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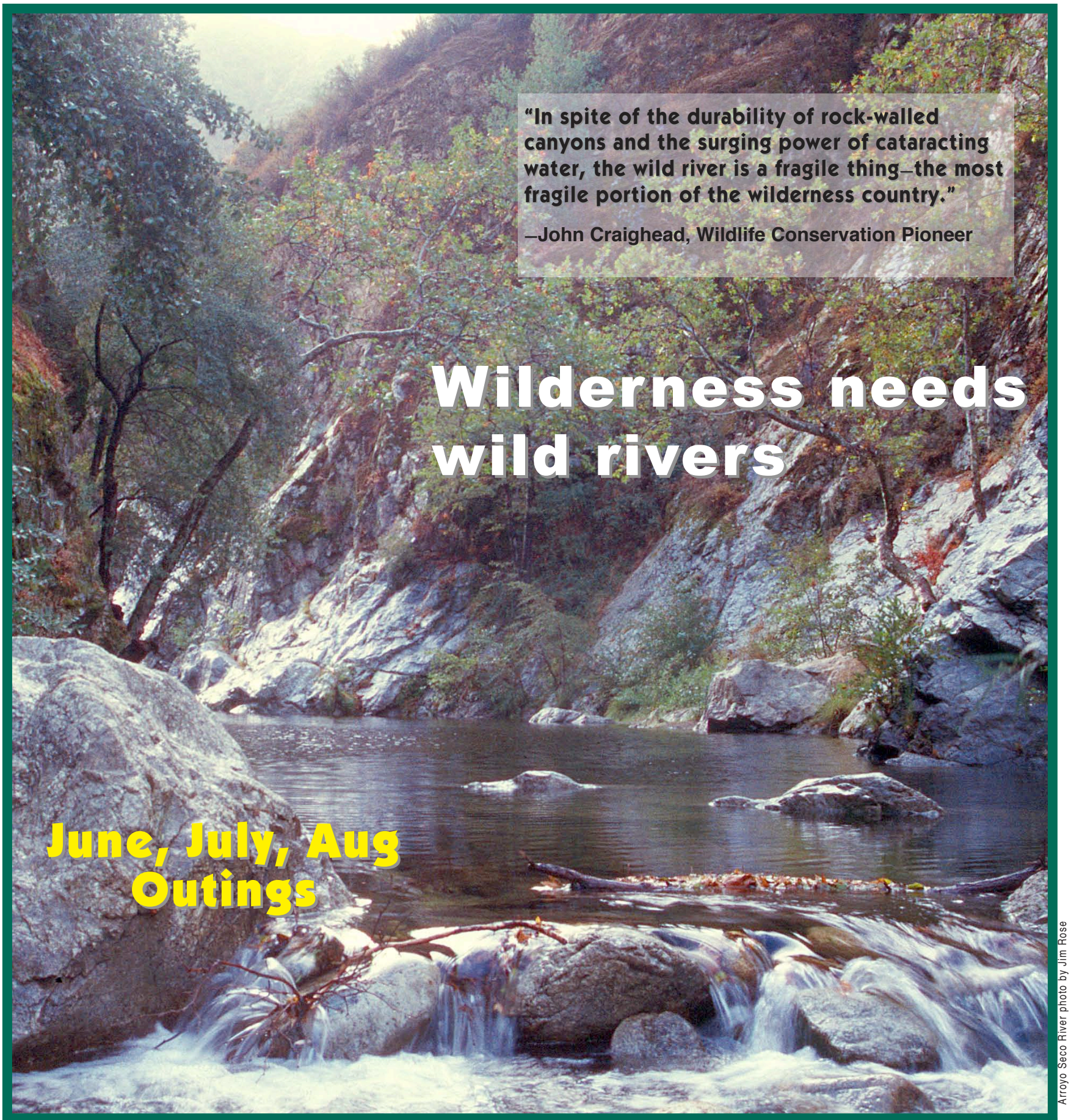
The VENTANA

Magazine Of The Ventana Chapter Of The Sierra Club



"In spite of the durability of rock-walled canyons and the surging power of cataracting water, the wild river is a fragile thing—the most fragile portion of the wilderness country."

—John Craighead, Wildlife Conservation Pioneer

Wilderness needs wild rivers

June, July, Aug Outings

Arroyo Seco River photo by Jim Rose

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

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

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2007
Ventana Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#4	Jul. 23	Aug. 8
#5	Sep. 24	Oct. 10
#6	Nov. 26	Dec. 12

Articles received after deadline may not be published

Chapter Chair

Will the Coastal Commission uphold their mandate?

The Coastal Commission will hear the Pebble Beach Company's (PBC) expansion proposal at their June 13 meeting in Santa Rosa. This has been a long road for the Chapter which has been fighting development in this rare, fragile forest for 40 years. The current proposal for lavish homes, hotel expansion, a driving range, and 18-hole golf course would violate the Coastal Act protections for Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) and coastal wetlands.

The twists and turns of this development have been largely driven by the celebrity status of the owners who wield enormous power in Monterey County and the State. The PBC spent nearly a million dollars on media for the 2000 ballot Measure A campaign claiming it would "save the forest." The initiative says that voters want to increase open space in Del Monte Forest and that any future development would be consistent with the Coastal Act.

When the true project came to light a few years later, it called for cutting down 18,000 trees and building a golf course in the heart of delineated coastal wetlands—actions clearly illegal under the Coastal Act. Voters were shocked and said so.

Desperately trying to get environmental buy-in, the Pebble Beach Company has offered to grant conservation easements on hundreds of acres in Aguajito as mitigation. But this area is not in the coastal zone, so should not be of any interest to the Commission. Especially egregious, the PBC is trying to vacate existing conservation easements in Del Monte Forest that were a condition of approval for the 1986 Spanish Bay project. They certainly cannot be trusted to hold to a conservation easement now.

Another bogus issue the PBC has raised as reason they are entitled to certification of the 2000 Measure A and approval of their development plan is that they could have built more than 800 homes in their 400+ acres of forest. This is a fallacy. PBC has about 40 lots of record left. There is no basis to think the Coastal Commission would approve over 800 new units given Coastal Act restrictions and lack of public benefit.

Finally, the fact that the duped voters approved a ballot measure in 2000 is no guarantee that either Measure A should be certified or that the proposed PBC project is an entitlement. Coastal development is subject to the Coastal Act and general environmental review. The plan is illegal and should be denied. Any other outcome would be politically motivated.

It's important to remember that the PBC pulled a vote on their plan when it was on the Coastal Commission agenda in June 2006. This occurred after a story broke in California papers reporting that Speaker Fabian Nunez's office had tried to replace Commissioner Padilla, Mayor of Chula Vista. The papers linked this action to PBC and suggested this was an effort to replace a Commissioner believed to be opposed to the project with a pro-development person. Red-faced, PBC then requested the vote be removed from the June agenda, which it was.

A surprising reshuffling at the Coastal Commission occurred in February 2007 when Commissioner Meg Caldwell, a well respected law professor at Stanford University, learned she had been replaced by the Governor. Caldwell had been Chair of the Commission and had asked some very tough legal questions about the PBC project.

The California Coastal Commission was founded to uphold the Coastal Act and protect the California coastline from development which would threaten coastal resources. The Commissioners should act on their mandate and deny certification of the 2000 Measure A and this destructive development.

—Rita Dalessio

Ventana Chapter Sierra Club

Voter Guide

June 5,
Monterey County Special Election

Vote YES on A
To adopt the Community's Plan
Vote YES on B
To repeal the Supervisors' Plan
Vote NO on C
To repeal the Supervisors' Plan (twice!)
Vote NO on D
To stop Rancho San Juan

From the Editor

Imagination deficit

It's possible for people to get to work without driving alone. Upon moving into new offices in the Seattle suburb of Bellevue, WA, engineering giant CH2M Hill offered its 430 employees $40/month if they walked, bicycled, carpooled or took transit to work; or free parking if they drove alone. The firm's drive-alone rate declined from 89% to 54% in 1990. (Today its drive-alone rate is 38% according to the *Seattle Times*.) With parking demand down, the firm's problem of too many parkers for too few spaces disappeared. Here are the stats:

	Before	After
Drive Alone	89%	54%
Carpool	9%	12%
Bus	1%	17%
Bike/Walk	1%	17%

Yet in mid 2007 with Global Warming hanging like the sword of Damocles over our heads, the City of Santa Cruz is contemplating construction of (yet another) $25 million parking garage for its downtown. Ironically, this monument to the motor vehicle is proposed for the surface parking lot currently used to host the farmers' market where fresh, locally-grown produce is sold each week.

One wonders if City parking planners are paying attention. There are less expensive, more environmentally-friendly ways to solve the perceived parking deficit. Transportation experts agree that most drivers will not get out of their cars if their only alternatives are long waits, long walks, or bicycling in motor vehicle traffic. They also know that commuters are easier to get out of their cars than shoppers. There are many successful programs such as the one cited above that could free up parking spaces for those who really need them. With a bit of funding, we could implement them here.

$25 million could buy a lot of attractive, fun, and convenient transit such as cable-car-like shuttles, personal rapid transit-even tractor-pulled hay wagons and horse-drawn vehicles! These conveyances could connect the downtown with existing beach parking that is under-utilized just when the downtown need is greatest such as at Christmas.

The possibilities are many. It seems it is not a parking deficit the city is dealing with, but rather a deficit of imagination.

—Debbie Bulger

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LETTERS

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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.

Eating less meat fights global warming

I really appreciate the previous issues of *The Ventana* including strategies for lessening our impact on the environment and global warming.

What I find missing in nearly all discussions of this subject is the impact of an animal-based diet. It seems like most people want to make a difference in this world but not when it comes to giving up hamburgers, barbecued chicken, cheese, and milk. Driving less, purchasing energy-efficient light bulbs, reducing waste, recycling, washing clothes in cold water, planting native plants in our landscapes, using a cloth bag at the grocery store, and curbing our consumer-spending habits are extremely important changes in our lives. But what if all of these were completely overshadowed by eating animal products?

A 400-page report recently released by the United Nations has identified livestock as the greatest environmental threat to our continued survival. Climatic changes, melting glaciers, deforestation, severe air pollution, acid rain, poisoning of rivers and drinking water, dead zones in the ocean, destruction of coral reefs, shrinking rain forests, and desertification are all by-products of our addiction to meat and dairy.

As activists for a better world, I strongly feel we should be discussing the environmental, moral and health consequences of continuing to eat animals. Do I even need to mention the hideously cruel practices of factory farming? Giving up animal products once or twice a week would be a great start.

Below is a link to the report:
www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20772&Cr=global&Cr1=warming
—Phil Kaplan
Soquel, Ca.

Animal Agriculture is carbon intense

Many kudos to Kay Spenser and her family for their extraordinary efforts to reduce their carbon impact on our awesome, but fragile, eco-system.

I'd like to mention an often overlooked, but important element when we're discussing solutions to global warming (and pollution control), and that's our monumental dietary reliance on animal flesh and dairy products.

The United Nations recently released a report *(Livestock's Long Shadow)* revealing that factory farming has a greater impact on global warming than all the world's transportation combined. Did Al Gore mention this? Raising not only 1.5 billion cows worldwide, but also pigs, poultry, sheep and other species, is putting a tremendous strain on our atmosphere (via methane release), polluting finite potable water resources, and creating other significant environmental destruction. Animal agriculture is a very carbon-intense industry.

Although unwelcome, this is not new information. We are simply slow at mentally processing or even caring to react to what's been known and written about for at least 30 years in many books such as *Diet for a Small Planet*.

Striving for a plant-based diet may be the most challenging change we could ever make toward healing our sick planet and ourselves. Dietary habits are culturally ingrained and reinforced through clever advertising and societal pressures to conform. Any significant dietary change, to be truly successful, needs to be preceded by sound nutritional information. Nevertheless, it's encouraging to know that there's a mountain of scientific evidence supporting the health benefits of a nutritious vegan diet, as well as ever-increasing selections of highly-nutritious, plant-based meat and dairy substitutes.
—Wandis Wilcoix
Santa Cruz

Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign seeks protection for our last wild rivers

Threatened steelhead need wild rivers to thrive.

by Hannah Schoenthal-Muse

Thanks to the relentless hard work of groups like the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and to exceptional policymakers like Representative Sam Farr, we now have almost 300,000 acres of designated wilderness in Monterey County. Wilderness designation prevents logging, mining, and road building, but it does not protect wild rivers.

The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, protects a river's free flowing conditions, water quality and outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic and cultural values. The Big Sur River is the only Monterey County waterway with "Wild & Scenic" designation.

The wild rivers of Monterey County deserve to stay wild and free flowing for all time. That's why Friends of the River, the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, and the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club are working together on the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign. The Campaign seeks to protect nine waterways flowing through public lands in the Santa Lucia Range with federal Wild & Scenic designation. Because their upper watersheds are largely undisturbed, these rivers and creeks are an important source of clean water for Monterey County residents, farmers and industries. Wild & Scenic designation would protect water quality for future generations.

Wild & Scenic designation would put an end to 100 years of proposals for dams in the Arroyo Seco River gorge. Wild & Scenic designation would ensure that threatened central coast steelhead, the rare California Spotted owl and the sensitive Southwestern pond turtle can continue to live in rich riparian habitat. Wild & Scenic designation would ensure that humans can continue to play in the Arroyo Seco River's deep pools on hot, sunny days.

Within three years of Wild & Scenic designation, the Forest Service must come up with comprehensive river management plans to protect and enhance the outstanding wildlife and cultural values of each river. Dozens of groups and hundreds of individuals have recently signed on to support the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign including the Salinan Nation Cultural Preservation Association, Trout Unlimited, the Tassajara Zen Center, and the Carmel River Steelhead Association.

Proposed for Wild & Scenic status
Arroyo Seco River
Tassajara Creek & Church Creek
Big Creek
Carmel River & Miller Fork
Little Sur River
Nacimiento River
San Antonio River & Tributaries
San Carpoforo Creek
Willow Creek

How to help

- To learn more, read the Ventana Wild Rivers Campaign brochure inserted in this *Ventana.*
- Check out the complete VWRC proposal and write a letter to Representative Farr at:
www.ventanawild.org/projects/rivers.
- Contact Hannah Schoenthal-Muse, Central Coast Rivers Coordinator for Friends of the River at Hannah@friendsoftheriver.org or 535-8304.

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assemblymember.Laird@assembly.ca.gov

Landmark decision protects Central Coast marine habitat

by Kaitilin Gaffney, The Ocean Conservancy

On April 13 the California Fish & Game Commission made a landmark decision to protect the scenic coastline and rich marine habitat of the central coast by establishing a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). This network is the result of thousands of hours of work volunteered by marine scientists, members of the fishing industry, recreation interests, and conservationists including many Central Coast residents.

Erica Crawford

Harbor seal with pup

This historic event culminates seven years of work since former Assemblymember Fred Keeley co-authored the Marine Life Protection Act, which requires the State to establish a network of marine protected areas along the entire California coast. The Central Coast was selected as the first phase for statewide implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act.

The adopted MPA network designates 29 marine protected areas for protection from Pigeon Point to Point Conception and is expected to go into effect later this summer. The Commission's decision will place a total of 18% of state ocean waters off California's central coast in some type of protected area, leaving more than 80% of the area available for fishing.

The adopted MPA network reflects a compromise from what conservationists had sought; however, it is an important first step and may serve as a model for the nation. The MPA plan encompasses some of the most well-known and biologically-important areas of the California coast from Big Sur to the elephant seal rookeries at Point Año Nuevo to Vandenberg Air Force Base near Point Conception. The plan expands protection for Point Lobos, one of the state's few existing State Marine Reserves, where thousands of divers each year experience the vibrant wildlife of a healthy ecosystem where all marine life is protected.

The second phase of implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act, focusing on the north central coast from Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County, is now underway and is expected to be complete in 2008. The entire statewide MPA network is expected to be in place by 2011.

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Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects
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Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

Backpacking/Hiking	4 times more active than the average adult
Mountain Biking	5 times more active
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Source: 1996 MRI Doublebase

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County Supervisors vote to increase minimum parcel size for logging

On a 3 to 2 vote on May 22, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted "conceptually" to increase the minimum parcel for rezoning to TPZ (timber production zone) from 5 to 40 acres. Currently logging can occur only on lands zoned TPZ, M3 (mining), PR (parks), and CA (Commercial Agriculture).

Logging on small parcels creates many conflicts with residential neighbors because of the noise, increased traffic, damage to roads, erosion, and the increased fire hazard associated with logging. Increasing the parcel size on which logging could occur not only reduces such conflicts but, more importantly, helps protect the County's drinking water sources.

The rule change will next be heard at a Planning Commission hearing, then will return to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Property owners have until the end of the year to apply for rezoning under the old rules. After the new minimum is adopted, owners of parcels smaller than 40 acres could still apply for rezoning under a case-by-case consideration.

Sierra Club Forestry Task Force members and other environmentalists testified in favor of the 40-acre ruling. Logging proponents were out in force in an attempt to keep the zoning minimum at five acres.

Currently approximately 1/4 of the land in Santa Cruz County is either zoned for timber production or could be rezoned for logging. That is hardly a dearth of land available for timber production in the county.

Local Club begins process for Executive Committee elections

The process of electing new Chapter and Group Executive Committee members has begun. Now is the time to think of candidates or consider running yourself. Executive Committee members meet once a month and vote on policy issues and local actions, submit testimony to local governing bodies, and on occasion recommend that the Club take legal action to protect the environment.

Check out the Chapter website for election rules and timetable: wwwventana.sierraclub.org.

To suggest a candidate call Rita Dalessio in Monterey County, 659-7046. In Santa Cruz County call Aldo Giacchino, 460-1538.

Chapter awards science fair scholarship

Richard Russo

Chapter Executive Committee members pose with scholarship recipient, Sabrina Russo. L-R: Joel Weinstein, Leah Rose, Sabrina Russo.

Sabrina Russo, a sophomore at Carmel High School, is the winner of a $1000 scholarship for her study of the effect of ocean temperature on the population of pelagic tuna. Russo's study was designed to determine if Global Warming has had an effect on the migratory patterns of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, *Thunnus thynnus*. The study was designed to prove the theory that warm waters are metabolically stressful to giants, as was stated by Dr. Barbara Block of Hopkins Marine Station.

Russo collected information on Bluefin Tuna landings in different global locations, such as Japan, North America, Australia, and Europe. She also gathered sea surface temperature anomaly data from NOAA. Using this information, Russo created graphs depicting the relationship between temperature and tuna populations. She found that with an increase in temperature, there was a decrease in tuna landings.

Her analysis noted that other factors such as poachers, irregularities in warming patterns (El Nino), or pollution may or may not play a part in the visible pattern. Russo concluded that her project presents a new hypothesis for future experimentation: What really causes population decrease in Bluefin Tuna?

Chapter Executive Committee members Joel Weinstein and Leah Rose attended the Monterey County Science Fair, selected the scholarship recipient, and presented the award on behalf of the Chapter.

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The Ventana

Pebble Beach to go before Coastal Commission in June

Come to Santa Rosa June 13 to support the environment

The Coastal Commission will meet on June 13 in Santa Rosa to determine the fate of 18,000 trees slated to be cut down to make way for massive development at Pebble Beach. The Commission will decide whether or not to certify ballot Measure A approved in 2000. The Chapter is opposed to certification as parts of it are in violation of the Coastal Act for protection of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) and coastal wetlands. The PBC plan would be enormously destructive to the sensitive forest, dunes and coastline. Nestled in the largest existing remnant of rare native Monterey pine forest, this subdivision of luxury homes and commercial real estate is already encroaching on resident sensitive species.

The proposed development requires cutting down 18,000 trees to build a new 18-hole golf course, a total of 160 new suites, 33 residential lots, a golf driving range, 60 employee housing units, construction of new roads and trails, and the relocation of the equestrian facilities which alone will require cutting down over 1,000 Gowen Cypress, Coast Live Oak, and Bishop Pine trees. This project would be built in ESHA, an area with delineated wetlands and 19 species of special concern including 2 federally-listed endangered species. It also seeks to vacate the existing conservation easements which were conditions of previous project approvals. Vacating of existing easements should be especially troubling to the Coastal Commission, whose decisions must hold over time or they risk being completely undermined.

The Measure A 2000 was drafted by Pebble Beach lawyers to circumvent the Coastal Act which does not allow development in ESHA and coastal wetlands. TV ads at the time included Mr. Eastwood saying that this measure would "Save the Forest." There was a firestorm of criticism when the plan was revealed and was so destructive to our natural coastal resources. The voters were duped and knew it.

In March 2005, the Pebble Beach Company tried to bypass the Coastal Commission and asked the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to approve the project, which they did. This action wasn't legal, so the Board then had to vacate their approval in December, 2006.

The Chapter has hired the firm Tom N. Lippe of San Francisco to address our concerns at the hearing. There will be a meeting to inform local members of the details of the hearing. If you can attend, please contact Mark Massara for more details: mark.massara@sierraclub.org .

Hearing date and location:
June 13, Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa, 170 Railroad Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, (707) 284-1234.

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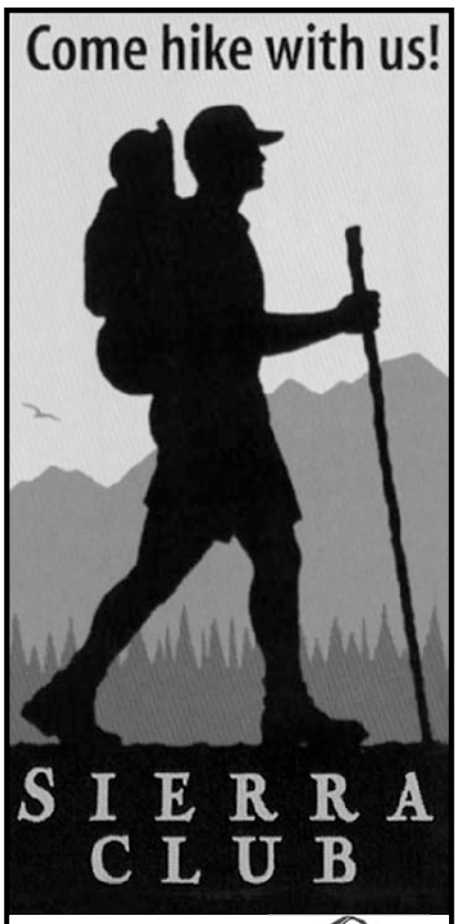

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Sierra Club Events

Come to Sacramento to lobby for the environment

Come join other Club members for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 26th and 27th. You will be part of a team that will help us in passing our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol. Be prepared for interaction with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staff.

Sunday afternoon will consist of training by our lobbying team about how to lobby. You will learn about the Club's priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams, with meetings scheduled from morning through the afternoon. We will focus on key remaining bills as the session winds down. The hot issues this year are global warming, alternative fuels, water supply, and reform of transportation and land use planning.

It's possible to have fun and save our environment at the same time! Past participants have found it to be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. We provide your lodging and food, and some reimbursement for travel.

For more information, contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide at:
lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org
or (916) 557-1100 ext. 107.

Spring & Summer, 2007

Channel Island Cruises
Visit the Channel Islands. Four- and five-day cruises. 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, CA 91732. For more info contact Joan at jholtzhln@aol.com, 626-443-0706. Website: www.truthaquatics.com/hiking. htm.

Water monitors needed

During the dry season, the Coastal Watershed Council will be monitoring storm drain outfalls in local cities. Bring out the detective in your inner self. Volunteers will test for common urban pollutants such as detergent, chlorine and ammonia-nitrogen as well as bacteria. The program runs from June until the first significant rain in the fall.

In past years volunteers have found chlorine leaks, cooking oil spills and major bacteria contributions flowing into the Monterey Bay. Help keep our Bay healthy. To volunteer in Capitola contact Tamara Myers, urbanwatch@coastalws.org or 464-9200. In Pacific Grove and Monterey contact Bridget Hoover, 883-9303, or bhoover@monitoringnetwork.org. For more info visit www.coastal-watershed.org.

Sunday - Monday, August 26-27

Lobby Day
Be part of a team helping to pass priority bills in Sacramento. Training will be held on Sunday. On Monday you call on legislators with other Club members. The hot issues are global warming, water supply, transportation reform and more. Food and lodging provided. To learn more contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide at lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or (916) 557-1100 ext. 107.

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.

Saturday - Sunday, June 9-10

Wildflower Show
Don't miss the 8th Annual Summer Wildlife Show at Garland Ranch Visitor Center from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. On Saturday, June 9, Rod Yeager will be giving a special powerpoint presentation. For more info call 372-3196 x3.

Saturday, July 21

Heritage Tree Walk
See Santa Cruz's grandest trees with the City arborist, Leslie Keedy. Meet at City Hall Courtyard, 809 Center St. at 9:00 a.m. Free.

Wednesday, September 5

Volunteer Training: Año Nuevo
Training begins on September 5 for volunteers who would like to lead guided tours of the reserve during the Elephant seal breeding season. For more info. call 650-879-2032.

Saturdays

Habitat restoration sponsored by California Native Plant Society
Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothes. 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.

June 2, Henry Cowell State Park
July 7, Sunset Beach State Park

Saturdays

Garland Ranch hikes
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 is at www.mprpd.org.

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Habitat restoration - Watsonville
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 snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106 for more info. No experience necessary.

FREE Composting Workshop

Learn how to make organic fertilizer in your own backyard! In this 2-hour workshop Master Composters will teach you how to compost food scraps and garden clippings. Backyard compost bins will be available at the workshop at a $20 discount for qualifying Santa Cruz County residents who register in advance. Call the Rotline for details: 423-HEAP (4327). All workshops below are from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Sat., Jun. 23, Master Gardeners Faire, Skypark, 361 Kings Village Rd., Scotts Valley

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.

Saturday, Jun. 23, Scarborough Gardens, 33 El Pueblo Rd, Scotts Valley.

Saturday, Aug. 25, Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

Sunday, Oct. 14, Quail Hollow County Park, 800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton

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$230,000 available for dune habitat in Marina

by Steve Zmak

The Monterey Dunes are a globally unique ecosystem that stretches from the mouth of the Pajaro River south to Monterey. It is home to many plant and animal species listed by federal and state agencies as threatened or endangered such as Smith's Blue Butterfly, Black Legless Lizard, and Monterey Spineflower. All of Marina's Coastal zone falls within this range, and historically there have been strong sentiments throughout the local community to protect, preserve and enjoy these natural treasurers. This strong local commitment to the natural habitat continues today.

In 1986, the City of Marina approved the development of two hotels along this unique coastal dune habitat. The Ventana Chapter contested this development in the Coastal Zone and reached a settlement with the City and two developers that created a trust fund for habitat protection, restoration, and improvements. The two hotels pay a transient occupancy tax (TOT) of $0.35 per occupied room per night into the fund. Since 1986, five more hotels have been built in Marina's Coastal Zone and also pay the TOT into the fund.

Additional provisions in the two settlement agreements seeded the Habitat Conservation Fund with $29,000, and established a task force to create the Marina Dunes Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment to guide use of the trust fund. The task force, comprised of more than 40 landowners, government officials, professional experts, community organizations, and local citizens, met 118 times over five years to create a draft of the plan in 1991. However due to the redirection of community attention to reuse of Fort Ord land, the Dunes Habitat Plan was never finalized or approved. Many of its components, however, were incorporated into the Fort Ord Reuse Authority's Habitat Conservation Plan and as amendments to Marina's Local Coastal Plan and Coastal Implementation Program.

Steve Zmak

The Monterey Dunes at Marina State Beach, home to a unique ecosystem that includes many threatened and endangered species, are enjoyed by visitors and locals alike.

Since the trust fund's creation, it has only been accessed once, about 15 years ago by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD), in the amount of $9,000, to implement a habitat restoration project and gateway for its Marina Dunes Preserve. While the seven hotels continue to pay the TOT into the fund quarterly, the fund, for the most part, has been forgotten. Ongoing attempts by the Park District in the past few years to gather information on the fund met with bureaucratic obstacles.

In the fall of 2006, the Ventana Chapter committed itself to reactivating the fund, and in April 2007 the City and Chapter came to an agreement. The City, Parks District, and Beach Garden Project are all currently working on projects to utilize the funds for improvements to Marina's Coastal Zone such as dune habitat restoration and better integration of Marina's six vernal ponds into the city's parks network. Use of the Habitat Conservation Fund must be mutually agreed upon by the City of Marina and the Ventana Chapter.

The cooperative spirit demonstrated by Tim Jensen (MPRPD), Joey Dorrell-Canepa (Beach Garden Project), Rita Dalessio and Steve Zmak (Ventana Chapter), Michael Stamp (Chapter attorney), Christi Di Iorio and Elizabeth Caraker (City of Marina), and Ken Buchert (City attorney) is a model for how conservation groups and municipalities can work together to achieve conservation goals.

Activists key to stopping liquid natural gas terminal

On May 18, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the BHP Billiton Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminal proposed off the coast of Oxnard and Malibu. This victory was due in large part to the perseverance of thousands of activists who waged a four-year battle against this air polluting project.

In April thousands of Sierra Club members and other environmental activists, wearing blue T-shirts emblazoned with "Terminate the Terminal" attended the State Lands Commission hearing where the project was voted down. Two of the three Commissioners—Lt. Governor John Garamendi and State Controller John Chiang—refused to certify the project and denied the corporation permission to build its undersea pipelines. Three days later the California Coastal Commission voted unanimously against the air polluting project. Due to a peculiarity in the law, the project still could have been approved had the Governor not vetoed it.

The terminal would have emitted more than 200 tons of air pollution per year. Representatives Henry Waxman and Lois Capps and Senator Barbara Boxer had initiated federal investigations into an unexplained EPA reversal granting the project an unjustified and unlawful exemption from the Clean Air Act. The cities of Oxnard, Malibu, and Port Hueneme all passed resolutions in opposition to the project as did the PTA and school districts in Oxnard.

Sierra Club members stood side by side with Latino groups, business leaders, union members, public officials, realtors, farm workers, community leaders and surfers in opposition to this project. There is an old saying that the only way to beat organized money is organized people. This tremendous victory is due to the tireless work of many against improbable odds.

Activists made a difference.

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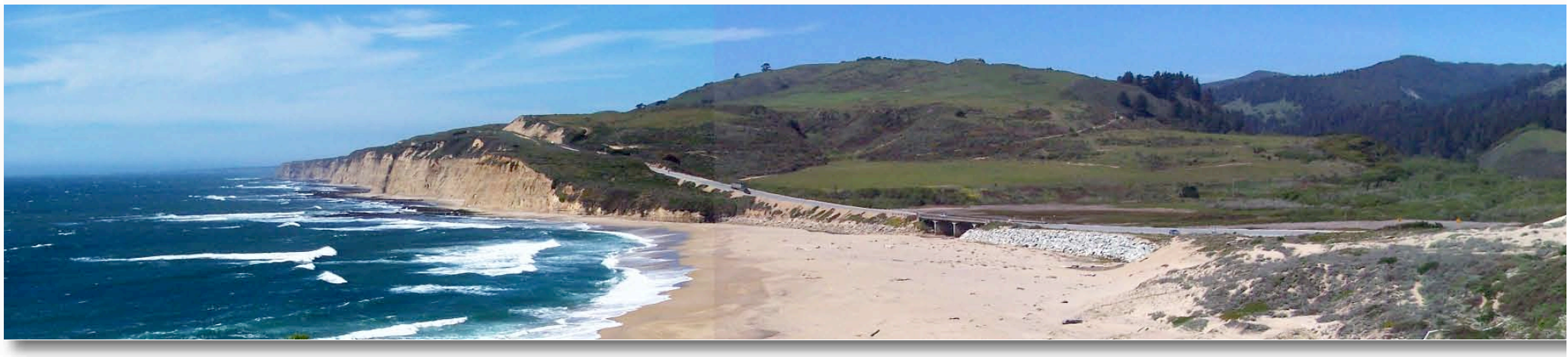
email:nanfactor@earthlink.net

Here's a highway project the Sierra Club c

Full span bridges needed over Waddell and Scotts Creeks



David Kossack

The constricting structure of the Highway 1 bridge stretches across the Scotts Creek valley like a cinched belt forcing the creek to artificially stay within a narrow channel and separating the once-connecte

The need to replace North Coast bridges presents opportunity fish habitat restoration

by David Kossack

More than five years ago, Caltrans identified the bridges on Highway 1 at Waddell and Scotts Creeks as needing replacement. These bridges were built almost 70 years ago. In their present configuration these bridges and their approaches constrict their estuaries and associated coastal lagoons. Thus the bridges impede the natural creek processes of meanders, summer sand bar and lagoon formation, and estuarine complexity.

The result has been bad for the fish. The endangered tidewater goby has disappeared from Waddell Creek. Anadromous fish such as endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout that migrate from the ocean up the creeks to reproduce, depend on coastal streams with healthy natural processes to survive.

The natural estuaries at the mouths of coastal creeks are important nurseries for young fish. The slow water habitat of the estuaries provides places for smolts to grow before they are mature enough to go out into the ocean. The estuaries also provide an opportunity for fish to adjust to salt water conditions before migrating out to sea. When bridge abutments are placed in the flood plain, as they are for the existing bridges at Waddell and Scotts Creeks, these critical estuaries are constricted. The creek is essentially channelized, producing fast water at times that scours out the channel and shoots the young fry into the ocean prematurely. Likewise, the constricted channel created by placing bridge abutments in the flood plain, interferes with the formation of summer sand bars and freshwater lagoons so necessary for the health and survival of juvenile salmonids.

The Waddell and Scotts Creek watersheds are habitat for Federally-listed endangered coho salmon, threatened steelhead trout, endangered California red-legged frogs and numerous other species native to the Santa Cruz Mountains. Despite their isolation from urbanization and the protection offered Waddell Creek by Big Basin Redwood State Park, anadromous fish populations in these watersheds have plunged to dangerously low levels.

The solution

Since both of these bridges have to be replaced anyway for structural reasons, they should be replaced by full-span bridges which would promote the restoration of these biologically-important watersheds and the fish that depend on them. Building structures in a flood plain is never a good idea. The existing bridges have been armored with rip rap in an attempt to protect their poor placement. To repeat this mistake that was made when the first bridges were built, by building replacement bridges with abutments in the flood plain, would be unthinkable. But that is what Caltrans is considering, despite the enactment of a law in 2005 that requires Caltrans to design stream crossings that do not present a barrier to anadromous fish passage.

At the present time Caltrans is narrowly interpreting "barriers to fish passage" simply as structures that prevent the movement of fish up or down stream. The damage to estuaries and coastal lagoons by bridge abutments in the flood plain are *cumulative barriers* to fish passage. This broader interpretation of the law (SB-857) recognizes the barriers to fish health and reproduction that the existing bridges pose.

Constructing full-span bridge replacements at Waddell and Scotts Creeks to address cumulative barriers to fish passage would provide a model that can be applied to other coastal estuaries suffering from poorly-designed bridges from the last century.

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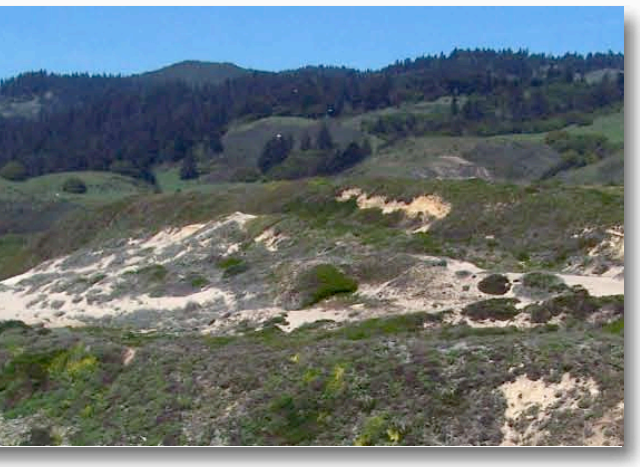
In this 1972 photo, oxbow ponds to the left of Waddell Cre process. However, the bridge structures have prevented ne of the 20th Century can be seen upstream of the present bri

can support



d lagoon and estuary.

for

ek indicate previous meanders. These ponds are now filled with sand and sediment, part of the natural w meanders resulting in loss of estuarine complexity. Remains of the County bridge built at the beginning dge completed in 1941.

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This aerial view of Scotts Creek in 2004 clearly shows the artificial levees which were constructed in 1939 isolating fresh and estuarine marshes from the stream and lagoon. The marsh on the right was excavated to provide the fill.

David Kossack

Armoring rip-rap betrays the vulnerability of the Scotts Creek bridge with its footings in the flood plain. Full span bridges would reduce maintenance costs of protecting against storm surges and rising sea levels.

How to help

- Let Caltrans know you want the replacement bridges for Waddell and Scotts Creeks to be full-span structures that do not impinge on the flood plain.
- Tell Caltrans that you agree with American Rivers, NOAA, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, California Trout, and the Sierra Club that the health of endangered coho and tidewater goby, threatened steelhead and other listed species balance any extra cost of full-span bridges.

Caltrans address: Rich Krumholz, District Director, Caltrans District 5, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, email: Rich_Krumholz@dot.ca.gov.

- Send a copy of your letter or email to David Kossack, P.O. Box 268, Davenport, CA 95017, email: dkossack@cruzio.com.

For more information call David Kossack, 427-3733.

Locals get wired on the Carrizo Plain

Derek Williams

Ari Warren of the Soquel High School Environmental Club makes life easier for pronghorns.

by Lynnelle Wing

Herds of Tule elk and pronghorn in San Luis Obispo County? That's what we saw when we went to the Carrizo Plain National Monument to help remove barbed wire on March 23. We went out of curiosity, since my husband Derek Williams and I had heard interesting things about this little-known monument.

We drove there Friday night and camped at an overlook to the Plain's huge, dry, salty Soda Lake. The next morning we awoke to a vast arid space filled with gently undulating hills. En route to the meeting place, we saw a herd of a dozen pronghorn 50 feet from the road. They looked regally African as we snapped photos. We met the fence-removing crew at the Visitors Center, the 16 of us—a motley crew—ranged in age from teenaged Ari Warren, of the Soquel High School Environmental Club, to spry 85-year-old Dick Bauman from Carmel.

Loading into vehicles we rumbled down dirt roads to the hills we'd rid of fences. Suddenly, the caravan came to a halt: 100 Tule elk needed to cross the road. The big brown animals ran tightly packed, spooked by the vehicles, flowing effortlessly over the hills to meet with a second band, then suddenly stopped, as if by signal. Then they calmly walked single-file over the hill, out of sight. We watched in awe, and laughed at the lone pronghorn that bounded after the elk.

We spent the rest of the day taking down nearly a mile of fence. It was easy enough to unhook the barbed wire from fence posts; the backbreaking part was carrying everything out. Most of our energy was spent walking up and down hills, hauling heavy metal posts and bristling rolls of barbed wire to the truck. By the end of the day we felt proud and pleasantly worn out.

Our work had been brightened by a refreshing breeze, cheerfully buzzing June bugs and meadowlarks, good bonhomie, and the wide open beauty of the place. We realized what a crucial job we were doing when we learned from Resource Specialist, Alice Koch, that pronghorn cannot jump over these fences.

The day ended with a potluck at the campsite, lots of food and drink, stories, and a campfire. We highly recommend volunteering to remove barbed wire fences at Carrizo for any one who wants to experience wide open spaces, wildlife, and doing the right thing!

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NEWSCLIPS

Trail Guides online

Trail Guides to the Los Padres National Forest and Ventana Wilderness are no longer being sold by the local Chapter. To order via internet visit www.rei.com. Click Books and Maps, then California, then enter "Los Padres" in their search window to get to the Trail Guide.

Artful idea

A group called Future Sea Level has been installing bathtub rings around San Francisco to mark how high the sea will rise with Global Warming. Partners in the art project include the Sierra Club, San Francisco Department of the Environment, Aquarium of the Bay, and Pier 39. Check out their website, www.future sealevel.org.

Hard labor

Ventana Wilderness Alliance have made repair of the Cone Peak trails a priority for 2007. To join in the fun contact David Knapp, daveknapp@ventana wild.org 805-226-7479.

Docents needed

Año Nuevo is looking for volunteers to lead guided tours during Elephant seal breeding season. Training begins September 5. Call 650-879-2032.

Matchmaker

The City of Santa Cruz will extend its participation in a web-based alternative commute program that facilitates carpool matching as well as offering monthly rewards for carpooling, biking, walking, and transit. So far 25% of city workers have subscribed. For more info see www.ridespring.com.

Stay of execution

In an April lawsuit settlement, the U.S. Forest Service agreed to abandon plans to allow 9 large timber sales in wild areas of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska and not to offer any new timber sales in Tongass roadless areas until a forest plan amendment is completed. The Tongass is home to the biggest timber subsidies in the nation with Americans paying about $45 million/year to subsidize logging mostly by building unneeded roads. The 17 million acres of the Tongass are home to old growth trees, wolves, bears, salmon, moose, and bald eagles. It is the world's largest temperate rainforest. The Club and other environmental organizations continue their fight to save this magnificent forest.

Corporate welfare

The cost to graze cattle on public lands has just dropped. In 2006 the government charged $1.56/month per cow-calf pair. For 2007 the charge is $1.35/month. That's less than it costs to feed a mouse! Unhappily, the real costs have been shifted to the American public. Unlike corporations, vacationing families get no such breaks. The Bush administration is in the process of raising entrance fees for most National Parks and monuments across the country.

To change address by email:
address.changes@sierraclub.org
Membership inquiries:
membership.services@sierraclub.org

2 buses + 12 hikers + 12 miles + 3 waterfalls = a good time!

Ventana staff photo

Outings leader Esperanza Hernandez prepares to board a Santa Cruz Metro bus at Waddell Beach for the ride back to Santa Cruz. In May 12 energetic hikers took the bus to Big Basin State Park headquarters then hiked the 12 miles to the ocean.

OUTINGS RATINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All outings begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling to and from the trailhead is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and the riders. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

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 outing, 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 2000' 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:

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

Albertson's / Bagel Bakery: South of Monterey on Hwy. 1. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn right at the light. Albertson's/ Bagel Bakery on the right.

Santa Cruz County Government Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean & Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the intersection.

Felton Faire: The shopping center at the junction of Graham Hill and Mt. Hermon Rds in Felton. 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 Ave. exit. Go toward the ocean on 41st Ave. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance near Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitold Road.

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.

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

In the interest 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 asumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

JUNE

Saturday, June 9
HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH

Enjoy spectacular ocean views and the Del Monte Forest on a 9-mile hike starting near Asilomar, then south along Spanish Bay to Bird Rock. We then go east by Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills Golf Course down thru S.F.B. Morse Reserve and out along the 17 Mile Dr. Bring water, lunch, and wear boots. Meet at the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

Saturday, June 9
HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK

8-mile hike with 1600' elevation gain starting from a new entrance to Butano from Gazos Creek Rd. 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.

Thursday, June 14
HIKE: GARZAS CANYON LOOP

Our 4-mile loop takes us up the Terrace Tr. then thru a secluded Redwood Cyn to Garzas Creek. We'll return by following the creek with its garden-like, rock-lined pools and two bridged crossings. Wildflowers. 800' elevation gain. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. or at the Garzas Cyn trailhead on E. Garzas Rd. at 10:20 a.m. Bring water and a snack or lunch. Call to confirm. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, June 12
SENIOR HIKE: BIG BASIN/SLIPPERY ROCK

A 5-mi. hike on the Skyline-to-Sea Trail down Slippery Rock to Sempervirens Falls & Sequoia Trail. Lunch at the top of Slippery Rock. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. To go direct, use the main entrance to Big Basin. Bring lunch, water, $5 carpool and share of entrance $. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Saturday, June 16
HIKE: PALO CORONA RANCH

Our exact route is yet to be determined, but wherever we go, it will be new and exciting for most of you. There are several options and you can expect 10 miles with 2000' elevation gain. Only room for 20 hikers, so make your reservation early. The hike will be based on pre-hike input from YOU. Call for reservations, mtg. place, etc. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Saturday, June 16
HIKE: BUTANO RIDGE

A 12-mile loop hike starting from the parking area in Portola Redwoods State Park. We'll hike the Portola State Park Road 0.8-mile to the park exit. There we'll enter Pescadero Creek County Park along the Portola Trail. 1-1/2 miles into this park we'll begin a 6-mile trek up 1600' along the Butano Ridge Loop Trail and down to the Old Haul Road. We'll return past many old-growth redwoods along the Shaw Flat and Pomponio Trails. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

NOTICE

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

Sunday, June 17
HIKE: CHINA CAMP TO TASSAJARA

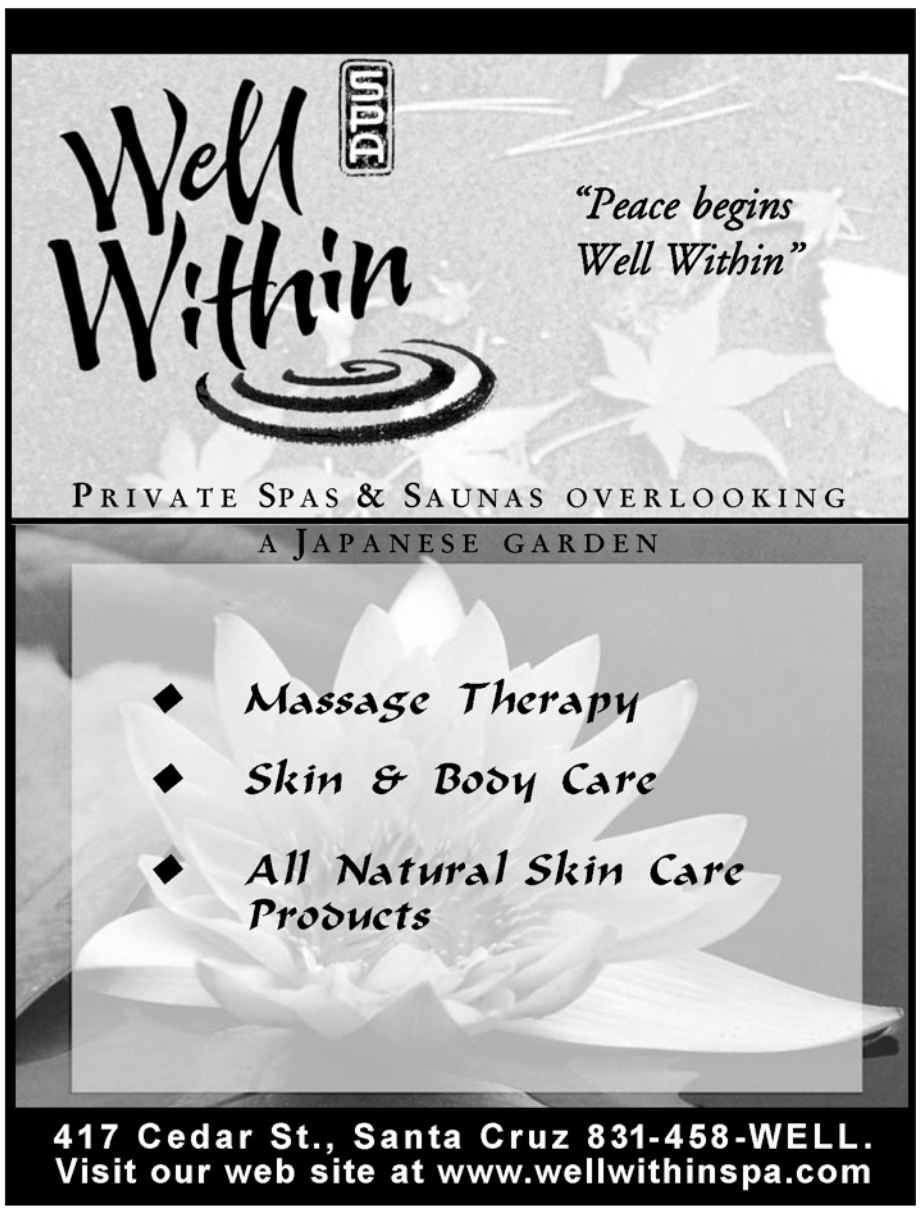
We'll start going up at the beginning of the Stone Ridge Trail next to China Camp, go down to the Church Creek Divide and on to Tassajara Road. We will benefit from the very hard work the VWA did on the trail. We'll see the unique caves that have been created by time, wind and water erosion. One wonders who and what has occupied these places. If we are able to get permission, we will also see petroglyphs. Bring water, plenty of food and $ for carpool. Car shuttle. For information call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Wednesday, June 20
SENIOR SAUNTER: ELKHORN SLOUGH

Please note this walk is ON A WEDNESDAY as the reserve is not open on Tuesdays. This coastal wetland is one of the few remaining marshes on the migratory flyway for birds. We will not have a docent, but our leader knows the trails and areas of interest. 4 miles with some moderate uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, call leader. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, $4 carpool and share of entrance $. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, June 23
WALK: POINT LOBOS

4-mile walk, starting from Hwy. 1, out and back to the Ichxenta Point grinding holes, then past Whaler's Cove, to the top of Whaler's Knoll and back via Lichen Trail. We hope to see wildflowers, wildlife and a beautiful scenic shoreline. Bring water, snack, and optional binoculars. Done about noon. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel Valley at 9:00 a.m. for a short carpool. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.



Saturday, June 23
HIKE: NISENE MARKS

We'll stay local and walk about 6 miles with 1100' elevation gain. We may see some orchids. Wear long pants; there is poison oak along the trail. Meet at 9:30 a.m. near the new construction for Home Depot on 41st Ave. to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, June 24
WALK: LIMEKILN CREEK

This hike involves a long but spectacular drive for a short but gorgeous walk. Way south of Big Sur, this park features strolls along both Hare Creek and Limekiln Creek under huge redwoods. We'll lunch near the old kilns, and gaze up from the beach at Cone Peak before heading back. Bring lunch, water, park entrance $, and plan on a long day. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, June 24
HIKE: PAT SPRINGS

A strenuous 14-mile hike with 2000' elevation gain into the backcountry of the Ventana Wilderness. We'll start at Botchers Gap, and will drink from the spring at Pat Springs. There are great views of the 'window' and other mountains along the ridge to Double Cone. Bring lunch, water, and wear boots. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel Valley at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, June 26
SENIOR HIKE: ROARING CAMP/COWELL

We'll walk from railroad cars, thru Roaring Camp to trails and climb to the top of Bear Mountain for lunch. Restroom available. Moderate 3 miles with some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Graham Hill Rd. to Roaring Camp. Drive past Roaring Camp entrance to Roaring Camp Dr. on your right to park. Bring water, lunch, $3 carpool. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

Thursday, June 28
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

We'll hike past a rustic log lodge, along a lovely creek with 8 bridged crossings, through a redwood forest, and then to spectacular vistas. The 4 1-2 mile loop has 900' elevation gain. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy the flora & fauna. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride on Rio Road at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call for a reservation; space is limited. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday - Wednesday, June 29 - July 4
BACKPACK: GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE

Backpack Escalante Grand Staircase, Coyote Gulch to Escalante River. Enjoy waterfalls and swimming. Hot season but pleasant along tree-lined creek in deep canyon of brilliant red rock and sheer walls. Shady areas frequent. Lots of wading. See lots of bright lights flashing after dark. 28 miles round trip with pack, additional day hiking. To reserve, send $20 made out to Sierra Club (refundable deposit) to David Hardy, Box 99, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, phone: 702-875-4549. Email: (preferred) hardyhikers@juno.com.

Saturday, June 30
SWIM/HIKE: ARROYO SECO

This outing has been called an amphibious hike. We start at the Arroyo Seco parking lot and hike about 3 miles to get into the water. We'll wade and walk upstream through several small waterfalls, then have to swim through deep ponds and the narrow gorge to reach the big waterfall. When we're lucky, we climb it and enjoy lunch further up in the sun. Only real good swimmers and energetic hikers are encouraged; kids over 12 with parents are welcome. Put your food in double plastic ziplock bags in an old rucksack. Wear tennis shoes or water sandals with toe protection and a bathing suit underneath your hiking outfit. A rubber mattress or floating device are nice to float downstream. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, a hat, and wear a white shirt in the water. Bring $ for car pool. Reserve the whole day. Call for reservation. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday, June 30
HIKE: EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

A 9-mile loop starting from the entrance on Star Hill Rd. We'll hike the El Corte De Madera Creek Tr. 3.6 miles to the main entrance near Skegg's Point on Skyline Blvd. Then, the Tafoni, Fir and Methusela Trails back to our starting point. Along the Tafoni Trail we'll take a side trip to a large sandstone formation with shallow caves and honeycomb depressions reminiscent of outcroppings at Castle Rock State Park, though it seems to be made of softer and more fragile material. Spectacular views to the sea. The canyons are filled with second-growth redwoods and Doug fir. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and $7 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

JULY

Sunday, July 1
HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

8 miles on a gorgeous beach, from the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge to Phil's restaurant in Moss Landing. After lunch at Phil's, we'll head back. No elevation gain. Please wear shorts or quick-drying long pants in case a wave catches you. Meet in the parking lot of the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge at 9:00 a.m. (Exit Hwy. 1, just south of Salinas River overpass, at Del Monte Blvd./Neponset Rd. Follow Neponset 1/2 mile west to the parking lot.) Leader: Eugene Sobka, 449-0873.

Saturday, July 7
HIKE: BIG BASIN

We'll experience a new acquisition by Sempervirens Fund and POST which is destined to be a significant addition to Big Basin. At press time the details were not available. Approximately 9 miles and 1600' elevation gain. 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.

Tuesday, July 10
SENIOR HIKE: COSTANO

A 4-mile hike above Costano Resort. We'll do Pampas Heaven Loop with lots of gradual uphill. Spectacular views. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen's, Mission & King Sts. To go direct, park in rear at General Store. Boots recommended. Bring lunch, water and $4 carpool. General Store has a deli for sandwiches, etc. Tick repellent recommended. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

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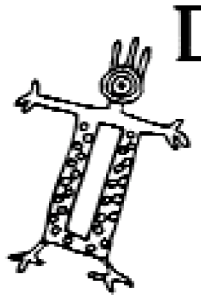
Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Protecting the Northern Santa Lucia

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

www.ventanawild.org

The DOWNWORKS



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Saturday, July14
HIKE: MEDICINE BUDDHA TO SAND PT

12-mile hike from the Medicine Buddha above Soquel. We'll follow Bates Cr. up the West Ridge and Hinckley Ridge to Sand Point Overlook in Nisene Marks State Park. Spectacular views of the Monterey Bay from the West Ridge and from Sand Point. 1300' elevation gain. No creek crossings. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. Bring plenty of water, lunch and $1 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Thursday, July 12
HIKE: POINT LOBOS

Our grand loop is along tree-clad headland trails with spectacular views. We're certain to see a variety of wildlife and wildflowers. 7 miles with little elevation gain. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy the environment. Bring water, lunch, and optional binoculars. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride on Rio Road in Carmel at 9:30 a.m. Call for a reservation; limit 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, July 13
HIKE: WEST MOLERA

We'll hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we descend via the Panorama Trail and Bluff Trail, with views of the ocean and Point Sur. 8 miles with 1200' elevation gain. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and a sweater or windbreaker as the ocean breeze can be cold even at this time of year. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, July 14
MARATHON HIKE: EAST TO WEST

This is the famous-infamous tremendously strenuous 24-mile hike with 3000' elevation gain, starting at China Camp on the Pine Ridge Tr. all the way to the Big Sur Ranger Station. A very early start is required, so if you are not an early bird, please don't call. Continual, all-day fast pace requiring a lot of energy, endurance, and physical strength. You must be able to handle hot weather. Once you have started, there is no return. A car shuttle will be arranged ahead of time. Call for more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, July 15
HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

Join us on this 5-mile loop hike with 1650' elevation gain. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a delightful redwood grove, then climb the steep, badly eroded trail up to grassy knolls for great views through the likely clearing fog for lunch. We'll descend Rocky Ridge with fine views all the way down. Boots necessary; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Albertson's at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Dwight Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, July 17
SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Shady 3-mile hike beginning at Marcel's Trail, cross the creek and view twisted redwood & hidden garden. Some moderate ups and downs. Lunch at George's picnic area. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, park at kiosk by park entrance. Bring lunch, water, tick repellent and $1 carpool and share of entrance $. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Thursday, July 19
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/GARZAS CYN

Our hike takes us up the Terrace Trail, through a Redwood Canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque bridged crossings. The loop is 4 miles with 800' elevation gain. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy the flora & fauna. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride on Rio Road in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. or at the Garzas Canyon trailhead on East Garzas Road at 10:20 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call for a reservation; limit 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, July 21
HIKE: POGONIP

A 7-mile hike in the Pogonip Open Space Preserve, located between the UCSC campus and Henry Cowell State Park. We'll visit lime kilns dating from 1849. We'll also visit the abandoned clubhouse, and a field that was once a golf course, built by Fred Swanton in 1911. Some steep trails, but an elevation gain of only 450'. Pogonip's habitat consists of oak woodland, second-growth redwoods, grasslands, chaparral, and a sycamore grove along the San Lorenzo River. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch and 1$ carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, July 21
WALK: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH

Come along 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, finishing at Asilomar. Bring water and a snack. Done about noon. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. at Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, July 22
OUTING: BIG SUR BEACH(ES)

Summer is beach time, so let's head down the coast and find a beach or two to bask on. We might check out Pfeiffer Beach and then stop at Garrapata Beach on our way back to town. They share the same ocean, but are quite different. We'll need hats, sunblock, windbreakers, fog lamps—in other words, be prepared for unpredictable weather! Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride at 10:00 a.m. with lunch, water, good walking shoes, and $ for entry fee at Pfeiffer. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, July 24
SENIOR HIKE: FALL CREEK

Shady 2-3 miles in redwood forest, partly along the creek. Some moderate uphill. Rocky in places. Lunch at limestone kilns. After lunch, we'll do another mile or so. No restrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Felton Faire. To go direct, park on Empire Grade lot up from Hwy. 9. Bring lunch, water, tick repellent and $3 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Thursday, July 26
HIKE: NISENE MARKS

This loop on the Loma Prieta Tr. takes us through a lovely, shaded redwood forest and along beautiful creeks with several crossings. The 900' elevation gain is spread over 8 miles. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy the flora & fauna. Meet in Seaside at the Home Depot parking lot near the gas station at 8:45 a.m. or in Aptos behind Dance Synergy at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Call for a reservation; limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, July 27
MOONLIGHT HIKE: PINNACLES

Hiking the Pinnacles by moonlight is a thrilling and unique experience. The volcanic rhyolites embedded with volcanic glass that form ruddy spires, multi-hued ramparts, talus caves and monoliths will evoke sensory impressions that will awaken emotions you had not felt before. You may feel you are on another planet. It is a serene, calming, peaceful, though bewildering and amazing feeling, therapeutic for the soul. The hike must be a quiet one. Bring a flashlight with a red cloth to cover the light, food, water, $ for carpool and wear comfortable shoes. For meeting place and time, call Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Getting to outings

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

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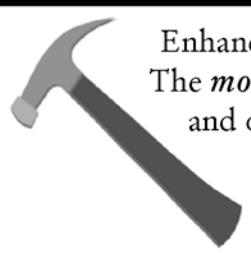

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Saturday, July 28
HIKE: JACKS PEAK

We'll walk around Jacks Peak clockwise, starting at the meeting place, the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near Monterey airport). A moderate 6-mile hike with less than 1000' elevation gain mostly in shaded areas with beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the school parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Confirm by calling Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, July 29
HIKE: TORO PARK

8 miles with 1000' elevation gain in a wonderful park close to town. Always a good workout with great views. Bring lunch and water; wear boots. Meet at Home Depot in Seaside (the 218 exit off Hwy. 1) at 9:00 a.m. or outside the park entrance (Hwy. 68 Portola exit) at 9:20 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, July 31
SENIOR SAUNTER: WILDER BLUFFS

We'll walk the bluffs from the parking lot to 4-mile beach. Easy, flat trail with great ocean views. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Shen's Gallery, King & Mission Sts. at 9:50 a.m. Restrooms. Bring lunch, water, $3 carpool and share of entrance $. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

AUGUST

Thursday, August 2
HIKE: JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS

This gorgeous 4 1/2 mile lollipop loop on the Ewoldson Trail with 1600' elevation gain follows McWay Creek through a dense coastal redwood forest with six bridged crossings. It eventually peaks at a spectacular overlook of the Big Sur coastline where we may spot condors. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water, lunch, optional binoculars. Meet at Black Bear Diner Park & Ride on Rio Road at 9:00 a.m. Call for a reservation; limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, August 4
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

We'll hike up through the shady redwood canyons to the high meadows just below Palo Corona Peak. After lunch we'll walk a short distance to the peak and then down Echo Ridge and back to our start. A fairly strenuous, but scenic 8-mile loop with 2000' elevation gain. Call for reservation and meeting time and place. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, August 5
WALK: HUCKLEBERRY HILL

Our 2-hour slow-poke walk meanders up and down steep jeep roads of the Presidio of Monterey. If it's a clear day, we'll have beautiful views of Pacific Grove, Monterey and Pebble Beach. Come to see Monterey's highest nature preserve, and if we guessed right, the huckleberries should be ripe for picking. So bring a baggie. Meet at Whole Foods at Del Monte Center side parking lot in Monterey at 10:00 a.m. Bring windbreaker, water, snack and wear good walking shoes. For more info, phone slow-poke Leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Sunday, August 5
HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

See July 1 for description and leader contact.

Thursday, August 9
HIKE: MILL CREEK REDWOOD PRESERVE

We'll hike 5-1/2 miles through a lovely forest gaining 250' feet to a viewpoint overlooking the coastal mountains and ocean. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Call for a reservation; space is limited. Meet at the Black Bear Diner Park & Ride on Rio Road in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, August 10
BIKE RIDE: PEBBLE BEACH

We'll ride along paved streets for about 15 miles, enjoying ocean scenery and stopping at viewpoints. About 2 hours. Bring a packed lunch to eat at the end of the ride in the leaders' back garden. Hosts will provide cups of English tea. Meet at 10:00 a.m. outside the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove (Hwy 68 and Asilomar Blvd.) with your bicycle and helmet. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, August 11
HIKE: VICENTE FLAT

We'll drive down the coast to Kirk Creek campground and car shuttle up Nacimiento Road to Cone Peak Road. Leaving our cars there, we'll hike to the trailhead of Vicente Flats, where we'll start our descent to Hwy. 1 through giant redwoods. Hopefully, the creek will still have water. Spectacular ocean views. We'll benefit from the recent hard work of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance. Bring a large lunch, water, $ for carpool. Wear good hiking shoes and have plenty of energy for the 12-mile hike, mainly downhill. Call for more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Sunday, August 12
WALK: 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 a short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of the animal life. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, August 12
HIKE: WEST MOLERA

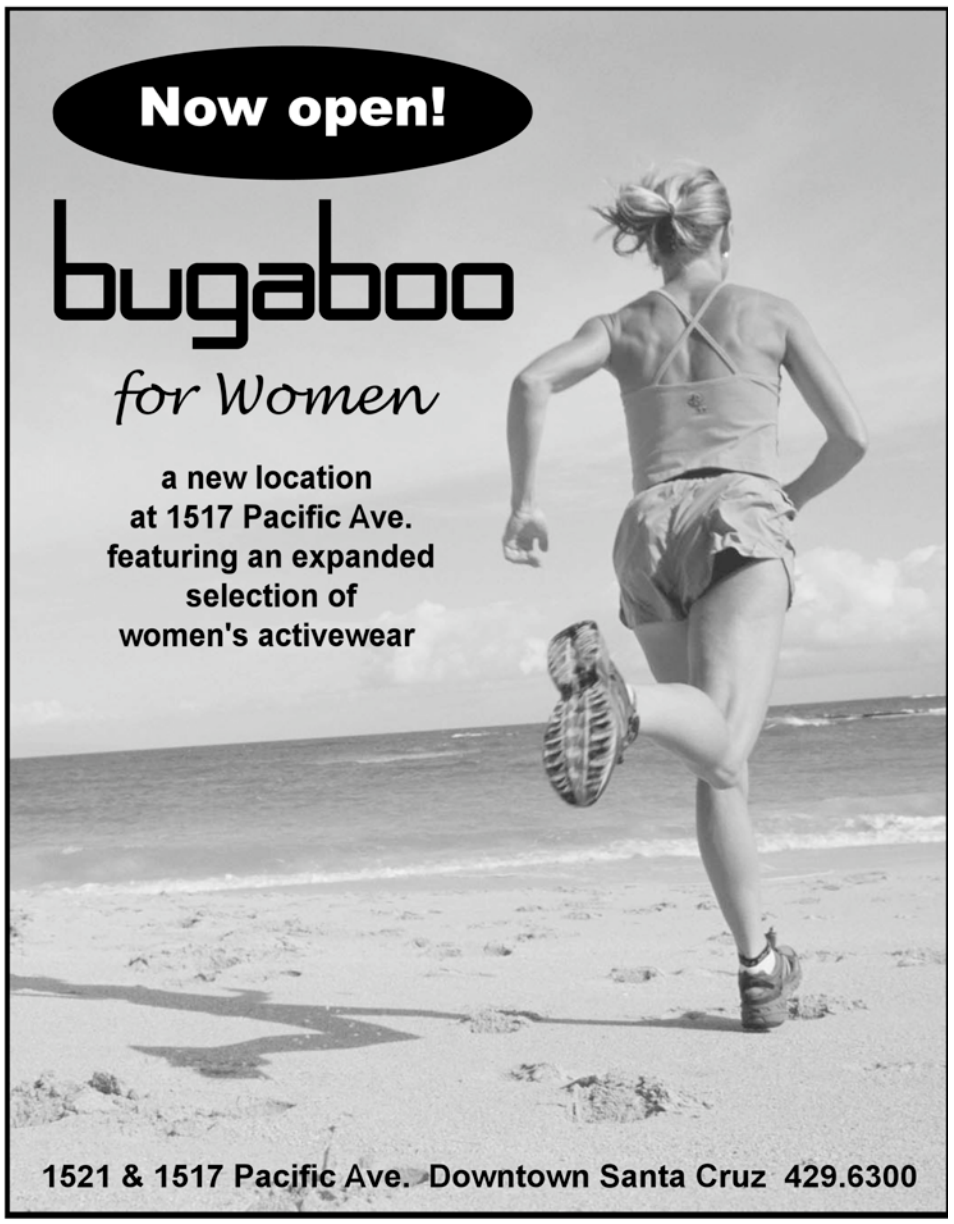
Let's do this great hike, passing through meadows, redwoods, chaparral and along the beach. Lunch at a beautiful secluded pocket beach with often dark purple sand at the south end of the park. 8 miles and 1000' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Wear boots. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel Valley at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, August 14
SENIOR HIKE: RINCON/UCSC

Easy to moderate 3-mile hike starts at the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9 approx. 2.2 mi. from Hwy. 1. We'll go thru one corner of Pogonip and up to UCSC along Fuel Break Rd. to Chinquapin Rd. for lunch in wooded area behind UCSC bldgs. Some uphill. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct to the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen 475-6188.

Saturday - Sunday, August 25 - 26
TAMARISK BASH IN DEATH VALLEY

Celebrate the end of summer by helping to remove invasive tamarisk from Surprise Canyon. Expect very warm weather, but the year-round stream will let us soak and cool as the spirit moves us. We will work Saturday with Marty Dickes, our coordinator from the BLM. Sunday we will hike up nearby Telescope Peak for long views and cooler weather above the desert. Enjoy car camping, a potluck dinner Saturday, and campfire stories. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Committee.



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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 website updates. No content editing needed. For more information contact George Jammal, george.jammal@ventana.sierraclub.org.

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

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	Steve Zmak	3200 Crescent Ave.	Marina, CA 93933	883-4459
	Leah Rose	P.O. Box 996	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	601-6477
	Heather Zissler	615 Lobos Ave. #B	Pac. Grove, CA 93950	541-337-7511
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	Gillian Taylor	52 La Rancheria	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-0298
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NC/NRCC Reps	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	706-4233
	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187
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Forestry Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697

Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter

Group Office: 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, next to 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), email: scscrg@cruzio.com

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	Charles Paulden	415 Palisades Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	462-3423
	Bojana Fazarinc	25401 Spanish Rnch Rd.	Los Gatos, CA 95033	408-353-5536
	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	427-2626
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MEETING SCHEDULE

Ventana Chaper (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.
July 21, at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-4453
Meeting Place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, Suite 11.

Executive Committee:
Wednesday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 11, at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:
Call Conservation Chair for meeting times and dates: 768-8187

Volume 46, Number 3, 2007

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The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Seal of approval for Marine Protected Areas

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The graceful Globe lily is sometimes called "fairy lantern." This one was spotted on the Big Basin to the Sea hike in May.

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