9:50 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call to confirm hike. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Thursday, December 28

HIKE: BLUFF CAMP

This lovely 8-mile hike with spectacular views takes us behind the Los Padres reservoir and along the upper Carmel River. Moderately strenuous terrain at a leisurely pace with one unbridged river crossing. Meet at the Big Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to Princes Camp in Cachagua. Bring lunch and water. Call to confirm hike. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

JANUARY

Monday, January 1

HIKE/SHARE SNACK: GARLAND RANCH

A great outing to start your year. We'll hike a 5-mile loop up to the Mesa via Buckeye and Waterfall trails. Bring a snack & water for the hike and some food to share afterwards at the Visitor's Center. Wear footgear with good tread; be prepared for muddy trails. Rain can-

cel. Meet at Albertson's to carpool at 9:00 a.m., or at the Garland Ranch parking lot at 9:20 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Wednesday, January 3

HIKE: HIDDEN VILLA, LOS ALTOS HILLS

Hidden Villa Ranch is a 2300 acre organic farm and wilderness preserve in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It was developed by Frank and Josephine Duveneck between 1923 and 1977 and, upon their deaths, dedicated as a youth hostel and camp for environmental education programs. Chickens, pigs, horses, and goats are kept there. We'll hike over the Toyon Trail to the Adobe Creek Trail and return down the Bunny Creek Loop. View spot on the open oak-studded hillside for lunch. Bring lunch and water for this 8 1/2 mile trail. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool (\$5 for gas and parking) or at 26870 Moody Rd., Los Altos Hills off Hwy. 280 at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 6

HIKE: SAM MCDONALD & PESCADERO

A 9 1/2 mile loop beginning at the Ranger Station in Sam McDonald County Park, off upper Pescadero Road. 1320' elevation gain. We'll hike a portion of the Big Tree Loop to the Towne Fire Road then go south onto the Brook Trail Loop into Pescadero County Park. We'll pass through a small old-growth redwood grove and cross Granger's Bridge over a beautiful gorge view of Towne Creek before returning to SM Co. Park. Next we'll take the Heritage Grove Trail, detour to the Sierra Club Hikers Lodge for a short break, then head downhill and through the small but beautiful Heritage Grove back to our cars. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$5 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, January 6

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 back on the north trail to Mid



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O U T I N G S

Valley. 9 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Expect poison oak (no leaves); wear long pants. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid Valley shopping center in Carmel Valley next to the bank on Berwick St. at 9:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, January 7

WALK: SOBERANES POINT

Let's look for gray whales at the best spot on the coast and also review the new book, *Gray Whales* by local whale gurus, Alan Baldridge and David Gordon. The point is also the setting for Robinson Jeffers poem, "Place for No Story." A short hike, but grand scenery and good company—you can't lose. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride. Beginners welcome. Bring water, snack and windbreaker. Rain cancels. For more info, call slow poke leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Tuesday, January 9

SENIOR SAUNTER: WEST CLIFF / NATURAL BRIDGES

We'll walk from Lighthouse Field to Natural Bridges to visit the monarch butterflies in the eucalyptus grove, then take the Nature Trail to Moore Creek Lagoon and return for lunch by Visitors' Center. Easy 4 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at 9:50 a.m. at the first Lighthouse Field parking lot just before the museum. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Thursday, January 11

HIKE: MILL CREEK REDWOOD PRESERVE

Hike the newest trail built by the Monterey Regional Park Dist. It's gorgeous! 5 easy miles with 250' elevation gain thru a lovely forest of huge redwoods, madrones, tanbarks and live oaks. Viewpoint overlooking mountains and

the ocean. Call for a reservation as permits are needed. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Getting to outings

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



Friday, January 12

HIKE: DEVIL'S PEAK

Starting at Botcher's Gap, we'll go steadily uphill through oak and madrone woods to Skinners Ridge, then up the steep, dry path to Devil's Peak. Here we'll be rewarded with panoramic views from the coast to the interior of the Ventana Wilderness (and lunch). We'll also see how the forest is recovering from bulldozing during the 1999 fire. 8 miles with 2000' elevation gain. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind Brinton's at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Day-use fee we can share among car occupants. Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, January 13

HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL

Strenuous 10-mile hike with 3000' elevation gain to the top of Mt. Manuel. A great workout on a trail that has an even grade with great views of the coast and the Ventana. Bring lunch, water and wear boots. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel Valley at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday, January 14

HIKE: PINNACLES/NORTH WILDERNESS

Get a totally different look at the Pinnacles. 10 miles with 1000' elevation gain. Bring a flashlight to go through the Balconies Caves which have been created by an ancient volcano eruption. Bring plenty of food, water, layered clothing, warm gloves and \$ for carpool. For information, time and meeting place, please call. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, January 16

SENIOR SAUNTER: SUNSET BEACH

We'll walk both the bluffs and the beach. Moderate 4 miles with not very steep hills. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Sunset Beach at the kiosk parking lot on the bluff at approx. 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Rain Cancels. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Wednesday, January 17

HIKE: WINDY HILL OPEN SPACE

This preserve, which lives up to its name, includes an area of high, grassy hills overlooking much of the S. F. Bay Area. We'll explore a 7-mile trail from the bottom up climbing through a forest of oak, madrone, and Douglas fir. This lower portion of the preserve is less visited, but no less beautiful.

Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to carpool (\$4) or at the trailhead at 10:00 a.m. off Hwy. 280 Alpine Rd. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 20

HIKE: EAST MOLERA

Lovely views of the coast, Pico Blanco, and the canyon of the south fork of the Little Sur reward us for our steep climb towards Post Summit. 6 miles and 1,800' elevation gain. Bring lots of water, lunch, hat, sun protection and \$ for the 45-minute carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Back around 4:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Sunday, January 21

HIKE: WHALE PEAK/SOBERANES PT.

Let's trek around and up Whale Peak at Soberanes. We'll hope for a clear day to watch for whales. Bring binoculars if you have them. If the trail on the ocean side of the peak is closed, we'll do a two-pronged walk first on the north side, then the south, and then go up the hill for lunch. Dress in layers (windy on top!), bring lunch and water. Back by early afternoon. Rain cancels. Meet at Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 10:00 a.m. More info, call by Jan 19! Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

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O U T I N G S

Tuesday, January 23

SENIOR SAUNTER: RIO DEL MAR / SEACLIFF BEACH

Hiker's choice of a level 4-miles along the beach path or walk up Cliff Drive through a neighborhood for 1 mile and down to beach on a little-known path. Lunch at picnic tables by Seacliff. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, sit upon, \$2 carpool. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or the parking lot at Rio Del Mar at 9:50 a.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Wednesday, January 24

HIKE: PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK

This is a 4350-acre former ranch with over 500 species of plants that was opened this summer for hiking by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. The elevation of the park ranges from sea level to 3400 ft. Our 6-mile trail leads up to a dramatic view of Carmel Bay from Inspiration Point. Originally part of the land grant Rancho San Carlos, it was once owned by the Fish family who entertained many distinguished guests including George Gershwin, Sinclair Lewis, and the Lindberghs. We will also hike over to the river and the pond area which is a wildlife reserve. Only a limited number of hikers are allowed. Call the leader to reserve a place. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 27

HIKE: WILDER RANCH/ GRAY WHALE STATE PARK

We'll kick off the wildflower season with a look at fetid adder's tongue, the 1st flower blossoming. 8 miles with 1000' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, January 28

WALK: ASILOMAR / PEBBLE BEACH

Come on this 4-mile walk on streets and pathways 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, perhaps migrating whale spouts, finishing at Asilomar. Bring water and a snack. Done about noon. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. @ Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, January 30

SENIOR SAUNTER: ASILOMAR SOUTH

Easy 3+ mile walk on dirt paths, streets, sandy paths & boardwalk from Asilomar to Pt. Joe & loop back. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or by the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove at 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, sit upon, \$5 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, January 31

HIKE: GAZOS CREEK

Let's explore the logging area that is part of San Mateo County's south coastal region. We can find remnants of old logging mill ponds,

flattened areas for stacking logs, and today a narrow canyon filled with ferns and greenery watered by natural springs. 8 miles up a dirt road at the top of the canyon from the Pescadero Conservation Alliance Research Station. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. to carpool (\$4) at 9:00 a.m. or at the corner of Hwy. 1 and Gazos Creek Rd. at 9:50 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 3

HIKE: FALL CREEK EAST RIDGE

A 9-mile semi-loop hike, with 1200' elevation gain, entering from SLV High School along the High School, Ridge, Truck and Big Ben trails in the east ridge section of this State Park. Our return will follow the riparian Fall Creek trail where we'll see the machinery at the sites of the old barrel mill, the lime quarry and the three granite-block lime kilns that date from the 1870s. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. Bring water, lunch and \$2 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, February 3

HIKE: JACK'S PEAK

We'll walk around Jack's Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Rd. (near airport). 6 miles with less than 1000' 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.

Sunday, February 4

HIKE: FORT ORD

This relatively flat 10-miler explores the open space on the old Army base. Heavy rain cancels. Bring lunch, water and wear boots. Meet at the Home Depot in Seaside at 9:00 a.m. or the old thrift store parking lot just inside the main entrance at 9:15 a.m. Leader: Steve Leonard, 402-1422.

Friday, February 9

HIKE: PINNACLES

Starting on the west side, we'll hike an 8-plus mile loop that takes in the highlights of this fascinating National Park: Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, Balconies and Caves. Wonderful views and some narrow, steep and maybe wet stretches. Leisurely pace. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes and a flashlight for the caves. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 8:30 a.m. (bring change for the parking fee) or Chaparral parking lot, West Pinnacles, at 10:00 a.m. (National Park entrance fee). Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, February 10

HIKE: GAZOS/ MOORE CREEKS

A combo of two shorter walks. First we'll do 4 miles on Gazos Creek with a waterfall and finish with the same distance at Moore Creek, which is Santa Cruz City's Open Space Preserve at the northwestern city limits. 1000' of

elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, February 10

HIKE: DANISH CREEK

From the Los Padres Dam we'll hike 3 miles up the Big Pines Trail and then drop down to the creekside campsite on little Danish Creek. Should be fewer ticks and much less poison oak than in the spring/summer. 9 miles with 1400' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at mid-valley Safeway shopping center near the bank at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, February 11

WALK: WILDER STATE PARK

Please join us for a leisurely walk on the Baldwin Creek loop trail in Wilder State Park. Meet at the County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. for a short carpool to our starting point. Bring lunch. Back by early afternoon. Call leaders Celia or Peter Scott at 423-0796 if you have questions.

Sunday, February 11

HIKE: PINE VALLEY

The Ventana Wilderness has an unforgettable

beauty that will stay with you eternally. We'll start our ascending hike at China Camp, go down to Church Creek Divide, up to Stone Ridge Trail, to the Bear Basin Connector to Pine Valley where hopefully we will get to visit my good friend legendary Jack English, who always has wonderful tales to share with us in his warm and cozy cabin by the creek. 15-mile loop. Bring plenty of food, water, layered clothing, gloves and \$ for carpool. Call for meeting place, time and information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, February 13

SENIOR SAUNTER: ANTONELLI POND

We'll start our 3-mile easy walk along the west side of Antonelli Pond, visit the Homeless Garden, then on to Terrace Point to the Seymour Center. We'll return to Natural Bridges via De Anza Lagoon for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or on Delaware Ave. in Santa Cruz just past Swanton Ave. at Natural Bridges entrance. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Jean Harrison, 425-5447.

Wednesday, February 14

HIKE: WUNDERLICH COUNTY PARK

This park is in Woodside off Interstate 280 east of Skyline Blvd. We'll start this moderate 7-mile hillside hike in the oakwood brushland

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OUTINGS

behind the historic stable of the Folger Ranch complex. The 290 park acres consist of open meadows, canyons with numerous springs, and dense second growth redwood groves. In 1872 Simon Jones planted fruit trees and grapes and started Hazel Wood Farm here. It is a steep park, but it has excellent graded trails. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. (\$5) or at the entrance to the park at 4040 Woodside Road off Hwy. 280 at 10:15 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

DESERT SERVICE OUTINGS

Sponsored by the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, Desert Committee

Saturday - Sunday, February 3-4

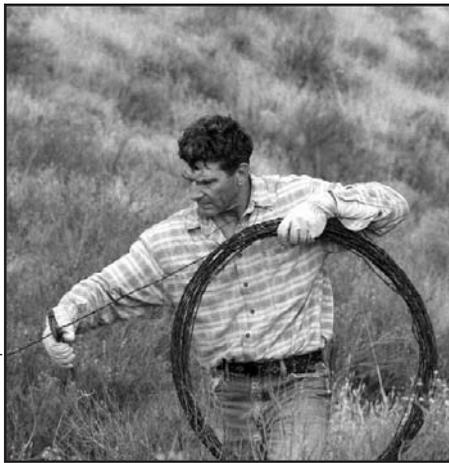
NORTH ALGODONES DUNES

We will have two outstanding projects in this Imperial County wilderness area. On Saturday we'll assist Erin Dreyfuss, Natural Resources Specialist in the El Centro BLM office, perhaps doing a census of the Pierson's Milkvetch or else sifting seeds of native plants for future restoration efforts. Sunday will be a longer hike to find and inventory five small game guzzlers for the BLM office, data they need for wilderness management and cooperation with the California Dept of Fish and Game. Saturday evening potluck, campfire, and stories about our desert. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670).

Saturday - Sunday, March 24-25

PRONGHORN PROTECTION CARRIZO PLAIN

With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope, which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences, which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing. Work hard on Saturday, take some time Sunday to enjoy the monument. Car camp at Selby Campground. Bring food, all the water for the weekend, heavy leather work gloves, and camping gear. Potluck Saturday night. Alternate date in case of rain. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For



Contributed photo

more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail: ccfrench@tcsn.net.



CLASSIFIEDS

Rates: \$4.00 per line for Sierra Club members. Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: Sierra Club. Approximately 35 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Typewritten or computer generated copy preferred.

WELL BEING is possible. www.SantaCruzHomeopathy.com or 831-477-7782.

WEBMASTER The Ventana Chapter is looking for a volunteer webmaster. Must have at least working knowledge and some experience with html. Experience with PERL or C a big plus. Duties include routine or unscheduled website updates. No content editing needed. For more information contact George Jammal, george.jammal@ventana.sierraclub.org.

Volunteers needed to get phone messages to activists. YOU are responsible, dependable, and smart. The Club needs someone to transcribe phone messages at its Santa Cruz office and get the messages to our activists. Must commit to 2 times/week. Little time commitment. To apply, call 768-8187.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SELL Trail Guides from their home. Requires keeping stock at home, handling phone orders for both individual sales and bulk orders for about 10 main accounts at bookstores, then filling orders. Must be dependable. For more information call Rita Dalessio, 659-7046.

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DIRECTORY OF CLUB LEADERS

Ventana Chapter

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

Chapter Executive Committee

Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
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
Coastal Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	375-1389

Conservation Committee

Co-Chairs	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Gillian Taylor	52 La Rancheria	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-0298

Local Wilderness Committee

Chair	Steve Chambers	319 Caledonia St.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-1787
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Computer Database

	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
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NC/NRCC Reps.

	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187

Population Committee

Chair	Harriet Mitteldorf	942 Coral Dr.	Pebble Beach, CA 93953	373-3694
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Political Chair

Chair	Terry Hallock	P.O. Box 22993	Carmel, CA 93922	915-0266
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Pot Luck Committee

Chair				
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Sierra Club Council

Delegate	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
Alternate	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046

Transportation Committee

Chair	Neil Agron	26122 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3038
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Outings Chair

Chair	Anneliese Suter	9500 Center St. #53	Carmel, CA 93923	624-1467
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Membership Chair

Ventana Editor	Debbie Bulger	1603 King Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-1036
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Pajaro River Committee

Co-Chairs	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, 95062	464-1184
	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766.	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556

Forestry Chair

Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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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: scsccrg@cruzio.com

Executive Committee

Chair	Aldo Giacchino	1005 Pelton Ave.,	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	460-1538
Vice Chair	Kevin Collins	P.O. Box 722	Felton, CA 95018	335-4196
Other members	Richard Shull	110 Amber Lane	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-5153
	Kristen Raugust	454 Swanton Road	Davenport, CA 95017	423-8566
	Shandra D. Handley	147 S. River St., Ste 221	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	477-1981
	Charles Paulden	415 Palisades Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	462-3423
	Bojana Fazarinc	25401 Spanish Rnch Rd.	Los Gatos 95033	408-353-5536
	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	427-2626
Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187	
Treasurer	Aldo Giacchino	1005 Pelton Ave.,	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	460-1538

Conservation Committee

Chair	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187
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Forestry Task Force

Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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Membership Committee

Vacant				
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Outings Chair

Chair	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
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Transportation Committee

Chair	Jim Danaher	340 Soquel Ave. #205	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	427-2727
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Water Resources Committee

vacant				
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Political Committee

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Membership inquiries:
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Ventana Chapter Candidates



Heather Zissler

I am committed to stimulating sustainable change through grassroots processes.

Before moving to Monterey I served as an Agriculture Extension Volunteer in the Peace Corps for three years. In Paraguay, I learned firsthand the positive impact that dedicated individuals can have and the power of grassroots efforts. Through my work I also became aware of growing environmental threats and the challenges we confront when trying to minimize our ecological footprints.

It was as a direct result of my Peace Corps experience that I chose to attend Monterey Institute of International Studies. I would like to continue my involvement with grassroots conservation efforts at the local, national, and international levels. I believe my previous experiences in civil action, volunteer coordination, and educational outreach will be an asset to the Sierra Club. Additionally, I am interested in working on policy advocacy, long range planning, and fundraising events. Sierra Club's name recognition and established framework are crucial to the continued success of educating our communities and encouraging environmentally-conscious policy-making decisions. I look forward to becoming a member of your passionate team.

Thank you for your consideration.



Julie Engell

Sierra Club's continued success hinges on the way in which human communities

use land. This may be especially true for the Ventana Chapter's territory where rare plant and animal communities, incomparable landscapes and scarce water resources collide with the forces of sprawl and political corruption.

In Monterey County, our mission depends upon adoption of a responsible General Plan—the 20-year development blueprint for the county's rural areas. For seven years, I have been deeply involved in this effort.

Additionally, during my first ExCom term, as chair of the Rancho San Juan Opposition Coalition, I led two referenda against the biggest and worst develop-

ment project in Monterey Co. history. The first time voters had the chance, they rejected Rancho San Juan by 76%. Fearing a second drubbing, county officials have refused to allow voters to vote on the second Rancho San Juan referendum.

It has been a long road. Even though we've accomplished a lot, there's much left to do. I have been honored, as part of ExCom, to work alongside other Ventana Chapter members. I would be honored to continue working on behalf of the Chapter. I hope you'll vote to return me to a second term on ExCom.



George Jammal

Sierra Club background: Santa Cruz Outings Chair

since 1991, Group ExCom Chair 1998 - 2003, Chapter delegate to Sierra Club California Convention for many years, website coordinator since 2001, Chapter ExCom member and delegate to the Council of Club Leaders (CCL) 2006.

Throughout my involvement with the Sierra Club I focused on organizational development and relations with the Club's larger entities: Sierra Club California and National. I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Chapter ExCom last year and then elected by the ExCom as the Chapter's CCL delegate. The Council of Club Leaders is the national entity that ties all the Chapters together and provides a link between the Chapters and the Board of Directors.

As your delegate to the CCL, I inform the Chapter about resources provided by the CCL, represent the Chapter in debates, vote on resolutions to be sent to the Board, and help the Chapter bring its own resolutions to the CCL.

The CCL delegate position had been unfilled for many years depriving the Chapter of a voice at national. I ask for your vote so I may continue to fulfill this important link between the Chapter and national.



Steve Zmak

I respectfully seek your vote for a seat on the Ventana Executive Committee for three reasons:

1. Protection of the environment globally, nationally, and locally is the

most important political issue to me. We are an integral part of our environment; we are not above it. What we do to it affects our quality of life today and tomorrow.

2. California's Central Coast is one of the last precious, preserved places in the nation, and I'm determined to prevent it from being exploited.

3. In addition to being my home, Marina continues to undergo major changes in land use, population density, and resource consumption, mostly due to its acquisition of Fort Ord land. I

believe there is a fundamental conflict between the actions of Marina's current leadership, and Marina's General Plan and Municipal Code that calls for a higher standard of conservation, protection of open space, reduction of vehicle usage, and green building practices. Over the last year, I led the campaign attempting to stop Wal-Mart from coming to Marina. I am the chairperson of Marina's Public Works Commission. I'd like to transition from a Sierra Club member to Sierra Club leader with your vote.

Santa Cruz Group Candidates

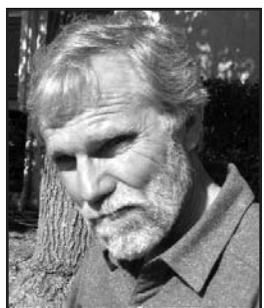


Shandra Handley

Since graduating from law school, I have worked in Santa Cruz County for a

small law firm concentrating on environmental and land use issues. I have also served the last three years on the executive committee for the Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club.

My environmental experience began at an early age growing up in the mountains of Colorado where I learned to appreciate the importance of protecting our wild lands and preserving what we have for future generations. With the recent birth of my first son I am even more concerned and driven to protect our environment. If you re-elect me for a second term on the executive committee, I will continue to work to improve the Santa Cruz area for today and the future.



David S. Kossack

A conservationist since the age of 8, I have always appreciated the opportunity to observe ecosystem

processes, but I often found only the loss of wildlands around my hometown on the San Francisco Peninsula. In the late '70s I lived in Central America for two years. Working for a fisheries unit in Belize provided me with the experience of the reefs, mangroves and forests of this region and the mountains and cloud forests of Guatemala and Costa Rica. My interests in how things work led me to academic degrees from Berkeley and Davis; the mixed blessing of seeing that things aren't working has led me to

invest myself in projects to protect and restore the last pieces of functioning ecosystems wherever I live. Previous Board experience includes the Half Moon Caye Advisory Committee (Belize, Central America); Laguna Beach Open Space Commission; Friends of the Tecate Cypress; and presently, Founder and President of San Andreas Land Conservancy (Davenport).

Kristen Raugust

I grew up in the country north of Davenport, a small town of 300 people overlooking the Pacific. The area around Davenport is forested and agricultural with coastal bluffs and beaches. I own a bakery and café there with my wife Stephanie and live in the Davenport area.

As a young boy, I spent summers in the Sierras where I really came to appreciate the natural environment and its importance to all living things. I became actively involved in protecting the environment years ago when some property on the ocean was threatened for development as an RV park. Helping stop overdevelopment in my little town forged my involvement in coastal access and coastal viewshed issues and showed me the impact that over development has on environment and habitat, leading to my involvement in the Sierra Club.

Being a member of the Sierra Club has allowed me to grow and learn about many issues that threaten our environment such as water, forest, wetlands, and transportation concerns. It also has shown me the urgency of preservation and protection and the kind of responsibility we all have.

I am currently serving on the ExCom of the Santa Cruz Group.



Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidate statements on page 14 and mark your ballot below.
Mail this entire page including your ballot in the envelope enclosed with your *Ventana*.

The ballot must be postmarked by January 2.

Monterey County members may vote only for Chapter candidates.

Santa Cruz County members may vote for BOTH Chapter and Group candidates.

For joint memberships, mark a vote in both columns.

After you complete your ballot, TEAR OFF THIS ENTIRE PAGE and return it in the envelope provided. Your mailing label on the back of this page ensures that the vote has come from a valid member of the Club. Ballots and mailing labels will be separated by the Chapter Secretary to ensure a secret ballot. Mail your completed ballot to Mary Gale, Chapter Secretary, 25430 Telarana Way, Carmel, CA 93923. Call Mary Gale, 626-3565, if you have any questions.

What does the Executive Committee do?

The members of the Executive Committee make Chapter and Group policy for the Club. These representatives, elected by you, meet each month to discuss issues and hear reports from subcommittees such as the Conservation Committee and the Forestry Committee. Executive Committee members make policy and financial decisions and supervise local Club operations such as budget, fundraising, and local offices.

Ventana Chapter

Both Santa Cruz and Monterey members may vote for these vote for up to 4

Candidate	individual or 1st joint member	2nd joint member
Heather Zissler		
Julie Engell		
George Jammal		
Steve Zmak		

Santa Cruz Group

ONLY Santa Cruz County members may vote for these vote for up to 3

Candidate	individual or 1st joint member	2nd joint member
Shandra Handley		
David S. Kossack		
Kristen Raugust		



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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.
January 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453)
Meeting place: Sierra Club Office
1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11.

Executive Committee:

Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:

Call Conservation chair for meeting times and dates: 768-8187



Copyright Jodi Frediani 2003.

Watching each other

Two swimmers watch in awe as a curious baby Atlantic humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) watches them. The photo, by Santa Cruz activist Jodi Frediani, placed second in the Mysticetes category at the 10th International American Cetacean Society Conference "Whales without Borders" in Ventura, CA, Nov 10-12, 2006. The photo was taken during a whale swim on the Silverbanks, Dominican Republic.

The photo contest judge was *National Geographic* premier whale photographer Flip Nicklin.



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