

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



Ventana staff photo



**Trouble in
Davenport**

**New State
Wilderness**

**DEC, JAN,
FEB
OUTINGS**

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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.

POSTAL NOTICE

The Ventana (015057) is published 6 times a year, (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Dec.) paid by subscription included in membership fee, by The Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, 1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Periodical postage paid Santa Cruz, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Sierra Club, *The Ventana*, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604.

Editors:

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

Production:

Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins,
Dale Nutley

Writers:

Rita Dalessio, Debbie Bulger, Laurel Hopwood,
Virginia Draper, Mari & Klaus Kloeppel,
Jim Metropulos, Kristen Raugust
Jodi Frediani, Gillian Taylor

Photographers:

Peter Selig, Jodi Frediani, Steve Zmak
Jeff Barnes, Debbie Bulger, Ventana staff

Proofreaders

Wolfgang Rosenberg, Eloise Graham,
Robin Drury, Jeff Alford

Distribution:

Keith Wood, Esperanza Hernandez,
Beth Lilienthal, Debbie Bulger

Advertising Sales:

Debbie Bulger

Carpentry & Software:

Anonymous

Chapter website:

<http://ventana.sierraclub.org>

2009 Ventana Publication Schedule		
Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#1	Jan. 19	Feb. 4
#2	Mar. 16	Apr. 1
#3	May 18	Jun. 3
#4	Jul. 20	Aug. 5
#5	Sep. 21	Oct. 7
#6	Nov. 30	Dec. 16

Articles received after deadline may not be published

CHAPTER CHAIR

Budget cuts threaten coastal protection

The sinking economy in California is hurting our environment, especially in the coastal zone. Upcoming state budget cuts for 2008-09 will reduce funding for the Coastal Management Program of the California Coastal Commission by \$956,000 and have eliminated over 17 Coastal Commission staff positions so far this year. (There will be a final report after January 10, 2009). These cuts will make our coastline even more vulnerable to development and pollution.

Some of the Coastal Management Program activities and objectives include:

1. Review and approval of Local Coastal Plans, port master plans, university long range development plans, and any amendments to such plans for consistency with the Coastal Act.
2. Monitoring and enforcement of coastal development permits.
3. Protecting and expanding opportunities for public coastal access and recreation.
4. Implementing a coastal water quality protection program.
5. Providing technical information and assistance to support effective coastal management.
6. Implementing a coastal and ocean resource public education plan.

As a coastal chapter we have focused on coastal resources as a priority for our legal battles. Recently, the Santa Cruz Group successfully sued and stopped the expansion of Luers Barn near Davenport, and the Chapter won an appeal to the Coastal

Commission to stop the Pebble Beach Company's golf course and housing plans in Del Monte Forest. There have been many other efforts to curtail development and degradation of coastal resources through the years.

Currently, the Group is studying the toxins at the Cemex plant in Davenport and is pressuring Caltrans to replace the single span bridge at Waddell Creek with a more fish-friendly full-span bridge. The Chapter will be weighing in on the Cemex plant in Marina and plans for a mega-resort in the dunes west of Highway

1 in Sand City. North Monterey County residents are working on the Moss Landing Local Coastal Plan.

Members continue to work on coastal trail opportunities and general development issues in both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Drastic budget cuts that affect the Coastal Management Program can impact the outcome of the work we and the Coastal Commission do. We need your help to do whatever you can to ensure that efforts to protect the coastline are not diminished by these budget cuts.

—Rita Dalessio

FROM THE EDITOR

A sustainable economy

At a public meeting I recently attended there was a discussion of building new parking garages in downtown Santa Cruz. Those opposed to new garages spoke about climate change and the need to switch to non-polluting forms of transportation. Those in favor of building more garages said that people will still be using cars in the future, but they will be powered by clean electricity and other clean energy sources.

While I have no crystal ball to see into the future, I feel this discussion is symptomatic of the lack of understanding of the enormity of climate change. It is also, in my opinion, a measure of the lack of imagination and creativity framing the entire discussion about global warming.

Like it or not, climate change is happening. Its effects will be so profound as to change our entire way of life. Experts in the know do not simply predict business as usual but powered by clean sources of energy. What is being talked about will shake our way of living to its very roots.

Currently much of the world economy operates on a model of perpetual growth. The economy is seen as ever expanding. Population will ever grow. Businesses must ever enlarge. For a business to be viable, it must sell more than the year before. Forever and ever.

Contrast that with a sustainable model. Many of us talk about sustainability, but

few reflect on what that word really means. A sustainable economy is one which has reached a state of equilibrium, that is, a state of balance. It is neither continually growing or shrinking. It is stable.

A sustainable economy is one which does not use more resources per year than the earth can provide. It exists in a world in which the seas are not overfished, the forests are not overlogged, and the standard of living of the inhabitants does not reflect consumption run wild.



Which brings us back to the discussion about more parking garages. I am old enough to remember when most families had only one car, not two or three as is now the case. Children had to get themselves to school. Husbands and wives had to plan their schedules to share the single automobile. People took the bus or the train or walked to where they were going. And for the most part, families did not feel deprived by having only one vehicle.

Can we imagine a way of life where we are happy yet have less? It is not just cars we are talking about, but every aspect of our lives. It means smaller houses, less packaging, fewer material possessions, and fewer children.

And fewer parking spaces.

—Debbie Bulger

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p. 13 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. 13.

Thank you!

Please patronize our advertisers

Let them know you have seen their ad in
The Ventana

For the holidays . . .
Give a Gift that Grows
just **\$50**
plants a tree in our redwood parks and helps preserve a forest
attractive card sent to recipient
tax-deductible as allowed by law, non-profit organization 501(c)(3)
call today or order online:
Sempervirens Fund
Preserving redwood lands since 1900
tel: 650-968-4509
www.sempervirens.org
VISA MasterCard

Wilderness designated within Limekiln State Park

California got 413 acres of new wilderness in 2008, in Limekiln State Park on the southern Big Sur coast. This was the first new legislatively-designated wilderness in the state system in more than 30 years.

AB 2945, introduced by Assembly-member John Laird and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, also amends the 1974 California Wilderness Act to authorize temporary roads and motorized equipment within a wilderness area when necessary in an emergency or if it is the minimum tool necessary to meet minimum management requirements.

Limekiln State Wilderness is 23 miles south of the town of Big Sur on the South Coast in Limekiln State Park and is currently closed due to the Chalk Fire. The non-wilderness portion of the park, which opened in 1994, has 33 campsites, picnic facilities, historic limekilns from California's early days, old growth redwoods, and several short hiking trails.

Limekiln is adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness of over 240,000 acres of rugged terrain in Los Padres National Forest. This newly designated area includes about a mile and a half of the West Fork of Limekiln Creek, an important steelhead

spawning stream, and shares a boundary with the US Forest Service's Cone Peak Gradient Research Natural Area. The most distinctive feature in this valuable ecosystem is the high number of plant associations in one small drainage. The plant communities of coastal scrub, redwood forests, coastal live oak woodland, valley grassland, and chaparral that coexist here provide a high level of biological diversity in a relatively small area.

The Ventana Chapter worked with the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, the California Wilderness Coalition and the California Wilderness Project on this bill with John Laird. An objective was to help provide a way for Sierra Club California to go to the State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks Department and work on getting more wilderness designated by administrative action.

John Laird summed it up best:

"AB2945 will link state park lands as wilderness to federal lands in similar designation. The bill also gives the Parks Department the process to do this in other areas around the state. Hopefully the designation for Limekiln State Park—a textbook example of a strikingly beautiful wilderness—will just be the first in many new state wilderness areas."



Steve Zmak

The newly-designated Limekiln State Wilderness, 23 miles south of the town of Big Sur, consists of 413 acres especially rich in biological diversity.

Patented seeds violate farmers' rights

by Laurel Hopwood, Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee Chair

The genetic diversity of our planet and the genetic resources which are the fruit of 100 centuries of human agriculture are a shared common treasure of mankind. Transgenic agriculture—using modern genetic engineering techniques to splice genes from one species into another—involves many risks which are yet to be fully evaluated, but one danger in clear sight is the use of patent protections to shift equity from the global genetic commons into private hands. This is theft in broad daylight.

The principle argument in favor of life patents is that they spur innovation. Yet genetic engineering in plants has so far consisted only of splicing genes from one species into another with no significant increases in yields or benefits to consumers. This rewriting of the genetic code has sufficed to win patents. This is not technological progress, but the veneer of technology being used for theft. The patents allow seed companies to impose new conditions in contracts with farmers. The actual "innovation" is a loss of farmers' rights. In the United States and Canada, farmers are being sued for planting their own seeds (saving seeds) without paying a fee.

The U.S. has pushed life patents and genetic patents on the world. Sierra Club be-

lieves that, just as the nations of the world have agreed that there should be no slavery and that a contract which calls for slavery would be unenforceable, there should be no patents on the genetic machinery of life and that all contracts based on such an idea should be null and void. That would be to the advantage of every man, woman and child on this planet. We are the heirs to this planet's genetic diversity and shouldn't let that heritage be claimed by corporate greed.

One way to put the brakes on GMO agriculture that will soon be available is the Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena Protocol) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Although the U.S. hasn't ratified either the Convention or its Protocol, the Biosafety Protocol has obtained ratifications from over 50 nations and has entered into force. As part of international treaty law, it allows nations to invoke the Precautionary Principle in order to stop imports of GMOs. We urge farmers in the U.S., and likewise the farmers and nations of the world, to defend their rights to save seeds. We urge them to work for the abolition of patents on the molecular machinery of life. While changes in U.S. patent laws may be slow in coming, our position is that if farmers use their own seed or sell seed crops intended as food, they shouldn't have to pay licensing fees twice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assembly Representative Bill Monning
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.Monning@assembly.ca.gov

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

Please recycle this paper again

North Monterey County development threatens Elkhorn Slough

by Mari and Klaus Kloepfel

Chapter members and Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough (FANS) are working to stop a proposed 103-unit housing proj-

ect in North Monterey County, called Rancho Los Robles. There is no sustainable water supply for this project as this area suffers from a severely overdrafted groundwater aquifer. This aquifer has been so heavily drawn down that saltwater from the ocean is contaminating water quality, further restricting water supplies for agriculture and domestic use.

Some local wells in this aquifer have gone permanently dry necessitating trucking in water for many families for over a year. Yet, the Monterey County Planning Department has recommended approval based on "overriding considerations."

Opponents have reviewed and responded to the Environmental Impact Report for Rancho Los Robles and have attended County public hearings on this project. The project would be built only a few hundred yards from Carneros Creek, which drains directly into the Elkhorn Slough only one mile away. Carneros Creek provides approximately 75% of the Slough's fresh water, making its protection critical to the viability of Elkhorn

Slough as a thriving ecosystem.

On October 29, despite the staff recommendation to approve, a majority of the Monterey County Planning Commission voted to recommend denial to the Board of Supervisors. At press time the project was slated to go before the Board on December 9, but there is a high likelihood that the issue will be continued to January.

The fragile watershed and rare natural

resources of Elkhorn Slough are also threatened by the 26-unit Rancho Roberto development now on appeal before the California Coastal Commission and 185 new houses proposed by the Pajaro Valley Golf Course. FANS has been working for nine years to stop the destructive cumulative impacts of these projects.

To help or learn more contact the Kloepfels, mkkloepfel@earthlink.net.

Legislation needed to increase amount of renewable energy

by Jim Metropulos, Sierra Club California

California once led the world in renewable energy. We have the power to take back the lead.

Our state's three investor-owned utilities, PG&E, Southern Edison, and San Diego Electric & Gas, probably will fall short of the state's renewables target—20% by 2010. That's why Sierra Club California believes the state should reform our renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) law. Improving this law will help meet AB 32 climate protection goals, improve the quality of the air we breathe, and reduce our reliance on depleted fossil fuel resources.

Other states have made significant strides in building renewable energy. In 2007, Texas reached a total installed wind capacity of over 5,000 megawatts. That same year, California only built about 60 megawatts of wind turbines. Although efforts to pass legislation to boost the

RPS goal and to make reforms in the program failed this year, Sierra Club California continues to lobby for more renewable power.

In upgrading California's RPS law we must guard against efforts to undermine it in the name of reform. We oppose changing the definition to allow more hydropower to be considered as renewable.

We do not think utilities should get renewable power credit for their energy efficiency efforts. While we have always supported energy efficiency, we believe the RPS should instead encourage investment in new sources of clean renewable power while other programs focus on energy efficiency.

Not all energy sources labeled under current law as "renewable" are equally sustainable in terms of environmental impacts or energy supply. Even renewable energy can have adverse impacts; poor environmental practices at the Altamont wind site in Northern California, for example, have resulted in excessive bird kills. The impact and sources of biofuels, large-scale development of solar power in the desert, toxic materials in certain types of solar panels, and other issues should be addressed, and standards developed for proper use of resources.

As we power up California's standards, we need to ensure we do not lose valuable resources, and that we do nothing to harm the environment we are striving to protect.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"
- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Email _____



Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible if they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **F94Q W 1500**



A year-round resort with cozy log cottages; a cafe serving hearty gourmet cuisine and fine California wines. A High Sierra hideaway offering many choices...fishing, courses in fly-tying, fly-rod building, & fly-casting, hiking, cross-country skiing, historic walks & hot springs.

Its backdrop..the grandeur of Hope Valley, with its wide-open meadows, towering rugged peaks, and clear, rushing streams teeming with trout.

For innkeepers Patty and John Brissenden, hospitality and first-class service are trademarks.

Come and be pampered at Sorensen's.

Call or write for a free brochure.



Sorensen's Resort
Hope Valley, CA 96120
1-800-423-9949
www.sorensensresort.com

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p. 13 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. 13.

Thank you!

WITTWER & PARKIN, LLP

Practicing in the areas of Environmental and Land Use Law

147 S. River St., Ste. 221
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone (831) 429-4055
Fax (831) 429-4057

Toxic trouble in Davenport



by Kristen Raugust

On October 3, 2008, the County announced that chromium-6 (Hexavalent chromium) had been detected in Davenport, 10 times the allowable amount, along with the worrisome news that this toxin may have been emitted for a number of years. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District had decided to conduct unannounced tests in June, July, and August 2008 after high chromium-6 levels were detected at a cement plant in Riverside, California. The results of this testing required the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to issue a Prop. 65 notification to the Board of Supervisors and the County Health Officer. A Public Health Advisory for the Davenport Area was issued the same day.

The cement plant in Davenport was built by Portland Cement Company in 1905. Many companies have owned it over the years since then, with its current owner being Cemex Corp of Mexico. In 1905, little was known about environmental health problems resulting from cement plant emissions. We now know that cement plants emit dust and substances that can cause cancer and other health problems.

Many environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, have been battling such plants over emissions, including mercury, which can cause birth defects and neurological problems in small children. The Davenport Cemex plant was already on environmentalists' radar screen for its seriously high mercury emissions. In 2005 (the most recent year for which a report was made), the Cemex plant emitted 170 pounds of mercury, making it one of the biggest emitters of mercury nationwide. Under pressure from Miriam Rotkin-Ellman of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted tests for mercury in Davenport last summer.

Cement-making operations were already shut down in Davenport at the time of the health advisory, due to low sales. The Cemex plant was advised by the County to remain shut until better understanding of the extent and control of the chromium-6 emissions was achieved.

At a Board of Supervisors meeting on October 7, the public was assured that it would be apprised of any new data as soon as it became available. Satish Sheth,



Jodi Frediani

Ten times the allowable amount of chromium-6 in Davenport from the Cemex plant brought Erin Brockovich to town. The environmental investigator believes there are no safe levels of chromium-6.

head of manufacturing on the U.S. west coast for Cemex, said the plant would cease using mill scale and steel slag in the future, since these by-products of steel manufacture, in use since 2001, are suspected to be the source of the chromium-6.

Ironically, it was the Air Pollution Control District that had repeatedly assured the community of Davenport that the introduction of slag was safe, despite numerous concerns. Sheth said Cemex would replace the mill scale and steel slag with iron ore when manufacturing resumed. He also said Cemex would implement strict fugitive dust control procedures. Fugitive dust from loading operations and the cement kiln dust pile is believed to be responsible for the spread of chromium-6 in Davenport.

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health confirmed at the October 7 Board of Supervisors meeting that tests of drinking water showed a non-detect of chromium-6, although the last water test was done on August 28, 2007, leading to the belief that the problem is possibly just airborne. Additional water samples, taken from Mill Creek, San Vicente Creek, and Pacific Elementary School on October 7, also showed a non-detect level at a limit ten times less than the California Drinking Water Standard.

Attending the Supervisors meeting were parents of children from Pacific Elementary School which is right in the plume path of Cemex's smoke stack. Many concerned residents urged medical testing to find out human exposure potential. Others urged that trucking and

movement of the contaminated, stored cement and cement kiln dust cease until more data was gathered.

The day after the meeting, Santa Cruz County Environmental Health representatives went door to door in Davenport to issue a Health Advisory until test results showed air quality had returned to safe levels.

At the October 21 Board of Supervisors meeting many residents complained that real data was not yet available. They also strongly urged that shipping operations at the plant cease until test results were available and procedures to reduce chromium-6 contamination were in place. The Supervisors assured the residents that information would be available within days. The Board also indicated that a competent contractor for the air testing, Copeland Consultants, had been retained. This choice has since raised concern about the firm's impartiality because of the prior associations of one of its consultants.

Despite residents' very real concerns regarding fugitive dust, the Board did not require Cemex to halt shipping. However, Cemex voluntarily suspended shipping until test results were available. Data from continued air testing by the Air District before Copeland was hired, was finally available on October 25, showing the chromium-6 level had dropped below the allowed standard. This finding may have been due to Cemex's suspension of shipping of the contaminated cement.

The new contractor set up testing stations in and around Davenport including a 24-hour air monitor inside the school

and one on the playground. New testing began November 1. This monitoring system should provide more accurate testing and will include surface wipe sampling.

Other tests taken before Copeland was hired showed a further drop in chromium-6 from earlier October results. Even though these preliminary tests have indicated a general drop in chromium-6, some days have spiked dramatically and need to be studied and investigated as to the exact cause.

Nationally-known environmental investigator Erin Brockovich came to Davenport on November 3 and met with residents. She explained that she wanted to share her expertise about chromium-6 and expressed her concern about all the other toxins that emanate from the plant. Brockovich, however, believes, as do many scientists and environmentalists, that there are no safe levels of chromium-6.

Brockovich noted discrepancies in the reporting of toxic emissions and was somewhat skeptical of the data since Cemex oversees the testing. She encouraged residents to talk to each other and compile information about their experiences with dust, smell, and their health. She also provided health questionnaires to be filled out and returned.

On a path to restarting the plant, Cemex was granted a temporary 48-hour permit on November 12 to carry out a test grinding of the contaminated clinker. (Clinker is hardened cement as it comes out of the heated manufacturing process and is ground into cement dust. Reducing agents ferrous sulfate and stannous sulfate were added to reduce chromium-6 emissions.)

The test-grinding results came back with levels of chromium-6 safe enough (according to the Air District) for Cemex to plan a full-scale production test. After the test the plant will shut down as the monitoring data are evaluated. Cemex plans to restart the plant in January if test results are positive.

Residents and parents of school children continue to urge the County not to let production begin until the exact source of the chromium-6 can be pinpointed and absolute assurances can be made for their and their children's safety.



Please recycle this paper again

The Sierra Club/Ventana Chapter, Volume 47, Number 6, 2008 5

Sierra Club Events

Friday, January 9

Potluck & Slides: On the Edge—Species at Risk

This presentation is by Jeff Barnes, a widely-traveled wildlife photographer and an interpreter for the California State Parks. 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 items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. This event will be hosted by Randy and Carin Chapin at 612 Arroyo Seco, Santa Cruz. For directions call the Chapins, 425-1749 or George, 335-7748.

Erin Brockovich meeting on Community TV

If you missed the Town Hall meeting in November at Pacific Elementary School in Davenport at which famed environmental activist Erin Brockovich spoke, you can catch the video on Community TV (Comcast 25/Charter 71). The two-hour show is scheduled for the following times:

- Friday, December, 19 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December, 21 @ 12:00 p.m.
- Monday, December, 22 @ 7:30 p.m.

Public has until January to comment on new General Plan

Due to an outpouring of letters from the public regarding the unavailability of documents associated with the fifth version of Monterey County's General Plan Update, the comment period has been extended to no sooner than January, 2009. As a result, the rush to approval before the end of 2008 has been stopped.

Other problems with the process included a failure by the County to send the complete Draft EIR to state agencies and a failure to send the Draft EIR to the State Water Resources Control Board's division of water rights (the key entity that rules over our water supply).

Members of the public who commented on these and other problems included The Ventana Chapter, The Open Monterey Project, the Carmel Valley Association, Prunedale Neighbors Group, Prunedale Preservation Alliance, Friends & Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough, and other groups and individuals.

Chapter members are hard at work analyzing the plan's impacts to the environment, in particular its biological resources, water quality, and water supply. Once final, these comments will be posted to the Chapter website.



Jeff Barnes

A Point Barrow, Alaska, polar bear struggles for survival.

Friday, February 13

Potluck & Slides: Costa Rica

Costa Rica—a nature Photographer's paradise—is a slide show by world traveler Vilma Siebers. 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 items (minimum value \$5) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Spring and Summer

Channel Islands trips

Planning a vacation this May or during the summer? Consider a trip to the Channel Islands with a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and give talks. Fundraising event for Sierra Club political programs in California. Dates are May 1-4, July 17-20, August 7-10, and September 11-14. Cost is \$950 which includes bunk and all meals. For more info contact Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye Street, El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhln@aol.com.

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.

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.

Saturday, January 31, 1-3 p.m., Grey Bears Recycling Facility, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz.



Composting with worms is fascinating for both children and adults.

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.

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.cruz.cnps.org.

January 10, Laguna Creek Watershed, Coast Dairies

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.montereybay.cnps.org.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Docent Training

Enrollment for new docents now open. Attend a 6-week training course starting February 18 on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Enrollees will be treated to an inside look at the Pajaro Valley and its wetlands. Training covers ecol-



ogy, history, and wetlands restoration. Docents will learn to assist teachers during field trips and will lead walks. Cost: \$40. Contact Kathy Fieberling, 427-0654 or kathyfie@yahoo.com.

Fourth Saturday

Habitat restoration - Watsonville

Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educ. Resource Ctr. at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

Recycling alone is not the answer

Incinerator trashed

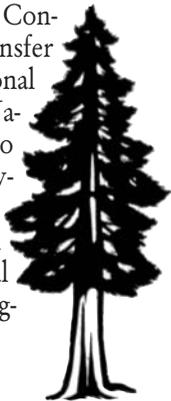
In November the Santa Cruz County Supervisors voted down the proposed plasma arc incinerator covered in the August *Ventana*. While the proponents claimed that the facility had no emissions, the data did not support the claim. The Pajaro Valley Coalition for Environmental Justice was joined by Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Brown Berets in defeating the project.

Simitian scores

State Senator Joe Simitian, who represents many of our readers, was named chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee for the new legislative session.

Saving Sequoia

Representative Anna Eshoo has introduced a bill in Congress which would transfer the Giant Sequoia National Monument from the National Forest Service to the National Park Service. The bill, HR 7090, would protect national forests and other federal lands from aggressive logging.



Sunny Hawaii

All single family homes built in Hawaii after 2009 must have solar hot water heaters. What a great idea. Let's get a similar law passed in our own state.

High score

The new scoreboard for the Giants baseball games at AT&T park is powered by the sun. Almost 600 solar panels make it flash and glow. That's a home run in any book.

How clean is my valley?

In October 87 volunteers hauled over 2,400 pounds of trash and 800 pounds of recyclable materials out of the San Lorenzo River and nearby areas. This yearly event is managed by the Valley Women's Club with help from the San Lorenzo Valley Water District and the County of Santa Cruz.

Bag fees in the future?

The California Ocean Protection Council, a state agency, has proposed not only a ban on polystyrene food containers, but also a fee for plastic bags as a way to cut down on marine debris. When Ireland imposed a tax on plastic bags in 2002, use dropped 95%. Look for state legislation in the future.

by Virginia Draper

By 2000, most California communities diverted at least 50% of solid waste from landfills, a goal mandated in 1989 by AB 939. But we need to do much better than that. To figure out where to focus public outreach, in 2007 the California Integrated Waste Management Board commissioned a survey of residents' attitudes towards waste management and their habits regarding reducing, reusing, and recycling, the 3Rs of Zero Waste.

The survey results suggest that the public may not understand the concern about landfills. When asked about environmental priorities, less than one in five identified landfill waste, toxic waste, or the extinction of plants and animals as concerns. Nevertheless, the majority surveyed regularly recycle key household items, though only one quarter are recycling as much as they could, and few are regularly recycling plastic bags.

Respondents were far less knowledgeable about ways to reuse and reduce: "Only about one-third of California residents regularly reuse food containers or drink water from sources other than small plastic water bottles. Less than one-in-five consistently buy products in bulk or items with less packaging." Fewer than 10% compost.

Thus the first recommendation of the report is "to increase efforts to promote waste reduction and reuse, which lag behind recycling in public awareness and practice." Angela Brantley, Solid Waste Program Manager for the City of Monterey, welcomes this focus: "We know that recycling alone is not the answer."

Brantley works with Monterey businesses to develop reuse practices. For instance, she suggests setting aside office space where employees can put items they no longer use, but that others may want. And she makes sure everyone is aware of the Last Chance Mercantile in nearby Marina, a reuse depot operated by the Monterey Regional Waste Management District. Here people can leave and buy at "affordable prices" things that might otherwise go into the landfill, such as sporting goods, furniture, automotive parts, and accessories.

In Santa Cruz County at the Buena



Debbie Bulger

Shopping at yard sales not only saves money, it helps the environment.

Vista Landfill and Ben Lomond Transfer Station, a program run by Kasey Kolassa, manager of the county's Recycling and Solid Waste Services, gives away materials dropped off from construction and demolition projects. Residents can also pick up free household paint which, according to Kolassa, makes up more than 80% of the hazardous waste brought in.

The recent decline in commodity prices for recycled paper, metals, and plastic heightens the need to encourage people to choose reusable and secondhand items rather than those that can be recycled, especially plastics. Most plastics end up in the landfill after one cycle because they can be turned into only one other product.

Some find ways to reuse materials closer to home, rather than ship them to China or out of state. The Grey Bears, a Santa Cruz nonprofit, sells rolled newspapers to local floral industries for shipping insulation. They also refurbish computers and other goods for sale in their Santa Cruz Thrift Store.

In addition to reuse, the California Waste Management Board survey raised

concerns about the disposal of hazardous wastes. The Board is asking local agencies to increase public awareness about what constitutes household hazardous waste, to provide more convenient disposal sites, and to better inform the public about when and where residents can drop off materials.

A final recommendation of the survey urges local entities to "continue to support efforts to make recycling services available to multi-family households." To address this challenge, Brantley said that her agency in Monterey has recently received two large grants from the California Department of Conservation, one focused on low-income housing.

In 2007, the City of Monterey kept 67% of the waste generated out of the landfill. Manager Kolassa estimates Santa Cruz County kept 65% out. Both want to do much better. The Waste Management Board survey suggests that to increase percentages, these agencies need to educate people about the limits and dangers of landfills and to provide more information and encouragement, especially about ways to reuse products and reduce waste overall.

In November former State Assemblymember John Laird and former State Senator Sheila Kuehl were appointed to the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Both Laird and Kuehl have been honored as Recycling Legislators of the Year by Californians Against Waste.



Resources

California Zero Waste web site:
www.zerowaste.ca.gov

Information about all types of waste including ways to reduce household waste, strategies and sites supporting reuse, Zero Waste business and school programs, information about hazardous wastes, and links to local agencies and drop-off sites.

For a complete copy of the survey, "General Attitude and Behavior Survey Baseline Findings November 2007," by Gomez Research, commissioned by the California Integrated Waste Management Board visit

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/General/53008001.pdf

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p. 13 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. 13.

Thank you!

Please patronize our
advertisers

Let them know you have
seen their ad in
The Ventana



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

**Add your voice to protect the planet.
Join Sierra Club.**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Join today and receive
a **FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 1500 1



Jodi Frediani

Healthy streams need an intact riparian canopy, well-vegetated soils, and large trees alongside the stream banks.

Healthy streams are good for people and wildlife

by Jodi Frediani

We all know that hardening of the arteries is damaging to human health and that arterial blockages can lead to death. We also know that toxic substances in the bloodstream can cause cancer and other serious problems. Not surprisingly, our streams and rivers—the circulatory system of our environment—must be protected from similar threats.

We need to treat our creeks and streams as the lifeblood of our environment and not as drainage ditches. Taking better care of our streams is not only good for us and our drinking water, but essential for several local threatened or endangered species—coho salmon, steelhead trout, and California red-legged frogs.

What do healthy streams need?

Healthy streams need an intact riparian

canopy to keep water cool for fish. Creeks and rivers need “breathing room”—well-vegetated soils for proper infiltration of rain. Riparian corridors should be kept free of development and impervious surfaces. Large trees along creek banks should be retained for canopy and their strong root systems which stabilize stream banks, retard erosion, and, where exposed, provide hiding places for fish. When such trees fall into the creek, the downed logs help regulate the flow of water and sediment downstream and continue to provide essential cover for fish. Downed wood also helps create deep cool-water pools needed by fish.

Development along stream banks can result in an unhealthy waterway. When we allow buildings in the natural stream flood plain or along stream banks, for example, we create problems. Flooding is a natural stream process which replenishes soil nutrients. A better use of flood plains and banks is for parks and greenways which can be flooded occasionally without threatening homes and businesses.

What harms waterways?

Dams and culverts restrict water flow and impede fish passage. Excessive sediment generated from dirt roads, landslides and bank erosion clogs spawning gravels and reduces survival of hatching fish. Organic matter which accompanies sediment entering streams interacts with chlorinating products to produce cancer-causing compounds in drinking water.



It took two months of complaints before the County red-tagged this illegal cistern in a cobb stream in Bonny Doon.

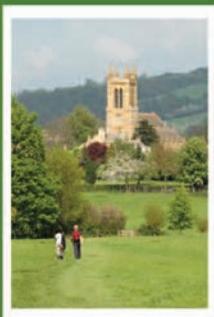
Excessive logging or cutting of trees along a stream bank eliminates the leafy canopy which shades the water and provides fish habitat. An extreme example of canopy removal is the clearcutting of trees within the channel of the Pajaro River after the floods of 1995. The levees constrain the natural flood waters, turning the river into a flood control channel. The trees, which provided many functions including significant bird habitat, were considered a threat because they took up room in the flood channel.

Channelization (straightening of the stream course) increases the velocity of the water as it runs downstream. An extreme example is the channelization of Branciforte Creek where it flows into the San Lorenzo River (also channelized between levees) in Santa Cruz. Less extreme channelization techniques are applied to protect poorly-sited houses and roads ad-

Continued on p. 9.

Printed on recycled paper

WALK IN ENGLAND



“...the walking tour you've always dreamt of...”

Walk the byways of poets, artists & authors
Discover the cottages, countryside & castles
of the Cotswolds; visit Stratford, Bath &
Oxford; stroll alongside the Thames & Avon
Guided walks, tasty meals, charming inns

801.226.9026 theadventure100.com

Continued from p. 8.

adjacent to creeks and streams. Such retaining walls restrict or change natural flows, do not provide useful habitat, and otherwise degrade the health of the waterway. It would be better to enforce existing setbacks from the riparian corridor and establish appropriate setbacks in communities where there are none.

Storm drains laden with oil, tire dust, and other road pollutants are directed to creeks and ultimately the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Instead, we should be capturing this runoff on

land and letting it filter through constructed wetlands and soil before naturally flowing to the water table or into streams once adequately filtered. This can

be accomplished in many ways including constructing French drains, using permeable surfaces for driveways and sidewalks, and directing runoff toward green areas for biofiltration instead of directly into storm drains.

Additionally, creeks and rivers are polluted from leaking septic tanks, sewage leaks, farm and garden pesticides and poorly maintained dirt roads. Most of our local streams and rivers are listed as impaired for sediment under the Clean Water Act, and some are also adversely impacted by pesticides, septic runoff and other pollutants.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be releasing their draft Coho Recovery Plan in early 2009. This plan identifies a number of areas where Santa Cruz County riparian policies are deficient and detrimental to the survival of our nearly extinct coho salmon populations. These policies are in need of a major overhaul. For years, the County has been removing fallen trees from stream channels often at the request of concerned landowners. NMFS wants those trees to remain. Property owners need to be educated about the importance of these essential elements in a healthy stream system. More culverts need to be retrofitted for fish passage or better yet, replaced by bridges to allow fish into currently inaccessible stream reaches. New construction should be kept out of riparian corridors to limit septic leakage and input of pesticides, herbicides and household chemicals.

Poor policies and enforcement

Santa Cruz County has a history of granting riparian exceptions, allowing for additions to existing non-conforming structures within the 50' riparian buffer zone. A recent project proposes reducing the riparian setback from 50' to 20' along Aptos Creek and running storm water culverts directly into Aptos Creek for a Planned Unit Development. Another project redirects flows into Rodeo Gulch by building 1500' of new drainage pipe and bypassing a wetlands. Rather than removing culverts as Berkeley is doing (a process

called "day-lighting"), Santa Cruz County is creating more runoff into more drainage

"We need to treat our creeks and streams as the lifeblood of our environment and not as drainage ditches."

ditches and installing more culverts.

Code enforcement needs to take stream protection seriously as well. When an illegal concrete cistern was constructed recently in a tributary of Laguna Creek in Bonny Doon, a coho stream, it took two months of complaints from multiple neighbors including photographs circulated far and wide before the County red-tagged the structure. At press time the partially-dismantled cistern was still in place and causing bank erosion and water-quality degradation. If removal is not done in a timely fashion, the county road adjacent to this cistern could actually fail, sending tons of soil into the creek channel.

Often the need for affordable housing is cited as a reason to allow building in riparian corridors. Housing is an important need, and it must be sited in less environmentally-sensitive areas. It harms everyone to build in areas prone to flooding, most especially the residents themselves.

We need to learn to respect our local creeks and rivers and remember that they all flow into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Our creeks and rivers are the lifeblood of our communities.

How to help keep our water clean

- Use only organic lawn and garden treatments. Pesticides and fertilizers find their way into our waterways.
- Keep dirt roads in good repair.
- Check culverts regularly and keep unplugged.
- Call your Santa Cruz County Supervisor and ask that the County enforce riparian setbacks, even for additions to existing structures.
- If you have run off from your property, consult a professional to see how you can retain that water on the property or biofilter it before it leaves.

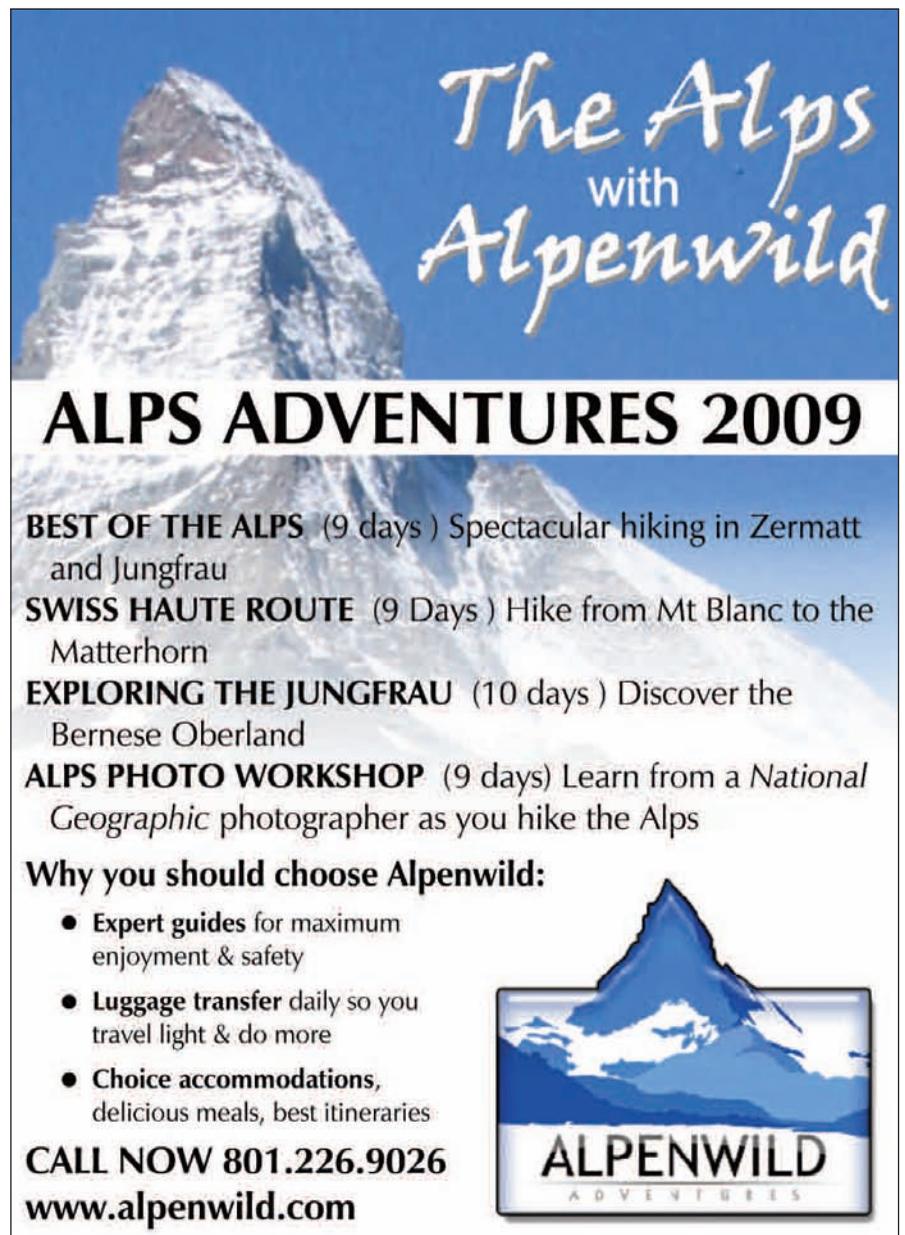
Make a difference

Join Sierra Club
California's
Legislative Action
Network



<http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>

Please recycle this paper again



The Alps with Alpenwild

ALPS ADVENTURES 2009

BEST OF THE ALPS (9 days) Spectacular hiking in Zermatt and Jungfrau

SWISS HAUTE ROUTE (9 Days) Hike from Mt Blanc to the Matterhorn

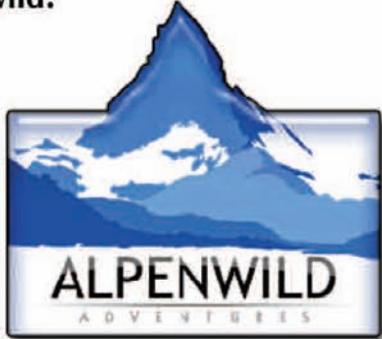
EXPLORING THE JUNGFRAU (10 days) Discover the Bernese Oberland

ALPS PHOTO WORKSHOP (9 days) Learn from a *National Geographic* photographer as you hike the Alps

Why you should choose Alpenwild:

- **Expert guides** for maximum enjoyment & safety
- **Luggage transfer** daily so you travel light & do more
- **Choice accommodations**, delicious meals, best itineraries

CALL NOW 801.226.9026
www.alpenwild.com



A little bird told me . . .

10 ways to save money and help the earth

1. **Use a clothes rack or line to dry more of your laundry.**
2. **Get to work without your car one day (or one more day) a week.**
3. **Buy more bulk groceries instead of packaged.**
4. **Eat less meat.**
5. **Turn off the light when you leave a room.**
6. **Walk or bike to school with your kids.**
7. **Install fluorescent bulbs.**
8. **Buy fruit in season.**
9. **Shop at yard sales.**
10. **Reuse gift wrap.**



Jodi Frediani

OUTINGS

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.

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

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/.

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 21

HIKE: WADDELL CREEK/BIG BASIN

Starting at Hwy. 1 we'll hike the Skyline to the Sea Trail and McCrary Ridge to the Mt. McAbee overlook and return via the Howard King and Skyline to the Sea Trails with a short side trip to Berry Creek Falls. 12 Miles, 1700' elevation gain. Dress in layers, bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, December 23

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, leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, December 27

HIKE: RUSSIAN RIDGE

This Preserve is off Skyline Blvd. above Palo Alto. We'll walk on the westerly side of Skyline in open and hopefully sunny grasslands. 7 miles with 1000' elevation gain. You'll see an ancient seamount (marine volcano). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Tuesday, December 30

SENIOR WALK: WATSONVILLE WETLANDS

Let's say goodbye to 2008 by enjoying a 3-1/2 mile mostly level walk around the Watsonville & Struve Sloughs. There are egrets, herons, mallards, mud hens, etc. to enjoy. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the Nature Center, 30 Harkens Slough Rd. at 9:50 a.m. Lunch at Ramsey Park. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. No facilities. Rain cancels. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

JANUARY

Thursday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S HIKE: GARLAND TO MY PLACE

From Safeway Mid Valley, we'll carpool to Garland Ranch and climb up all the way to Snively's Ridge for a sunny lunch spot. Then we'll turn west through Carmel Valley, down

to Holt Road and back. But wait, you are all invited to *Kaffee und Kuchen* at my condo, Mid Valley Garden Homes #53, to celebrate the New Year. 8 miles and 1500' elevation gain. Bring water and lunch, optional hiking poles, and wear sturdy shoes. Moderate pace. Meet at Mid Valley parking lot opposite WaMu at 10:00 a.m. Call for a space. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday, January 3

HIKE: MT. MADONNA PARK

We'll look for fetid adders tongue from the Sprig Lake entrance off Hwy. 152. 7 miles and 1200' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit off Hwy. 1 in La Selva Beach to carpool. Call Nick if you need additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Monday, January 5

HIKE: SILVER PEAK'S LION'S DEN

Requires a very early start and \$10 for a very long carpool. Silver Peak Wilderness is as beautiful as the Ventana Wilderness, so please come and join me on this strenuous 12-mile hike. Must call leader a week in advance for meeting place and time or call will not be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, January 6

HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH

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 go out onto a ridge for spectacular views. Arrive early, leave at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, January 7

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Floods, earthquakes, wildfires and logging with mills and railroads have shaped the history of this 10,000 acre park created in 1963. We'll enter the park from a trail in back of Aptos on a private road to the Old Growth Loop and the Oak Ridge Trail. Bring water and lunch for a stop along Aptos Creek mid-day. 8 miles with downhill at the beginning of the day and uphill at the end. Meet at Sears 41st Ave to carpool (\$1) or call for directions to the trailhead. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.



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.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

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.

OUTINGS

Saturday, January 10

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

Our hike takes us through open meadows and several beautiful forested areas. Lunch at the top of the Eucalyptus Loop with a sweeping ocean view. 10-mile loop, 900' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and \$1 carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 915-2475.

Saturday, January 10

HIKE: FORT ORD DUNES

Finally, the Dunes west of the Highway are open and ready to be explored by us. We'll walk up the steep dunes through sand and over ice plant to the former site of the Fort Ord Officer's Club, then move south and eventually down to the beach. We'll look for a space between the dunes and come back on one of the old military roads. 6 miles (or longer if you want) with some struggling up and down the dunes. Bring water and lunch, hiking sticks, binoculars, and wear layers; it may be windy by the ocean. Heavy rain cancels. Meet in Seaside at Home Depot near the gas station at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, January 13

SENIOR HIKE: UPPER UCSC

This is a newer hike on new trails at UCSC. About 3 miles. Call leader for full description. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, call leader. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Xavier Ballard, 430-8292.

Tuesday, January 13

HIKE: CARMEL TO PEBBLE BEACH

This nice lollypop loop begins in Carmel and leads into the quiet forest of Pebble Beach. Lunch gives us the option of a sandwich at Poppy Hills Golf Course. We'll hike 6-1/2 miles with 750' elevation gain. Arrive early, we leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, January 14

HIKE: SIERRA AZUL MT. UMUNHUM AREA

We'll be hiking right below 3,486' Mt. Umunhum (considered a sacred mountain by the Ohlone) along the Bay Area Ridge Trail which will eventually circle all of the bay area. The preserve has more than 17,000 acres of unspoiled rugged, steep terrain. We'll hike along a wide trail with scenic views of the south bay.

Since we are on the top of the ridge, we'll pass over deep ravines and riparian corridors with seasonal or year-round water flow. We'll hike out to Mt. El Sombroso and return on the same trail for a 10-mile hike from the end of Hicks Road in Almaden. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or park at the trailhead at the top of Hicks Road at 10:00 a.m. Carpool: \$4. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: CARMEL VALLEY TO JACK'S PEAK

A short but interesting hike up Roach Canyon in Carmel Valley, up a moderate incline to Jack's Peak. Let's try to work off a little of that remaining holiday excess. 6 miles, with 1000' elevation gain. Possible return via Martin Canyon if brush isn't too overgrown. Possible short car shuttle. Meet at Save Mart/Bagel Bakery at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Saturday, January 17

HIKE: LICK OBSERVATORY AND JOSEPH GRANT PARK

This will be a tour of UC's Mt. Hamilton site (elevation 4200') and observatories, including wonderful views of the Bay Area, Central Valley, and possibly the Sierra Nevada. We'll also see the 36" refractor installed in 1888. A walk into the upper reaches of Joseph Grant Park will be included, time allowing. Because of the long and windy drive, the carpool is \$6 so drivers won't be discouraged. Carsick-prone people may want to drive themselves. 1000' elevation gain and 8 miles. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick to confirm. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, January 18

WALK: POINT LOBOS

Let's hope for a clear day to enjoy a mosey round Whaler's Cove exploring the human and natural history of this gorgeous place. Easy-paced mile or so with spectacular views. Bring a snack, water, optional binoculars, and dress in layers. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Rio Road Park and Ride. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, January 18

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We'll hike through the green meadows with great views and plenty of sun in this cooler part of the year. 8-10 mile loop to the top of Wilder Ranch with 1000' elevation gain. Bring food and water. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Santa

Cruz County Government center at 9:00 a.m. Only the heaviest of rain cancels! Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, January 20

SENIOR WALK: WEST CLIFF

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

Tuesday, January 20

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Join us on the West Ridge Trail loop. 7 miles with 1000' elevation gain through a lovely, shaded forest. We might even spot the fetid adders tongue, one of our earliest wildflowers. Arrive early, leave at 8:45 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or leave from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. Bring water & lunch. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, January 24

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Hike begins at George's Picnic Area and up through the beautiful redwoods along West

Ridge Trail. Lunch at Hoffman's Historic Site. Return by the Loma Prieta Grade. 8-mile loop, 900' gain. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or the lot behind Aptos Station at 9:45 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and \$2 carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 915-2475.

Sunday, January 25

HIKE: SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

We'll hike 4 miles south along 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 seafood restaurant 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 flat miles. Rain cancels. Leader: Eugene Sobka, 449-0873.

Getting to outings

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





*"Peace begins
Well Within"*

**PRIVATE SPAS & SAUNAS OVERLOOKING
A JAPANESE GARDEN**

- ◆ **Massage Therapy**
- ◆ **Skin & Body Care**
- ◆ **All Natural Skin Care Products**

**417 Cedar St., Santa Cruz 831-458-WELL.
Visit our web site at www.wellwithinspa.com**

Deborah A. Malkin

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Specializing in

**Wills, Living Trusts, Tax-saving Trusts,
and other forms of Estate Planning.**

Also offering assistance with Conservatorships and Probate.
Free initial consultation

Discount offered to Sierra Club members.

The Creekside Offices at 2425 Porter St., Suite 15 • Soquel, CA 95073 • 831-462-9100

Tuesday, January 27
**SENIOR WALK: RIO DEL MAR/
 SEACLIFF BEACH**

Hiker's choice of a level 4-mile walk along Seaciff and Rio Del Mar or up Cliff Dr. along a neighborhood for 1 mile and back down to the beach along a little-known path. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave or at Rio Del Mar by Rio Cafe at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Tuesday, January 27
HIKE: BLUFF CAMP

This lovely 8-mile hike with 600' elevation gain takes us behind the Los Padres reservoir and along the upper Carmel River with one unbridged crossing. Lunch beside the river at

Bluff Camp. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early, leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, January 28
HIKE: CASTLE ROCK

It's a drive up Hwy. 9 to this park on Skyline Blvd. but well worth it for the views of Monterey Bay and spectacular rock outcroppings. This park and its Goat Rock are well known by rock climbers. Our 9-mile hike takes us down to Castle Rock Falls and to the campground for lunch. We'll return through madrone and oak chaparral on the Ridge Trail. The weathering of the sandstone gives it a honeycomb texture called "tafoni" which is found in only a few places in the world. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. (carpool \$4.) or in the parking lot of the park at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, January 31
HIKE: WINDY HILL

Windy Hill is west of Palo Alto. We'll do a perimeter loop of 10-11 miles with 1700' elevation gain (up and down Skyline Ridge). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, February 1
HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

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. 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain. 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.

Monday, February 2
HIKE: TORO PARK

A good time to hike this park. It is one that is a sizzler in the summer. It will be a long challenging and beautiful hike. Early start and plan to spend the whole day. You must call me a week in advance for meeting place and time or call will not be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, February 3
HIKE: NISENE MARKS

See Tuesday, January 20 for details.

Wednesday, February 4
HIKE: POGONIP

Pogonip Creek and Redwood Creek run right through an area of redwoods and remnants of the coastal prairie between the commercial area off Hwy. 9 and the UCSC campus. It is a habitat of special value given its proximity to the urban center of Santa Cruz. The Santa Cruz Mission brought settlers to the area in 1791, and was controlled by Mexico in the early 1800s. Only 3 virgin redwoods remain in Pogonip today. Limestone quarries and limekilns are still intact, and we will hike on the roadbed connecting them. We'll start hiking where the Casa del Rey Golf Club was located in 1912 which became a famous polo field in the 1930s. Bring lunch and water for our 8-mile hike. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or at the end of Golf Club Drive off Hwy. 9 at 9:20 a.m. Carpool \$1. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, February 6
HIKE: PINNACLES

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

Saturday, February 7
HIKE: FALL CREEK

Enjoy the wintry beauty of Fall Creek. 9-mile loop, 1200' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Faire at 9:50 a.m. Bring

water, lunch, and \$2 carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 915-2475.

Saturday, February 7
HIKE: JACK'S PEAK

We'll walk around Jack's Peak clockwise, starting at the elementary school on Olmstead Road (near Monterey airport). 6 miles with less than 1000' elevation gain. Beautiful views of Monterey and Point Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels, dribble doesn't count. Dress for winter weather. Confirm by calling. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, February 8
HIKE: PINNACLES

Now that the weather has cooled is the best time to visit my favorite place to hike! Always wonderful views, amazing geologic formations, and usually dryer than the coast. 10 miles with 1200' elevation gain. Bring food and water. Call leader for carpool information. No rain cancellation! Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

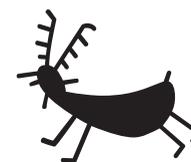
Tuesday, February 10
SENIOR WALK: SUNSET BEACH

We'll walk both the bluffs and the beach. Moderate 4-mile walk with little steep hills. Dress for weather. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Sunset Beach at the kiosk parking lot at 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Rain cancels. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

SERVICE

Sunday - Friday, April 5 - 10
SERVICE TRIP: CARRIZO PLAIN

This National Monument is famous for open spaces, for abundant wildlife, and for its springtime wildflowers. Fences significantly restrict the movement of the resident pronghorn antelope, and we will modify and remove fences for their benefit. Welcome hike on April 5, three and a half days of service, and a full day for exploring the monument. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants; \$30 covers 5 dinners. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, or co-leader leader Melinda Goodwater, 408-774-1257, email: mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net.



ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

Sierra Club Member Profile

Advertising in this newsletter packs more clout into your advertising dollars. Sierra Club members are one of the most valuable audiences in America. They are "opinion leaders" and "influentials;" by any name they are some of America's most sought-after advertising targets. Their own purchasing activity is substantial. But, more important, they influence others—in everything from opinion and outlook to choice of products. They are not only consumers, but also doers and leaders.

Club Members are among the most active, affluent audiences of adventure travelers and year-round outdoor sports enthusiasts your advertising dollars can buy. It's an unduplicated audience with the power to buy your products and services.

Sierra Club Members are Great Prospects

Median Age: 41
 Male/Female: 63% / 37%
 Median Household Income: \$56,227
 Attended/Graduated College: 81%
 Professional/Technical/Managerial: 36%

Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts

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

For Rate Information, Contact:
 Debbie Bulger - 457-1036

FEBRUARY

The Bird Feeder A Birder's Emporium



Everything for the wild bird enthusiast

including bird feeders, houses, baths,

field guides, bird books, videos,

cassettes, t-shirts, posters,

binoculars, note cards

seeds, and more.



347 Soquel at Ocean
 Santa Cruz • 457-8240
 Open Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30
 Sun. 11:00 - 4:00

Doors, Windows, & More



Enhance energy and sound efficiencies
 The *more* includes plumbing, electrical
 and other remodel/addition work

Years of experience

Contractors license

Bruce Kishler

831-476-8044

408-472-4478

Kishler@sbcglobal.net



CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Ventana Chapter Candidates



Susan Van Stirum

Childhood explorations in the Catskill Mountains taught me to value the wilderness and its magical power to heal what ails one and lift one's spirit. Later I joined the clean air movement, energized by youthful enthusiasm and the start of both the EPA and Citizens for Clean Air. Our campaign to convert New York City building incinerators to compactors resulted in legislation mandating this change.

From this endeavor I learned that change is both possible and slow, as many who talk of environmental progress are not ready to act. Though proud of our accomplishment, I was ready to move on to an eclectic career in non-profits and in nursing, and am now a Health and Wellness Coach.

Moving to the Monterey Peninsula in 1980, I have delighted in the awe-inspiring natural beauty which surrounds us here. I find I cannot promote human wellness without working for the health of the environment which sustains us.

This is why I would be honored to work with the Sierra Club's Ventana Chapter to help protect the land, air, and water which give us so much. Thank you so much for your consideration.



Dale M. Agron

I treasure this region and its wealth of biological resources. I have lived in Monterey County for 43 years and have worked as a registered nurse and later as an elementary school teacher. I have a B.A. in Liberal Studies, a teaching credential from San Jose State University, and a Master's Degree in Special Education from Chapman University.

My daily commutes have given me a deep appreciation of the beauty of this diverse county. I bring a broad perspective

of the Central California region due to 31 years of experience on the executive boards of environmental and service organizations. As secretary of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, I campaigned for the formation of the California Coastal Commission. I have been a member of the Ventana Chapter for over 40 years and was an active member of the Transportation Committee which successfully fought the infamous Hatton Canyon Freeway through Carmel.

After retiring from teaching, I served two terms as secretary of the Rising Leaf Watershed Arts Board and worked educating the public on watershed preservation.

It would be an honor to serve on the Ex-Com working for the residents and environment of Monterey County.



Ed Thornton

I am a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Naval Postgraduate School in the Oceanography Department where I have taught and researched for the past 40 years. My expertise is the physical processes in the nearshore ocean, which includes societal problems such as beach erosion, ocean pollution and beach safety. I have studied beaches throughout the world, and I am the recognized expert on the physical aspects of beaches in southern Monterey Bay and Carmel.

I was an author of the Regional Sediment Management Plan for southern Monterey Bay that was just adopted by AMBAG (The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) this month. I have been recognized by my peers by receiving the International Coastal Engineering Award for 2007, which is the highest award accorded in my profession, and the Citizen of the Year Award for 2007 by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 40 years. I have followed the local issues and support the environmental efforts of the Ventana Chapter. I would work to support the broad general goals of the chapter and bring focus to solving problems confronting beaches, dunes, estuaries and wetlands in the Ventana Chapter area.

Ventana Chapter				
Mailing Address—The Ventana Chapter, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA, 93921				
Phone: 624-8032		(Santa Cruz Group Phone: 426-4453)		Website: www.ventana.sierraclub.org
Chapter Executive Committee				
Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
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
	Nicole Charles	2936 Yorktown Court,	Marina, CA 93933	(915) 381-1982
Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565
Coastal Chair				
Conservation Committee				
Co-chairs	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Gillian Taylor	52 La Rancheria	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-0298
Local Wilderness Committee				
Chair	Mike Splain	P.O. Box 66882,	Scotts Valley, CA 95067	359-2489
Computer Database				
	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
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
Population Committee				
Chair	Harriet Mitteldorf	942 Coral Dr.	Pebble Beach, CA 93953	373-3694
Political Chair				
Chair	Terry Hallock	P.O. Box 22993	Carmel, CA 93922	915-0266
Sierra Club Council				
Delegate	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	706-4233
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
Outings Chair				
Chair	Anneliese Suter	9500 Center St. #53	Carmel, CA 93923	624-1467
Membership Chair				
Chair	Judy Karas,	60 Boronda Lane #7,	Monterey, CA 93940,	372-5762
Ventana Editor				
Chair	Debbie Bulger	1603 King St.	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-1036
Pajaro River Committee				
Co-chairs	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	464-1184
	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556
Forestry Chair				
Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697

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: scsccrg@cruzio.com				
Executive Committee				
Chair	Aldo Giacchino	1005 Pelton Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	460-1538
Vice Chair	Kevin Collins	P.O. Box 722	Felton, CA 95018	335-4196
Secretary				
Other members	Kristen Raugust	454 Swanton Road	Davenport, CA 95017	423-8566
	Charles Paulden	415 Palisades Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	462-3423
	Paul Elerick	1960 Jennifer Dr.	Aptos, CA 95003	688-2304
	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	427-2626
	David Kossack	P.O. Box 268	Davenport, CA 95017	427-3733
	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187
Treasurer				
Chair	Aldo Giacchino	1005 Pelton Ave.	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	460-1538
Conservation Chair				
Chair	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	761-3263
Forestry Chair				
Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
Outings Chair				
Chair	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	706-4233
Transportation Chair				
Chair	Paul Elerick	1960 Jennifer Dr.	Aptos, CA 95003	688-2304
Political Chair				
Chair	Gary Lasky	2350 Felt Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	476-5702
Coastal Chair				
Chair	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	768-8187
Water Chair				
Chair	Ken Reiller	990 Hecker Pass Rd.	Watsonville, CA 95076	728-4046



Lynelle Wing

Please patronize our advertisers
Let them know you have seen their ad in **The Ventana**

MOVING?

Please use this coupon. Attach current mailing label here and write in new address below.
(Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time)



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Sierra Club - P.O. Box 52968 - Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Hazardous chemicals to be kept out of toys

Tense budget negotiations and friction in the State Capitol made 2008 a tough year for environmental solutions. A few bipartisan measures were enacted to protect California families, but many other worthy bills were either stopped short of enactment or vetoed by the Governor.

Bills passed

AB 1879 grants the Department of Toxic Substances Control sweeping new authority to keep hazardous chemicals out of toys, packaging, furniture, and other consumer products.

AB 2347 requires manufacturers to establish and fund a program to recycle thermostats containing mercury, a potent neurotoxin.

AB 2911, responding to the Cosco Busan oil spill, promises to shore up the State's prevention, response and mitigation of future spills, and to improve the number and training of volunteers used in rescuing oiled wildlife.

Bills vetoed

AB 2447 would have required a city or county to make a finding of adequate fire protection before approving subdivisions.

SB 974 would have assessed a fee on shipping containers and used the revenues to fund improvements in air quality and transportation around the mega-ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland.

SB 1113 would have given environmental and consumer attorneys who sue polluters more power to hire expert witnesses by allowing recovery of those costs when they win cases important to the public interest.

Sierra Club California report card rates State legislators

Most California Democratic legislators voted consistently to protect our air, water and wild places, while the vast majority of their Republican counterparts continued to be obstacles to environmental progress.

Sierra Club California tracked the votes of California's Assemblymembers and Senators, recording each Earth-friendly vote as a positive score. From toxics prevention to water conservation to environmental education, the measures addressed many of California's most urgent 2008 environmental priorities.

Statewide, 15 senators and 27 assemblymembers scored 100% green, all of them Democrats. Senator Joe Simitian and Assemblymember John Laird each received a 100% score.

Republican Senator Abel Maldonado Jr. voted with the environment only 4 out of 7 times, making him the highest-scoring Republican in the California Senate. Senator Jeff Denham received an eco zero.

To see the complete scorecard visit www.sierraclubcalifornia.org.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Santa Cruz Group Candidates



Mark Sullivan

I appreciate the leadership that the Executive Committee provides regarding a wide range of environmental issues confronting the Central Coast. I believe that prioritizing and addressing these important issues create the basis for developing and implementing an environmentally -and socially- sustainable future.

As an avid outdoor sports enthusiast, I have always been interested in a wide variety of environmental issues. I am a resident of Capitola, where my wife Kristin and I constructed a straw-bale home run by the sun. We have regular home tours that focus on educating the public about the principles of green building and sustainable design. To date, we have had over 5,000 people tour our home.

Professionally, I am an environmental attorney, and I represent clients involved in matters such as land use issues, environmental justice litigation, and contaminated properties. I also teach environmental law courses at De Anza Community College.

Thank you for your consideration, and let me know if you are interested in a home tour!



Dennis P. Davie

I have served on the Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee for the past three years. I have been a member of the Santa Cruz Group Forestry Task Force since 2003. I am serving as the Ventana Chapter representative on the Light Brown Apple Moth Environmental Advisory Committee. In this role I was influential in requiring the California Department of Food and Agriculture to write an Environmental Impact Report on pheromone spraying.

My love of the wild woods and streams began at an early age. My father loved to

fish and took our family camping often. In YMCA, Boy Scouts and Camp Unalayee I hiked in the Sierra, Trinity Alps and the Cascades. As part of the Stanford Alpine Club, I rock climbed in Yosemite Valley and did extensive mountaineering throughout the West. I continue to cross-country ski and hike with my sons and friends.

I have a BS in Geology and a BA in Environmental Studies from UCSC. My college internship was at Yosemite NP where I wrote an environmental impact report on snowmobile use (and abuse).

I present a weekly environmental news show on Free Radio Santa Cruz (101.1 FM and www.freakradio.org) Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m.

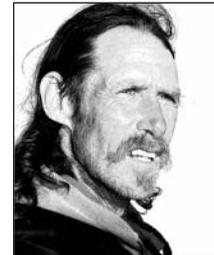


Kevin Collins

I have served two terms on the Executive Committee and am running for reelection. My personal work centers on County Planning review, water resources, forest conservation, and salmon recovery.

I joined the Sierra Club Forestry Committee in 1997. My life-long fascination with nature motivates my involvement. The reason I wish to continue on the Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee is to strengthen the Sierra Club's diverse efforts and to solve problems facing our forests, streams, and the wildlife dependent on them. The fate of the myriad wildlife and plants native to these mountains determines ecosystem health for us all.

We face major difficulties with local planning and zoning decisions, and we need new solutions to cope with ever-increasing demands for basic resources like clean water. I am the Board President of the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, an incorporated nonprofit. The Conservancy has been very effective and coordinates with the Sierra Club. I bring a statewide perspective from work with conservation activists across Northern California. My position on the County Fish and Game Advisory Commission and experience with advocacy and review of the State Resources Agencies and State Water Board decisions also benefit the Sierra Club.



Charles Paulden

From the first time I went camping in Yosemite to the last time I went surfing, I have had an intimate relationship with the Natural World and a commitment to preserving and enhancing it.

In college I promoted preservation of open spaces, farmland, and living easy on the Earth to offset the pressures towards war.

I have worked with the Sierra Club Executive Committee, the Growth Committee, ORCA, TFTF, People for the Preservation of Pleasure Point, Live Oak Neighbors, Save Lighthouse Field, No Wingspread, Save Porter Gulch, Nisene to the Sea, No on J, People Power, Stop the Seawall, Save The Windbreak, Save the Roadhouse, and Rail Trail advocates.

I support pro-environment leaders who promote environmentally-focused land use, where the health of the natural environment is the primary focus of planning. Good planning follows the General Plan, preserves waterways as parks and open space, directs storm water into retaining areas to be cleaned and filtered through the soil micro-organisms to recharge our water tables.

I support Sierra Club's Growth Guidelines: higher density urban centers close to civic amenities along transportation networks while protecting farmland and open space.

I am a landscape contractor and Yoga therapist.

Please note
Ventana Chapter Candidate bios are on page 13.



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

Voting Instructions and Executive Committee Ballot

Review candidate statements on pages 13 and 14 and mark your ballot below. Mail THIS ENTIRE PAGE using a recycled envelope from junk mail with a new label you affix. (Be sure to mark out the computer code on the envelope bottom.)

The ballot must be postmarked by January 2.

For joint memberships, mark a vote in both columns.

After you mark your ballot, TEAR OFF THIS ENTIRE PAGE and mail to Sierra Club, Ex-Com Elections, c/o The Matterns, 212 1st Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. The mailing label on the back of this page ensures that the vote has come from a valid member of the Club. Ballots and mailing labels will be separated to ensure a secret ballot.

Ventana Chapter

Both Santa Cruz and Monterey members may vote for these
Write ups on p. 13 ♦ ♦ Vote for up to 3

candidate	individual or 1st joint member	2nd joint member
Susan Van Stirum		
Dale M. Agron		
Ed Thornton		

Santa Cruz Group

Only Santa Cruz members may vote for these
Write ups on p. 14 ♦ ♦ Vote for up to 3

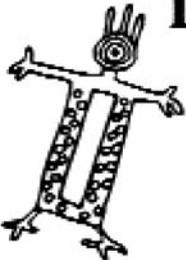
candidate	individual or 1st joint member	2nd joint member
Mark Sullivan		
Dennis P. Davie		
Kevin Collins		
Charles Paulden		

What does the Executive Committee do?

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

The
DOWNWORKS

222 River Street, Santa Cruz
831-423-9078 • Tues - Sat 10 - 5 PM




DownWorks custom down bags
Osprey packs • Western Mountaineering
Mountain Hardwear • The North Face
Vasque • Montrail • Granite Gear
Navarro canoes • Expert sewing repair and down additions



next to DMV, one block from 41st Ave.

FREE BREAKFAST

Buy One Breakfast Receive Second One of Equal or Lesser Value **FREE**

- Greek Scramble
- Thai Scramble
- Tofu Rancheros
- Pesto Scramble
- New & Improved Tofu Scramble
- Oatmeal
- Pancakes w/Pure Maple Syrup

(8am-12pm) 7 DAYS
*with coupon. Not good with other offers. Up to \$6.00 limit

4250 CAPITOLA ROAD
CAPITOLA • 462-1717



SUNRIDGE FARMS

All Natural and Certified Organic Bulk and Packaged Foods.

Santa Cruz, CA * 831-786-7000
www.sunridgefarms.com

Our SunRidge Farms Natural and Organic products embrace contemporary concerns about farming practices, manufacturing processes, freshness, packaging, proper nutrition and respect for our bodies and the earth.

It is essential to contribute toward the preservation of ecological diversity, wildlife and natural terrain. Our support includes substantial donations toward the successful resolution of environmental, social, food related and world hunger issues. Thank-you for your support for without it none of our efforts & contributions would be possible.

• ORGANIC COTTON & HEMP CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES • VEGAN SHOES

RAINFORST SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

RECYCLED GLASSWARE, JEWELRY & STATIONERY

An alternative general store featuring hemp and organic cotton clothing

Stop in today



Good for you.  Good for the environment.

1130 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz
429-5758

• ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE CLEANING, BUILDING, GARDEN & PET SUPPLIES •

MEETING SCHEDULE

Ventana Chapter (Monterey Co.)

Information: 624-8032

Executive Committee:

Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place & time.

Conservation Committee:

As needed.
For dates and times call 655-8586

Santa Cruz Regional Group

Information: 426-4453

Meeting Place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, Suite 11.

Executive Committee:

Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee:

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

Volume 47, Number 6, 2008

www.ventana.sierraclub.org

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Belted Kingfisher

New State Wilderness

**DEC - FEB
OUTINGS**



Peter Selig

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 604
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604



Periodical Postage
Paid at
Santa Cruz
and at additional
Post Offices

Ventana staff photo



The giants of Yosemite's Mariposa Grove dwarf the snowshoer.

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

"Walk the Sequoia woods at any time of year and you will say they are the most beautiful and majestic on earth."

—John Muir, THE MOUNTAINS OF CALIFORNIA



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet