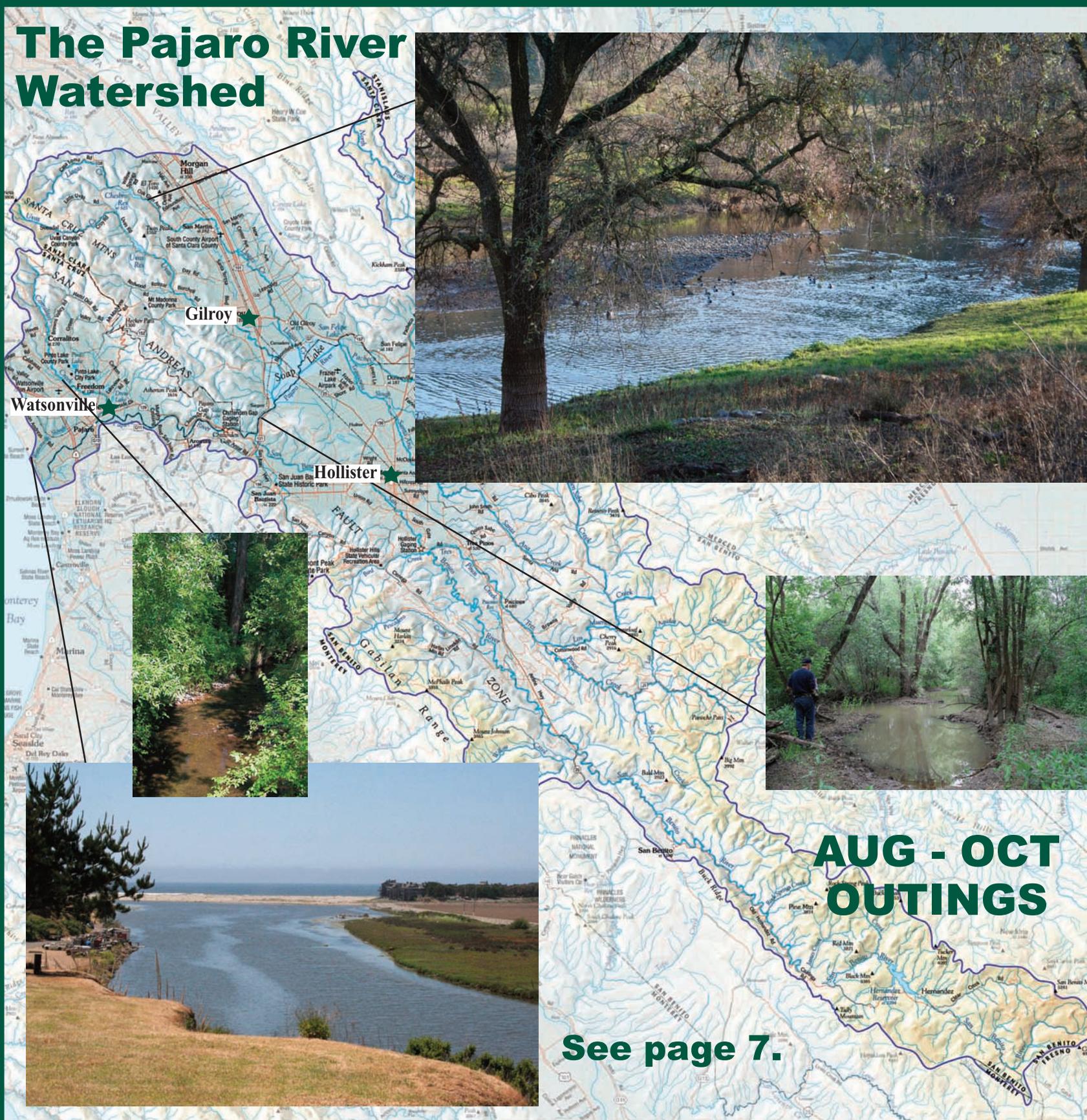


The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

The Pajaro River Watershed



AUG - OCT OUTINGS

See page 7.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

The Pajaro River watershed reaches from Monterey Bay to the Fresno County line



Map: People for Livable and Affordable Neighborhoods (PLAN). Photos: Lois Robin

FIRE!

While it is the intent of *The Ventana* to print articles that reflect the position of the Ventana Chapter, ideas expressed in *The Ventana* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Sierra Club. Articles, graphics, and photographs are copyrighted by the authors and artists and may be reprinted only with their permission.

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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Do not call editor! Send address changes to: address.changes@sierraclub.org or use the mail in coupon in each issue.

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Editors:

Debbie Bulger, dfbulger@cruzio.com, Virginia Draper, assistant editor

Production:

Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins, Dale Nutley

Writers:

Rita Dalessio, Debbie Bulger, Virginia Draper, Terry Hallock, Aliza Wasserman, Lois Robin

Photographers:

Lois Robin, Suzie Bulger Silverman, Jodi Frediani, Kevin Collins, Steve Zmak, Dick Simpson, Ed Gilbert, Ventana staff

Proofreaders

Charles Koester, Wolfgang Rosenberg, Robin Drury, Jeff Alford

Distribution:

Keith Wood, Esperanza Hernandez, Beth Lilienthal, Debbie Bulger

Advertising Sales:

Debbie Bulger

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Anonymous

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2008

Ventana Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#5	Sep. 15	Oct. 1
#6	Dec. 1	Dec. 17

Articles received after deadline may not be published

Eyewitness account of the Basin Complex Fire

I remember standing in the boutique at the Phoenix Shop in Big Sur on Saturday, June 21, when that big, dark cloud came over the coast. I was looking at the panorama of the coastline, thinking that nothing good could come of those horrible lightning bolts.

I saw one of the bolts strike the hillside, just beyond the first ridgeline, and it took only seconds for the first puff of smoke to materialize. I never dreamed that weeks later, that same little flicker would still be burning. The lightning bolt struck in the steepest terrain, in the most inaccessible spot on the coast.

The Nepenthe Restaurant webcam recorded much of the activity the first week, as the fire spread up and over the coast ridge and both north and south along the ridge top. Then it slowly approached Highway 1. It refused to be contained. On July 2 it jumped dozer lines on the Coast Ridge Road, quickly spread toward the village of Big Sur, and overtook Mount Manuel to the north.

Early on, Incident Command paid a visit to Big Creek Reserve where I live. The next day, the dozer command asked to be taken up Dolan Ridge, the northern perimeter of the Reserve to see if it was suitable for a containment line. It took all day to walk the line through poison oak and mature Ceanothus. A dozer commander and a Reserve staff member flagged the line with pink tape, almost up to Eagle Rock. The following day, the group went up to Eagle Rock, and flagged an escape route for the dozer operators. If the fire could not be contained at Dolan Ridge, it would burn for weeks more down the coast.

While the fire eventually did burn all the way to the line, it was held after several ferocious battles. The fire crew set several backfires to reinforce the line. Flames leaped 100 feet in the air around Eagle Rock. The fire even tried to sneak into the Reserve at the southeast corner, near Cone Peak, but, again, fire crews held the line.

It will be some time before the impact of the fire can be completely understood.

But simple things could be seen early on. The Barn Swallows that nest in the buildings at Whale Point had a hard time finding insects to eat as the air was filled with smoke and ash during the first week. The lack of insects also impacted the Funnel Spiders who count on catching insects in their webs. It was also hard to find any bees during this time. The good news is that the condors were almost all accounted for, and several visited the Reserve looking for food.

A chemical compound in the smoke will activate Ceanothus seeds, so that more of this shrub will grow in the fire area in the future. The fire will affect streams and rivers, whether the coming winter is wet or dry. If the winter produces a lot of rain, there may be mudslides. If it is dry, the rivers will be full of ash and sediment produced by the fire.

—Terry Hallock

FROM THE EDITOR

Milkweed magic

A miracle is unfolding in my front yard.

Last summer I purchased a packet of milkweed seeds at Natural Bridges State Park. I planted them in pots, and the seeds sprouted into little seedlings which I later planted in the front yard.

Nothing much happened that first year.



Suzie Bulger Silverman

Tiny caterpillars were chomping at the leaves.

This year the plants grew like the proverbial beanstalk. Stout stems shot skyward until the plants were more than four feet tall. They sprouted clusters of white and purple flowers. They were quite attractive.

One day in June I looked out my kitchen window and literally jumped with joy. There was a monarch fluttering around the milkweed. Was it true? If you plant milkweed will they come? Was that all I had to do? I was ecstatic.

Later, after the monarch had flown away, I went outside and examined the plants. There was something new, but I had to run to my computer to seek confirmation. Yes, they were eggs. There on

the undersides of many leaves were pin-head-sized white dots—monarch eggs!

Sure enough, a few days later instead of just eggs, there were tiny caterpillars chomping at the leaves. I counted at least 12. They kept munching and growing, but as the days passed, there were fewer and fewer.

When we left town for a few days over the Fourth of July, there were only two left. One fairly large and one much smaller. When we returned, there were none.

“Well, you did plant the milkweed near the birdfeeder,” my daughter observed.

It was true, but that’s where the sunny spot is in my tree-filled yard. Besides,

monarch caterpillars are supposed to be toxic to most vertebrates. Maybe what ate them was not a vertebrate. Or perhaps a young bird who learned a valuable lesson.

I too have learned some valuable lessons when it comes to habitat creation. It’s a little more complicated than I first thought. It’s also a numbers game. But I am persistent. I have purchased another packet of milkweed seeds. I will increase the size and variety of my milkweed patch.

Monarch habitat has decreased markedly. You too can give these exquisite insects a helping hand. Plant some milkweeds.

—Debbie Bulger

Correction

In our last issue the contact information for Save Our Carmel Neighborhood Coalition was incorrect. This coalition is concerned with proposed development on the former Carmel Convalescent Hospital site. The correct email address is NeighborCoalition@aol.com.

Sierra Club Endorses Obama for President

Joins United Steelworkers in call for clean energy future



With a giant wind turbine representing America's clean energy future as a backdrop, the Sierra Club and United Steelworkers jointly endorsed Barack Obama in July.

"We believe Senator Obama is the leader who will put America on the path to a clean energy economy that will create and keep millions of jobs, spur innovation and opportunity, make us a more secure nation, and help us solve global warming," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director.

Senator Obama's plan will help heal

America's economy and environment:

- Senator Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing climate change that relies on what the world's scientists have told us needs to be done. His plan includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- His plan requires the polluters pay for the global warming pollution they emit, invests the money generated from the credits polluters would have to buy into clean energy, green jobs and aid for

the lowest-income Americans affected by higher energy costs.

• His calls for 25% of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025, and for improving energy efficiency in the U.S. 50 percent by 2030 would create tens of thousands of jobs in growing industries while at the same time saving the amount Americans would have to spend on energy bills.

Barack Obama has said, "Change is an energy policy that puts a price on pollution and makes the oil companies invest their record profits in clean, renewable sources of energy that will create millions of new jobs and leave our children a safer planet."

A sample of other high points of Senator Obama's environmental platform:

- Opposes destructive oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on fragile coasts.
- Opposes the storage of nuclear waste at the Yucca Mountain repository being built in southern Nevada.
- Promises to restore environmental protections that the Bush administration rolled back by executive order.
- Calls for tougher pollution regulations on factory farms or concentrated animal-feeding operations (factory farms).
- Primary cosponsor of the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act, which aims to protect children from toxic lead poisoning.

Ocean View Plaza project hearing August 6-8

The California Coastal Commission will consider the Ocean View Plaza project August 6 to 8 in Oceanside, CA. This 92,000-square-foot mixed-use project with 45-foot tall buildings is proposed for Cannery Row between El Torito and the Chart House and reaching from the Recreation Trail to Monterey Bay.

Please write letters to the CCC opposing this project and supporting the staff report to: California Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Attn: Susan Craig.

For more information contact Barbara Bass Evans, bsb@evansmonterey.com or 372-8323.

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Chapter donates \$1,000 to help injured wildlife

Following the devastating effects on wildlife of the Indians and Basin fires in Big Sur and Los Padres National Forest, the Sierra Club Ventana Chapter donated \$1,000 to the not-for-profit SPCA Wildlife Center in Monterey. The SPCA operates the only full-service wildlife rehabilitation center in Monterey County.

Each year, the Wildlife Center admits over 2,000 animals for treatment and care. Injured mountain lions, bobcats, deer, opossum, hawks, owls, pelicans, squirrels, turtles, hummingbirds, swallows, and other species have all been treated by the SPCA.

Mid-summer is a busy time at the wildlife center because of the high numbers of baby birds that fall out of their nests or are injured in some other way. This year the early season and high number of acres burned by these massive fires could seriously impact local bird populations as well as other wildlife native to Monterey County.

Center staff members are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year, to respond to wildlife emergencies and provide transport and care to animals in distress. The Center acts as a nursery for hundreds of nestling birds and young orphaned mammals. It is staffed by trained professionals and many volunteers who donate their valuable time. For more information about the SPCA Wildlife Center go to their website, www.spcamc.com or call 831-373-2631.

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p. 15 or email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change. Please help the club by using the coupon on p. 15.

Thank you!

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, DC)
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 Antonia, Suite 206
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 277-9461
senator.maldonado@sen.ca.gov

State Senator Joe Simitian
State Capitol, 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 Rep. 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
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832; FAX: (831) 649-2935
assemblymember.Laird@assembly.ca.gov

PG&E invests in gas, nuclear, and hot air

by Aliza Wasserman

Electrical generation is the largest single source of carbon-dioxide emissions in the country. If we are going to stabilize our climate, the electrical industry needs to be a climate-stabilizing industry. So is PG&E doing what it needs to do to prevent global climate disruption?

PG&E's statistics on renewable energy and conservation compare well with other utilities—until you realize that they are no better than required by state law, and that in many policy areas PG&E campaigns against green energy laws.

Sources of power

Your toaster is being powered by nuclear energy and fossil fuel, unless you live off the grid or in the territory of a municipally-owned utility. Otherwise, your house—along with those of 14 million of your Northern California peers—is powered by PG&E's choice of energy mix (PG&E's projections for year-end 2008, as listed on bill inserts):

- natural gas 44%
- nuclear 22%
- large hydroelectric 17%
- coal 2%
- renewable 14% (currently 11%).

These renewables are to consist of: biomass and waste 4%, geothermal 4%, small hydroelectric 4%, wind 2%, solar <1%.

PG&E is indeed lower in coal and higher in renewables than most U.S. utilities. This portfolio, however, is largely a geographic and historical accident: California is a region with limited coal, but abundant hydropower (low in carbon emissions but with its own set of environmental problems). Solar and wind comprise a mere 1% and 2% respectively of PG&E's portfolio.

Furthermore, a recent study by Navigant Consulting concludes that many California cities can obtain 40% of their electricity from renewable energy without charging any more than PG&E. (Navigant has good credentials. It's the consultant hired both by Marin County and by Oakland, Emeryville, and Berkeley to prepare the business plans for their energy futures.) In that context, PG&E's projected 14% renewables for 2008 is unacceptably low.

PG&E moves forward only because it has to

Even with recent high-profile solar installations, PG&E is not meeting its legally-mandated minimum for renewable energy. The state requires all public utilities to increase their renewables by 1%

“Despite all the hoopla, in 2007 PG&E failed to meet the state minimum.”

each year until they reach the mandated minimum of 20% by 2010. Despite all the hoopla, in 2007 PG&E failed to meet the state minimum, and it admits that it may not make the 2010 target either.

PG&E is choosing to invest the bulk of its electricity-expansion funds in the Diablo nuclear plant and in bringing on board a new type of fossil fuel, liquefied natural gas. Simply put, this company is not positioning itself as a renewable-en-

ergy company but as a larger nuclear- and gas-power company.

PG&E has a better carbon footprint than most U.S. utilities and should be praised for its low dependence on coal and for being one of the first companies to endorse state and federal climate-change policies. This praise, however, should be considered in the context that PG&E's low-carbon footprint is largely due to its reliance on nuclear power, and its beneficial investments in renewables and efficiency are all mandated by state law, and not the company's voluntary initiative.

PG&E, which is being lauded around the country as a green leader, is projecting only 14% renewables for 2008—when at least 51% is possible.

For more information about PG&E and climate see:

www.LetsGreenWashThisCity.org.

Reprinted with permission from Sierra Club Yodeler, Jul-Aug 2008.

Aliza Wasserman is a co-founder of the Green Guerrillas Against Greenwash.

An Incinerator in Disguise?

Plasma arc facility proposed for Watsonville:

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors could move forward a proposed plasma arc facility at their August 12 meeting without requiring an Environmental Impact Report. The facility, proposed by a company called “adaptiveARC,” is being promoted by the company as a “waste to clean energy” technology and an alternative to landfills. AdaptiveARC has proposed to build the facility without charge as a demonstration project. If approved, this would be the very first of such facilities to be sited in the United States.

The proposal has evoked opposition from community and environmental groups who want the County to perform a full environmental review on this unproven technology. Groups which have called for an Environmental Impact Report include the Pajaro Valley Coalition for Environmental Justice, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, the National Resources Defense Council, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, and Sierra Club.

Encouraged by the County Public Works Department and the Board of Su-

pervisors, adaptiveARC has submitted a permit application to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District for an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate. County officials have expressed their intention to fast-track approval of the plasma arc facility without an Environmental Impact Report in the hope that it can begin operating later this year.

Despite the claims that this would be a “demonstration facility,” the adaptiveARC website reveals a three-phase plan that would lead to a large commercial waste facility at the proposed “Eco-Park” next to the landfill (and near an agricultural labor housing site and major high school). This facility could treat 400 tons per day of garbage and possibly sewage sludge including waste imported into Watsonville from outside the county. Phase three of the project would include more than doubling the size of the so-called demonstration plant by adding two plasma reactors and one additional gen set combustion engine (incinerator) operating as a full-scale commercial operation.

Although the company and county officials claim that the plasma technology is not an incinerator, in fact the process does

involve incineration. The plasma arc would use intense heat to gasify the garbage, creating a “syngas” that would then be burned in a diesel-fired internal combustion engine. The stage of burning the syngas is the incineration process that results in the emissions of some pollutants into the air. An EIR could determine the nature and toxicity of such emissions which could include dioxins.

Greenaction has researched plasma arc and gasification facilities around the world, and has documented problems with these technologies here in the U.S. and elsewhere. There have been only two commercial plasma arc facilities for waste treatment in the U.S., and both have had serious problems. More information about facilities, including the problem-plagued Hawaii Medical Vitrification facility in Honolulu and the closed Allied Technology Group facility in Richland, Washington, is available in a report titled “Incinerators in Disguise,” written by Greenaction and GAIA in 2006. To see these reports visit www.greenaction.org.

For more info visit www.greenaction.org, or call the Pajaro Valley Coalition for Environmental Justice, 726-6032.



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PG&E calls it

PG&E crews felled trees for hundreds of yards along Graham Hill Road in June. The pretense is power line clearance, but many cut trees were far outside the standard power line clearance distance.

Thirty-year-old Douglas firs were cut for no apparent reason. Tall trees were limbed up way above the power lines and branches cut off way below the lines. Why branches must be trimmed below the wires is a mystery.

"TRIMMING."



Kevin Collins

PG&E felled trees for hundreds of yards along Graham Hill Road.



Jodi Frediani

Tall trees were limbed way up.

What do you think?



Jodi Frediani

Thirty year old Douglas firs were cut for no apparent reason.

Please recycle this paper again

NEWSCLIPS

Scotts Valley bans polystyrene

The City of Scotts Valley has joined the ranks of local jurisdictions banning the use of Styrofoam for take-out food. Similar ordinances have already been passed by the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove, and the County of Santa Cruz. If your community has not yet adopted a ban on this problem plastic, talk to your City Councilmember or County Supervisor.

Marina fund growing

In June of 2007, *The Ventana* reported that the Club and City of Marina had come to an agreement to reactivate the Marina Protection, Conservation and Restoration Account (formerly known as the Marina Habitat Conservation Fund) in the amount of \$230,000. The Club's attorney, Michael Stamp, and the assistant city attorney, Ken Buchert, continued to investigate and found that the City owed the account an additional \$105,170 in interest. Now that the interest has been deposited and continues to accrue, applications are in the works to use the funds for coastal zone restoration. We'll keep you posted on future projects.

Become a docent

Año Nuevo is recruiting volunteers to receive comprehensive training as docent naturalists to lead guided walks through the Elephant Seal rookery during breeding season. Año Nuevo Reserve, located half an hour north of Santa Cruz on Hwy. 1, offers an uncommon and remarkable wildlife experience. Training begins September 3. For more information call 650-879-2032.

Santa may need a boat

If predictions of some polar scientists come true, there is a good chance Santa Claus may need a boat instead of a sleigh. There is a 50:50 chance that melting ice at the North Pole may reveal open water this summer.

Save gas

The Union of Concerned Scientists notes that dropping your speed from 75 mph to 55 mph (as was the law in the 1970s) will improve fuel efficiency by over 30%. It's more relaxing too.

Landfills and incinerators are retro

A report released in June, "Stop Trashing the Environment," concludes that incinerators and landfills have no place in our green economy. Preventing waste and strengthening recycling and composting is one of the most effective ways to combat global warming. To read the report visit www.stoptrashingtheclimate.org.

Sierra Club Events

Friday, August 8

Potluck & Slides: Indochina

Vilma Siebers will delight us with slides from her travels through Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought food (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 706-4233.

Sunday - Monday, August 10-11

Lobby Day

Come to Sacramento and work with other Sierra Club members to lobby legislators on our priority bills this session. See article below for details.

August and September

Channel Island trips

Join other Sierra Club members on 5-day trips to Channel Island National Park. Informal cruise with bunk and meals. Travel with ranger naturalist. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Club's political program in California. Cost is \$925. Dates are Aug. 23-27 and Sept. 13-17. All trips leave from Santa Barbara. To make a reservation send \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhln@aol.com.

Come to Sacramento to lobby lawmakers

Join Sierra Club for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 10-11. You will be part of a team to help pass our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol.

Sunday afternoon will consist of training by our lobbying team about how to lobby and learning about our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams. Hot issues this year are global warming, renewable energy, outdoor education, toxic chemicals, and reform of transportation and land use planning.

Have fun and save our environment at the same time! A co-pay of \$25 upon registration will be used toward your lodging and food; some travel reimbursement will also be provided.

For more info contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide, at 916-557-1100 x 107, lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org.



Steve Zimak

Friday, September 12

Potluck & Slides: Dalian

These slides are taken during George's various visits to Dalian, China over the past few years. They highlight the parks and beaches of this coastal city as well as trans-

portation and other aspect of life. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought food (minimum value \$5) makes great contributions too. For directions call George, 706-4233.

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.

Sunday, August 24

Land & Sea Cleanup

Kayak and land-based cleanup of Moss Landing Harbor and Elkhorn Slough from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help remove debris from this sensitive habitat. Parking fee. Bring a kayak if you can. Cleanup materials provided. Wear closed-toe shoes. Bring sunscreen and water. Register online at www.cleanbeachescoalition.org. Sponsored by Surfrider, Save Our Shores, Pelagic Shark Research Foundation and SeaLife Conservation.

Monterey Bay Chapter UN Association of the USA, City of Monterey, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, and Citizens for a Sustainable Monterey County.

FREE Wormshops

Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. Master composters will teach you everything you need to know. Pre-registration required. Free and below wholesale worm bins for residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz Co. and Scotts Valley. \$50 charge for residents of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Call 427-3452 to register. Sponsored by S.C. Co. Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

Friday - Sunday, September 26-28

Birding Festival

Enjoy the Monterey Bay Birding Festival. Activities at Wetlands of Watsonville Nature Center. Registration at Watsonville Civic Plaza. \$10/day or \$20 all three days. Additional cost for some events. See www.montereybaybirding.org.

Saturday, August 16, 1-3 p.m., Cabrillo College Horticulture Center, Greenhouse Classroom 5300, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Saturday, September 20, 1-3 p.m., Grey Bears Recycling Center, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz

Sunday, October 19, 1-3 p.m., Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, 800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton

Wednesday, October 1

Climate Change Talk

Reid Detchon, Executive Director of Energy and Climate, United Nations Foundation, Washington, D.C. and a panel of local leaders will discuss how we can respond to Climate Change. 7 p.m. FREE. Monterey Conference Center, 1 Portola Plaza, downtown Monterey. Presented by

Saturday, September 20

Sierra Club Banquet

Join club members from all over the country and enjoy award presentations and entertainment. Hotel 480, San Francisco, \$48. Open bar at 6, dinner at 7 p.m. For more information and to order tickets online: www.sierraclub.org/awards2008.

Friday, October 10

Potluck & Slides: Elephant Seals

Join us for this informative slide show to learn about the elephant seals who visit our coast from Nancy who is a volunteer naturalist at Año Nuevo State Reserve. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own washable plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home cooked meals or dessert, but store-bought food (minimum value \$5) makes great contributions too. For directions call Nancy, 423-5509.

Saturdays

Garland Ranch Hikes

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch every Saturday. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

Monterey CNPS

Habitat restoration

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Monterey Co. Wear layered work clothes. Bring water & snacks. Tools & gloves provided. Carpools meet at Rio Rd. Park and Ride. Rain or shine. Contact Jan Shriner, jshriner@mbay.net, 236-0905. Website: www.montereybaycnps.org.

Santa Cruz CNPS

Habitat restoration

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, redwdrn@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruzcnps.org.

Watershed view starting to take hold on the Pajaro River

by Lois Robin

Much like the effort required to turn around a supertanker, incremental work over the last seven years by the Sierra Club Pajaro River Watershed Committee has started to change views about the Pajaro River.

The latest contribution of the Committee is to set a vision before the community of how it can reconnect to the River. Recently the Watershed Committee raised money to hire a team of urban planners headed by Dr. Matt Kondolf, urban planner and hydrologist from U.C. Berkeley. Kondolf and his associate, Jennifer Natali have developed illustrations and plans for six sites along the lower Pajaro which would connect it to its communities. The Committee will take these maps and drawings to local organizations in order to inspire a new vision for this important local waterway.

Access points are sorely needed because downstream from Chittenden Gap there are few ways to get to the river despite the fact that people have the legal right to enjoy the river between the high water marks. Without access, the lower Pajaro no longer carries boaters or swimmers. Children and adults no longer line its banks to fish.

The River's slow decline

Years ago, Ohlone Indians living in the upper Pajaro River watershed paddled their tule rafts all the way to the river mouth, where they built bonfires and caught the grunion that came ashore. In the 1800s residents and tourists of the Pajaro Valley enjoyed carnivals and celebrations along the River as well as swimming, fishing and bathing.

Slowly, towns were built on the flood plains. In 1850 farmers built dikes to restrain winter flows from flooding their fields. In 1949, the Army Corps of Engineers straightened the River and replaced the dikes with levees. Sand and gravel mining in the upper watershed in the last 50 years have contributed to aggravated flooding. The 1949 levees are no longer effective.

After a section of the levee failed in 1995, the town of Pajaro was flooded. There was a hue and cry from growers and Pajaro residents and businesses demanding that something be done. Angry growers insisted on better maintenance of the "flood control channel" as they preferred to call the river. The Counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey responded by cutting the riparian corridor, leaving only one tree every 75 feet. With the corridor denuded of trees except in the Coastal Zone where the Coastal Commission in-

tervened, the rich colony of birds and other wildlife left.

Growers won a lawsuit against Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, which had to pay the growers \$60 million. This lawsuit revealed an inter-county and inter-agency coordination problem. Local legislators Henry Mello and Fred Keeley rose to the occasion and mustered the political will to create the four county Pajaro River Watershed Flood Protection Authority as a way to address the coordination gap.

Thinking has changed

After the flood, Representative Sam Farr was able to obtain reauthorization to rebuild the levees. But in the years since the Army Corps first began planning the project, river awareness and appreciation has changed partially due to the hard work of the Club's Pajaro River Watershed Committee which has attended countless public meetings, submitted testimony, and written letters.

A 2003 art exhibit used the voices of the community, including its schoolchildren, to raise awareness of the value of the Pajaro River. A 2003 study of sediment problems in the River, underwritten by a grant obtained by the Committee, resulted in recommendations by Phil Williams and Associates to remove sediment and set back the levees in places to restore parts of the flood plain. This work will be done by the Corps and paid for by the State.

In 2005, the Committee released the video *Stuck in the Mud: The Pajaro River in Peril* which was shown on Community Television and widely distributed in Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Clara Counties. The next year, 2006, the Pajaro was named #1 Most Endangered River in America by the organization American Rivers in response to an application filed by the Committee.

Nationally, the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina helped precipitate a reexamination by the Corps of its mission and policies. A new Watershed Study by the Corps presages a more balanced approach to the levee project with the possibility of more habitat and environmental benefit.

Levee funding elusive

All of this planning is vital and precedes the levee flood protection project of the Army Corps of Engineers. Each year the Corps works on plans for the River, only to be halted by lack of funds. The Pajaro is low on the national list for funding despite lobbying by local Flood Protection Authority officials. Eventually the Corps will present design alternatives for public consideration. It remains to be seen how the Corps will resolve conflicting priorities.

The Pajaro River Watershed Committee does not hold regular meetings but is open to participation. For more informa-

tion contact Lois Robin, 464-1184 or David Collier from the Loma Prieta Chapter, 408-847-3803.

County ups size of logging parcels from 5 to 40 acres

Santa Cruz County's increase in the minimum parcel size for a Timber Production Zone went into effect on July 1. Previously properties as small as 5 acres could be zoned for logging, creating many conflicts with nearby residential areas. The new minimum size for logging zoned parcels is now 40 acres.

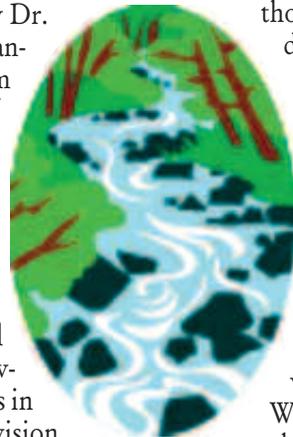
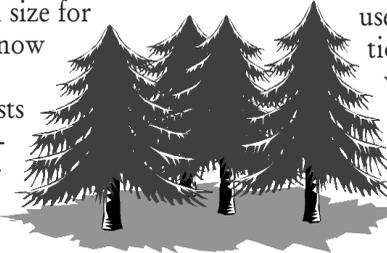
Local Sierra Club activists argued in favor of increasing the size of a timber production zone to 80 acres in order to minimize conflicts between residents and loggers. State law does not allow timber production minimums any larger than 80 acres.

Although the change was approved over a year ago at a hearing involving extensive public testimony, the Board granted a grace period that ended on December 31, 2007 for rezoning parcels less than 40 acres. As a result, 102 rezoning ap-

plications affecting around 2,850 acres of timberland in parcels from 5-40 acres were heard by the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Most were approved; a handful were denied due to incompatible uses. At least one application was withdrawn after vocal neighbors protested at a Planning Commission hearing.

Under state law, counties are required to rezone to timber production, on request, all parcels that meet minimum requirements. The only authority counties have is in setting the minimum parcel size for such rezoning and determining which uses are compatible with logging.

Supervisors Stone, Coonerty, Beautz, and Pirie voted to approve the 40 acre minimum.



CITY OF SANTA CRUZ FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS

- NOTICE -

Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Ordinance

Effective August 12, 2008

- Food providers within the City of Santa Cruz may not provide prepared food in any disposable food service ware that contains polystyrene foam (Styrofoam). *There are no exemptions allowing the use of polystyrene foam food service ware.*
- All food providers within the City of Santa Cruz utilizing disposable food service ware shall use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable products.
- Until such time that the City of Santa Cruz provides food providers with a municipal food scrap collection program, a blanket exemption is hereby granted allowing the use of plastic cutlery and lids.
- This ordinance is mandatory and fines will be levied for non-compliance. —CITY OF SANTA CRUZ ORDINANCE 6.48

A full copy of the ordinance is available on-line at:
the City of Santa Cruz home page. www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

Questions may be directed to
Chris Moran, Waste Reduction Manager 420-5424



Chapter and Group seeking Executive Committee Candidates

Do you know someone who would be a good candidate to serve on either the Chapter or the Group Executive Committee? These committees meet once a month to determine Chapter and Group policies and to take action on issues that affect our beautiful area. Typical tasks include reading EIRs, writing letters to government bodies, testifying before City Councils and County Supervisors, and on occasion recommending the Club take legal action.

To learn more, check out the Chapter website for election rules and timetable:

www.ventana.sierraclub.org. To volunteer to run or recommend someone you know call Mary Gale, 626-3565 (Monterey) or Aldo Giacchino, 460-1538 (Santa Cruz). Santa Cruz members are eligible to serve both in Monterey at the Chapter level or in Santa Cruz at the Group level. Monterey members are eligible to serve at the Chapter level.

Chapter Nominating Committee members are Joyce Stevens, Rod Mills, Lorri Lockwood, Gudrun Beck, Gillian Taylor, Margie Kay, and Bruce Delgado.

Getting close to nature is easy in Marina

Nearly 60 local residents attended a Sierra Club forum about Marina natural areas on June 14 at the Marina Library organized by Steve Zmak. Marina City Councilmember and California State Parks Designer Ken Gray gave a presentation about the new Fort Ord Dunes State Park. Former Marina City Council Member and Bureau of Land Management botanist Bruce Delgado spoke on the many activities and attractions on the 7,200 acres and 50 miles of trails on the Fort Ord Public Lands.

The newly-created Fort Ord Dunes State Park comprises four miles of coastline west of Hwy. 1 in Marina. This property, formerly part of the decommissioned Fort Ord, was used by the Army as a rifle range and for other mili-

tary purposes. The original white observation tower for the rifle range can still be seen from Hwy. 1 just north of the CSUMB exit and will be preserved as a historical landmark. Stilwell Hall and other structures have been removed, and plans are being developed for restoration and nurturing of native plants and eradication of invasive species such as the pervasive ice plant.

Although the park is not yet officially open to the public, there are three access points for those wanting a sneak preview: 1) through an opening in the fence off the Rec. Trail in Marina directly below the Hwy. 1 overpass of Del Monte Boulevard near the Reindollar Avenue intersection, 2) through a tunnel passing under Hwy. 1 at the corner of First Street and First Avenue near the District 4 County Supervisor's Office, and 3) through an opening in the fence off the Rec. Trail in Sand City. When the park is finally open, the entrance will be at the Eighth Street Overpass where there will be parking, trailheads, and a campground.

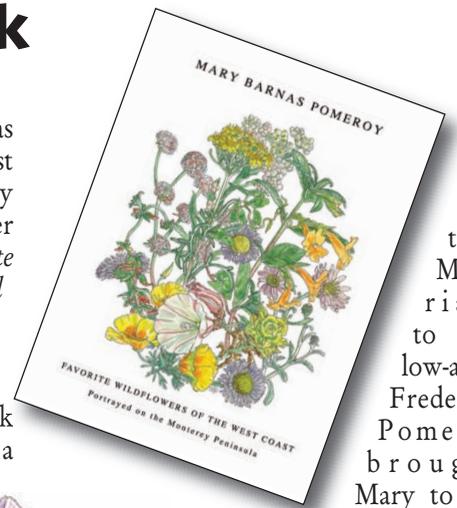
Bruce Delgado reminded the audience that the Fort Ord Public Lands adjacent to Marina are home to mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, deer, snakes, a variety of birds, and other species, not to mention profuse wildflowers. Delgado brought two gopher snakes and two black legless lizards giving attendees an up-close look.

For updates on Fort Ord Dunes State Park go to: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=580. For more information about BLM lands near Marina visit: www.fortordpubliclands.org/.

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Carmel Valley artist publishes wildflower book

Botanical illustrator Mary Barnas Pomeroy of Carmel Valley has just released a stunning book skillfully blending art and science in wildflower portraits of the Central Coast. *Favorite Wildflowers of the West Coast - Portrayed on the Monterey Peninsula* contains 64 full-size color plates of familiar flowers from our local trails and meadows. The illustrations are rendered in pen, ink and watercolor and are accompanied by a detailed description, including the common name, scientific name, where found, and time of year it blooms.



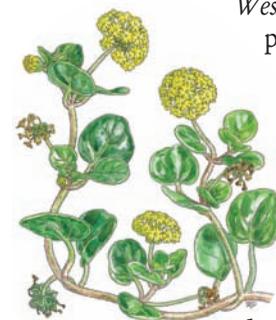
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Frederick
Pomeroy
brought
Mary to the
Monterey

Peninsula, and for the last 53 years, Carmel Valley has been her home.

Pomeroy's paintings have been shown in international exhibitions and are in the collections of the University of California, Berkeley, and the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



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Air Board develops draft plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Cap and trade plan included

by Virginia Draper

In June the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released the Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan designed to implement AB 32, the greenhouse gas reduction law. Passed in 2006, AB 32 requires the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. This is about a 10% reduction from today's levels and a 30% reduction from business-as-usual levels projected for 2020.

Calling the draft plan "balanced and comprehensive," Bill Magavern, Sierra Club California's Director, noted that it includes many ideas presented by Sierra Club activists in May. For instance, the plan calls on utilities to produce a third of their energy from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal by 2020. The draft plan also requires more efficient cars and trucks.

Most of the reductions would be supervised under an ambitious cap and trade program that targets four sectors: electricity, transportation, industry, and natural gas. Due to launch in 2012, this program will be developed in conjunction with the

Western Climate Initiative, comprised of seven states and three Canadian provinces, to create a regional carbon market.

The draft plan does not say how emissions allowances will be distributed. Mary Nichols, ARB Chair, says they are trying "to split the difference"—auctioning only a few allowances at first and giving away the rest, but auctioning more in future years. Sierra Club is opposed to giving away emission credits to polluters.

The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations (e.g., Union of Concerned Scientists, National Resources Defense Council, and Environment California) believe all allowances should be auctioned. They assert, "Allowances should be seen as a public asset, since they represent permission to use the atmosphere, which belongs to all of us, to dispose of pollution." Proceeds should be invested in highest-value solutions, such

as increasing energy efficiency in homes, commercial buildings, and vehicles.

Other principles for a well-designed

"Sierra Club is opposed to giving away emission credits to polluters."

cap and trade program are in the Cap and Auction Position paper: sierraclubcalifornia.org/globalwarming/html.

The final draft will go to the Air Resources Board in November and be adopted in January. From 2009-2011 all measures will be vetted and analyzed, with full public input, as the plan moves through the regulatory process. For information about hearings and other ways to give input, see the California Air Resources Board web site:

arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan. Information on Sierra Club California's activities related to implementation of AB 32 is at sierraclubcalifornia.org.

Timeline for greenhouse gas reduction measures

By Jan. 1, 2009 CARB adopts plan indicating how emission reductions will be achieved via regulations, market mechanisms (cap and trade programs) and other actions.

During 2009 CARB staff drafts rule language to implement its plan and holds a series of public workshops on each measure.

By Jan. 1, 2010 Early action measures take effect.

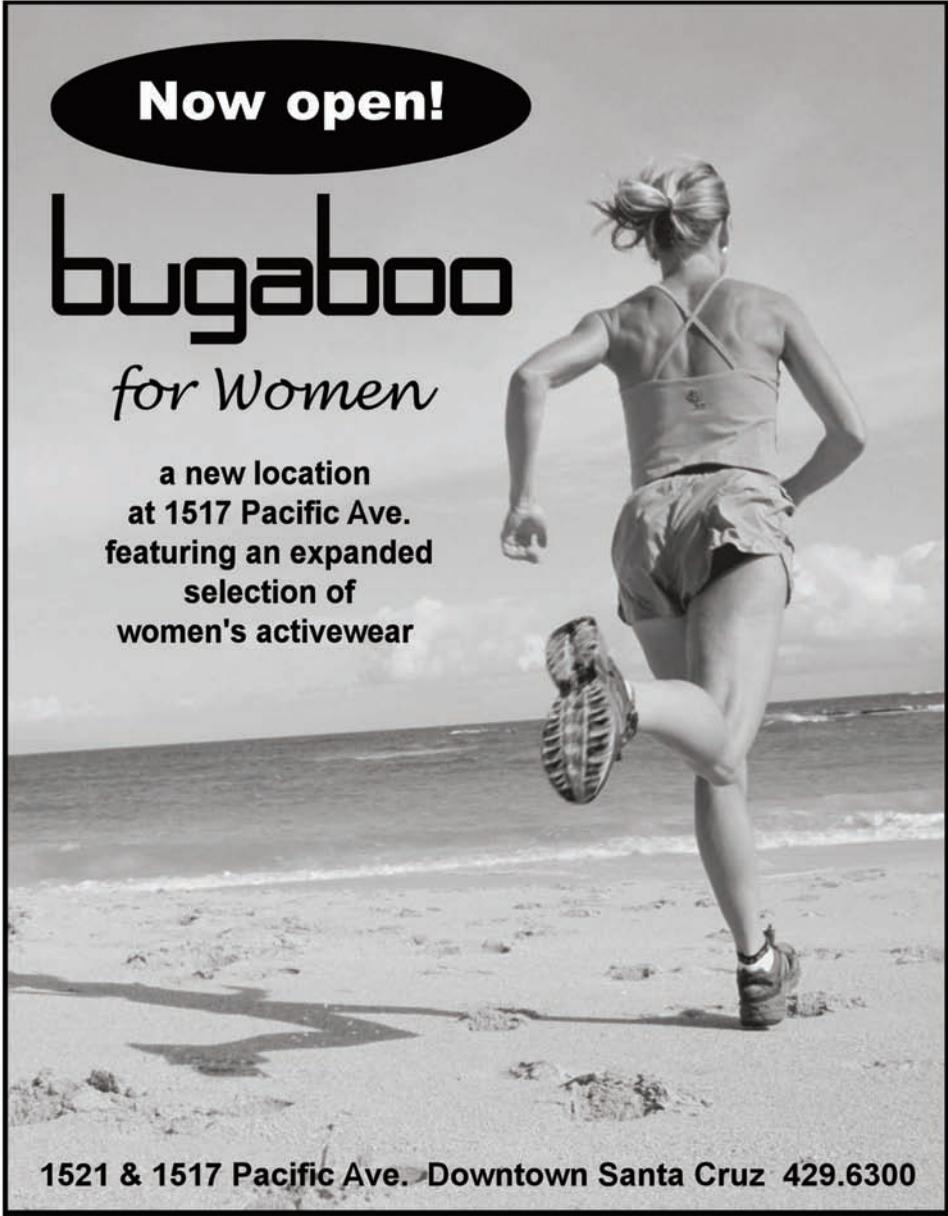
During 2010 CARB conducts series of rulemakings to adopt GHG regulations.

By Jan. 1, 2011 CARB completes major rulemakings for reducing GHGs. CARB may revise the rules and adopt new ones after 1/1/2011 in furtherance of the 2020 cap.

By Jan. 1, 2012 GHG rules and market mechanisms adopted by CARB take effect and are legally enforceable.

Dec. 31, 2020 Deadline for achieving 2020 GHG emissions cap (1990 levels).

By 2050, Reduce GHG to 80 percent below 1990 levels.



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Help prepare Sierra Club huts for winter

Have a fun weekend volunteering at one of the Club's backcountry huts in the Tahoe area. The Sierra Club owns and maintains four huts in the Lake Tahoe area for recreation. Each cabin provides rustic sleeping areas and has a wood stove and pit toilet. These cabins are used as crosscountry ski destinations by members and others. Reservations and payment for their use are made through the Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge.

During the fall, volunteer work parties stock firewood and perform other cleaning and maintenance chores. Each hut is a short backpack or dirt road drive during the fall. The crisp mountain air and the opportunity to take a short hike and enjoy fall colors reflected in a nearby lake at the end of the work day is a volunteer benefit. There is good company and the satisfaction of providing emergency shelter for skiers and snowshoers.

No experience is necessary; the only requirement is a healthy attitude toward manual labor. The Club provides food and tools; you need only bring gear for a simple overnight backpack trip. Contact the leader below if you want to volunteer. The huts exist only because of the generous contributions from their users and friends.

September 6-7, Benson Hut, Coordinator: Jim Gannon, 707-525-1052, jgannon99@sbcglobal.net.



Your editor at Bradley Hut in winter.

September 20-21, Peter Grubb Hut, Coordinator: Harvey Ceaser, 925-937-1406, ceaser3@juno.com.

September 27-28, Bradley Hut, Coordinators: Hal Tompkins & Joan Marshall, 650-364-8603, marshall_joan1234@yahoo.com, tompkins@slac.stanford.edu.

October 4-5, Ludlow Hut, Coordinator: Dick Simpson, 650-494-9272, rsimpson@magellan.stanford.edu.

October 11-12, Peter Grubb Hut, Coordinator: Joel Brody 510-531-6566, jbrody@sbcglobal.net.

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 is a general guideline. (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:

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

Save-Mart / Bagel Bakery: (formerly Albertson's) South of Monterey on Hwy. 1. One mile past Ocean Ave., turn L on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn R at the light. Save-Mart/ Bagel Bakery on the R.

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 Capitola Road.

MPC Parking lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn L and L again into the first parking lot—A. This is the site of the Thurs. Farmers Mkt. Plenty of parking with no fee on weekends.

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 assumes 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. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. To read it before choosing to participate on an outing go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/.



Notice

Due to uncertain fire situation this summer, we recommend you call the leader before outings. Some outings may be changed because trails are closed.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 10

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Let's enjoy a long and strenuous hike, about 10-12 miles, 1500' elevation gain. It should be mostly shady and cool. Bring enough water and lunch. Meet in Monterey/Seaside at Home Depot at 8:30 a.m. or in Aptos at the park entrance at 9:00 a.m. Call leader before for car shuttle arrangements. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, August 12

SENIOR WALK: LIGHTHOUSE FIELD/ NEARY LAGOON

3-mile walk from Lighthouse Field to Neary Lagoon to Santa Cruz Wharf. Bring lunch or eat at one of the Wharf's restaurants. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Lighthouse Field parking area at 9:50 a.m. \$2 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, August 12

HIKE: EWOLDSON TRAIL

This gorgeous 4-1/2 mile lollipop loop with 1,600' elevation gain follows McWay Creek through dense coastal redwood forest to a panoramic overlook of the Big Sur coastline. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride, Carmel. Call for reservation; if trail still closed, we'll do something similar. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, August 15

BIKE RIDE: PG TO MARINA

Let's explore the links in the trail through Monterey and Sand City and see how they connect with Rec. Trail and the Fort Ord bike path. Meet at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the Rec. Trail. Arrive with your bicycle in working condition with the tires properly inflated. Our route will be almost all on paved bike trails, with some streets at the Marina end and behind Costco in Sand City. Relatively flat ride with a few short,

sharp hills. Be prepared for headwinds and some congestion on the trail, especially around Fisherman's Wharf. 30 miles at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and lunch to eat at Lock Paddon Park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, August 16

HIKE: PESCADERO CREEK CO. PARK

An 11-1/2 mile hike through this 6500-acre redwood-forested watershed along one of the major creeks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We'll hike the Old Haul Road Trail and sections of the Pomponio, Bear Ridge, Canyon and Tarwater Loop Trails. See old-growth redwoods and deposits of tar in Tarwater creek. This is a reschedule of a hike canceled in May. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and \$6 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, August 16

MOONLIGHT HIKE: PINNACLES

We'll start with a potluck dinner at the campground and begin our hike around 6:00 p.m. Should still be warm enough to wear short sleeves for the entire hike. Pinnacles is a great place for a night hike given the unique geologic features and open sky making it easy to walk by moonlight. Not to be missed! \$5 fee for camping and pancake breakfast. Call for reservation early. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253 or Pinnacles@sbcglobal.net.



clair tappaan a lodge close to nature

Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere. See you on Donner Summit...



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

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: Home Depot Seaside

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p. 15 or email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change. Please help the club by using the coupon on p. 15.

Thank you!

OUTINGS

Sunday, August 17

WALK: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

How about a Saturday morning saunter from Carmel River Beach to Monastery Beach, returning via the bluff trail? Enjoy breathtaking views of Point Lobos and listen to the surf. 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes; dress for the weather, wind breaker recommended. Bring water and snack. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach at the lagoon (south end of Carmelo in Carmel). Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, August 19

SENIOR HIKE: RINCON TRAIL

This is a new hike from the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9 to the Pogonip. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

Tuesday, August 19

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

This 6-1/2 mile loop on the Bridge Creek Trail with 900' elevation gain takes us through a lovely redwood forest and along beautiful creeks with several crossings. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we leave at 8:45 a.m. sharp from gas station by Home Depot in Seaside. Leave from parking lot behind Aptos Sta-

tion at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, August 23

WALK: ELKHORN SLOUGH RESERVE

This slough was once the outflow point for the Central Valley's Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers to the Pacific Ocean (the western Sierra Nevada watershed) before the San Andreas Fault broke the Golden Gate geologic ridge a long time ago. 5-6 miles with 500' elevation gain. \$2.50/ person entrance fee + carpool contribution. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hwy. 1 Mar Monte exit to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, August 24

HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

We'll hike 4 miles south from the pristine Salinas River State Beach to the mouth of the river in the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge. After a short break, we'll hike back for an optional lunch at Phil's in Moss Landing. Excellent opportunities to view shorebirds and marine mammals. From Hwy. 1, take Moss Landing Rd. to Sandholdt Rd. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the left, after crossing the bridge. (Do not take Potrero Rd. to the wrong parking lot!) 8 miles with no elevation gain. Leader: Eugene Sobka, 449-0873.

Tuesday, August 26

SENIOR WALK: POT BELLY BEACH

Leader will take us along the back way down to the beach past museum and Cement Ship. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 to Park Ave. exit, right at stop sign to Kennedy. Park on street. Bring lunch, water, \$1 carpool. Restrooms available. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Tuesday, August 26

HIKE: MILL CREEK

This 5-1/2 mile in-& out hike with 250' elevation gain takes us along a beautifully-terraced trail to a spectacular coastal overlook. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride, Carmel. Call for reservation; If trail closed, we'll do something similar. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, August 30

HIKE: BIG BASIN

From Big Basin Park Hdqrs., we'll go up Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail to East Ridge Trail and back with lunch at Sky Meadow. 8 miles with 600' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water. Wear good hiking boots. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m., at Felton Faire at 10:00 a.m., or at Park Hdqrs. at 11:00 a.m. Leader: George Jammal, 706-4233.

Sunday, August 31

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

This is a 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a verdant redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for great views at lunch. We'll descend Rocky Ridge with more fine views. Boots recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Call for reservation. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 2

HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

Our 4-1/2 mile loop with 900' elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday - Saturday, September 3 - 6

BACKPACK: YOSEMITE

Visit the Cathedral Lakes region, among the most sublime high-country areas in the park. This 3-night, basecamp outing is suitable for first timers as well as experienced backpackers. Individual commissary. Contact me for details. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908, or djgoehring@yahoo.com.

Saturday, September 6

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

6 miles with car-shuttle from Cabrillo College to the Safeway in Aptos. We'll take the Scout Trail up over the ridge to the Aptos Creek Fire Road then follow the Split-Stuff, Vienna Woods, Terrace and Oak Ridge Trails to the Old-Growth Loop Trail in the Marcell's Forest section of the park. View the fascinating Twisted Grove, and the grove with the largest old-growth redwoods in the park. We end with a trek along the Aptos Rancho Trail past a gorgeous vertical fern grove. One shallow, unbridged creek crossing. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and \$1 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, September 6

HIKE: FORT ORD DUNES

Let's explore the new State Park, Fort Ord Dunes. Hopefully it will have opened. There is a short boardwalk up to the dunes, several level old roads or trails parallel to the highway, and dunes down to the ocean. 6-mile loop. Walking through the sand may be strenuous but a lot of fun. Bring water, lunch, binoculars for bird watching. Meet at Seaside Home Depot at 9:00 a.m. Definitely call before. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, September 9

SENIOR HIKE: CABRILLO COLLEGE

This is a new hike. About 3 miles with uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Bring lunch, water, \$1 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

Tuesday, September 9

HIKE: GLEN DEVEN

Our 7-mile hike with 800' elevation gain takes us into a lovely canyon and along redwood-lined Garrapata Creek. After lunch, we'll explore the ranch house, a writer's studio, and then hike out onto a ridge for spectacular views. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park &



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OUTINGS

Ride. Call for reservation. Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Sunday, September 14
HIKE: POGONIP

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

Sunday, September 14
HIKE: PALO CORONA RANCH

Rescheduling the July 6 hike, we'll hike up and down ranch roads and arrive, via one route or another, at the Corona Cabin for lunch. Hopefully none of the ranch will have burned, and we'll have the usual splendid views of the Santa Lucia foothills. Be prepared for 10-12 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Call for reservation and other information. Leader: Larry Parrish: 622-7455.

Sunday, September 14
WALK: ASILOMAR-PEBBLE BEACH

A 4-mile loop starting on neighborhood streets and then thru dunes out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Beach wildflowers, possible wildlife to be seen. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. and Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Back about noon. Bring water and a snack. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, September 16
SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS

Leader's favorite place. Park at Whaler's Cove, and hike the North Shore Trail, Allen Cypress Grove, Sand Hill Trail to Piney Woods for lunch. About 3 miles on good trails with some moderate uphill. Heavy poison oak. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Whaler's Cove about 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$6 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, September 16
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

This 4-1/2 mile loop with 900' elevation gain has 8 bridged creek crossings, a redwood forest and spectacular views. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, September 20
HIKE: QUAIL HOLLOW/ LOCH LOMOND

A 7-mile combination hike including a 3-1/2 mile trek through Quail Hollow Ranch Park and a 3-1/2 mile trek through Loch Lomond Reservoir Park. Quail Hollow, with its sandy and rocky terrain, has views of Ponderosa Pine (rare relics of cooler and moister times), second-growth redwoods, and mature dwarf redwoods that grow only 18-20 feet high. After a moderate shuttle to Loch Lomond, with its gorgeous reservoir, we'll hike through a mixed second-growth redwood, madrone and oak forest and along the reservoir banks. Bring plenty of water, lunch, \$4 carpool, and share of entry fees. Meet at Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, September 20
WALK: POINT LOBOS

We'll start this 4-mile hike around beautiful Point Lobos at the highway, to Whaler's Cove, out to the Pit and back, to the top of Whaler's Knoll, and return via Lace Lichen trail. There are usually wildflowers still out and some wildlife to see. Meet at SaveMart on Carmel Rancho Blvd. at 9:00 a.m. for a short carpool. Bring snack, water, and optional binoculars for close-ups of animals. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, September 21
HIKE: BIG BASIN

Time for the "Sea to Tree trail" again. We'll take the bus from downtown Santa Cruz to park headquarters. Always a great, mostly downhill hike to the sea, through the redwoods to the waterfalls. 14 miles. Meet at the Metro Center at 8:20 a.m. Must have exact fare for bus. Call for more details. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, September 23
SENIOR HIKE: WADDELL/BIG BASIN

5 miles on tree-lined dirt roads. Sun & shade. Some uphill. We'll take the Marsh Trail to Na-

ture Center for lunch. Prepare for sun, heat, dust, fog, or wind. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen's (Mission & King). Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Tuesday, September 23
HIKE: POINT LOBOS

Our 6-mile grand loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along tree-clad headland trails with magnificent views. We're certain to see a variety of wildlife & wildflowers. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for reservation; if trail closed, we'll do something similar. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, September 27
HIKE: BIG BASIN

Sempervirens Fund is currently pursuing an acquisition which will allow us access the Chalks Trail fire road north of Chalk Mtn. to the most remote areas of Big Basin SP up to the former Sandy Point Fire Station at the top of Gazos Creek Rd. 7 miles with 1100' elevation gain. Some uphill off-trail scrambling, which means boots, long pants, and a hiking stick (optional).



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Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

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Getting to outings

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



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OUTINGS

If that hike is not possible, we'll walk up to Chalk Mtn. from Whitehouse Canyon Rd. (same distance, 1300' uphill). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick to find out status. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday - Sunday, September 27 - 28
SERVICE TRIP: CARRIZO PLAIN

Your opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday is National Public Lands

Day and we'll assist monument staff and join with other volunteers working on improvements for the Selby Campground. Sunday is for recreation. Our group will plan a moderate hike in the Caliente Mountains. The views are spectacular, and the monument is known for its number and variety of raptors. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, 310-477-6670, deutsche@earthlink.net.

Sunday, September 28
HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

See August 24 for details. Leader: Eugene Sobka, 449-0873.

Tuesday, September 30
SENIOR HIKE: RINCON/UCSC

3 miles starting at the Rincon parking area on Hwy. 9, through one corner of Pogonip and up onto UCSC along Fuel Break Rd. to Chinquapin Rd. Lunch in wooded area by dorms. Lots of uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct to Rincon parking area. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

Tuesday, September 30
HIKE: TAN BARK TRAIL

Our strenuous 8-mile in-and-out hike with 2000' elevation gain parallels Partington Creek, then through redwoods to the Tin House. Moderate pace with stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Lunch with spectacular views of the Big Sur Coast. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for reservation; if trail closed after the fire, we'll do something similar. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 4
HIKE: EL CORTE DE MADERA PRESERVE

A 9-mile loop starting from the entrance park-



Ed Gilbert

Saturday, 6/14/08, on Long Ridge Open Space hike led by Ed. Gilbert. From left to right, Front: Mari Tustin and Denise Levin. Rear: Wayne Fourney, Marie Becker, Tony Ornellas, Michele VanHentenryk, Bernd Riechelmann, and Daniel Seltz.

ing area on Star Hill Road. We'll hike the El Corte De Madera Creek Trail 3.6 miles to the main entrance near Skegg's Point on Skyline Blvd. Then the Tafoni, Fir, and Methusela Trails back to our start. 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 along the ridge top and near the creek headwaters. The canyons are filled with second-growth redwoods and Douglas fir. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and \$8 carpool. Leader: Ed Gilbert, 685-8389.

Saturday, October 4
HIKE: SOQUEL DEMO FOREST

This large forest is situated north and above Nisene Marks. Strenuous 10-mile loop with 1500' elevation gain on forest roads and trails, mostly shaded, shared with mountain bikers. Bring water and lunch, snacks for breaks. Meet in Seaside at Home Depot at 8:30 a.m. or at the Corralitos Meat Market at 9:15 a.m. Definitely call before. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, October 5
HIKE: LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Depending on the extent of the recent forest

fires in our National Forest, we'll hike somewhere in the northern sections of Los Padres. Either Devil's Peak, Danish Creek, Big Pines, or Bluff Camp. Expect 8-12 miles and 2000' elevation gain. Please call within a week of this hike to confirm the location, meeting time & place, etc. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, October 7
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

6-mile hike with little elevation gain along Williams Creek through a serene redwood forest. We'll see a nice variety of ferns and flowers. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, we leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, October 10
BIKE RIDE: PEBBLE BEACH

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

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Chapter Executive Committee

Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
Treasurer	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
Other Members	Julie Engell	15040 Charter Oak Blvd.	Prunedale, CA 93907	633-8709
	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	706-4233
	Beverly Bean	39 Calera Cyn Rd.	Salinas, CA 93908	484-2451
	Steve Zmak	3200 Crescent Ave.	Marina, CA 93933	883-4459
	Heather Zissler	615 Lobos Ave. #B	Pac. Grove, CA 93950	541-337-7511
	Eva Haase	842 Pine Ave., Apt. 3	Pac. Grove, CA 93950	541-510-0309
Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565

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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	Mike Splain	P.O. Box 66882,	Scotts Valley, CA 95067	359-2489
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	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
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	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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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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	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556

Forestry Chair

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

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	Charles Paulden	415 Palisades Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	462-3423
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	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	427-2626
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	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187

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MEETING SCHEDULE

<p><u>Ventana Chaper (Monterey Co.)</u></p> <p>Information: 624-8032</p> <p>Executive Committee: Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: As needed. For dates and times call 655-8586</p>	<p><u>Santa Cruz Regional Group</u></p> <p>Information: 426-4453 Meeting Place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, Suite 11.</p> <p>Executive Committee: Wednesday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: Call Conservation Chair for meeting times and dates: 768-8187</p>
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The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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OUTINGS**

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Crimson Columbine

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA
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Columbine means "dovelike" in Latin. The columbine flower is said to resemble a group of five pigeons. The scientific name is *Aquilegia*, (*Aquila* means eagle.) Some feel the flower looks like an eagle's talon.



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